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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

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Man held for giving out poison capsules at Muharram rally

[redacted]

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

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

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 distribution 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

मुहर्रम जुलूस में ज़हरीले कैप्सूल बाँटने के आरोप में एक व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार।

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

मुंबई पुलिस ने मुहर्रम जुलूस के दौरान कथित रूप से ज़हरयुक्त 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 **मुहर्रम जुलूस** में शामिल लोगों को **चूहे मारने वाले विष जिंक 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

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

[redacted] WORLD ROWING

India scripted history at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, with Army-men Lakshay and Ujiwal 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 Ujiwal 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।

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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

GS I: 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 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.

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

After the discussions on Monday, Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargajj, 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. Gargajj 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।
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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।

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Maintenance not must when wife earns more: High Court

GS I: Society

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

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

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 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

AFP

GS I: Geography

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

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

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**

PATRIOTIC IAS

- **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।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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 Naseer 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 Meghjibhai 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 Meghjibhai 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 चुघ**, **अलका सिंह**, **जितेंद्र मेघजीभाई कंजारिया**, **राजेंद्र हीरालाल जैन**, **एम. नागराजा** 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 Ajeevika 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 the financial model, which now requires a majority of States to bear 40% of the total expenditure, in contrast to the MGNREGA.

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

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 increase 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 Ajeevika 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 रोज़गार 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 वित्तीय 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

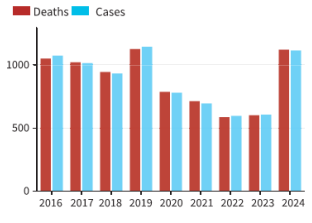


CHART 2: States that saw a high number of food poisoning cases tended to have low or moderate scores on Food Safety Index

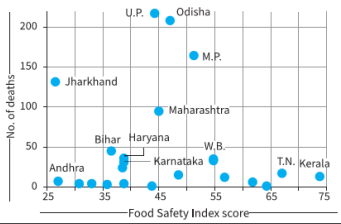


CHART 3: Samples collected for testing in 2024-25 compared with the total registered food business operators in select States

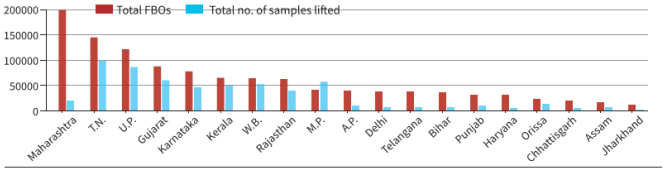
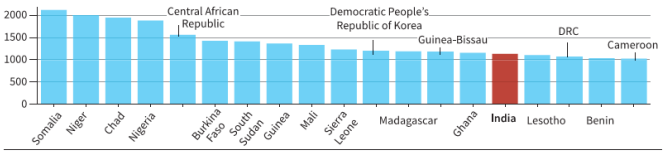


CHART 4: "Foodborne years of lives lost" per 1,00,000 persons. India is ranked 15th, along with many African countries



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

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 Turkiye'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 **रेचेप 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.

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

"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 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 prisoners 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: 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.

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. 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

- **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 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।
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।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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

GS III: Economy

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 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.

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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।

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- 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?

GS 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।

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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.

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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 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।"

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.

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 एंकर्ड 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, **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.
  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 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. 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।

- 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।
- 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 **कमज़ोर रुपये (Depreciated Rupee)** के कारण **इक्विटी** में **औसत से कम प्रतिफल (Sub-par Returns)** है।

PATRIOTICIAS

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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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 platform 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 counterfeit 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।

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- **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 **लक्ज़री 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।"

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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

GS III: S&T

Sayantan Datta

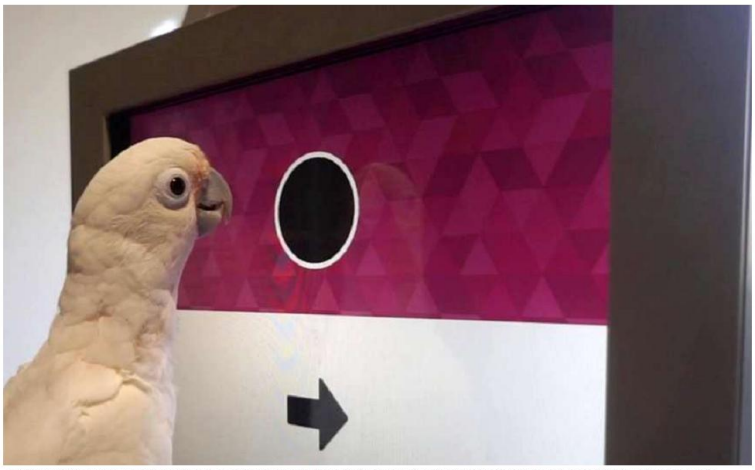
One day in 2025, Jane perched facing a computer screen. The screen's top half displayed a black circle on a magenta background. The bottom half had a black arrow on white. After what appeared to be a moment of deliberation, Jane extended her neck and touched the circle. Small pellets of food appeared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



Jane is a Goffin's cockatoo housed at the Messerli 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

'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 human beings 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 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.

> It does not require a human-like concept of eternity, or a sophisticated understanding that another individual's mind is gone
>
> ANTONIO J. OSUNA-MASCARÓ
> Cognitive scientist

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."

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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

- 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 हाइडेगर** 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 **एंटोनियो जे. ओसुना-मास्कारो** के साथ प्रकाशित शोधपत्र में तर्क दिया कि **मानव-केंद्रितता (Anthropocentrism)** के दो रूप—अर्थात 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 **चिंपैंज़ी, 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।

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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 **एलर्जेन 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 सब्स्टेंस 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 **सब्स्टेंस पी मास्ट कोशिकाओं** को एलर्जेन 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 चकत्ते या कीट के काटने की सूजन और अधिक क्यों बढ़ जाती है।

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- 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-रम्प्ड 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 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.

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

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 Kalhatty 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 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 captively-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 would 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-रम्प्ड गिद्ध की विद्युत करंट लगने से मृत्यु।

- A **captively-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 रिकॉनिसेंस (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।

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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 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.

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

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 Shagun 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।

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- 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 सुदृढ़ीकरण 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

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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,

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"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

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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।

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GS Paper 1: History	29 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29J6 QUIZ	

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Who is the only British Prime Minister who was assassinated? **Ans: Spencer Perceval**
2. This statesman's tenure as Prime Minister was overshadowed by his military prowess. He famously defeated a French Emperor in this war in 1815. Name the Prime Minister, the Emperor and the famous war. **Ans: Arthur Wellesley; Napoleon Bonaparte; Battle of Waterloo**
3. This Prime Minister started out as a journalist, specifically a war correspondent for the Morning Post. Name him. **Ans: Winston Churchill**
4. This Prime Minister had the shortest run in Westminster, serving just 44 days. Name the Prime Minister. **Ans: Liz Truss**
5. The Second World War broke out with Nazi Germany invading Poland. Roughly a year back, this British Prime Minister, after talks with Hitler, had declared that "I believe it is peace for our time". Needless to say, he did not last long in office. Name him. **Ans: Neville Chamberlain**
6. Which Prime Minister introduced the Indian Independence Act 1947 in the House of Commons? **Ans: Clement Atlee**
Visual: This is one of the most famous addresses in the world. Name it. **Ans: 10, Downing Street, London**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Sudhir Thapa | Arun Kumar Singh | K. M. Vikashini

29J6. QUIZ

2. This statesman's tenure as Prime Minister was overshadowed by his military prowess. He famously defeated a French Emperor in this war in 1815. Name the Prime Minister, the Emperor and the famous war.

- **Arthur Wellesley**, the **1st Duke of Wellington**, became Prime Minister after establishing his reputation as one of Britain's greatest military commanders.
- He achieved immortal fame by defeating **Napoleon Bonaparte** at the **Battle of Waterloo** on **18 June 1815**, bringing the **Napoleonic Wars** to an end.

- Although he later served as Prime Minister, Wellington is remembered far more for his military leadership than for his political career.

3. This Prime Minister started out as a journalist, specifically a war correspondent for the Morning Post. Name him.

- Before entering politics, **Winston Churchill** worked as a **war correspondent** for the **Morning Post**.
- He reported from several conflicts, including the **Second Boer War**, where his dramatic escape from captivity brought him national fame.
- His journalism helped develop his writing and public-speaking skills. Churchill later became Britain's wartime Prime Minister during the **Second World War** and received the **1953 Nobel Prize in Literature** for his historical writings and speeches.

5. The Second World War broke out with Nazi Germany invading Poland. Roughly a year back, this British Prime Minister, after talks with Hitler, had declared that "I believe it is peace for our time". Name him.

- **Neville Chamberlain** served as Prime Minister from **1937 to 1940**.
- After signing the **Munich Agreement** with **Adolf Hitler** in **September 1938**, Chamberlain declared that it had secured "**peace for our time**."
- However, Germany invaded **Poland** on **1 September 1939**, triggering the **Second World War**. Chamberlain's policy of **appeasement** was widely criticised, and he resigned in **May 1940**, when **Winston Churchill** succeeded him.

6. Which Prime Minister introduced the Indian Independence Act 1947 in the House of Commons?

- **Clement Attlee**, the Labour Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (**1945–1951**), led the British government that enacted the **Indian Independence Act, 1947**.
- The Act was introduced in the **House of Commons** and received **Royal Assent on 18 July 1947**.

GS Paper 1: Geography	29 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29J6	Sharing waters जल साझा करना
29J6	Non-independence parties make gains in New Caledonia polls न्यू कैलेडोनिया के चुनावों में स्वतंत्रता-विरोधी दलों को बढ़त मिली

Non-independence parties make gains in New Caledonia polls

GS I: Geography

Reuters
SYDNEY

New Caledonia's non-independence coalition won the most seats of any single grouping, 24 out of 54 available, preliminary results released by officials showed, in long-delayed provincial elections which were held amid tight security on Sunday.

The outcome of the elections, delayed since 2024 after New Caledonia was hit by violent unrest between indigenous Kanaksand French loyalists, is key in shaping future talks with France on the territory's status.

The group of islands in the southwest Pacific has around 270,000 inhabitants, including 41% Melanesian Kanak and 24% of European origin, mostly French. Three independence referendums, including the most recent in 2021, returned majorities in favour of remaining part of France.

Sunday's voter turnout stood at 63.71%. Final results are expected on Monday.

29J6. Non-independence parties make gains in New Caledonia polls

न्यू कैलेडोनिया के चुनावों में स्वतंत्रता-विरोधी दलों को बढ़त मिली

- The outcome of the elections, delayed since **2024** after **New Caledonia** was hit by violent unrest between indigenous **Kanaks** and **French loyalists**, is key in shaping future talks with **France** on the territory's status.

2024 से स्थगित ये चुनाव, जो **न्यू कैलेडोनिया** में स्वदेशी **कनाक** समुदाय और **फ्रांसीसी समर्थकों** के बीच हुई हिंसक अशांति के बाद टाले गए थे, अब इस क्षेत्र की स्थिति पर **फ्रांस** के साथ होने वाली भविष्य की वार्ताओं को दिशा देने में महत्वपूर्ण होंगे।

- The group of islands in the **southwest Pacific** has around **270,000 inhabitants**, including **41% Melanesian Kanak** and **24% of European origin**, mostly **French**.

दक्षिण-पश्चिम प्रशांत महासागर में स्थित इस द्वीप समूह की आबादी लगभग **2,70,000** है, जिसमें **41% मेलानेशियन कनाक** और **24% यूरोपीय मूल** के लोग हैं, जिनमें अधिकांश **फ्रांसीसी** हैं।

- Three **independence referendums**, including the most recent in **2021**, returned majorities in favour of remaining part of **France**.

2021 में हुए नवीनतम जनमत संग्रह सहित कुल **तीन स्वतंत्रता जनमत संग्रहों** में बहुमत ने **फ्रांस** का हिस्सा बने रहने के पक्ष में मतदान किया।

GS Paper II: Governance	29 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29J6	User development fees at Bhogapuram airport may be among highest in country भोगापुरम हवाई अड्डे पर यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क देश में सबसे अधिक में से एक हो सकता है।
29J6	Centre seeks to ease licensing process for medical devices केंद्र सरकार चिकित्सा उपकरणों के लिए लाइसेंसिंग प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाने का प्रयास कर रही है

PATRIOTIC IAS

User development fees at Bhogapuram airport may be among highest in country

GS II: Governance

K. Srinivasa Rao
VIZIANAGARAM

Flying from the upcoming Bhogapuram International Airport of Andhra Pradesh, to be operated by GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd., is likely to become more expensive, with passengers required to pay one of the highest User Development Fees (UDF) among major airports in the country. The airport will also levy UDF on arriving passengers, unlike several other airports where no such charge is collected.

According to representatives of air travellers' associations, Visakhapatnam airport – which will cease operations once the Bhogapuram airport becomes functional – currently does not levy any UDF. Passengers will therefore have to bear not only higher travel costs to reach Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district but also the additional UDF on both departure and arrival. The Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERA) has approved a UDF of ₹835 for departing domestic passengers and ₹355 for arriving domestic passengers at the airport.

A view of the under-construction airport at Bhogapuram. FILE PHOTO

For international travellers, the fee has been fixed at ₹1,255 for departures and ₹545 for arrivals. GMR-operated Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad charges ₹750 as UDF for departing domestic passengers and ₹1,500 for departing international passengers, but does not levy any UDF on arriving passengers. Asked about the wide variation in UDF, a GMR spokesperson said that the charges were fixed in accordance with AERA's recommendations.

29J6. User development fees at Bhogapuram airport may be among highest in country

भोगापुरम हवाई अड्डे पर यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क देश में सबसे अधिक में से एक हो सकता है।

- Flying from the upcoming **Bhogapuram International Airport** of **Andhra Pradesh**, to be operated by **GMR Airports Infrastructure Ltd.**, is likely to become more expensive, with passengers required to pay one of the highest **User Development Fees (UDF)** among major airports in the country.
  आंध्र प्रदेश के आगामी **भोगापुरम अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे**, जिसका संचालन **जीएमआर एयरपोर्ट्स इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड** द्वारा किया जाएगा, से यात्रा करना अधिक महंगा होने की संभावना है, क्योंकि यात्रियों को देश के प्रमुख हवाई अड्डों में सबसे अधिक **यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क (UDF)** में से एक का भुगतान करना होगा।
- The airport will also levy **UDF** on arriving passengers, unlike several other airports where no such charge is collected.
  यह हवाई अड्डा आने वाले यात्रियों से भी **यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क (UDF)** वसूलेगा, जबकि कई अन्य हवाई अड्डों पर ऐसा कोई शुल्क नहीं लिया जाता है।
- According to representatives of **air travellers' associations**, **Visakhapatnam airport** — which will cease operations once the **Bhogapuram airport** becomes functional — currently does not levy any **UDF**.
  हवाई यात्रियों के संगठनों के प्रतिनिधियों के अनुसार, **विशाखापत्तनम हवाई अड्डा** — जो **भोगापुरम हवाई अड्डे** के चालू होने के बाद अपना संचालन बंद कर देगा — वर्तमान में कोई **यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क (UDF)** नहीं लेता है।
- **GMR-operated Rajiv Gandhi International Airport** in **Hyderabad** charges **₹750** as **UDF** for departing domestic passengers and **₹1,500** for departing international passengers, but does not levy any **UDF** on arriving passengers.
  हैदराबाद स्थित **जीएमआर संचालित राजीव गांधी अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा** प्रस्थान करने वाले घरेलू यात्रियों से

₹750 तथा प्रस्थान करने वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों से **₹1,500** का **यूज़र डेवलपमेंट शुल्क (UDF)** लेता है, लेकिन आगमन करने वाले यात्रियों से कोई **UDF** नहीं वसूलता।

Centre seeks to ease licensing process for medical devices

GS II: Governance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The draft notification has been placed in the public domain.

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, to shorten the timelines for the grant of manufacturing licences for medical devices across different risk categories.

The initiative is aimed at enhancing the ease of doing business, improving regulatory efficiency, and facilitating the timely availability of quality medical devices in the country, the Health Ministry said on Sunday. The draft notification published in the Gazette, seeks to simplify and expedite the licensing process while ensuring continued compliance with quality, safety, and performance requirements, the Ministry said.

Under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, medical devices are classified into four risk-based categories – Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D – with Class D comprising the highest-risk devices. The Rules prescribe statutory timelines for processing applications for manufacturing licences for each category.

The draft amendments also introduce clearly defined timelines for each stage of the licensing process, including scrutiny of applications, audit by notified bodies, verification of compliance, and issuance of licences.

This is expected to bring greater transparency, predictability and efficiency to the regulatory framework, benefiting both the medical device industry and patients through faster access to quality-assured medical devices, the Ministry said.

The draft notification has been placed in the public domain for comments and suggestions from all stakeholders. The notification is available in the official gazette and on the website of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation.

Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments within the prescribed period.

29J6. Centre seeks to ease licensing process for medical devices

केंद्र सरकार चिकित्सा उपकरणों के लिए लाइसेंसिंग प्रक्रिया को आसान बनाने का प्रयास कर रही है

- Under the **Medical Devices Rules, 2017**, medical devices are classified into four risk-based categories — **Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D** — with **Class D** comprising the highest-risk devices.

मेडिकल डिवाइसेज़ नियम, 2017 के तहत चिकित्सा उपकरणों को जोखिम के आधार पर चार श्रेणियों — **क्लास A, क्लास B, क्लास C और क्लास D** — में वर्गीकृत किया गया है, जिनमें **क्लास D** सबसे अधिक जोखिम वाले उपकरणों की श्रेणी है।

- This is expected to bring greater **transparency, predictability and efficiency** to the regulatory framework, benefiting both the **medical device industry** and patients through faster access to quality-assured **medical devices**, the Ministry said.

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि इससे नियामकीय ढांचे में अधिक **पारदर्शिता, पूर्वानुमेयता और दक्षता** आएगी, जिससे **चिकित्सा उपकरण उद्योग** और मरीज दोनों को गुणवत्तापूर्ण **चिकित्सा उपकरणों** तक तेज़ी से पहुंच का लाभ मिलेगा।

- The notification is available in the **official gazette** and on the website of the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation**.

यह अधिसूचना **आधिकारिक राजपत्र** तथा **केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन (CDSCO)** की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

GS Paper II: International Relations	29 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
29J6	Indian Ocean a shared responsibility: Modi हिन्द महासागर एक साझा उत्तरदायित्व: मोदी
29J6	Indian Army contingent to participate in Seychelles' 50th National Day event सेशेल्स के 50वें राष्ट्रीय दिवस समारोह में भाग लेगा भारतीय सेना का दल
29J6	July opens the biggest chapter in India-U.K. trade ties जुलाई भारत-यू.के. व्यापार संबंधों के सबसे बड़े अध्याय की शुरुआत करता है
29J6	Can neutral ships be lawfully attacked? क्या तटस्थ जहाज़ों पर विधिसम्मत रूप से हमला किया जा सकता है?

29J6	Seychelles attains Independence today सेशेल्स आज स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त कर रहा है
29J6	China's role in Bangladesh's Teesta plans, and India's strategic worries बांग्लादेश की तीस्ता योजनाओं में चीन की भूमिका, और भारत की सामरिक चिंताएँ

Indian Ocean a shared responsibility: Modi

PM meets Seychelles President, stresses 'security, sustainability and prosperity' of the region

Two sides unveil 19 outcomes in areas, including defence, maritime, space, and digital payments

Modi attends the golden jubilee celebrations of National Day of Seychelles as Guest of Honour

GS II: IR

Press Trust of India
VICTORIA

India envisioned an Indian Ocean where maritime security was ensured alongside economic prosperity and where partnership was defined not by size, but by mutual respect and trust, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday during his visit to the Seychelles.

Mr. Modi, who held wide-ranging talks with President Patrick Herminie of the archipelago, said they agreed that the Indian Ocean was "our shared home" and therefore "its security, sustainability and prosperity are our shared responsibility".

"Our vision is to make the Indian Ocean an ocean of opportunity," Mr. Modi said after delegation-level talks with Mr. Herminie, during which they took stock of the economic partnership between the two countries and discussed new opportunities in industries, connectivity, technology, digital infrastructure, and other areas.

After the talks, the two sides unveiled 19 outcomes, expanding cooperation in areas ranging from defence and maritime security to digital payments, space, healthcare, agriculture, and education.

The two sides also announced the gifting of a fast patrol vessel to the Seychelles, the handover of 10 utility vehicles and five Laser Radial class boats to the Seychelles Defence Force, the completion of the refit of *PS Zoroaster* for the Seychelles Coast Guard and the upgrading of a Dornier aircraft with a glass cockpit.

Climate impact

Mr. Modi also addressed the National Assembly of the country, where he emphasised that the Global South, especially island nations, was the most impacted by climate change.

He reiterated that those who had contributed the least to climate change should not bear the greatest burden of its consequences and said climate action must be guided by "fairness, responsibility, and equity".

Sea of opportunities: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the National Assembly of the Seychelles in Victoria on Sunday. ANI

"The Global South, and especially the island nations, are the most impacted by climate change. Its effects are already visible on our coastlines, in the marine ecosystems, in weather patterns, and in our communities," he said.

"We will continue to explore new opportunities for the industries of both our countries. We will also work towards enhancing connectivity between India and the Seychelles. This will not only boost our bilateral trade but also strengthen our ties with East Africa and the Indian Ocean region," he said.

The Prime Minister, who is on a three-day visit to the archipelago, attended the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles as the Guest of Honour.

Earlier in the day, at a special ceremony, Mr. Modi was also conferred with 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' by Mr. Herminie for his "green leadership and efforts towards advancing the interests of developing countries and his long-standing commitment towards promoting the blue economy".

The outcomes after the talks on Sunday included an extradition treaty, an agreement on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, an agreement to advance UPI-based digital payments in the Seychelles, an umbrella line of credit agreement with the Export-Import Bank of India and an agreement for preliminary preparations for a new the Seychelles National Hospital, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Win-win partnership

"Our cooperation in the fields of energy and climate action continues to advance steadily. We will further strengthen our win-win partnership in emerging areas of clean energy, including green hydrogen. The Blue Economy is a natural and strategic pillar of our relationship," he said.

"The true strength of India-Seychelles relations lies in our people-to-people ties," Modi said.

He said the popularity of Yoga and the Indian film industry in the Seychelles reflected the deep cultural connection between the peoples of the two countries. "In the same spirit, we will continue our efforts to enhance people-to-people exchanges, particularly among the youth of our two countries."

Addressing the National Assembly later, the Prime Minister said the Seychelles "occupies a special place in India's vision for the Indian Ocean."

"Our vision recognises that our futures are interconnected and inter-dependent. And, we will continue to work together for a safer and more secure Indian Ocean region," he said.

The Prime Minister last visited the Seychelles in 2015, while President Herminie visited India earlier this year.

ARMY EVENT

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29J6. Indian Ocean a shared responsibility: Modi

हिन्द महासागर एक साझा उत्तरदायित्व: मोदी

- **Modi attends the golden jubilee celebrations of National Day of Seychelles as Guest of Honour.**

  मोदी ने **सेशेल्स के राष्ट्रीय दिवस** के **स्वर्ण जयंती समारोह** में **मुख्य अतिथि** के रूप में भाग लिया।

- **Mr. Modi, who held wide-ranging talks with President Patrick Herminie of the archipelago, said they agreed that the Indian Ocean was "our shared home" and therefore "its security, sustainability and prosperity are our shared responsibility".**

  श्री मोदी, जिन्होंने द्वीपसमूह के **राष्ट्रपति पैट्रिक हर्मिनी** के साथ व्यापक वार्ता की, ने कहा कि दोनों इस बात पर सहमत हुए कि **हिन्द महासागर** "हमारा साझा घर" है और इसलिए "इसकी **सुरक्षा, सततता और समृद्धि** हमारी साझा जिम्मेदारी है।"

- **"Our vision is to make the Indian Ocean an ocean of opportunity," Mr. Modi said after delegation-level talks with Mr. Herminie, during which they took stock of the economic partnership between the two countries and discussed new opportunities in industries, connectivity, technology, digital infrastructure, and other areas.**

  श्री मोदी ने **प्रतिनिधिमंडल स्तर की वार्ता** के बाद कहा, "हमारा दृष्टिकोण **हिन्द महासागर** को **अवसरों का महासागर** बनाना है।" इस दौरान दोनों देशों ने अपनी **आर्थिक साझेदारी** की समीक्षा की तथा **उद्योग, संपर्क, प्रौद्योगिकी, डिजिटल अवसंरचना** और अन्य क्षेत्रों में नए अवसरों पर चर्चा की।

- **After the talks, the two sides unveiled 19 outcomes, expanding cooperation in areas ranging from defence and maritime security to digital payments, space, healthcare, agriculture, and education.**

  वार्ता के बाद दोनों पक्षों ने **19 परिणामों** की घोषणा की, जिनके माध्यम से **रक्षा, समुद्री सुरक्षा, डिजिटल भुगतान, अंतरिक्ष, स्वास्थ्य, कृषि** और **शिक्षा** जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग का विस्तार किया गया।

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- **The two sides also announced the gifting of a fast patrol vessel to the Seychelles, the handover of 10 utility vehicles and five Laser Radial class boats to the Seychelles Defence Force, the completion of the refit of PS Zoroaster for the Seychelles Coast Guard and the upgrading of a Dornier aircraft with a glass cockpit.**
  दोनों पक्षों ने **सेशेल्स** को एक **फास्ट पेट्रोल वेसल** उपहार में देने, **सेशेल्स रक्षा बल** को **10 यूटिलिटी वाहन** तथा **पाँच लेज़र रेडियल श्रेणी की नौकाएँ** सौंपने, **सेशेल्स तटरक्षक बल** के लिए **PS Zoroaster** के पुनःउन्नयन कार्य के पूरा होने तथा एक **डोर्नियर विमान** को **ग्लास कॉकपिट** से उन्नत करने की भी घोषणा की।

- **"The true strength of India-Seychelles relations lies in our people-to-people ties," Modi said.**
  मोदी ने कहा, "**भारत-सेशेल्स संबंधों** की वास्तविक शक्ति हमारे **जन-से-जन संबंधों** में निहित है।"

July opens the biggest chapter in India-U.K. trade ties

GS II: IR

Trade deals are important for accelerating prosperity but not every deal is a game changer. One that drives shared growth across key sectors, unlocks opportunity for businesses of all sizes, and pushes the envelope for bilateral trade qualifies to achieve that tag. And so, it is no surprise to see businesses and trade associations using the term in relation to the United Kingdom-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which is formally known as Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). India remains the fastest-growing economy in the G-20 and it is on track to become the world's third-largest economy within the next five years. Complementing this the U.K. remains one of the top global destinations for investment and was the third fastest-growing economy in the G-7 in 2025. Securing preferential access to each other's market is not an abstract diplomatic win; it is an economic advantage that will deliver significant returns in both countries over time. This FTA is forecast to boost Indian GDP by £5.1 billion, the U.K.'s GDP by £4.8 billion and increase bilateral trade by £25.5 billion every year in the long run.

Bilateral trade was already worth £48 billion a year in 2025. From July 15, it will be cheaper, quicker, and easier for businesses to trade across both countries. Even before this deal came into force, we have seen the creation of thousands of new jobs on both sides and that is showing no signs of slowing down, as the countdown to entry into force closes and a new era of growth between the two nations begins. We should all be excited to see what the two countries and businesses on both sides can achieve in the years ahead. These are the hallmarks of a historic deal; but it is not just about the numbers.

A story of scale and depth

From day one, both sides agreed that this deal must be broad, deep, and a driving force that brings long-term growth for both countries. Nearly three years of intensive negotiations preceded this deal and there is no doubt that the agreement reached is the most economically significant trade deal that the U.K. has done since leaving the European Union; it is also one of the most comprehensive trade deals that India has ever done. In short it is a win-win for businesses and consumers and for both economies. To give readers just a flavour of the far-reaching benefits – 99% of U.K. tariff lines will be duty-free for Indian products and India will remove or reduce tariffs on 90% of its tariff lines for U.K. products.

For India, this could support jobs in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, jewellery and, equally, it will boost exports in services such as IT and finance by a large margin.

Similarly, tariff duties on U.K. exports to India are estimated to fall by around £400 million when the deal comes into effect, and further to £900 million in later phases. Critical industries such as aerospace, automotives, medical devices, and whiskies will all benefit significantly, adding billions to the U.K. economy. This is transformational and it is also just the beginning.

Harjinder Kang
His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for South Asia and the British Deputy High Commissioner for western India

The U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement, the 'gold standard of modern trade deals', comes into force on July 15

Benefits beyond Mumbai and London

One of the most persistent criticisms of trade policy is that the gains created are only concentrated in a few places. We have ensured that this deal benefits all aspects of the local economy beyond the major cities in both countries. Several unprecedented and dedicated provisions across high-growth and high-value sectors from each side are agreed in a deal spanning 30 chapters. In practical terms, that means manufacturers, innovators, supply chain businesses, and service exporters – often based far away from the major cities – can compete more effectively with cheaper imports and fewer barriers. For instance, a textile manufacturer from Indore, Madhya Pradesh, will now be able to trade more efficiently into the U.K. just like an auto-parts manufacturer from Birmingham will be able to trade more cost effectively into India.

Modern trade goes beyond just tariffs and that is why this agreement's provisions on customs, digital trade, and services are central to its exceptional standard. Improved customs provisions will help goods reach markets faster – particularly valuable for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that cannot afford excessive red tape. On services, where the U.K. is globally renowned, the agreement locks in market access across key sectors, providing the predictability that U.K. businesses need to expand in India and vice versa. The deal also includes India's first-ever standalone chapters on anti-corruption, gender, and development – and one of the most comprehensive labour and environmental commitments that India has ever made in a trade deal. But it is not just about access; it is also about securing appropriate protections for domestic producers, which is what this deal does so well.

For instance, India maintains protections for dairy products and edible oils, while the U.K. shields sugar, milled rice, pork, chicken, and eggs. In an era where trade agreements are judged not only on growth but also on sustainability and fairness, this deal shows how it is done.

Making the deal count

It is clear that this landmark deal combines measurable economic gains, deep market access in the sectors of the future, practical trade facilitation, strong domestic protections, and the first-of-their-kind values chapters. It sets a template for what modern trade agreements should look like: pro-growth, pro-worker, pro-innovation – a gold standard for trade deals.

As we close in on entry into force, the task is clear: let us maximise it. Businesses from both countries should champion exports, explore procurement opportunities, map supply chains against new rules of origin, and move quickly because in trade, first-mover advantage is real, and it rarely comes twice.

29J6.July opens the biggest chapter in India-U.K. trade ties
जुलाई भारत-यू.के. व्यापार संबंधों के सबसे बड़े अध्याय की शुरुआत करता है

- And so, it is no surprise to see businesses and trade associations using the term in relation to the **United Kingdom-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** which is formally known as **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)**.
  इसलिए यह आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि व्यवसाय और व्यापारिक संगठन **यूनाइटेड किंगडम-भारत मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA)**, जिसे औपचारिक रूप से **व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौता (CETA)** कहा जाता है, के संदर्भ में इस शब्द का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।

- India remains the fastest-growing economy in the **G-20** and it is on track to become the world's **third-largest economy** within the next five years.
  भारत **G-20** की सबसे तेज़ी से बढ़ती अर्थव्यवस्था बना हुआ है और अगले पाँच वर्षों में विश्व की **तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था** बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।
- To give readers just a flavour of the far-reaching benefits — **99%** of **U.K. tariff lines** will be duty-free for **Indian products** and **India** will remove or reduce tariffs on **90%** of its tariff lines for **U.K. products**.
  इसके व्यापक लाभों की एक झलक के रूप में, **यू.के.** की **99% टैरिफ लाइनों** पर **भारतीय उत्पादों** के लिए शुल्क समाप्त होगा और **भारत यू.के. उत्पादों** के लिए अपनी **90% टैरिफ लाइनों** पर शुल्क समाप्त या कम करेगा।
- Critical industries such as **aerospace**, **automotives**, **medical devices**, and **whiskies** will all benefit significantly, adding billions to the **U.K. economy**.
  एयरोस्पेस, **ऑटोमोबाइल**, **मेडिकल डिवाइसेज़** और **व्हिस्की** जैसे महत्वपूर्ण उद्योगों को बड़ा लाभ मिलेगा, जिससे **यू.के. अर्थव्यवस्था** में अरबों पाउंड का योगदान होगा।
- The deal also includes **India's first-ever standalone chapters** on **anti-corruption**, **gender**, and **development** — and one of the most comprehensive **labour** and **environmental commitments** that India has ever made in a trade deal.
  इस समझौते में **भारत के इतिहास में पहली बार भ्रष्टाचार-रोधी**, **लैंगिक समानता** और **विकास** पर स्वतंत्र अध्याय शामिल किए गए हैं, साथ ही यह भारत द्वारा किसी व्यापार समझौते में किए गए सबसे व्यापक **श्रम** एवं **पर्यावरणीय प्रतिबद्धताओं** में से एक है।
- For instance, **India** maintains protections for **dairy products** and **edible oils**, while the **U.K.** shields **sugar**, **milled rice**, **pork**, **chicken**, and **eggs**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **भारत** ने **डेयरी उत्पादों** और **खाद्य तेलों** के लिए सुरक्षा बनाए रखी है, जबकि **यू.के.** ने **चीनी**, **मिल्ड चावल**, **पोर्क**, **चिकन** और **अंडों** को संरक्षण दिया है।

Seychelles attains Independence today

GS II: IR

Victoria (Seychelles), June 28: "The String of Pearls", a group of 92 islands of Seychelles in the western Indian Ocean will take its rightful place in the comity of nations when it attains independence to-morrow after centuries of French and British Colonial domination.

A new chapter will unfold in the lives of 68,000 Seychellois people when the President, Mr. James R. Mancham, will raise the flag of the world's youngest nation at a colourful ceremony in Victoria, marking yet another great victory for a member of the third world.

Delegations from all parts of the world have gathered in picturesque Victoria, capital of Seychelles, to represent their respective nations on this historic occasion.

India is represented by the Minister of State for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Surendra Pal Singh, and the Indian High Commissioner to Kenya, Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh.

The Seychelles archipelago has a land area of only 279 sq.km but stretches across 3,88,000 sq. km. The climate in the islands, despite their proximity to the equator, is equable.

Although the islands were probably known to seafarers as early as 916, they remained uninhabited for several centuries. The establishment of the first French colony in 1770 brought Seychelles in the path of Anglo-French rivalry in the Indian Ocean. After no fewer than seven capitulations to the British, the period of French rule finally ended in 1814 when Seychelles became a dependency of the British colony of Mauritius.

29J6. Seychelles attains Independence today
सेशेल्स आज स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त कर रहा है

- **Victoria (Seychelles), June 28:** "**The String of Pearls**", a group of **92 islands** of **Seychelles** in the western **Indian Ocean** will take its rightful place in the comity of nations when it attains **independence** to-morrow after centuries of **French** and **British Colonial** domination.

विक्टोरिया (सेशेल्स), 28 जून: पश्चिमी **हिंद महासागर** में स्थित **सेशेल्स** के **92 द्वीपों** का समूह, जिसे "**द स्ट्रिंग ऑफ पर्ल्स**" कहा जाता है, **फ्रांसीसी** और **ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक** शासन की सदियों पुरानी अधीनता के बाद कल **स्वतंत्रता** प्राप्त करके विश्व समुदाय में अपना उचित स्थान ग्रहण करेगा।

- Delegations from all parts of the world have gathered in picturesque **Victoria**, capital of **Seychelles**, to represent their respective nations on this historic occasion.

इस ऐतिहासिक अवसर पर अपने-अपने देशों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने के लिए विश्व के विभिन्न भागों से प्रतिनिधिमंडल **सेशेल्स** की राजधानी **विक्टोरिया** में एकत्र हुए हैं।

- The establishment of the first **French colony** in **1770** brought **Seychelles** in the path of **Anglo-French rivalry** in the **Indian Ocean**.

1770 में पहली **फ्रांसीसी बस्ती** की स्थापना के साथ **सेशेल्स हिंद महासागर** में **एंग्लो-फ्रांसीसी प्रतिद्वंद्विता** का केंद्र बन गया।

- After no fewer than **seven capitulations** to the **British**, the period of **French rule** finally ended in **1814** when **Seychelles** became a dependency of the **British colony of Mauritius**.
ब्रिटिशों के समक्ष **सात बार आत्मसमर्पण** करने के बाद **फ्रांसीसी शासन** का अंत अंततः **1814** में हुआ, जब **सेशेल्स ब्रिटिश उपनिवेश मॉरीशस** का एक आश्रित क्षेत्र बन गया।

China's role in Bangladesh's Teesta plans, and India's strategic worries

Following discussions last week over a Teesta project in Bangladesh, China is expected to expedite a feasibility study for a plan aimed at turning the river into an artery of economic development; the increased Chinese presence so close to a sensitive Indian region has raised eyebrows in New Delhi

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Kallol Bhattacherjee

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has received assurance from China on building the Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project. The discussion in this regard took place when Mr. Rahman visited Beijing during June 24-26 and met top Chinese officials, including Premier Li Qiang, President Xi Jinping and Chinese Water Resources Minister Li Guoying.

China has harvested its major rivers for power generation and irrigation, and is considered a major dam builder among the world powers. It is expected to expedite a feasibility study of the Teesta project that aims to change the physical nature of the Teesta inside Bangladesh and turn it into an artery of economic development.

Bangladesh has been in talks with China about managing and developing the Teesta river region for nearly a decade, and the discussion has spanned the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which has been taken forward by the current government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

In January this year, under the interim government led by Prof. Mohammed Yunus, Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and the Chinese state-owned power generation company POWERCHINA signed an extension to an MoU that revived the Bangladesh-China cooperation on the river.

The original MoU in this project was signed in 2016 under the Sheikh Hasina government, which had suggested river bank erosion control, flood management, disaster reduction, land reclamation, transportation and environment preservation as some of the features of China's plans for Teesta.

Massive plans

The MoU included dredging of 140 million cubic metres of riverine sediment, reclamation of 171 square km of land, repairing of 110 km of embankment, constructing 124 km of new embankments and developing 224 km of road network. The project would lead to building of 82 jetty facilities along the Teesta. As a lower riparian project, the Chinese plans cannot disrupt the Teesta upstream in India and it aims to create conditions for Bangladesh to better utilise the water that it gets from India at present.

Teesta's water is essential for the farmers of northern Bangladesh, covering districts like Nilphamari, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Bogura, Joypurhat and Gaibandha. Bangladesh's main complaint is that Teesta's water reduces to a trickle in the winter months between December and February, when water is required for sowing of paddy and vegetables.

Diplomatic outreach: Tarique Rahman arrives for a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Friday. REUTERS

To deal with its water requirements, Bangladesh built the Teesta Barrage, the largest irrigation project of the country, in the 1990s. The Teesta Barrage Irrigation Project (TBIP) was built to help the northern region of Bangladesh, as it had a history of being hit by Teesta's floods, followed by a long spell of dry season, both of which used to disturb the local agricultural cycle.

India has built barrages and electricity projects upstream in the Teesta that allow it to harvest Teesta's waters for requirements in West Bengal, Sikkim and Assam. Most prominent among these is the barrage in Gajoldoba in West Bengal, which is a major irrigation project that is controlled by West Bengal.

Whenever India holds water for its needs in Gajoldoba or in power generation units in Sikkim, Bangladesh claims that the part of the Teesta on its side goes low on water. For example, last year in November, TBIP had to shut all its gates as the water flow on the Teesta had reduced. The TBIP is used to store water for nearly 55,000 hectares of land, but the reduction of water on the river causes concern for it as lack of water affects both irrigation as well as commercial activities on the river.

Teesta originates from the spectacular high altitude Cholamu or Tso Lhamu Lake (5100 metres) in the Himalayan range in Sikkim. As the river flows down, it gathers volume from multiple glaciers and streams, and India has built multiple power generation projects on the river.

Deal with India

Bangladesh's main demand from India has been getting what it considers to be a fair share of the Teesta's water so that the irrigation project in North Bangladesh can run smoothly.

The two sides had negotiated the issue of sharing of Teesta's water for decades, and it was taken up again in 2010 when India prepared a set of principles for sharing of Teesta's water, and the two sides agreed to an interim deal.

However, the agreement was not sealed when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Dhaka in 2011, mainly because of objections from Mamata Banerjee, who had spoken about the matter during her election rallies that year.

Ms. Banerjee became Chief Minister that year after defeating the Left.

A joint statement issued on September 7, 2011, in Dhaka said, "The two Prime Ministers welcomed that there has been progress on the principles and modalities of interim agreements on sharing of waters of Teesta and Feni Rivers on a fair and equitable basis. They directed the concerned officials to work towards concluding the agreements at the earliest." At the end, it was clear that Kolkata's objection prevailed over Delhi's plans. Subsequently, Sheikh Hasina repeatedly raised the issue during her visits to Delhi and discussed this matter in June 2024 when a technical committee was planned to take the matter forward.

Before that visit, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had visited Dhaka and conveyed the Indian offer of financing the $1 billion project to dredge and manage the Teesta in Bangladesh. That was the last attempt by India to deal with the issue, as the two sides did not discuss the matter during the 15-month-long interim rule in Dhaka, which was followed by the BNP government led by Prime Minister Rahman.

The area of Nilphamari and Rangpur is near Jalpaiguri of India, which is where the "chicken's neck" is located. POWERCHINA, which has revived the MoU with Bangladesh, is a large organisation experienced in river projects, but it is also related to the strategic sectors of China.

Stationing a large number of Chinese professionals so close to a sensitive area of India will raise eyebrows in India. However, Bangladesh has several internationally supported projects, including the Ruppur nuclear power plant that has engineers and technicians from multiple countries, including Russia and Ukraine.

29J6. China's role in Bangladesh's Teesta plans, and India's strategic worries
बांग्लादेश की तीस्ता योजनाओं में चीन की भूमिका, और भारत की सामरिक चिंताएँ

- **Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman** has received assurance from **China** on building the **Teesta River Comprehensive Management and Restoration Project**.
बांग्लादेश के **प्रधानमंत्री तारिक रहमान** को **चीन** से **तीस्ता नदी समग्र प्रबंधन एवं पुनर्स्थापन परियोजना** के निर्माण का आश्वासन मिला है।
- To deal with its water requirements, **Bangladesh** built the **Teesta Barrage**, the largest irrigation project of the country, in the **1990s**.

अपनी जल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए **बांग्लादेश** ने **1990 के दशक** में देश की सबसे बड़ी सिंचाई परियोजना **तीस्ता बैराज** का निर्माण किया।

- **Teesta** originates from the spectacular high altitude **Cholamu or Tso Lhamu Lake (5100 metres)** in the **Himalayan** range in **Sikkim**.
  तीस्ता का उद्गम **सिक्किम** के **हिमालयी** क्षेत्र में स्थित उच्च ऊँचाई वाली **चोलामू अथवा त्सो ल्हामु झील (5100 मीटर)** से होता है।
- As the river flows down, it gathers volume from multiple glaciers and streams, and **India** has built multiple power generation projects on the river.
  जैसे-जैसे नदी नीचे की ओर बहती है, इसमें अनेक हिमनदों और धाराओं का जल मिल जाता है, और **भारत** ने इस नदी पर अनेक विद्युत उत्पादन परियोजनाएँ बनाई हैं।

- However, **Bangladesh** has several internationally supported projects, including the **Ruppur nuclear power plant** that has engineers and technicians from multiple countries, including **Russia** and **Ukraine**.
  हालाँकि, **बांग्लादेश** में कई अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग वाली परियोजनाएँ हैं, जिनमें **रूपपुर परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्र** भी शामिल है, जहाँ **रूस** और **यूक्रेन** सहित कई देशों के इंजीनियर और तकनीशियन कार्यरत हैं।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	29 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	From seas to skies, India is becoming self-reliant: Modi समुद्र से लेकर आसमान तक, भारत आत्मनिर्भर बन रहा है: मोदी
26J6	New Anaemia Mukt Bharat norms seek early action एनीमिया मुक्त भारत के नए मानदंड शीघ्र हस्तक्षेप पर जोर देते हैं
26J6	Smart AI caching can keep the data flowing when disaster strikes स्मार्ट एआई कैशिंग आपदा आने पर भी डेटा के प्रवाह को बनाए रख सकती है
26J6	Life on Mars: enduring mystery मंगल ग्रह पर जीवन: एक शाश्वत रहस्य
26J6	Buyer beware खरीदार सावधान

Trackside care

A child receives polio drops at the Vijayawada railway station in Andhra Pradesh during the pulse polio campaign on Sunday

From seas to skies, India is becoming self-reliant: Modi

PM highlights indigenously built missile systems, says June was a 'landmark month' for India's defence sector; he thanks people for responding to his call for austerity amid the West Asia crisis

GS III: S&T

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed India's growing self-reliance in defence manufacturing, pointing to the maiden flight of the first made-in-India C-295 transport aircraft and the successful test of the indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM). He also thanked citizens for supporting his appeal for austerity amid the West Asia crisis.

Addressing the nation in his monthly radio programme *Mann Ki Baat*, Mr. Modi said June had been a "landmark month" for India's aviation and defence sectors.

'Indigenous' industry

Referring to the C-295 programme, he said 40 aircraft are being manufactured in India, giving a major boost to the country's MSMEs and aerospace industry while creating employment opportunities.

The first C-295 transport aircraft manufactured in India completed its maiden flight on June 10. The Indian Air Force is procuring 56 aircraft under a ₹21,935-crore deal, with 40 being manufactured by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in partnership with Airbus at a facility in Gujarat's Vadodara.

> As many as 40 such aircraft [C-295] are being built right here in India and this is giving new strength to MSMEs and the aerospace sector ... From the seas to the skies, our India is becoming increasingly secure and self-reliant
>
> NARENDRA MODI
> Prime Minister

The Prime Minister cited the successful flight-test of the indigenous LRLACM conducted by the Defence Research and Development Organisation earlier this month.

"From the seas to the skies, our India is becoming increasingly secure and self-reliant," he said, adding that all major subsystems of the missile had been indigenously developed.

Mr. Modi referred to the recent induction of *INS Dunagiri*, *INS Shanshak*, and *INS Agrya* into the Indian Navy, saying the warships were designed and built entirely in India.

West Asia conflict

The Prime Minister thanked citizens for responding positively to his appeal for conserving resources amid the conflict in West Asia. He said many people had begun carpooling, using public transport, postponing foreign travel and increasing the use of natural fertilizers. He noted that several families had decided to recycle old gold instead of buying new jewellery for weddings.

"I am grateful to every citizen of the country; not only have they supported my appeal, they are also actively cooperating in every way," he said.

The PM praised Nagaland's 'Baby League' football initiative for children aged 5 to 12

Highlighting environmental conservation, Mr. Modi praised the efforts of biologist Purnima Devi Barman in changing public perceptions about Assam's *hargila* bird (greater adjutant) and lauded community initiatives in Meghalaya to preserve the State's living root bridges, for which India has sought UNESCO World Heritage status.

The Prime Minister commended women in Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district for converting plastic waste into eco-bricks used for beautifying public spaces and praised Nagaland's 'Baby League' football initiative for children aged five to 12.

For Ganesh Chaturthi, Mr. Modi urged people to purchase idols crafted by Indian artisans, calling on buyers to check the both the material used and the country of manufacture before making their purchase.

29J6. From seas to skies, India is becoming self-reliant: Modi

समुद्र से लेकर आसमान तक, भारत आत्मनिर्भर बन रहा है: मोदी

'Indigenous' industry
'स्वदेशी' उद्योग

- Referring to the **C-295 programme**, he said **40 aircraft** are being manufactured in India, giving a major boost to the country's **MSMEs** and **aerospace industry** while creating employment opportunities.
  C-295 कार्यक्रम का उल्लेख करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में **40 विमान** निर्मित किए जा रहे हैं, जिससे देश के **एमएसएमई** और **एयरोस्पेस उद्योग** को बड़ा प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा तथा रोजगार के अवसर सृजित होंगे।
- The first **C-295 transport aircraft** manufactured in India completed its maiden flight on **June 10**.
  भारत में निर्मित पहले **C-295 परिवहन विमान** ने **10 जून** को अपनी पहली उड़ान सफलतापूर्वक पूरी की।
- The **Indian Air Force** is procuring **56 aircraft** under a **₹21,935-crore** deal, with **40** being manufactured by **Tata Advanced Systems Limited** in partnership with **Airbus** at a facility in **Gujarat's Vadodara**.
  भारतीय वायु सेना ₹21,935 करोड़ के समझौते के तहत **56 विमान** खरीद रही है, जिनमें से **40 विमान टाटा एडवांस्ड सिस्टम्स लिमिटेड** द्वारा **एयरबस** के सहयोग से **गुजरात के वडोदरा** स्थित संयंत्र में निर्मित किए जा रहे हैं।
- The Prime Minister cited the successful flight-test of the indigenous **LRLACM** conducted by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** earlier this month.
  प्रधानमंत्री ने इस महीने की शुरुआत में **रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO)** द्वारा किए गए स्वदेशी **LRLACM** के सफल उड़ान परीक्षण का भी उल्लेख किया।
- Mr. Modi referred to the recent induction of **INS Dunagiri**, **INS Shanshak**, and **INS Agrya** into the **Indian Navy**, saying the warships were designed and built entirely in India.
  श्री मोदी ने हाल ही में **INS Dunagiri**, **INS Shanshak** और **INS Agrya** को **भारतीय नौसेना** में शामिल किए जाने का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि इन युद्धपोतों का डिजाइन और निर्माण पूरी तरह भारत में किया गया है।
- Highlighting **environmental conservation**, Mr. Modi praised the efforts of biologist **Purnima Devi Barman** in changing public perceptions about **Assam's hargila bird (greater adjutant)** and lauded community initiatives in **Meghalaya** to preserve the State's **living root bridges**,

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for which India has sought **UNESCO World Heritage** status.
पर्यावरण संरक्षण पर प्रकाश डालते हुए श्री मोदी ने जीवविज्ञानी **पूर्णिमा देवी बर्मन** के **असम के हरगिला पक्षी (ग्रेटर एडजुटेंट)** के प्रति लोगों की सोच बदलने के प्रयासों की सराहना की तथा **मेघालय** में राज्य के **लिविंग रूट ब्रिज** को संरक्षित करने के सामुदायिक प्रयासों की प्रशंसा की, जिनके लिए भारत ने **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर** का दर्जा मांगा है।

- The Prime Minister commended women in **Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district** for converting **plastic waste** into **eco-bricks** used for beautifying public spaces and praised **Nagaland's 'Baby League' football initiative** for children aged **five to 12**.
प्रधानमंत्री ने **मध्य प्रदेश के राजगढ़ जिले** की महिलाओं की **प्लास्टिक कचरे** को **ईको-ब्रिक्स** में बदलकर सार्वजनिक स्थलों के सौंदर्यीकरण में उपयोग करने के प्रयासों की सराहना की तथा **पांच से 12 वर्ष** के बच्चों के लिए **नागालैंड की 'बेबी लीग' फुटबॉल पहल** की भी प्रशंसा की।

New Anaemia Mukt Bharat norms seek early action

GS III: S&T

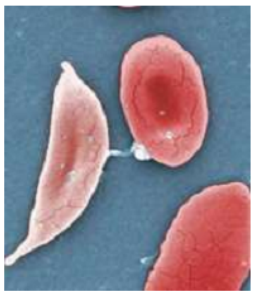
Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry is set to launch revised operational guidelines for the Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB) on Monday, expanding the national programme's strategy to include a new beneficiary group, greater emphasis on dietary interventions, and digital tracking of beneficiaries.

The guidelines, to be released by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda during the 16th meeting of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi, mark the transition of the programme from Anaemia Mukt Bharat to Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

New framework

The revised framework seeks to strengthen anaemia control through improved testing, treatment, monitoring and community participation.



Treat and track: The Ministry proposed a digital ecosystem to monitor anaemia services.

The revised programme adds low birth weight babies (0-6 months) as a seventh beneficiary group, recognising the need for early intervention.

A new "eating right" component has been introduced as the seventh intervention to promote the regular consumption of iron-rich and diversified diets. The seventh institutional mechanism focuses on strengthening monitoring and evaluation through digital tracking. The guidelines also replace the existing T3 with a T4 strategy of Test, Treat, Talk, and Track, which emphasises routine haemoglobin testing, treatment according to national anaemia management protocols, systematic tracking of beneficiaries for referral and follow-up, and counselling on healthy dietary practices.

The Ministry has also proposed an integrated digital ecosystem for monitoring anaemia services.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) shows that 67.1% of children aged six to 59 months, 57% of women aged 15 to 49 years, 52.2% of pregnant women, and 59.1% of adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 years are anaemic.

29J6. New Anaemia Mukt Bharat norms seek early action

एनीमिया मुक्त भारत के नए मानदंड शीघ्र हस्तक्षेप पर जोर देते हैं

- The **Union Health Ministry** is set to launch revised operational guidelines for the **Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (AMB)** on Monday, expanding the national programme's strategy to include a new beneficiary group, greater emphasis on dietary interventions, and digital tracking of beneficiaries.
केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय सोमवार को **एनीमिया मुक्त भारत अभियान (AMB)** के संशोधित परिचालन दिशा-निर्देश जारी करने जा रहा है, जिसमें राष्ट्रीय कार्यक्रम की रणनीति का विस्तार करते हुए एक नए लाभार्थी समूह को शामिल किया गया है, आहार संबंधी हस्तक्षेपों पर अधिक जोर दिया गया है तथा लाभार्थियों की डिजिटल ट्रैकिंग की व्यवस्था की गई है।

- The guidelines, to be released by **Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda** during the **16th meeting** of the **Central Council of Health and Family Welfare** at **Vigyan Bhawan** in **Delhi**, mark the transition of the programme from **Anaemia Mukt Bharat** to **Anaemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**.
ये दिशा-निर्देश **केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जे.पी. नड्डा** द्वारा **दिल्ली** के **विज्ञान भवन** में आयोजित **केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण परिषद** की **16वीं बैठक** के दौरान जारी किए जाएंगे और यह कार्यक्रम के **एनीमिया मुक्त भारत** से **एनीमिया मुक्त भारत अभियान** में परिवर्तन का प्रतीक है।

New framework
नया ढांचा

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- The revised framework seeks to strengthen **anaemia control** through improved testing, treatment, monitoring and community participation.
  संशोधित ढांचा बेहतर जांच, उपचार, निगरानी और सामुदायिक भागीदारी के माध्यम से **एनीमिया नियंत्रण** को सुदृढ़ बनाने का प्रयास करता है।
- The revised programme adds **low birth weight babies (0-6 months)** as a **seventh beneficiary group**, recognising the need for early intervention.
  संशोधित कार्यक्रम में **कम जन्म वजन वाले शिशुओं (0-6 माह)** को **सातवें लाभार्थी समूह** के रूप में शामिल किया गया है, जिससे प्रारंभिक हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता को मान्यता दी गई है।
- The guidelines also replace the existing **T3** with a **T4 strategy** of **Test, Treat, Talk, and Track**, which emphasises routine **haemoglobin testing**, treatment according to national anaemia management protocols, systematic tracking of beneficiaries for referral and follow-up, and counselling on healthy dietary practices.
  इन दिशा-निर्देशों में वर्तमान **T3** रणनीति को **T4 रणनीति — Test, Treat, Talk और Track** — से प्रतिस्थापित किया गया है, जिसमें नियमित **हीमोग्लोबिन जांच**, राष्ट्रीय एनीमिया प्रबंधन प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार उपचार, रेफरल और फॉलो-अप के लिए लाभार्थियों की व्यवस्थित ट्रैकिंग तथा स्वस्थ आहार संबंधी परामर्श पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है।
- The **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)** shows that **67.1%** of children aged **six to 59 months**, **57%** of women aged **15 to 49 years**, **52.2%** of **pregnant women**, and **59.1%** of **adolescent girls** aged **15 to 19 years** are anaemic.
  राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-5) के अनुसार **छह से 59 माह** आयु के **67.1%** बच्चे, **15 से 49 वर्ष** आयु की **57%** महिलाएं, **52.2% गर्भवती महिलाएं** तथा **15 से 19 वर्ष** आयु की **59.1% किशोरियां** एनीमिया से ग्रस्त हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Smart AI caching can keep the data flowing when disaster strikes

In cooperative caching, different parts of a disaster-response network, including satellites, drones, base stations, and emergency vehicles, work together to store and share useful data; when one node receives or generates important content, such as satellite images or video, nearby nodes may also cache copies based on demand

GS III: S&T

Shamim Haque Mondal

Two years ago, Mundakkai and Churalmala in Kerala experienced powerful landslides that killed hundreds of people. Last year, a large village in Dharali, Uttarakhand, was washed away following heavy rain. In the monsoon season of 2025, the States in Northeast India were devastated by frequent floods. More than a hundred people lost their lives after heavy rain in Uttar Pradesh on May 13-14 this year.

During such disasters, it is common for telecom towers to topple over, power lines to be cut, and roads to be closed. In these situations, real-time information as to what is happening on the ground, where people are stuck, which routes are still open, etc. becomes crucial for rescue workers and medical workers. In the absence of such communication, rescue operations are delayed, more property is damaged, and more lives are lost.

During disasters, real-time information about where people need help and which routes are still open is crucial for rescue and medical workers. REUTERS

THE GIST

It is common for communication to get disrupted when a disaster occurs. The absence of real-time information delays rescue operations

Researchers from Ireland found a way to transmit important real-time information using a technology called collaborative caching even if the local network is in a subpar condition

The work also highlights the importance of a three-tier network, where space, air, and ground are working together, called Space Air Ground Integrated Network (SAGIN)

Cooperative caching

'Solving' communications in disaster-affected areas is a long-standing problem. Recently, in a paper published in the IEEE *Transactions on Services Computing*, researchers from Ireland, led by Sangita Dhara of Trinity College Dublin, presented a novel approach – a way to transmit important real-time information using a technology called collaborative caching even if the local network is in a subpar condition.

At a time of disaster, the local administration typically has three main communication channels: satellite or satellite-based communications, drones or unmanned aerial vehicles, and some *ad hoc* network based on the ground. A satellite can beam data down over a wide area, so accessing that signal is relatively easy, but the big problem here is data latency, i.e. the delay in getting information. Time is of the essence. It is also possible to take pictures from the sky or transmit live video using drones. However, they are limited by their short range, limited battery capacity, and, above all, obstacles in the form of inclement weather. Finally, ground-based wireless networks can help with local communication – but they are often damaged or non-functional during disasters.

In this context, the researchers have presented cooperative caching. Here, different parts of a disaster-response network, including satellites, drones, base stations, and emergency vehicles, work together to store and share useful data. When one node receives or generates important content, such as satellite images or video, nearby nodes may also cache copies based on the demand. This cooperation allows rescue teams to retrieve information from the nearest available source rather than a distant origin, reducing delay, improving reliability when infrastructure is damaged, and increasing the chance that critical information is available in real time.

Automatic decision-making

Creating this caching system is technologically not simple, however. The drones are airborne, rescue vehicles are on the road, and the position of satellites is constantly changing. It is also difficult to know when and where information will be required, plus the storage of each device will be limited.

To address this problem, the researchers developed a statistical model called contextual multi-armed bandit (CMAB), an AI model that optimises caching decisions quickly.

The model learns from each of the previous decisions, then reviews three factors: what data are recently available, what data demand is currently high, and how much memory is needed in the cache.

For example, it would be helpful to understand that a photo taken 10 minutes before a flood is more effective than a photo taken one hour before the flood. Similarly, video footage or a map of a place that most rescuers are asking for is more important than those that fewer ones are looking for. Sometimes, instead of caching high-resolution video – such as 4K video – short text alerts or warning messages could help rescuers remain

The researchers developed a statistical model called contextual multi-armed bandit, an AI model that optimised caching decisions quickly

productive without taking up large amounts of storage. The model is taught to make such decisions automatically.

Federated learning

While in CMAB each node learns from what information it alone has, a more advanced version called FMAB – short for federated multi-armed bandit – learns from its information as well as what the nodes nearby have learnt.

"Caching decisions are executed periodically rather than per request, amortising the computational cost," the researchers wrote in their paper. "Even the highest observed decision latency of Contextual MAB [around 87 microseconds] remains negligible compared to network delays, ensuring system complexity does not hinder the practical applicability for dynamic and real-time, post-disaster deployments."

The work also highlights the importance of a three-tier network, where space, air, and ground are working together, called Space Air Ground Integrated Network (SAGIN). Here, each layer plays a unique role, but the limitations that exist between them are greatly reduced due to caching, and the system becomes more efficient. In the post-disaster scenario, it is important not to look at all the information that is available but only at which information is more useful. An updated road map can tell us which bridges are still usable while a live video can let us know that boats are urgently needed in a specific part of the floodplain.

All together

As a result, content should be seen not only as data but as time-dependent actionable data. And the goal of advanced caching should be to learn how to store the most valuable information in the most appropriate place with limited resources.

To meet this goal, SAGIN works to build external infrastructure, CMAB helps to make acceptable decisions, and FMAB can make the network stronger in the post-disaster period by spreading those decisions across multiple nodes.

However, the results of this simulation-based study depend on many parameters, such as the weather at the time, the flight of the drone, energy management, hardware malfunctions, cyber security, and the behaviour of rescuers in reality.

Moreover, it is not always technically possible to determine which content is valuable or preferable. In many cases, the needs of the local administration or humanitarian considerations can also speed up the rescue.

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29J6. Smart AI caching can keep the data flowing when disaster strikes
स्मार्ट एआई कैशिंग आपदा आने पर भी डेटा के प्रवाह को बनाए रख सकती है

- In cooperative caching, different parts of a disaster-response network, including satellites, drones, base stations, and emergency vehicles, work together to store and share useful data.
  सहकारी कैशिंग (Cooperative Caching) में आपदा-प्रतिक्रिया नेटवर्क के विभिन्न भाग, जिनमें उपग्रह, ड्रोन, बेस स्टेशन तथा आपातकालीन वाहन शामिल हैं, उपयोगी डेटा को संग्रहीत और साझा करने के लिए मिलकर कार्य करते हैं।
- When one node receives or generates important content, such as satellite images or video, nearby nodes may also cache copies based on demand.
  जब कोई एक नोड महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री, जैसे उपग्रह चित्र या वीडियो, प्राप्त करता है अथवा उत्पन्न करता है, तो निकटवर्ती नोड भी मांग के आधार पर उसकी कैश प्रतियाँ सुरक्षित कर सकते हैं।
- In the monsoon season of 2025, the States in Northeast India were devastated by frequent floods.
  वर्ष 2025 के मानसून मौसम में पूर्वोत्तर भारत के राज्य बार-बार आने वाली बाढ़ से बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुए।

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- At a time of disaster, the local administration typically has three main communication channels: satellite or satellite-based communications, drones or unmanned aerial vehicles, and some ad hoc network based on the ground.
  आपदा के समय स्थानीय प्रशासन के पास सामान्यतः तीन प्रमुख संचार माध्यम होते हैं: उपग्रह अथवा उपग्रह-आधारित संचार, ड्रोन अथवा मानवरहित हवाई वाहन, तथा भूमि-आधारित कोई एड-हॉक नेटवर्क।
- A satellite can beam data down over a wide area, so accessing that signal is relatively easy, but the big problem here is data latency, i.e. the delay in getting information.
  एक उपग्रह व्यापक क्षेत्र में डेटा प्रेषित कर सकता है, इसलिए उस संकेत तक पहुँचना अपेक्षाकृत आसान होता है, किंतु यहाँ सबसे बड़ी समस्या डेटा विलंबता (Data Latency) अर्थात जानकारी प्राप्त होने में होने वाला विलंब है।
- However, they are limited by their short range, limited battery capacity, and, above all, obstacles in the form of inclement weather.
  हालाँकि, उनकी सीमित दूरी, सीमित बैटरी क्षमता, तथा सबसे बढ़कर प्रतिकूल मौसम जैसी बाधाएँ उनकी उपयोगिता को सीमित करती हैं।
- Here, different parts of a disaster-response network, including satellites, drones, base stations, and emergency vehicles, work together to store and share useful data.
  इसमें आपदा-प्रतिक्रिया नेटवर्क के विभिन्न घटक, जिनमें उपग्रह, ड्रोन, बेस स्टेशन तथा आपातकालीन वाहन शामिल हैं, उपयोगी डेटा को संग्रहीत करने और साझा करने के लिए मिलकर कार्य करते हैं।
- When one node receives or generates important content, such as satellite images or video, nearby nodes may also cache copies based on the demand.
  जब कोई नोड उपग्रह चित्रों अथवा वीडियो जैसी महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री प्राप्त करता है या उत्पन्न करता है, तो माँग के आधार पर निकटवर्ती नोड भी उसकी प्रतियों को कैश कर सकते हैं।
- This cooperation allows rescue teams to retrieve information from the nearest available source rather than a distant origin, reducing delay, improving reliability when infrastructure is damaged, and increasing the chance that critical information is available in real time.
  यह सहयोग बचाव दलों को दूरस्थ स्रोत के बजाय निकटतम उपलब्ध स्रोत से जानकारी प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बनाता है, जिससे विलंब कम होता है, अवसंरचना के क्षतिग्रस्त होने पर विश्वसनीयता बढ़ती है तथा महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी के वास्तविक समय में उपलब्ध होने की संभावना बढ़ जाती है।

Automatic decision-making
स्वचालित निर्णय-निर्माण

- Creating this **caching system** is technologically not simple, however.
  हालाँकि, इस **कैशिंग प्रणाली** का निर्माण तकनीकी दृष्टि से सरल नहीं है।
- The **drones** are airborne, **rescue vehicles** are on the road, and the position of **satellites** is constantly changing.
  ड्रोन आकाश में होते हैं, **बचाव वाहन** सड़कों पर चलते हैं, और **उपग्रहों** की स्थिति निरंतर बदलती रहती है।
- It is also difficult to know when and where information will be required, plus the **storage** of each device will be limited.
  यह जानना भी कठिन होता है कि जानकारी कब और कहाँ आवश्यक होगी, साथ ही प्रत्येक उपकरण की **भंडारण क्षमता** भी सीमित होती है।
- To address this problem, the researchers developed a statistical model called **contextual multi-armed bandit (CMAB)**, an **AI model** that optimises **caching decisions** quickly.
  इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए शोधकर्ताओं ने **कॉन्टेक्स्चुअल मल्टी-आर्म्ड बैंडिट (CMAB)** नामक एक सांख्यिकीय मॉडल विकसित किया, जो एक **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) मॉडल** है और **कैशिंग निर्णयों** का शीघ्र अनुकूलन करता है।
- Sometimes, instead of caching **high-resolution video** — such as **4K video** — short **text alerts** or **warning messages** could help rescuers remain productive without taking up large amounts of **storage**.

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कभी-कभी **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन वीडियो**, जैसे **4K वीडियो**, को कैश करने के स्थान पर संक्षिप्त **पाठ चेतावनियाँ** अथवा **चेतावनी संदेश** बचावकर्मियों को अधिक **भंडारण** उपयोग किए बिना प्रभावी ढंग से कार्य करने में सहायता कर सकते हैं।

- "Even the highest observed **decision latency** of **Contextual MAB** [around **87 microseconds**] remains negligible compared to **network delays**, ensuring system complexity does not hinder the practical applicability for dynamic and **real-time**, post-disaster deployments."
"**कॉन्टेक्स्चुअल MAB** की अब तक देखी गई सर्वाधिक **निर्णय विलंबता** [लगभग **87 माइक्रोसेकंड**] भी **नेटवर्क विलंब** की तुलना में नगण्य रहती है, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित होता है कि प्रणाली की जटिलता, आपदा के बाद गतिशील तथा **वास्तविक समय** के उपयोग में बाधा नहीं बनती।"
- The work also highlights the importance of a **three-tier network**, where **space**, **air**, and **ground** are working together, called **Space Air Ground Integrated Network (SAGIN)**.
यह अध्ययन **त्रि-स्तरीय नेटवर्क** के महत्व को भी रेखांकित करता है, जिसमें **अंतरिक्ष**, **वायु** और **भूमि** मिलकर कार्य करते हैं, जिसे **स्पेस एयर ग्राउंड इंटीग्रेटेड नेटवर्क (SAGIN)** कहा जाता है।

Life on Mars: enduring mystery

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

In a new study in *Science Advances*, an international team of researchers has reported finding organic matter on Mars. Using the NASA Perseverance rover, the team recorded a distribution of complex organic carbon within an ancient river valley on the red planet's Jezero Crater.

Using the rover's SHERLOC instrument, the researchers detected a complex and hardy form of organic matter called macromolecular carbon within fine-grained mudstones. According to the study paper, published in *Science Advances*, this is significant as it represents the most robust detection of organic material in Jezero Crater to date and is the first time such a material has been found directly on a natural rock surface on Mars.

Over the last decade, the NASA Curiosity rover has found organic molecules in Gale Crater, proving the building blocks of life could be preserved in Mars's lakebed rocks. However, Perseverance's previous scans of the floor of Jezero Crater only showed localised and faint hints of organic materials.

The new evidence, from the Neretva Vallis channel, suggests organic matter could be more widespread on Mars than thought. The fact that these organic materials have also been found alongside minerals like carbonates and

A selfie taken by NASA's Perseverance Mars rover in 2025 shows the Cheyava Falls rock to the rover's left. NASA

sulphates suggests they may have been trapped and preserved by water-driven processes billions of years ago.
While the new study noted that these organics could have been formed by geological (i.e. abiotic) processes rather than biological ones, the findings are, in the paper's words, "astrobiologically compelling", showing that complex carbon can survive the planet's harsh radiation for aeons.

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29J6. Life on Mars: enduring mystery

मंगल ग्रह पर जीवन: एक शाश्वत रहस्य

Organic matter found on Mars
मंगल ग्रह पर कार्बनिक पदार्थ की खोज

- In a new study in **Science Advances**, an international team of researchers has reported finding **organic matter** on **Mars**.

Science Advances में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन में अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोधकर्ताओं की एक टीम ने **मंगल ग्रह** पर **कार्बनिक पदार्थ** मिलने की सूचना दी है।

- Using the **NASA Perseverance rover**, the team recorded a distribution of **complex organic carbon** within an ancient **river valley** on the red planet's **Jezero Crater**.

NASA Perseverance रोवर का उपयोग करते हुए टीम ने लाल ग्रह के **जेज़ेरो क्रेटर** की एक प्राचीन **नदी घाटी** में **जटिल कार्बनिक कार्बन** के वितरण का अभिलेखन किया।

- Using the rover's **SHERLOC instrument**, the researchers detected a complex and hardy form of **organic matter** called **macromolecular carbon** within fine-grained **mudstones**.

रोवर के **SHERLOC उपकरण** का उपयोग करते हुए शोधकर्ताओं ने महीन कणों वाली **मडस्टोन** चट्टानों में **मैक्रोमॉलिक्यूलर कार्बन** नामक **कार्बनिक पदार्थ** के एक जटिल और टिकाऊ रूप का पता लगाया।

- Over the last decade, the **NASA Curiosity rover** has found **organic molecules** in **Gale Crater**, proving the **building blocks of life** could be preserved in **Mars's lakebed rocks**.

पिछले एक दशक में **NASA Curiosity रोवर** ने **गेल क्रेटर** में **कार्बनिक अणुओं** का पता लगाया है, जिससे यह सिद्ध हुआ कि **जीवन के आधारभूत घटक मंगल ग्रह की झील-तल की चट्टानों** में संरक्षित रह सकते हैं।

- However, **Perseverance's** previous scans of the floor of **Jezero Crater** only showed localised and faint hints of **organic materials**.

हालाँकि, **Perseverance** द्वारा **जेज़ेरो क्रेटर** की सतह पर पहले किए गए स्कैन में केवल सीमित और अत्यंत हल्के रूप में **कार्बनिक पदार्थों** के संकेत मिले थे।

- The fact that these **organic materials** have also been found alongside minerals like **carbonates** and **sulphates** suggests they may have been trapped and preserved by **water-driven processes** billions of years ago.
यह तथ्य कि ये **कार्बनिक पदार्थ कार्बोनेट** तथा **सल्फेट** जैसे खनिजों के साथ भी पाए गए हैं, यह संकेत देता है कि अरबों वर्ष पूर्व **जल-प्रेरित प्रक्रियाओं** द्वारा ये फँस गए और संरक्षित हो गए होंगे।
- While the new study noted that these **organics** could have been formed by **geological (i.e. abiotic) processes** rather than **biological** ones, the findings are, in the paper's words, "**astrobiologically compelling**", showing that **complex carbon** can survive the planet's harsh **radiation** for **aeons**.
यद्यपि नए अध्ययन में यह उल्लेख किया गया है कि ये **कार्बनिक पदार्थ भूवैज्ञानिक (अर्थात् अजैविक) प्रक्रियाओं** से भी बने हो सकते हैं, न कि **जैविक प्रक्रियाओं** से, फिर भी शोधपत्र के शब्दों में ये निष्कर्ष "**खगोल-जैवविज्ञान की दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण**" हैं, क्योंकि ये दर्शाते हैं कि **जटिल कार्बन** ग्रह के तीव्र **विकिरण** के बीच भी **अनगिनत युगों** तक सुरक्षित रह सकता है।

GS III: S&T

Buyer beware

Tracking down defective batches of drugs is essential

The Health Ministry's notification to expand Schedule H2 drugs to entire therapeutic classes now from a curated list of brands earlier is a commendable change from regulating based on revenue to regulating based on risk. The government had introduced Schedule H2 in 2022-23, which required a barcode or QR code on each pack of specific drugs to verify the pack's authenticity. It is part of a framework that also touches on regulating active pharmaceutical ingredients and export-oriented pharmaceutical compliance. Now, with the additional symbols encoding a product identifier, the manufacturing licence number, batch number, and other details, authorities hope to better track down defective batches. Counterfeit networks have long targeted vaccines, cancer medicines and antimicrobials, with WHO flagging high volumes of fake antimicrobials in low- and middle-income countries. India has one of the world's highest antimicrobial resistance rates, and substandard antimicrobials can lead to sub-therapeutic dosing, exerting selection pressure on resistant strains. The Narcotics Control Bureau has also expressed concerns about medicinal opioids and psychotropic substances 'leaking' into illicit markets. The government will hope that the new system addresses the U.S. FDA's and the European Medicines Agency's recurring concerns about quality control, an issue on which India has found itself on the back foot over contaminated cough syrups. The U.S. Trade Representative has also repeatedly identified India as a leading source of counterfeit medicines, with many fake pharmaceuticals seized at the U.S. border originating from or transiting through India.

Together with policy changes effected by the Jan Vishwas Act 2026, the new framework finally distinguishes between procedural non-compliance and substantial non-compliance, considering only the latter constitutes meaningful enforcement. In the long term, the government should rationalise the compliance burden and eliminate the risk of corruption associated with discretionary enforcement. The government must also recognise that the QR code system will only be effective if backed by a state-managed database that pharmacists and regulators can access in real time, supported by interoperable software and scanning infrastructure across States. Second, pharmacists and consumers must develop a habit of verifying medicines before a sale. Third, the compliance needs imposed by new packaging requirements and the IT integration will strain MSME manufacturers in particular. Finally, prescription data on controlled substances is sensitive information and will need to be handled with a digital governance layer that does not yet exist. Thus, whether the new framework will improve India's reputation as a pharmacy comes down to its implementation.

29J6. Buyer beware
खरीदार सावधान

Tracking down defective batches of drugs is essential
दवाओं के दोषपूर्ण बैचों का पता लगाना अत्यंत आवश्यक है

- The **Health Ministry's** notification to expand **Schedule H2 drugs** to entire therapeutic classes now from a curated list of brands earlier is a commendable change from regulating based on revenue to regulating based on risk.
स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की अधिसूचना, जिसके तहत **शेड्यूल H2 दवाओं** को पहले केवल चुनिंदा ब्रांडों की सूची तक सीमित रखने के बजाय अब संपूर्ण चिकित्सीय श्रेणियों तक विस्तारित किया गया है, राजस्व-आधारित नियमन से जोखिम-आधारित नियमन की दिशा में एक सराहनीय परिवर्तन है।
- The government had introduced **Schedule H2** in **2022-23**, which required a **barcode** or **QR code** on each pack of specific drugs to verify the pack's authenticity.
सरकार ने **2022-23** में **शेड्यूल H2** लागू किया था, जिसके तहत कुछ विशेष दवाओं के प्रत्येक पैक पर उसकी प्रामाणिकता की पुष्टि के लिए **बारकोड** या **QR कोड** अनिवार्य किया गया था।
- **Counterfeit networks** have long targeted **vaccines**, **cancer medicines** and **antimicrobials**, with **WHO** flagging high volumes of fake antimicrobials in **low- and middle-income countries**.
नकली दवाओं के नेटवर्क लंबे समय से **टीकों**, **कैंसर की दवाओं** और **एंटीमाइक्रोबियल्स** को निशाना बनाते रहे हैं, जबकि **WHO** ने **निम्न एवं मध्यम आय वाले देशों** में नकली एंटीमाइक्रोबियल्स की बड़ी मात्रा पर चिंता जताई है।
- The **Narcotics Control Bureau** has also expressed concerns about **medicinal opioids** and **psychotropic substances** 'leaking' into illicit markets.
नारकोटिक्स कंट्रोल ब्यूरो ने भी **औषधीय ओपिऑयड्स** तथा **मनोप्रभावी पदार्थों** के अवैध बाजारों में पहुँचने को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।

- Together with policy changes effected by the **Jan Vishwas Act 2026**, the new framework finally distinguishes between **procedural non-compliance** and **substantial non-compliance**, considering only the latter constitutes meaningful enforcement.
  जन विश्वास अधिनियम 2026 के तहत किए गए नीतिगत परिवर्तनों के साथ यह नया ढांचा अंततः **प्रक्रियात्मक अनुपालनहीनता** और **गंभीर अनुपालनहीनता** के बीच अंतर स्थापित करता है तथा केवल बाद वाली को सार्थक प्रवर्तन का आधार मानता है।
- In the long term, the government should rationalise the compliance burden and eliminate the risk of corruption associated with discretionary enforcement.
  दीर्घकाल में सरकार को अनुपालन संबंधी बोझ को तर्कसंगत बनाना चाहिए तथा विवेकाधीन प्रवर्तन से जुड़े भ्रष्टाचार के जोखिम को समाप्त करना चाहिए।
- The government must also recognise that the **QR code system** will only be effective if backed by a **state-managed database** that pharmacists and regulators can access in real time, supported by interoperable software and scanning infrastructure across States.
  सरकार को यह भी समझना चाहिए कि **QR कोड प्रणाली** तभी प्रभावी होगी, जब उसे **राज्य-प्रबंधित डेटाबेस** का समर्थन प्राप्त होगा, जिसे फार्मासिस्ट और नियामक वास्तविक समय में उपयोग कर सकें, तथा सभी राज्यों में परस्पर संगत सॉफ्टवेयर और स्कैनिंग अवसंरचना उपलब्ध हो।

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28J6	Screenplay maestro and everyday hero of Tamil cinema takes his last bow तमिल सिनेमा के पटकथा के महारथी और आम आदमी के नायक ने ली अंतिम विदाई
28J6	A master of screenplay and storytelling पटकथा और कहानी कहने की कला के महारथी

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Screenplay maestro and everyday hero of Tamil cinema takes his last bow

PCS

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Renowned Tamil actor, director, writer, and screenwriter K. Bhagyaraj, whose mastery over screenplay was widely acknowledged and who created a storytelling formula that has influenced generations of filmmakers, died on Saturday. He was 73.

Sources said he suffered a massive heart attack. Speaking at his residence, actor Suhasini Maniratnam said Bhagyaraj had returned to Chennai on Friday night after attending actor Khushboo's daughter's wedding in Goa.

On Saturday morning, he went for a walk with his wife Poornima, but complained of chest pain on his return home. He was rushed to Apollo Hospital and efforts were made to resuscitate him, but they proved futile.

Bhagyaraj directed, produced and starred in numerous hit films celebrated for their engaging storylines, memorable songs, and relatable characters. *Mounageethangal*, *Antha Ezhu Naatkal*, and *Munthanai Mudichu* are some of his films being studied even today. Nearly every film of Bhagyaraj spoke loudly about an idea which found an echo within Tamil society.

An assistant of Bharathiraja, who also died recently, he forever changed the perception of the Tamil film hero by proving wit, intelligence, and ordinariness could be as compelling as physical prowess and a striking presence. He combined qualities of a hero and a comedian, making his bespectacled appearances as hero both entertaining and deeply human.

His idea of a hero was not even the man next door, but one among the many on the streets.

He also tried his hand at politics, being an ardent fan of M.G. Ramachandran, though he was not very successful in this sphere. He edited the Tamil weekly magazine *Bhagya* and authored several novels as well.

K. BHAGYARAJ (1953-2026)

His funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Besant Nagar Crematorium with State honours.

He began working in the film industry in the mid-1970s as an assistant director under Bharathiraja, working in iconic films such as *16 Vayathinilale*, *Kizhakke Pogum Rail*, and *Sigappu Rojakkal*. He developed his skills as a dialogue and screenplay writer.

Prolific career

His debut as a hero was in the movie *Pudhiya Vaarpugal*, co-starring Rati Agnihotri, and his directorial debut was with the film *Suvarillatha Chithirangal*.

In 1981, he married co-star Praveena, but she died in 1983. The next year, he married Poornima, his co-star from movie *Darling, Darling, Darling*. He has directed 27 feature films across the Tamil and Hindi languages. When the hit Tamil film *Oru Kaidhiyin Diary* (1985) – originally directed by Bharathiraja and starring Kamal Haasan – was remade in Hindi as *Aakhree Raasta* (1986), Bhagyaraj was roped in as the director.

Following this success, Bhagyaraj went on to direct *Mr. Bechara* (1996), the Hindi remake of his own hit Tamil directorial venture, *Veetla Visheshanga* (1994), casting Anil Kapoor and Sridevi in the lead roles.

He later helmed *Papa the Great* (2000), a Hindi remake of his 1998 Tamil film *Vettiya Madichu Kattu*, starring Krishan Kumar and Nagma. However, this particular venture failed to make a mark at the box office.

In the subsequent phase of his directorial career, the only film that stood out was *Chokka Thangam*. Beyond his work behind the camera, Bhagyaraj has had a prolific acting career, appearing in over 80 films across Tamil and other regional languages.

Demonstrating his versatility, he also composed the music for five films.

His corneas were donated to an eyebank in Chennai.

(With inputs from K. Muralidharan and Ramya Kannan)

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28J6. Screenplay maestro and everyday hero of Tamil cinema takes his last bow

तमिल सिनेमा के पटकथा के महारथी और आम आदमी के नायक ने ली अंतिम विदाई

B. Kolappan
बी. कोलप्पन

- **Renowned** Tamil actor, director, writer, and screenwriter **K. Bhagyaraj**, whose mastery over **screenplay** was widely acknowledged and who created a storytelling formula that has influenced generations of filmmakers, died on Saturday.
  प्रसिद्ध तमिल अभिनेता, निर्देशक, लेखक और पटकथा लेखक **के. भाग्यराज**, जिनकी **पटकथा लेखन** पर अद्भुत पकड़ व्यापक रूप से स्वीकार की गई थी और जिन्होंने ऐसी कहानी कहने की शैली विकसित की जिसने कई पीढ़ियों के फिल्मकारों को प्रभावित किया, का शनिवार को निधन हो गया।
- He was **73**.
  वे **73 वर्ष** के थे।
- Sources said he suffered a **massive heart attack**.
  सूत्रों ने बताया कि उन्हें **गंभीर हृदयाघात** हुआ था।
- Speaking at his residence, actor **Suhasini Maniratnam** said Bhagyaraj had returned to **Chennai** on Friday night after attending actor **Khushboo's** daughter's wedding in **Goa**.
  उनके आवास पर अभिनेत्री **सुहासिनी मणिरत्नम** ने बताया कि भाग्यराज अभिनेता **खुशबू** की बेटी की शादी में **गोवा** शामिल होने के बाद शुक्रवार रात **चेन्नई** लौटे थे।
- On Saturday morning, he went for a walk with his wife **Poornima**, but complained of **chest pain** on his return home.
  शनिवार सुबह वह अपनी पत्नी **पूर्णिमा** के साथ टहलने गए, लेकिन घर लौटने पर उन्होंने **सीने में दर्द** की शिकायत की।
- He was rushed to **Apollo Hospital** and efforts were made to resuscitate him, but they proved futile.
  उन्हें तुरंत **अपोलो अस्पताल** ले जाया गया और उन्हें पुनर्जीवित करने के प्रयास किए गए, लेकिन वे सफल नहीं हो सके।
- Bhagyaraj directed, produced and starred in numerous hit films celebrated for their engaging storylines, memorable songs, and relatable characters.
  भाग्यराज ने अनेक सफल फिल्मों का निर्देशन, निर्माण और अभिनय किया, जो अपनी रोचक कहानियों, यादगार गीतों और आम लोगों से जुड़े पात्रों के लिए प्रसिद्ध रहीं।
- **Mounageethangal**, **Antha Ezhu Naatkal**, and **Munthanai Mudichu** are some of his films being studied even today.

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मौनगीतंगल, **अन्था एझु नाटकल**, और **मुन्थानई मुडिचु** उनकी ऐसी फिल्में हैं जिनका अध्ययन आज भी किया जाता है।

- Nearly every film of Bhagyaraj spoke loudly about an idea which found an echo within **Tamil society**.
  भाग्यराज की लगभग हर फिल्म ने ऐसे विचारों को प्रस्तुत किया जो **तमिल समाज** में गूंजते थे।
- An assistant of **Bharathiraja**, who also died recently, he forever changed the perception of the **Tamil film hero** by proving wit, intelligence, and ordinariness could be as compelling as physical prowess and a striking presence.
  हाल ही में दिवंगत हुए **भारथिराजा** के सहायक रहे भाग्यराज ने यह सिद्ध कर **तमिल फिल्म नायक** की परिभाषा बदल दी कि बुद्धिमत्ता, चतुराई और साधारण व्यक्तित्व भी शारीरिक शक्ति और प्रभावशाली उपस्थिति जितने आकर्षक हो सकते हैं।
- He combined qualities of a hero and a comedian, making his bespectacled appearances as hero both entertaining and deeply human.
  उन्होंने नायक और हास्य कलाकार दोनों के गुणों का संयोजन किया, जिससे चश्मा पहने उनका नायक रूप मनोरंजक होने के साथ-साथ मानवीय भी बन गया।
- His idea of a hero was not even the man next door, but one among the many on the streets.
  उनके अनुसार नायक पड़ोस का व्यक्ति भी नहीं, बल्कि सड़क पर चलने वाले अनेक सामान्य लोगों में से एक था।
- He also tried his hand at **politics**, being an ardent fan of **M.G. Ramachandran**, though he was not very successful in this sphere.
  उन्होंने **राजनीति** में भी हाथ आजमाया और वे **एम.जी. रामचंद्रन** के प्रबल प्रशंसक थे, हालांकि इस क्षेत्र में उन्हें अधिक सफलता नहीं मिली।
- He edited the Tamil weekly magazine **Bhagya** and authored several novels as well.
  उन्होंने तमिल साप्ताहिक पत्रिका **भाग्य** का संपादन किया और कई उपन्यास भी लिखे।
- His funeral will be held on Sunday afternoon at the **Besant Nagar Crematorium** with **State honours**.
  उनका अंतिम संस्कार रविवार दोपहर **बेसेंट नगर श्मशान घाट** में **राजकीय सम्मान** के साथ किया जाएगा।
- He began working in the film industry in the **mid-1970s** as an assistant director under **Bharathiraja**, working in iconic films such as **16 Vayathinilale**, **Kizhakke Pogum Rail**, and **Sigappu Rojakkal**.
  उन्होंने **1970 के दशक के मध्य** में **भारथिराजा** के सहायक निर्देशक के रूप में फिल्म उद्योग में कार्य शुरू किया और **16 वयथिनिले**, **किझक्के पोगुम रेल**, तथा **सिगप्पु रोजक्कल** जैसी प्रतिष्ठित फिल्मों में काम किया।
- He developed his skills as a **dialogue** and **screenplay writer**.
  उन्होंने **संवाद** और **पटकथा लेखन** में अपनी दक्षता विकसित की।

Prolific career
समृद्ध करियर

- His debut as a hero was in the movie **Pudhiya Vaarpugal**, co-starring **Rati Agnihotri**, and his directorial debut was with the film **Suvarillatha Chithirangal**.
  एक नायक के रूप में उनकी पहली फिल्म **पुधिया वार्पुगल** थी, जिसमें **रति अग्निहोत्री** सह-अभिनेत्री थीं, जबकि निर्देशन में उनकी पहली फिल्म **सुवारिल्लाथा चित्रंगल** थी।
- In **1981**, he married co-star **Praveena**, but she died in **1983**.
  1981 में उन्होंने सह-अभिनेत्री **प्रवीणा** से विवाह किया, लेकिन **1983** में उनका निधन हो गया।
- The next year, he married **Poornima**, his co-star from movie **Darling, Darling, Darling**.
  अगले वर्ष उन्होंने फिल्म **डार्लिंग, डार्लिंग, डार्लिंग** की सह-अभिनेत्री **पूर्णिमा** से विवाह किया।
- He has directed **27 feature films** across the Tamil and Hindi languages.
  उन्होंने तमिल और हिंदी भाषाओं में **27 फीचर फिल्मों** का निर्देशन किया।

- When the hit Tamil film **Oru Kaidhiyin Diary (1985)** — originally directed by **Bharathiraja** and starring **Kamal Haasan** — was remade in Hindi as **Aakhree Raasta (1986)**, Bhagyaraj was roped in as the director.
  जब सफल तमिल फिल्म **ओरु कैधियिन डायरी (1985)** — जिसका मूल निर्देशन **भारथिराजा** ने किया था और जिसमें **कमल हासन** मुख्य भूमिका में थे — का हिंदी में **आख़री रास्ता (1986)** के रूप में पुनर्निर्माण हुआ, तब भाग्यराज को उसका निर्देशक बनाया गया।
- Following this success, Bhagyaraj went on to direct **Mr. Bechara (1996)**, the Hindi remake of his own hit Tamil directorial venture, **Veetla Visheshanga (1994)**, casting **Anil Kapoor** and **Sridevi** in the lead roles.
  इस सफलता के बाद भाग्यराज ने **मिस्टर बेचारा (1996)** का निर्देशन किया, जो उनकी तमिल हिट फिल्म **वीटला विशेषांगा (1994)** का हिंदी रीमेक थी, जिसमें **अनिल कपूर** और **श्रीदेवी** मुख्य भूमिकाओं में थे।
- He later helmed **Papa the Great (2000)**, a Hindi remake of his **1998** Tamil film **Vettiya Madichu Kattu**, starring **Krishan Kumar** and **Nagma**.
  बाद में उन्होंने **पापा द ग्रेट (2000)** का निर्देशन किया, जो उनकी **1998** की तमिल फिल्म **वेट्टिया मडिचु कट्टु** का हिंदी रीमेक थी, जिसमें **कृष्ण कुमार** और **नगमा** मुख्य भूमिकाओं में थे।
- However, this particular venture failed to make a mark at the **box office**.
  हालांकि यह फिल्म **बॉक्स ऑफिस** पर कोई विशेष सफलता प्राप्त नहीं कर सकी।
- In the subsequent phase of his directorial career, the only film that stood out was **Chokka Thangam**.
  उनके निर्देशन के बाद के दौर में केवल **चोक्का थंगम** ही उल्लेखनीय फिल्म रही।
- Beyond his work behind the camera, Bhagyaraj has had a prolific acting career, appearing in over **80 films** across Tamil and other regional languages.
  कैमरे के पीछे कार्य करने के अलावा, भाग्यराज का अभिनय करियर भी अत्यंत समृद्ध रहा और उन्होंने तमिल तथा अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की **80 से अधिक फिल्मों** में अभिनय किया।
- Demonstrating his versatility, he also composed the **music** for **five films**.
  अपनी बहुमुखी प्रतिभा का परिचय देते हुए उन्होंने **पांच फिल्मों** के लिए **संगीत** भी तैयार किया।
- His **corneas** were donated to an **eyebank** in **Chennai**.
  उनकी **नेत्र कॉर्निया चेन्नई** के एक **आई बैंक** को दान कर दी गईं।

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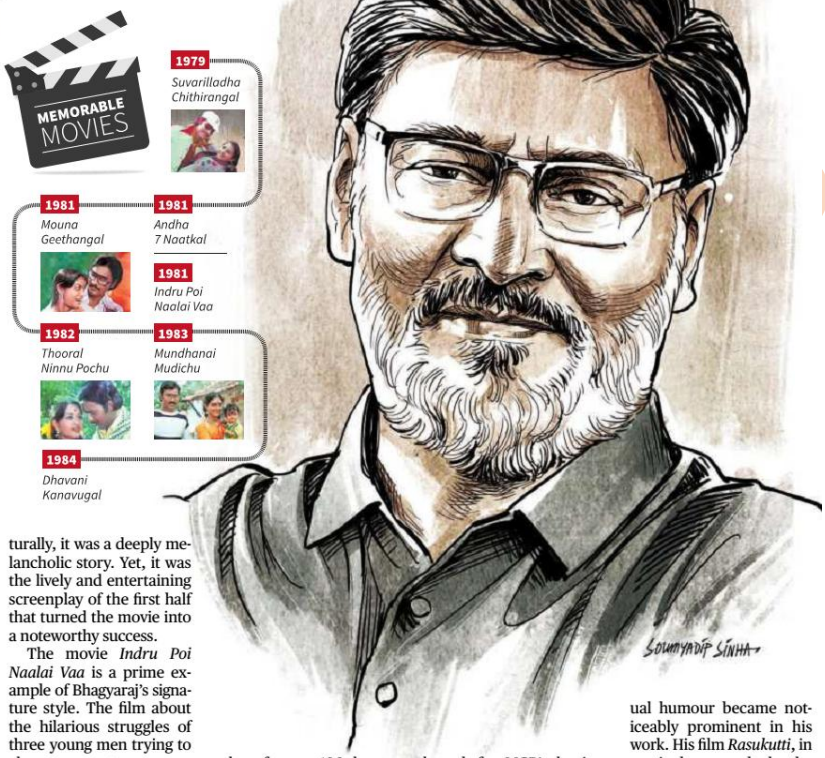
A master of screenplay and storytelling

The success formula of Bhagyaraj's hit movies was simple – stories woven around relatable everyday conflicts and sprinkled with good songs and situational humour

K. Murali Tharan
CHENNAI



K. Bhagyaraj is one of the very few directors in the Tamil film industry who has been widely acclaimed for his screenwriting. During the late 1970s – a period when stalwarts like K. Balachander and C.V. Sridhar were actively dominating the industry – Bhagyaraj carved out a niche for himself through his engaging and interesting screenplay design.

Arriving in Chennai with the aspiration of becoming a film director, the first movie Bhagyaraj worked on, was as an assistant director for *Ezhai Panakkaran*. Directed by G. Ramakrishnan, the shooting of this film ground to a halt within just two days. It was after this setback that Bhagyaraj went on to join director Bharathiraja. Having worked on films like *16 Vayathinile* and *Kizhakke Pogum Rail*, he wrote the dialogues for *Sigappu Rojakkal*.

Although Bhagyaraj was highly skilled in writing screenplays and dialogues, a film featuring him as the lead actor was released even before a film under his own direction could hit the screens.

When Bharathiraja wanted to make the film *Puthiya Vaarpugal*, he chose Bhagyaraj as the protagonist. Bhagyaraj also penned the dialogues for the movie. Becoming a massive success, this film effectively established Bhagyaraj among the masses.

However, his talent truly shone on the silver screen when his directorial debut, *Suvarillatha Chithirangal*, was released in 1979. Structurally, it was a deeply melancholic story. Yet, it was the lively and entertaining screenplay of the first half that turned the movie into a noteworthy success.

The movie *Indru Poi Naalai Vaa* is a prime example of Bhagyaraj's signature style. The film about the hilarious struggles of three young men trying to charm a young woman remains a cult classic comedy 45 years after its release.

Similarly, the movie *Antha 7 Naatkal* is a pivotal milestone in Bhagyaraj's career. The screenplay, dialogues, songs, and comedy of this film were all exceptionally well-crafted.

With a string of movies such as *Oru Kai Osai, Mouna Geethangal, Vidiyum Varai Kaathiru, Thooral Ninnu Pochu, Darling Darling Darling, and Munthanai Mudichu*, Bhagyaraj rapidly emerged as one of the most successful directors in the Tamil film industry. Many of the films he directed ran for over 100 days.

A prime example of Bhagyaraj's genius was reviving a stalled M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) film after several years by seamlessly weaving it into a brand-new screenplay. The film *Anna Nee En Deivam*, starring MGR, was originally being directed by C.V. Sridhar. However, since MGR became the Chief Minister, the film was shelved after shooting only about 5,000 feet of reel. Bhagyaraj took those existing scenes, wrote a completely fresh screenplay around them, and filmed it under the title *Avasara Police 100*. Released after MGR's demise, the movie enjoyed a successful run at the box office.

Beyond the script

Bhagyaraj's cinematic prowess, however, did not stop at acting, directing, and dialogue writing; he also demonstrated remarkable talent in music composition. Several songs from the movies he scored – such as *Idhu Namma Aalu, Aararo Aariraro, and Pavunnu Pavunuthan*– became chartbusters at the time.

However, post-*Munthanai Mudichu*, critics noted that adult-themed and sexual humour became noticeably prominent in his work. His film *Rasukutti*, in particular, marked the peak of this trend.

Over time, this style evolved to become a definitive hallmark of his cinema.

"As far as Bhagyaraj is concerned, he expanded the boundaries of Tamil cinema in the '80s and amplified its entertainment quotient. He achieved popularity by blending a lot of music, comedy, and glamour with realistic storytelling. It was because of these elements that his films achieved massive commercial success," said Tamil film historian Theodore Baskaran.

28J6. A master of screenplay and storytelling
पटकथा और कहानी कहने की कला के महारथी

- **The success formula** of **Bhagyaraj's** hit movies was simple — stories woven around relatable everyday conflicts and sprinkled with good songs and situational humour.
  भग्याराज की सफल फिल्मों का **सफलता सूत्र** सरल था — ऐसी कहानियाँ जो दैनिक जीवन के **संबंधित संघर्षों** के इर्द-गिर्द बुनी गई थीं और जिनमें अच्छे गीत तथा परिस्थितिजन्य हास्य का समावेश था।
- **K. Bhagyaraj** is one of the very few directors in the **Tamil film industry** who has been widely acclaimed for his **screenwriting**.

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के. भग्याराज तमिल फिल्म उद्योग के उन चुनिंदा निर्देशकों में से एक हैं जिन्हें उनकी **पटकथा लेखन** कला के लिए व्यापक प्रशंसा मिली।

- During the **late 1970s** — a period when stalwarts like **K. Balachander** and **C.V. Sridhar** were actively dominating the industry — Bhagyaraj carved out a niche for himself through his engaging and interesting **screenplay design**.
  1970 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध में — जब **के. बालाचंदर** और **सी.वी. श्रीधर** जैसे दिग्गज उद्योग पर अपना वर्चस्व बनाए हुए थे — भग्याराज ने अपनी आकर्षक और रोचक **पटकथा शैली** के माध्यम से अपनी अलग पहचान बनाई।
- Arriving in **Chennai** with the aspiration of becoming a **film director**, the first movie Bhagyaraj worked on, was as an **assistant director** for **Ezhai Panakkaran**.
  फिल्म निर्देशक बनने की आकांक्षा लेकर **चेन्नई** पहुँचे भग्याराज ने अपनी पहली फिल्म **एझाई पनक्कारण** में **सहायक निर्देशक** के रूप में कार्य किया।
- Directed by **G. Ramakrishnan**, the shooting of this film ground to a halt within just two days.
  जी. रामकृष्णन द्वारा निर्देशित इस फिल्म की शूटिंग मात्र दो दिनों के भीतर ही रुक गई।
- It was after this setback that Bhagyaraj went on to join director **Bharathiraja**.
  इसी असफलता के बाद भग्याराज ने निर्देशक **भारतीराजा** के साथ कार्य करना प्रारम्भ किया।
- Having worked on films like **16 Vayathinile** and **Kizhakke Pogum Rail**, he wrote the dialogues for **Sigappu Rojakkal**.
  16 वयथिनिले और **किझक्के पोगुम रेल** जैसी फिल्मों में कार्य करने के बाद उन्होंने **सिगप्पु रोजाक्कल** के संवाद लिखे।
- Although Bhagyaraj was highly skilled in writing **screenplays** and **dialogues**, a film featuring him as the **lead actor** was released even before a film under his own direction could hit the screens.
  यद्यपि भग्याराज **पटकथा** और **संवाद लेखन** में अत्यंत निपुण थे, फिर भी उनके निर्देशन वाली फिल्म के रिलीज़ होने से पहले ही उनके **मुख्य अभिनेता** के रूप में अभिनीत फिल्म प्रदर्शित हो गई।
- When **Bharathiraja** wanted to make the film **Puthiya Vaarpugal**, he chose Bhagyaraj as the protagonist.
  जब **भारतीराजा** ने **पुथिया वार्पुगल** बनाने का निर्णय लिया, तो उन्होंने भग्याराज को नायक के रूप में चुना।
- Bhagyaraj also penned the **dialogues** for the movie.
  भग्याराज ने इस फिल्म के **संवाद** भी लिखे।
- Becoming a massive success, this film effectively established Bhagyaraj among the masses.
  यह फिल्म बड़ी **सफलता** सिद्ध हुई और इसने भग्याराज को आम जनता के बीच स्थापित कर दिया।
- However, his talent truly shone on the silver screen when his **directorial debut**, **Suvarillatha Chithirangal**, was released in **1979**.
  हालाँकि, उनकी प्रतिभा वास्तव में तब सामने आई जब उनकी पहली निर्देशित फिल्म **सुवरिल्लाथा चित्रंगल** **1979** में प्रदर्शित हुई।
- Structurally, it was a deeply melancholic story.
  संरचनात्मक दृष्टि से यह एक अत्यंत **मार्मिक** कहानी थी।
- Yet, it was the lively and entertaining **screenplay** of the first half that turned the movie into a noteworthy success.
  फिर भी, पहले भाग की जीवंत और मनोरंजक **पटकथा** ने इस फिल्म को उल्लेखनीय सफलता दिलाई।
- The movie **Indru Poi Naalai Vaa** is a prime example of Bhagyaraj's signature style.
  फिल्म **इन्द्रु पोई नालै वा** भग्याराज की विशिष्ट शैली का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है।
- The film about the hilarious struggles of **three young men** trying to charm a **young woman** remains a **cult classic comedy** 45 years after its release.
  तीन युवकों द्वारा एक **युवती** को प्रभावित करने के हास्यपूर्ण प्रयासों पर आधारित यह फिल्म रिलीज़ के **45 वर्ष** बाद भी एक **कल्ट क्लासिक कॉमेडी** बनी हुई है।

- Similarly, the movie **Antha 7 Naatkal** is a pivotal milestone in Bhagyaraj's career.
  इसी प्रकार, **अन्था 7 नाटकल** भग्याराज के करियर का एक महत्वपूर्ण मील का पत्थर है।
- The **screenplay**, **dialogues**, **songs**, and **comedy** of this film were all exceptionally well-crafted.
  इस फिल्म की **पटकथा**, **संवाद**, **गीत** और **कॉमेडी** सभी अत्यंत उत्कृष्ट ढंग से तैयार किए गए थे।
- With a string of movies such as **Oru Kai Osai**, **Mouna Geethangal**, **Vidiyum Varai Kaathiru**, **Thooral Ninnu Pochu**, **Darling Darling Darling**, and **Munthanai Mudichu**, Bhagyaraj rapidly emerged as one of the most successful directors in the **Tamil film industry**.
  ओरु काई ओसाई, **मौना गीतांगल**, **विदियुम वरै काथिरु**, **थूरल निन्नु पोचु**, **डार्लिंग डार्लिंग डार्लिंग** और **मुन्थानई मुडिचु** जैसी फिल्मों के साथ भग्याराज शीघ्र ही **तमिल फिल्म उद्योग** के सबसे सफल निर्देशकों में शामिल हो गए।
- Many of the films he directed ran for over **100 days**.
  उनके द्वारा निर्देशित अनेक फिल्में **100 दिनों** से अधिक समय तक सिनेमाघरों में चलीं।
- A prime example of Bhagyaraj's genius was reviving a stalled **M.G. Ramachandran (MGR)** film after several years by seamlessly weaving it into a brand-new **screenplay**.
  भग्याराज की प्रतिभा का उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण यह था कि उन्होंने कई वर्षों से रुकी हुई **एम.जी. रामचंद्रन (एमजीआर)** की फिल्म को नई **पटकथा** में सहजता से पिरोकर पुनर्जीवित कर दिया।
- The film **Anna Nee En Deivam**, starring **MGR**, was originally being directed by **C.V. Sridhar**.
  एमजीआर अभिनीत **अन्ना नी एन देवम** का मूल निर्देशन **सी.वी. श्रीधर** कर रहे थे।
- However, since **MGR** became the **Chief Minister**, the film was shelved after shooting only about **5,000 feet** of reel.
  किन्तु **एमजीआर** के **मुख्यमंत्री** बनने के बाद लगभग **5,000 फीट** रील की शूटिंग के पश्चात यह फिल्म रोक दी गई।
- Bhagyaraj took those existing scenes, wrote a completely fresh **screenplay** around them, and filmed it under the title **Avasara Police 100**.
  भग्याराज ने उन्हीं उपलब्ध दृश्यों को आधार बनाकर एक नई **पटकथा** लिखी और उसे **अवसरा पुलिस 100** शीर्षक से फिल्माया।
- Released after **MGR's demise**, the movie enjoyed a successful run at the **box office**.
  एमजीआर के निधन के बाद प्रदर्शित इस फिल्म ने **बॉक्स ऑफिस** पर सफल प्रदर्शन किया।

Beyond the script
पटकथा से आगे

- Bhagyaraj's cinematic prowess, however, did not stop at **acting**, **directing**, and **dialogue writing**; he also demonstrated remarkable talent in **music composition**.
  हालाँकि, भग्याराज की सिनेमाई प्रतिभा केवल **अभिनय**, **निर्देशन** और **संवाद लेखन** तक सीमित नहीं रही; उन्होंने **संगीत निर्देशन** में भी उल्लेखनीय प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन किया।
- Several songs from the movies he scored — such as **Idhu Namma Aalu**, **Aararo Aariraro**, and **Pavunnu Pavunuthan** — became **chartbusters** at the time.
  उनके संगीतबद्ध फिल्मों के कई गीत — जैसे **इधु नम्मा आलु**, **आरारो आरिरारो** और **पवुन्नु पवुनुथान** — उस समय **सुपरहिट** सिद्ध हुए।
- However, post-**Munthanai Mudichu**, critics noted that **adult-themed** and **sexual humour** became noticeably prominent in his work.
  हालाँकि, **मुन्थानई मुडिचु** के बाद समीक्षकों ने ध्यान दिया कि उनके कार्यों में **वयस्क विषयों** और **यौन हास्य** का प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से बढ़ गया।
- His film **Rasukutti**, in particular, marked the peak of this trend.
  विशेष रूप से उनकी फिल्म **रासुकुट्टी** इस प्रवृत्ति का चरम उदाहरण मानी गई।

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- Over time, this style evolved to become a definitive hallmark of his cinema.
  समय के साथ यह शैली उनके सिनेमा की एक विशिष्ट पहचान बन गई।
- "As far as Bhagyaraj is concerned, he expanded the boundaries of **Tamil cinema** in the **'80s** and amplified its **entertainment quotient**.
  "जहाँ तक भग्याराज का संबंध है, उन्होंने **1980 के दशक** में **तमिल सिनेमा** की सीमाओं का विस्तार किया और उसके **मनोरंजन स्तर** को नई ऊँचाइयों तक पहुँचाया।
- He achieved popularity by blending a lot of **music**, **comedy**, and **glamour** with **realistic storytelling**.
  उन्होंने **संगीत**, **कॉमेडी** और **ग्लैमर** को **यथार्थवादी कहानी कहने की शैली** के साथ मिलाकर लोकप्रियता प्राप्त की।
- It was because of these elements that his films achieved massive **commercial success**," said **Tamil film historian Theodore Baskaran**.
  तमिल फिल्म इतिहासकार थियोडोर बास्करन ने कहा, "इन्हीं तत्वों के कारण उनकी फिल्मों को अपार **व्यावसायिक सफलता** मिली।"

GS Paper 1: History	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Bhadrachalam temple redevelopment work begins भद्राचलम मंदिर के पुनर्विकास कार्य का शुभारंभ
28J6	Kerala HC seeks report on 'gold theft' from Ezharapponnana केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने एझराप्पोन्नाना से 'सोना चोरी' मामले पर रिपोर्ट मांगी
28J6	Hominin body sizes did not steadily increase over time होमिनिन के शरीर का आकार समय के साथ लगातार नहीं बढ़ा

Farm fresh

Tradition revived: A farmer uses a bullock-driven wooden 'ghani' to extract oil through traditional methods on his field on the outskirts of Warangal in Telangana. The age-old practice is seeing renewed interest as consumers seek healthier options. NAGARA GOPAL

Tradition revived: A farmer uses a bullock-driven wooden 'ghani' to extract oil through traditional methods on his field on the outskirts of Warangal in Telangana. The age-old practice is seeing renewed interest as consumers seek healthier options.

GS I: History

Bhadrachalam temple redevelopment work begins

The much-awaited redevelopment works at the renowned Sree Seetha Ramachandra Swamy temple in the temple town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana commenced on Saturday, marking the start of the Phase-I works. In March this year, the State government accorded administrative sanction for ₹351 crore for the redevelopment and rejuvenation of the historic 17th-century temple in Bhadrachalam. A comprehensive master plan has been approved in three phases.

28J6. Bhadrachalam temple redevelopment work begins

भद्राचलम मंदिर के पुनर्विकास कार्य का शुभारंभ

- The **much-awaited redevelopment works** at the renowned **Sree Seetha Ramachandra Swamy temple** in the temple town of **Bhadrachalam** in **Telangana** commenced on **Saturday**, marking the start of the **Phase-I works**.

तेलंगाना के मंदिर नगर **भद्राचलम** स्थित प्रसिद्ध **श्री सीता रामचंद्र स्वामी मंदिर** में लंबे समय से प्रतीक्षित **पुनर्विकास कार्य शनिवार** को प्रारंभ हो गए, जिसके साथ **प्रथम चरण (फेज-I) के कार्यों** की शुरुआत हुई।

- In **March** this year, the **State government** accorded **administrative sanction** for **₹351 crore** for the **redevelopment** and **rejuvenation** of the historic **17th-century temple** in **Bhadrachalam**.

इस वर्ष **मार्च** में **राज्य सरकार** ने **भद्राचलम** स्थित ऐतिहासिक **17वीं शताब्दी के मंदिर** के **पुनर्विकास** एवं **कायाकल्प** के लिए **₹351 करोड़** की **प्रशासनिक स्वीकृति** प्रदान की।

- A **comprehensive master plan** has been approved in **three phases**.

व्यापक मास्टर प्लान को **तीन चरणों** में स्वीकृत किया गया है।

Kerala HC seeks report on 'gold theft' from *Ezharapponnana*

GS I: History: Art and Culture

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court has ordered the Chief Vigilance and Security Officer of the Travancore Devaswom Board to inspect the temple registers as well as the *Ezharapponnana* of Ettumanur Mahadeva Temple and to submit a report with his opinion and findings on allegations pertaining to the gold plates on the elephant statuettes. The *Ezharapponnana* (which translates to seven-and-a-half golden elephants) consists of eight statuettes of elephants – seven of them two feet high and the eighth one, half the height.

The *Ezharaponnana* idols at the Mahadeva temple, Ettumanur, Kottayam.

The officer was directed to engage a goldsmith to examine the weight, quality, and originality of the gold. The Division Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan and K.V. Jayakumar was considering the *suo motu* case based on a request by a devotee for an inquiry into the suspected misappropriation of gold on the *Ezharapponnana*.

The complaint further said that during the repairs to the the gold plates of *Ezharapponnana*, the originals were replaced with copper or other low-value metals. The Administrative Officer and the Assistant Devaswom Commissioner had filed reports stating no records indicated any maintenance work or any misappropriation on the *Ezharapponnana*.

28J6. Kerala HC seeks report on 'gold theft' from Ezharapponnana
केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने एझराप्पोन्नाना से 'सोना चोरी' मामले पर रिपोर्ट मांगी

- The **Kerala High Court** has ordered the **Chief Vigilance and Security Officer** of the **Travancore Devaswom Board** to inspect the **temple registers** as well as the **Ezharapponnana** of **Ettumanur Mahadeva Temple** and to submit a report with his opinion and findings on allegations pertaining to the **gold plates** on the **elephant statuettes**.
  केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने **त्रावणकोर देवस्वम बोर्ड** के **मुख्य सतर्कता एवं सुरक्षा अधिकारी** को **मंदिर अभिलेखों** तथा **एट्टुमानूर महादेव मंदिर** के **एझराप्पोन्नाना** का निरीक्षण करने और **हाथी की प्रतिमाओं** पर लगी **स्वर्ण प्लेटों** से संबंधित आरोपों पर अपनी राय एवं निष्कर्ष सहित रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया है।
- The **Ezharapponnana** (which translates to **seven-and-a-half golden elephants**) consists of **eight statuettes of elephants** — **seven** of them **two feet high** and the **eighth one**, **half the height**.
  एझराप्पोन्नाना (जिसका अर्थ **साढ़े सात स्वर्ण हाथी** होता है) में **हाथियों की आठ प्रतिमाएँ** हैं — जिनमें से **सात** की ऊँचाई **दो फीट** है और **आठवीं प्रतिमा** उसकी **आधी ऊँचाई** की है।
- The **officer** was directed to engage a **goldsmith** to examine the **weight, quality, and originality** of the **gold**.
  अधिकारी को **स्वर्णकार** की सहायता लेकर **सोने** के **वजन, गुणवत्ता और मौलिकता** की जांच कराने का निर्देश दिया गया।
- The **Division Bench** of Justices **Raja Vijayaraghavan** and **K. V. Jayakumar** was considering the **suo motu case** based on a request by a **devotee** for an inquiry into the suspected **misappropriation of gold** on the **Ezharapponnana**.
  न्यायमूर्ति राजा विजयाराघवन और **के. वी. जयकुमार** की **खंडपीठ** एक **स्वतः संज्ञान (सुओ मोटू) मामले** पर विचार कर रही थी, जो एक **भक्त** द्वारा **एझराप्पोन्नाना** पर लगे **सोने के कथित दुरुपयोग** की जांच के अनुरोध के आधार पर शुरू किया गया था।
- The **complaint** further said that during the **repairs** to the **gold plates** of **Ezharapponnana**, the **originals** were replaced with **copper** or other **low-value metals**.
  शिकायत में आगे कहा गया कि **एझराप्पोन्नाना** की **स्वर्ण प्लेटों** की **मरम्मत** के दौरान मूल प्लेटों को **तांबे** या अन्य **कम मूल्य वाली धातुओं** से बदल दिया गया।
- The **Administrative Officer** and the **Assistant Devaswom Commissioner** had filed reports stating no records indicated any **maintenance work** or any **misappropriation** on the **Ezharapponnana**.
  प्रशासनिक अधिकारी और **सहायक देवस्वम आयुक्त** ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि उपलब्ध अभिलेखों में **एझराप्पोन्नाना** पर किसी **रखरखाव कार्य** अथवा **दुरुपयोग** का कोई उल्लेख नहीं मिलता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

GS I: History

Hominin body sizes did not steadily increase over time

Upon analysing nearly 400 fossils across 21 species, researchers have found moderate evidence of a slow, general increase in body size across hominins over time. However, the evidence was much stronger for a sudden, significant jump in size among later members of the genus Homo (excluding *Homo habilis*), likely when species like *H. erectus* appeared. Overall, the research suggested the human body size did not steadily increase over time but transitioned distinctly among our more recent ancestors.

28J6. Hominin body sizes did not steadily increase over time

होमिनिन के शरीर का आकार समय के साथ लगातार नहीं बढ़ा

- Upon analysing nearly **400 fossils** across **21 species**, researchers have found moderate evidence of a slow, general increase in **body size** across **hominins** over time.

लगभग **21 प्रजातियों** के **400 जीवाश्मों** का विश्लेषण करने पर शोधकर्ताओं ने समय के साथ **होमिनिनों** में **शरीर के आकार** में धीमी और सामान्य वृद्धि के मध्यम प्रमाण पाए हैं।

- However, the evidence was much stronger for a sudden, significant jump in size among later members of the genus **Homo** (excluding **Homo habilis**), likely when species like **H. erectus** appeared.

हालांकि, **होमो** वंश (**होमो हैबिलिस** को छोड़कर) के बाद के सदस्यों में आकार में अचानक और महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि के प्रमाण कहीं अधिक मजबूत पाए गए, संभवतः तब जब **एच. इरेक्टस** जैसी प्रजातियाँ अस्तित्व में आईं।

- Overall, the research suggested the **human body size** did not steadily increase over time but transitioned distinctly among our more recent ancestors.

समग्र रूप से, इस शोध ने संकेत दिया कि **मानव शरीर का आकार** समय के साथ लगातार नहीं बढ़ा, बल्कि हमारे अपेक्षाकृत हाल के पूर्वजों के बीच स्पष्ट रूप से चरणबद्ध परिवर्तन हुआ।

Timeline of Human Evolution

Species	Approximate Age	Major Features	Geographic Distribution	Status
Australopithecus afarensis ("Lucy")	**3.9–2.9 Ma**	Bipedal, small brain	East Africa	Extinct
Australopithecus africanus	**3.3–2.1 Ma**	More human-like face	South Africa	Extinct
Homo habilis	**2.4–1.4 Ma**	Earliest stone tools (Oldowan), brain **510–700 cc**	Africa	Extinct
Homo erectus	**1.9 Ma–110,000 years ago**	First widespread migration out of Africa, Acheulean tools, controlled use of fire	Africa, Asia, Europe	Extinct
Homo heidelbergensis	**700,000–200,000 years ago**	Ancestor of Neanderthals and modern humans; wooden spears	Africa, Europe	Extinct
Homo neanderthalensis (Neanderthals)	**400,000–40,000 years ago**	Large brain, cold adaptation, buried their dead	Europe & Western Asia	Extinct
Denisovans (*Homo* lineage)	**~300,000–50,000 years ago**	Known mainly from DNA and fossils; interbred with	Asia	Extinct

Species	Approximate Age	Major Features	Geographic Distribution	Status
		modern humans		
Homo floresiensis ("Hobbit")	**100,000–50,000 years ago**	Small body (~1 m), island dwarfism	Flores Island, Indonesia	Extinct
Homo luzonensis	**67,000–50,000 years ago**	Primitive and modern traits	Philippines	Extinct
Homo naledi	**335,000–236,000 years ago**	Small brain but surprisingly advanced behaviour	South Africa	Extinct
Homo sapiens	**~300,000 years ago – Present**	Complex language, art, agriculture, civilization	Worldwide	Living

GS Paper II: Polity	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Which document proves Indian citizenship? कौन-सा दस्तावेज़ भारतीय नागरिकता सिद्ध करता है?

PATRIOTIC IAS

Which document proves Indian citizenship?

Why is the Indian passport not considered a conclusive proof of Indian citizenship? What purpose does Aadhaar serve? Does presence on the electoral rolls or possession of an Electoral Photo Identity Card determine citizenship? What happens in case of a dispute?

GS II: Polity

Rizmi Lia M.
Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Indian passport is not a "document of citizenship," a senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in response to a query from *The Hindu* this week. So, if a passport is not proof of citizenship, what is?

Is it a new development that a passport cannot be used as a document to prove Indian citizenship?

A passport by itself is not conclusive proof of Indian citizenship, and this is not a new development or announcement. Last week, the senior MEA official was responding to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the Indian passport can be used to challenge exclusion from the voters' list through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is currently underway in 16 States. The official said: "The passport is a travel document, not a document of citizenship, and theoretically speaking, that distinguishes the passport from other documents. Even though while travelling abroad, the passport attests to your nationality, it is not a document of citizenship."

This stance is based on existing law. The government's Passport Manual says that "a passport provides evidence of the holder's nationality, but this is placed in the same category as any other evidence of the citizenship status of an individual". In other words, a passport is strong evidence that its holder is an Indian citizen. However, in law, it is not treated as conclusive proof of citizenship. If a person's citizenship is disputed, courts may examine it alongside other relevant evidence.

According to *Maneka Gandhi v Union Of India* (1978), issuance of passport is based on conclusive proof that the holder is an Indian national, and is "entitled by virtue of their Indian nationality and passports to the protection of the Indian Republic and assistance of its Diplomatic Missions abroad."

Under Section 6(2)(a) of the Passports Act, 1967, the authorities can refuse a passport if the applicant is not a citizen of India. But under Section 20 of the Act, the Union government may issue a passport or travel document to a person who is not a citizen of India if it thinks that it is necessary to do so in public interest.

The MEA's response distinguishes between evidence of citizenship and conclusive proof of citizenship. While citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act, 1955, and passports are issued under the Passports Act, 1967, the existence of a passport cannot by itself be called a conclusive or definitive proof of citizenship in a dispute.

India does not prescribe one universal citizenship document. An effort to create such a document through the National Register of Citizens became politically contentious

An Indian passport. GETTY IMAGES

Can the Aadhaar card be used to prove Indian citizenship?

When the Aadhaar was introduced one and a half decades ago, it was promoted as a one-stop digital identification document which could replace the many documents that Indians had to furnish to avail themselves of benefits from multiple government schemes. However, from the beginning, the Unique Identification Authority of India has emphasised that Aadhaar can only be treated as proof of identity and address, not of citizenship. In fact, non-Indian citizens who are legally resident in India are eligible to get an Aadhaar, and often require the identity card to avail themselves of many basic services, from banking to cooking gas.

In its judgment of May 27 this year, when the Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the SIR, it held that an Aadhaar card does not constitute proof of citizenship and, therefore, cannot be relied upon for that purpose. However, it is among the documents which may be produced for the limited purpose of establishing the identity of a person, it said.

Does a voter ID prove Indian citizenship?

Only Indian citizens are eligible to vote in Indian elections, but one's presence on the electoral rolls or possession of an Electoral Photo Identity Card does not determine citizenship or conclusively prove it.

In the case of *Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer* (1995), the Supreme Court unequivocally held that electors whose names appear on electoral roll are entitled to a presumption of citizenship, and that this presumption cannot be displaced except by following the procedure prescribed by law.

However, in this year's SIR judgment, the Court emphasised that the Election Commission's role is confined to determining eligibility for electoral rolls. It cannot adjudicate citizenship, and the citizenship of an individual under the Citizenship Act will not cease on account of their ineligibility to register in the electoral rolls, pursuant to the SIR.

In fact, the passport was one of the 11 'indicative' documents listed by the Election Commission as proof of citizenship. Some voters purged from the draft SIR in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, used their passports to prove that they are citizens of India and should be included in the final electoral roll. However, there have been reported cases of people in West Bengal who hold Indian passports, but who were still deleted from the draft electoral lists during the SIR.

So what document proves citizenship?

While responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on August 12, 2025, the Home Ministry did not specify the "categories of valid documents" required for people to prove citizenship in India. "The citizenship of India is governed under the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and rules made thereunder," the Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, said in a written reply.

Under the Citizenship Act, citizenship can be acquired by birth, by descent, by registration, by naturalisation and by incorporation of territory.

Citizenship certificates are generally issued to people who acquired citizenship by registration or naturalisation, and can act as a conclusive proof document. The majority of Indians, however, are citizens by birth or descent, and do not have a citizenship certificate. Instead, they rely on different evidence that prove their date of birth, place of birth, or their parentage, depending on the context of the dispute.

Anyone born in India between January 26, 1950 and July 1, 1987 is a citizen by birth, irrespective of their parents' nationality. Such people would have to produce documents proving their place and date of birth to establish their citizenship. Given that mandatory birth certificates were not issued in this period, many people use a combination of other documents, including educational certificates and Aadhaar.

For those born between July 1, 1987 and December 3, 2004, proof of their own place and date of birth is insufficient as they must also prove that at least one parent was an Indian citizen. For those born on or after December 3, 2004, one parent must be an Indian citizen while the other should not be an illegal migrant, complicating the documentary proof required.

India does not prescribe one universal citizenship document. An effort to create such a document through the National Register of Citizens became politically contentious amid fears of a nationwide verification exercise that could exclude many due to incomplete documents. As former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao said in a post last week, the lesson is that "India needs stronger and more comprehensive civil registration, universal birth registration and reliable archival records so that citizenship can never become hostage to missing or inconsistent paperwork."

28J6. Which document proves Indian citizenship?
कौन-सा दस्तावेज़ भारतीय नागरिकता सिद्ध करता है?

- The **Indian passport** is not a **"document of citizenship,"** a senior official of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** said in response to a query from **The Hindu** this week.
  इस सप्ताह **द हिंदू** के एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में **विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)** के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि **भारतीय पासपोर्ट "नागरिकता का दस्तावेज़"** नहीं है।
- So, if a passport is not proof of citizenship, what is?
  तो यदि पासपोर्ट नागरिकता का प्रमाण नहीं है, तो नागरिकता का प्रमाण क्या है?

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Is it a new development that a passport cannot be used as a document to prove Indian citizenship?

क्या यह कोई नई व्यवस्था है कि पासपोर्ट का उपयोग भारतीय नागरिकता सिद्ध करने वाले दस्तावेज़ के रूप में नहीं किया जा सकता?

- A **passport** by itself is not **conclusive proof** of **Indian citizenship**, and this is not a new development or announcement.
  केवल **पासपोर्ट** अपने आप में **भारतीय नागरिकता** का **निर्णायक प्रमाण** नहीं है, और यह कोई नई व्यवस्था या घोषणा नहीं है।
- Last week, the senior **MEA** official was responding to a question from **The Hindu** on whether the **Indian passport** can be used to challenge exclusion from the **voters' list** through the **special intensive revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls that is currently underway in **16 States**.
  पिछले सप्ताह **विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA)** के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी **द हिंदू** के उस प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहे थे कि क्या **भारतीय पासपोर्ट** का उपयोग वर्तमान में **16 राज्यों** में चल रहे **मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** के माध्यम से मतदाता सूची से नाम हटाए जाने को चुनौती देने के लिए किया जा सकता है।
- The official said: "The **passport** is a **travel document**, not a **document of citizenship**, and theoretically speaking, that distinguishes the passport from other documents.
  अधिकारी ने कहा, "**पासपोर्ट** एक **यात्रा दस्तावेज़** है, **नागरिकता का दस्तावेज़** नहीं, और सैद्धांतिक रूप से यही बात इसे अन्य दस्तावेज़ों से अलग करती है।
- Even though while travelling abroad, the passport attests to your **nationality**, it is not a **document of citizenship**."
  यद्यपि विदेश यात्रा के दौरान पासपोर्ट आपकी **राष्ट्रीयता** की पुष्टि करता है, फिर भी यह **नागरिकता का दस्तावेज़** नहीं है।"
- This stance is based on existing law.
  यह दृष्टिकोण वर्तमान कानून पर आधारित है।
- The government's **Passport Manual** says that "a **passport** provides evidence of the holder's **nationality**, but this is placed in the same category as any other evidence of the **citizenship** status of an individual".
  सरकार की **पासपोर्ट मैनुअल** में कहा गया है कि **पासपोर्ट** धारक की **राष्ट्रीयता** का प्रमाण प्रदान करता है, किंतु इसे किसी व्यक्ति की **नागरिकता** संबंधी अन्य साक्ष्यों की ही श्रेणी में रखा जाता है।
- In other words, a **passport** is strong evidence that its holder is an **Indian citizen**.
  अर्थात्, **पासपोर्ट** इस बात का सशक्त साक्ष्य है कि उसका धारक **भारतीय नागरिक** है।
- However, in law, it is not treated as **conclusive proof** of **citizenship**.
  किन्तु विधि की दृष्टि से इसे **नागरिकता** का **निर्णायक प्रमाण** नहीं माना जाता।
- If a person's **citizenship** is disputed, courts may examine it alongside other relevant evidence.
  यदि किसी व्यक्ति की **नागरिकता** विवादित हो, तो न्यायालय अन्य प्रासंगिक साक्ष्यों के साथ इसका भी परीक्षण कर सकते हैं।
- According to **Maneka Gandhi v Union Of India (1978)**, issuance of **passport** is based on conclusive proof that the holder is an **Indian national**, and is "entitled by virtue of their **Indian nationality** and passports to the protection of the **Indian Republic** and assistance of its **Diplomatic Missions abroad**."
  मनका गांधी बनाम भारत संघ (1978) के अनुसार, **पासपोर्ट** जारी किया जाना इस निर्णायक आधार पर होता है कि उसका धारक **भारतीय नागरिक** है, और वह अपनी **भारतीय राष्ट्रीयता** तथा पासपोर्ट के आधार पर **भारतीय गणराज्य** के संरक्षण तथा विदेशों में स्थित उसके **राजनयिक मिशनों** की सहायता प्राप्त करने का अधिकारी है।
- Under **Section 6(2)(a)** of the **Passports Act, 1967**, the authorities can refuse a **passport** if the applicant is not a **citizen of India**.

पासपोर्ट अधिनियम, 1967 की **धारा 6(2)(a)** के अंतर्गत यदि आवेदक **भारत का नागरिक** नहीं है, तो प्राधिकारी **पासपोर्ट** देने से इंकार कर सकते हैं।

- But under **Section 20** of the Act, the **Union government** may issue a **passport** or **travel document** to a person who is not a **citizen of India** if it thinks that it is necessary to do so in **public interest**.
  किन्तु इसी अधिनियम की **धारा 20** के अंतर्गत **केंद्र सरकार**, यदि उसे **लोकहित** में आवश्यक प्रतीत हो, तो ऐसे व्यक्ति को भी **पासपोर्ट** अथवा **यात्रा दस्तावेज़** जारी कर सकती है जो **भारत का नागरिक** नहीं है।
- The **MEA's** response distinguishes between **evidence of citizenship** and **conclusive proof of citizenship**.
  विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) की प्रतिक्रिया **नागरिकता के साक्ष्य** और **नागरिकता के निर्णायक प्रमाण** के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर करती है।
- While **citizenship** is determined under the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, and **passports** are issued under the **Passports Act, 1967**, the existence of a **passport** cannot by itself be called a **conclusive** or **definitive proof** of **citizenship** in a dispute.
  जहाँ **नागरिकता** का निर्धारण **नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955** के अंतर्गत किया जाता है तथा **पासपोर्ट पासपोर्ट अधिनियम, 1967** के अंतर्गत जारी किए जाते हैं, वहीं किसी विवाद की स्थिति में केवल **पासपोर्ट** को **नागरिकता** का **निर्णायक** अथवा **अंतिम प्रमाण** नहीं माना जा सकता।

Can the Aadhaar card be used to prove Indian citizenship?
क्या आधार कार्ड का उपयोग भारतीय नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए किया जा सकता है?

- When the **Aadhaar** was introduced one and a half decades ago, it was promoted as a **one-stop digital identification document** which could replace the many documents that Indians had to furnish to avail themselves of benefits from multiple **government schemes**.
  लगभग डेढ़ दशक पूर्व जब **आधार** की शुरुआत हुई थी, तब इसे एक **एकीकृत डिजिटल पहचान दस्तावेज़** के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, जो विभिन्न **सरकारी योजनाओं** का लाभ प्राप्त करने हेतु आवश्यक अनेक दस्तावेज़ों का स्थान ले सकता था।
- However, from the beginning, the **Unique Identification Authority of India** has emphasised that **Aadhaar** can only be treated as proof of **identity** and **address**, not of **citizenship**.
  किन्तु प्रारंभ से ही **भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI)** ने यह स्पष्ट किया है कि **आधार** केवल **पहचान** और **पते** का प्रमाण है, **नागरिकता** का नहीं।
- In fact, **non-Indian citizens** who are legally resident in India are eligible to get an **Aadhaar**, and often require the identity card to avail themselves of many basic services, from **banking** to **cooking gas**.
  वास्तव में, भारत में विधिसम्मत रूप से निवास करने वाले **गैर-भारतीय नागरिक** भी **आधार** प्राप्त करने के पात्र हैं, और उन्हें **बैंकिंग** से लेकर **रसोई गैस** जैसी अनेक मूलभूत सेवाओं का लाभ लेने के लिए इस पहचान पत्र की आवश्यकता होती है।
- In its judgment of **May 27** this year, when the **Supreme Court** upheld the constitutional validity of the **SIR**, it held that an **Aadhaar card** does not constitute proof of **citizenship** and, therefore, cannot be relied upon for that purpose.
  इस वर्ष **27 मई** के अपने निर्णय में, जब **उच्चतम न्यायालय** ने **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** की संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखा, तब उसने कहा कि **आधार कार्ड नागरिकता** का प्रमाण नहीं है और इसलिए इस उद्देश्य के लिए उस पर निर्भर नहीं किया जा सकता।
- However, it is among the documents which may be produced for the limited purpose of establishing the **identity** of a person, it said.
  हालाँकि, न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि किसी व्यक्ति की **पहचान** स्थापित करने के सीमित उद्देश्य के लिए प्रस्तुत किए जाने वाले दस्तावेज़ों में **आधार कार्ड** शामिल किया जा सकता है।

Does a voter ID prove Indian citizenship?
क्या मतदाता पहचान पत्र भारतीय नागरिकता का प्रमाण है?

- Only **Indian citizens** are eligible to vote in **Indian elections**, but one's presence on the **electoral rolls** or possession of an **Electoral Photo Identity Card** does not determine **citizenship** or conclusively prove it.
  केवल **भारतीय नागरिक** ही **भारतीय चुनावों** में मतदान करने के पात्र हैं, किन्तु किसी व्यक्ति का **मतदाता सूची** में नाम होना अथवा उसके पास **मतदाता फोटो पहचान पत्र (EPIC)** होना उसकी **नागरिकता** का निर्धारण या निर्णायक प्रमाण नहीं है।
- In the case of **Lal Babu Hussein v. Electoral Registration Officer (1995)**, the **Supreme Court** unequivocally held that electors whose names appear on **electoral roll** are entitled to a presumption of **citizenship**, and that this presumption cannot be displaced except by following the procedure prescribed by law.
  लाल बाबू हुसैन बनाम निर्वाचन पंजीकरण अधिकारी (1995) मामले में **उच्चतम न्यायालय** ने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा कि जिन मतदाताओं के नाम **मतदाता सूची** में दर्ज हैं, उन्हें **नागरिकता** की एक विधिक धारणा (Presumption) का लाभ प्राप्त होगा, और इस धारणा को केवल कानून द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रिया का पालन करके ही समाप्त किया जा सकता है।
- However, in this year's **SIR judgment**, the Court emphasised that the **Election Commission's** role is confined to determining eligibility for **electoral rolls**.
  हालाँकि, इस वर्ष के **एसआईआर (SIR) निर्णय** में न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि **निर्वाचन आयोग** की भूमिका केवल **मतदाता सूची** में नाम दर्ज करने की पात्रता निर्धारित करने तक सीमित है।
- It cannot adjudicate **citizenship**, and the **citizenship** of an individual under the **Citizenship Act** will not cease on account of their ineligibility to register in the **electoral rolls**, pursuant to the **SIR**.
  निर्वाचन आयोग **नागरिकता** का निर्णय नहीं कर सकता, और **नागरिकता अधिनियम** के अंतर्गत किसी व्यक्ति की **नागरिकता**, **एसआईआर (SIR)** के परिणामस्वरूप **मतदाता सूची** में पंजीकरण के लिए अयोग्य पाए जाने मात्र से समाप्त नहीं होगी।
- In fact, the **passport** was one of the **11 'indicative' documents** listed by the **Election Commission** as proof of **citizenship**.
  वास्तव में, **निर्वाचन आयोग** द्वारा **नागरिकता** के प्रमाण के रूप में सूचीबद्ध **11 'संकेतक' (Indicative) दस्तावेज़ों** में **पासपोर्ट** भी शामिल था।
- Some voters purged from the draft **SIR** in **Uttar Pradesh**, for instance, used their **passports** to prove that they are **citizens of India** and should be included in the final **electoral roll**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **उत्तर प्रदेश** में प्रारूप **एसआईआर (SIR)** सूची से हटाए गए कुछ मतदाताओं ने यह सिद्ध करने के लिए अपने **पासपोर्ट** प्रस्तुत किए कि वे **भारत के नागरिक** हैं और उनका नाम अंतिम **मतदाता सूची** में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए।
- However, there have been reported cases of people in **West Bengal** who hold **Indian passports**, but who were still deleted from the draft **electoral lists** during the **SIR**.
  हालाँकि, **पश्चिम बंगाल** में ऐसे मामलों की भी सूचना मिली है, जहाँ **भारतीय पासपोर्ट** रखने वाले व्यक्तियों के नाम भी **एसआईआर (SIR)** के दौरान प्रारूप **मतदाता सूची** से हटा दिए गए।

So what document proves citizenship?
तो नागरिकता का प्रमाण कौन-सा दस्तावेज़ है?

- While responding to a question in the **Lok Sabha** on **August 12, 2025**, the **Home Ministry** did not specify the **"categories of valid documents"** required for people to prove **citizenship** in India.
  12 अगस्त, 2025 को **लोकसभा** में पूछे गए एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में **गृह मंत्रालय** ने भारत में **नागरिकता** सिद्ध करने के लिए आवश्यक **"वैध दस्तावेज़ों की श्रेणियों"** को स्पष्ट रूप से निर्दिष्ट नहीं किया।

- "The **citizenship** of India is governed under the provisions of the **Citizenship Act, 1955**, and rules made thereunder," the **Minister of State for Home**, **Nityanand Rai**, said in a written reply.
  गृह राज्य मंत्री, **नित्यानंद राय** ने अपने लिखित उत्तर में कहा कि "भारत की **नागरिकता** का निर्धारण **नागरिकता अधिनियम, 1955** तथा उसके अंतर्गत बनाए गए नियमों के प्रावधानों के अनुसार किया जाता है।"
- Under the **Citizenship Act**, **citizenship** can be acquired by **birth**, by **descent**, by **registration**, by **naturalisation** and by **incorporation of territory**.
  नागरिकता अधिनियम के अंतर्गत **नागरिकता जन्म**, **वंश**, **पंजीकरण**, **देशीयकरण (Naturalisation)** तथा **क्षेत्र के भारत में सम्मिलन** के आधार पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
- **Citizenship certificates** are generally issued to people who acquired **citizenship** by **registration** or **naturalisation**, and can act as a **conclusive proof document**.
  नागरिकता प्रमाणपत्र सामान्यतः उन व्यक्तियों को जारी किए जाते हैं जिन्होंने **पंजीकरण** अथवा **देशीयकरण** के माध्यम से **नागरिकता** प्राप्त की हो, और यह **निर्णायक प्रमाण दस्तावेज़** के रूप में कार्य कर सकता है।
- The majority of Indians, however, are **citizens by birth** or **descent**, and do not have a **citizenship certificate**.
  हालाँकि, अधिकांश भारतीय **जन्म** अथवा **वंश** के आधार पर नागरिक हैं और उनके पास **नागरिकता प्रमाणपत्र** नहीं होता।
- Instead, they rely on different evidence that prove their **date of birth**, **place of birth**, or their **parentage**, depending on the context of the dispute.
  इसके स्थान पर वे विभिन्न प्रकार के ऐसे साक्ष्यों पर निर्भर रहते हैं जो उनके **जन्म की तिथि**, **जन्म स्थान** अथवा **माता-पिता से संबंध** को सिद्ध करते हैं, जो विवाद की प्रकृति पर निर्भर करता है।
- Anyone born in India between **January 26, 1950** and **July 1, 1987** is a **citizen by birth**, irrespective of their parents' nationality.
  जो भी व्यक्ति भारत में **26 जनवरी, 1950** से **1 जुलाई, 1987** के बीच जन्मा है, वह अपने माता-पिता की राष्ट्रीयता की परवाह किए बिना **जन्म से भारतीय नागरिक** है।
- Such people would have to produce documents proving their **place** and **date of birth** to establish their **citizenship**.
  ऐसे व्यक्तियों को अपनी **नागरिकता** स्थापित करने के लिए **जन्म स्थान** और **जन्म तिथि** से संबंधित दस्तावेज़ प्रस्तुत करने होंगे।
- Given that mandatory **birth certificates** were not issued in this period, many people use a combination of other documents, including **educational certificates** and **Aadhaar**.
  चूँकि उस अवधि में **जन्म प्रमाणपत्र** अनिवार्य रूप से जारी नहीं किए जाते थे, इसलिए अनेक लोग **शैक्षणिक प्रमाणपत्रों** तथा **आधार** सहित अन्य दस्तावेज़ों के संयोजन का उपयोग करते हैं।
- For those born between **July 1, 1987** and **December 3, 2004**, proof of their own **place** and **date of birth** is insufficient as they must also prove that at least **one parent** was an **Indian citizen**.
  जो व्यक्ति **1 जुलाई, 1987** से **3 दिसंबर, 2004** के बीच जन्मे हैं, उनके लिए केवल अपने **जन्म स्थान** और **जन्म तिथि** का प्रमाण पर्याप्त नहीं है, क्योंकि उन्हें यह भी सिद्ध करना होगा कि उनके **कम-से-कम एक अभिभावक भारतीय नागरिक** थे।
- For those born on or after **December 3, 2004**, **one parent** must be an **Indian citizen** while the other should not be an **illegal migrant**, complicating the documentary proof required.
  जो व्यक्ति **3 दिसंबर, 2004** या उसके बाद जन्मे हैं, उनके लिए आवश्यक है कि **एक अभिभावक भारतीय नागरिक** हो तथा दूसरा **अवैध प्रवासी** न हो, जिससे आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ी प्रमाण और अधिक जटिल हो जाता है।
- India does not prescribe one universal **citizenship document**.
  भारत ने **नागरिकता** के लिए कोई एक सार्वभौमिक **दस्तावेज़** निर्धारित नहीं किया है।
- An effort to create such a document through the **National Register of Citizens** became politically contentious amid fears of a nationwide **verification exercise** that could exclude many due to incomplete documents.
  राष्ट्रीय नागरिक पंजी (NRC) के माध्यम से ऐसा दस्तावेज़ तैयार करने का प्रयास राजनीतिक रूप से

विवादास्पद बन गया, क्योंकि यह आशंका व्यक्त की गई कि देशव्यापी **सत्यापन प्रक्रिया** के दौरान अधूरे दस्तावेज़ों के कारण अनेक लोग बाहर हो सकते हैं।

- As former **Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao** said in a post last week, the lesson is that "India needs stronger and more comprehensive **civil registration**, universal **birth registration** and reliable **archival records** so that **citizenship** can never become hostage to missing or inconsistent paperwork."
  जैसा कि पूर्व **विदेश सचिव निरुपमा राव** ने पिछले सप्ताह एक पोस्ट में कहा, इससे यह शिक्षा मिलती है कि भारत को अधिक सुदृढ़ और व्यापक **नागरिक पंजीकरण**, सार्वभौमिक **जन्म पंजीकरण** तथा विश्वसनीय **अभिलेखीय अभिलेखों** की आवश्यकता है, ताकि **नागरिकता** कभी भी अनुपलब्ध या असंगत दस्तावेज़ों की बंधक न बने।

GS Paper II: Governance	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Govt. to launch affordable digital management system for clinics सरकार क्लीनिकों के लिए किफायती डिजिटल प्रबंधन प्रणाली शुरू करेगी
28J6	What do the amended FCRA Rules say? संशोधित FCRA नियम क्या कहते हैं?

Govt. to launch affordable digital management system for clinics

GS II: Governance

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Ministry proposes to open light HMIS for govt. primary health centres, sub-centres and private clinics

Aimed at helping small outpatient clinics that face challenges with manual processes and lack of affordable digital solutions, the Union Health Ministry is all set to launch the e-Sushrut@Clinic.

eSushrut@Clinic is a light Hospital Management Information System (HMIS), created by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to address these challenges by providing a simple, affordable, and user-friendly digital solution specifically tailored for small outpatient clinics.

"Large HMIS are often too complex and costly for these clinics and this results in small clinics struggling with inefficiencies in digitisation of the health system," said a release issued by the Ministry.

It added that the need of having a government-backed and affordable HMIS has been coming from various microsite participants in spite of a large number of private HMIS players. Many States/Union Territories have also expressed interest to use a light HMIS for their public facilities.

The Ministry proposes to open the light HMIS for government primary health centres, sub-centres and private clinics, etc.

C-DAC implementing it

Currently, over 800 health facilities are onboarded on eSushrut@Clinic, generating over 680 health records. C-DAC is also implementing the eSushrut software, which is being installed at more than 15 AIIMS and in various State government hospitals.

Listing the features, the Ministry said that e-Sushrut@Clinic provides a lightweight, cloud-based HMIS designed specifically for outpatient clinics which simplifies tasks like patient registration, billing, etc., thus making work easier and reducing mistakes. C-DAC will take care of maintenance and upgradation of the software.

"It is designed to be simple and intuitive, with no technical expertise needed from clinic staff. Also, this simple platform can be accessed from any device, without needing complex setups," said the release.

The cost of eSushrut@clinic is estimated to be ₹499 per month for five users. A discount of ₹200 will be given making the effective rate to be ₹299 per month. The software will be offered at no cost for the initial three months. Each additional user beyond the included five-user limit will be charged at a rate of ₹50 per user.

28J6. Govt. to launch affordable digital management system for clinics

सरकार क्लीनिकों के लिए किफायती डिजिटल प्रबंधन प्रणाली शुरू करेगी

- Aimed at helping **small outpatient clinics** that face challenges with **manual processes** and lack of **affordable digital solutions**, the **Union Health Ministry** is all set to launch the **e-Sushrut@Clinic**.

मैनुअल प्रक्रियाओं और **किफायती डिजिटल समाधान** की कमी जैसी चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे **छोटे बाह्य रोगी (ओपीडी) क्लीनिकों** की सहायता के उद्देश्य से **केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय e-Sushrut@Clinic** शुरू करने जा रहा है।

- **eSushrut@Clinic** is a light **Hospital Management Information System (HMIS)**, created by **Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC)** to address these challenges by providing a simple, affordable, and user-friendly

digital solution specifically tailored for **small outpatient clinics**.

eSushrut@Clinic एक हल्का **हॉस्पिटल मैनेजमेंट इन्फॉर्मेशन सिस्टम (HMIS)** है, जिसे **सेंटर फॉर डेवलपमेंट ऑफ एडवांस्ड कंप्यूटिंग (CDAC)** ने **छोटे बाह्य रोगी क्लीनिकों** के लिए सरल, किफायती और उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल डिजिटल समाधान प्रदान करने हेतु विकसित किया है।

- "Large **HMIS** are often too complex and costly for these clinics and this results in small clinics struggling with inefficiencies in **digitisation** of the health system," said a release issued by the **Ministry**.

  मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि बड़े **HMIS** अक्सर इन क्लीनिकों के लिए अत्यधिक जटिल और महंगे होते हैं, जिसके कारण छोटे क्लीनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली के **डिजिटलीकरण** में अक्षमताओं का सामना करते हैं।
- It added that the need of having a **government-backed** and **affordable HMIS** has been coming from various **microsite participants** in spite of a large number of private **HMIS** players.

  विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया कि बड़ी संख्या में निजी **HMIS** उपलब्ध होने के बावजूद विभिन्न **माइक्रोसाइट प्रतिभागियों** की ओर से **सरकारी समर्थन प्राप्त** और **किफायती HMIS** की आवश्यकता लगातार सामने आ रही है।
- Many **States/Union Territories** have also expressed interest to use a light **HMIS** for their **public facilities**.

  कई **राज्यों एवं केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों** ने भी अपनी **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं** में हल्के **HMIS** के उपयोग में रुचि दिखाई है।
- The **Ministry** proposes to open the light **HMIS** for **government primary health centres**, **sub-centres** and **private clinics**, etc.

  मंत्रालय इस हल्के **HMIS** को **सरकारी प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य केंद्रों**, **उप-केंद्रों** तथा **निजी क्लीनिकों** आदि के लिए उपलब्ध कराने का प्रस्ताव रखता है।

C-DAC implementing it
सी-डैक इसका कार्यान्वयन कर रहा है

- Currently, over **800 health facilities** are onboarded on **eSushrut@Clinic**, generating over **680 health records**.

  वर्तमान में **eSushrut@Clinic** पर **800 से अधिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान** जुड़े हुए हैं, जिनसे **680 से अधिक स्वास्थ्य अभिलेख** तैयार किए जा चुके हैं।
- **C-DAC** is also implementing the **eSushrut** software, which is being installed at more than **15 AIIMS** and in various **State government hospitals**.

  सी-डैक eSushrut सॉफ्टवेयर का भी कार्यान्वयन कर रहा है, जिसे **15 से अधिक एम्स (AIIMS)** तथा विभिन्न **राज्य सरकारी अस्पतालों** में स्थापित किया जा रहा है।
- Listing the features, the **Ministry** said that **e-Sushrut@Clinic** provides a lightweight, **cloud-based HMIS** designed specifically for **outpatient clinics** which simplifies tasks like **patient registration**, **billing**, etc., thus making work easier and reducing mistakes.

  मंत्रालय ने इसकी विशेषताओं का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि **e-Sushrut@Clinic** एक हल्का **क्लाउड-आधारित HMIS** है, जिसे विशेष रूप से **बाह्य रोगी क्लीनिकों** के लिए तैयार किया गया है और यह **रोगी पंजीकरण**, **बिलिंग** आदि कार्यों को सरल बनाकर काम को आसान तथा त्रुटियों को कम करता है।
- **C-DAC** will take care of **maintenance** and **upgradation** of the software.

  सी-डैक इस सॉफ्टवेयर के **रखरखाव** और **उन्नयन** की जिम्मेदारी संभालेगा।
- "It is designed to be simple and intuitive, with no **technical expertise** needed from **clinic staff**.

  "इसे सरल और सहज बनाया गया है, जिससे **क्लीनिक स्टाफ** को किसी विशेष **तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता** की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी।

- Also, this simple platform can be accessed from **any device**, without needing **complex setups**," said the release.
  विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि यह सरल प्लेटफॉर्म **किसी भी डिवाइस** से बिना किसी **जटिल सेटअप** के उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- The cost of **eSushrut@Clinic** is estimated to be **₹499 per month** for **five users**.
  eSushrut@Clinic की लागत **पाँच उपयोगकर्ताओं** के लिए **₹499 प्रति माह** निर्धारित की गई है।
- A discount of **₹200** will be given making the effective rate to be **₹299 per month**.
  इस पर **₹200** की छूट दी जाएगी, जिससे प्रभावी शुल्क **₹299 प्रति माह** रह जाएगा।
- The software will be offered at **no cost** for the **initial three months**.
  यह सॉफ्टवेयर **प्रारंभिक तीन महीनों** के लिए **निःशुल्क** उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।
- Each **additional user** beyond the included **five-user limit** will be charged at a rate of **₹50 per user**.
  निर्धारित **पाँच उपयोगकर्ताओं** की सीमा से अधिक प्रत्येक **अतिरिक्त उपयोगकर्ता** के लिए **₹50 प्रति उपयोगकर्ता** का शुल्क लिया जाएगा।

What do the amended FCRA Rules say?

How does the Ministry of Home Affairs regulate foreign donations? What are the key changes in the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026? How do the new Rules affect the purposes for which NGOs can receive foreign funds? What penalties apply for violations?

GS II: Governance

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On June 22, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026, to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011.This is the tenth amendment to the Rules under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA).

How does the MHA regulate foreign donations?

The MHA regulates foreign donations in India through the FCRA to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's internal security. The legislation was first enacted in 1976. In 2010, it was repealed and replaced with a new legislation. The 2010 Act came into force on May 1, 2011 and has been amended in 2016, 2018, and 2020. The FCRA registration is valid for five years, after which the NGO has to apply for a renewal. Since 2015, the FCRA registrations of more than 18,000 NGOs have been cancelled. As on June 22, there are 14,456 FCRA-registered NGOs active in the country.

What are the broad amendments proposed to the FCRA Rules?

All NGOs and associations registered under the FCRA, 2010, are required to disclose their specific activities and the geographical scope of their programmes. The Rules no longer allow general permission under the FCRA and indicate tighter scrutiny on how NGOs utilise foreign funds.

The Rules impose a fee for registration for each specified purpose and for each State or U.T. in which an NGO operates

Any new registration will have to follow the said norms. The Rules further broaden the definition of 'key functionary' of an NGO beyond office bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Karta of a Hindu undivided family, governing body members, or anyone controlling or managing the organisation.

They also require NGOs to mandatorily disclose social media accounts, websites, and declare whether the association or its key functionaries has brought out any publication during the year, which includes books, magazines or newspaper articles.

The Rules also impose a fee for registration for each specified purpose and for each State or Union Territory (U.T.) in which an NGO operates. So, NGOs operating across multiple sectors or regions now face higher registration costs.

What amendments apply to the programmes or purposes for which an NGO intends to receive foreign donations?

NGOs can receive foreign contributions for social, educational, religious, economic, and cultural programmes. The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form for new registrations shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from the list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the rules; and the States or U.T.s in which the NGO proposes to undertake activities.

Those with existing FCRA registrations are expected to update the purpose and intimate the Central government within a year. Some categories specifically exclude political activities.

The educational purpose lists 22 activities, but adds the qualifier "strictly non-political in nature" to the category covering awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities.

Under cultural purpose, there are 18 categories, including "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions." The Rules specify that these must exclude political or ideological content.

As many as 16 categories of religious activities have been permitted which includes "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)" and "burial/ cremation ground development and maintenance."

There are 19 categories under the economic purpose and 30 items under the social category.

File photo of Opposition MPs demanding the withdrawal of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. ANI

What are the penalties for violations?

The MHA has also notified an order specifying penalties for FCRA violations, including excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt or utilisation of foreign contributions, and the use of funds for unapproved purposes or in States/U.T.s not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission.

Any utilisation of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to 30% of the amount misused or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. Likewise, using foreign contributions for purposes or in areas not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission invites a penalty of 30% of the amount involved or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher.

In addition, spending beyond the permitted administrative expense limit or engaging in speculative use of funds will be penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

What is the Opposition saying?

Opposition members have said that the new Rules will adversely affect the functioning of civil society organisations. Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal said that forcing NGOs to choose from a "rigid, government-mandated list" of activities and restricting their operational geography would undermine their ability to respond to emergencies. John Brittas, Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha member, wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah raising constitutional concerns. "Collectively, these changes signify a decisive shift from regulating foreign contribution to regulating voluntary organisations themselves," he wrote.

28J6. What do the amended FCRA Rules say?
संशोधित FCRA नियम क्या कहते हैं?

What are the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026?
विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन नियम, 2026 क्या हैं?

- On **June 22**, the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** notified the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026**, to amend the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011**.
  22 जून को **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय (MHA)** ने **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन नियम, 2026** अधिसूचित किए, जिनके माध्यम से **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) नियम, 2011** में संशोधन किया गया।
- This is the **tenth amendment** to the Rules under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA)**.
  यह **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2010 (FCRA)** के अंतर्गत बनाए गए नियमों में **दसवाँ संशोधन** है।

How does the MHA regulate foreign donations?
गृह मंत्रालय विदेशी अंशदान का विनियमन कैसे करता है?

- The **MHA** regulates **foreign donations** in India through the **FCRA** to ensure that such funds do not adversely affect the country's **internal security**.
  गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) भारत में **विदेशी अंशदान** का विनियमन **एफसीआरए (FCRA)** के माध्यम से करता है ताकि ऐसे धन का देश की **आंतरिक सुरक्षा** पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव न पड़े।
- The legislation was first enacted in **1976**.
  यह कानून पहली बार **1976** में बनाया गया था।
- In **2010**, it was repealed and replaced with a new legislation.
  2010 में इसे निरस्त कर एक नया कानून लागू किया गया।
- The **2010 Act** came into force on **May 1, 2011** and has been amended in **2016, 2018, and 2020**.
  2010 का अधिनियम 1 मई, 2011 से प्रभावी हुआ और इसमें **2016, 2018 तथा 2020** में संशोधन किए गए।
- The **FCRA registration** is valid for **five years**, after which the NGO has to apply for a **renewal**.
  एफसीआरए पंजीकरण पाँच वर्ष तक वैध रहता है, जिसके बाद **गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGO)** को **नवीनीकरण** के लिए आवेदन करना होता है।
- Since **2015**, the **FCRA registrations** of more than **18,000 NGOs** have been cancelled.
  2015 से अब तक **18,000 से अधिक एनजीओ** के **एफसीआरए पंजीकरण** रद्द किए जा चुके हैं।
- As on **June 22**, there are **14,456 FCRA-registered NGOs** active in the country.
  22 जून तक देश में **14,456 एफसीआरए-पंजीकृत एनजीओ** सक्रिय हैं।

What are the broad amendments proposed to the FCRA Rules?
एफसीआरए नियमों में व्यापक संशोधन क्या प्रस्तावित किए गए हैं?

- All **NGOs** and associations registered under the **FCRA, 2010**, are required to disclose their specific **activities** and the **geographical scope** of their programmes.
  एफसीआरए, 2010 के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत सभी **एनजीओ** और संगठनों को अपनी विशिष्ट **गतिविधियों** तथा अपने कार्यक्रमों के **भौगोलिक दायरे** का खुलासा करना होगा।
- The Rules no longer allow **general permission** under the **FCRA** and indicate tighter scrutiny on how **NGOs** utilise **foreign funds**.

नियम अब **एफसीआरए** के अंतर्गत **सामान्य अनुमति** की व्यवस्था नहीं देते और यह दर्शाते हैं कि **एनजीओ** विदेशी धन का किस प्रकार उपयोग करते हैं, इस पर अधिक कड़ी निगरानी रखी जाएगी।

- Any new registration will have to follow the said norms.
  किसी भी नए पंजीकरण को इन निर्धारित मानकों का पालन करना होगा।
- The Rules further broaden the definition of **'key functionary'** of an **NGO** beyond office bearers and directors to include **trustees**, **partners**, the **Karta** of a **Hindu Undivided Family**, **governing body members**, or anyone controlling or managing the organisation.
  नियमों में **एनजीओ** के **'मुख्य पदाधिकारी (Key Functionary)'** की परिभाषा का विस्तार करते हुए पदाधिकारियों और निदेशकों के अतिरिक्त **ट्रस्टी**, **साझेदार**, **हिंदू अविभाजित परिवार (HUF)** के **कर्ता**, **शासी निकाय के सदस्य**, अथवा संगठन का नियंत्रण या प्रबंधन करने वाले किसी भी व्यक्ति को इसमें शामिल किया गया है।
- They also require **NGOs** to mandatorily disclose **social media accounts**, **websites**, and declare whether the association or its key functionaries has brought out any publication during the year, which includes **books**, **magazines** or **newspaper articles**.
  नियमों के अनुसार **एनजीओ** को अपने **सोशल मीडिया खातों**, **वेबसाइटों** का अनिवार्य रूप से खुलासा करना होगा तथा यह भी घोषित करना होगा कि संगठन अथवा उसके मुख्य पदाधिकारियों ने वर्ष के दौरान **पुस्तकें**, **पत्रिकाएँ** या **समाचार-पत्रों में लेख** प्रकाशित किए हैं या नहीं।
- The Rules also impose a fee for registration for each specified purpose and for each **State** or **Union Territory (U.T.)** in which an **NGO** operates.
  नियमों में प्रत्येक निर्दिष्ट उद्देश्य तथा प्रत्येक **राज्य** अथवा **केंद्र शासित प्रदेश (यू.टी.)** के लिए, जहाँ **एनजीओ** कार्य करता है, पृथक पंजीकरण शुल्क निर्धारित किया गया है।
- So, **NGOs** operating across multiple sectors or regions now face higher registration costs.
  इस प्रकार अनेक क्षेत्रों या राज्यों में कार्य करने वाले **एनजीओ** को अब अधिक पंजीकरण शुल्क देना होगा।

What amendments apply to the programmes or purposes for which an NGO intends to receive foreign donations?
जिन कार्यक्रमों या उद्देश्यों के लिए कोई एनजीओ विदेशी अंशदान प्राप्त करना चाहता है, उन पर कौन-से संशोधन लागू होंगे?

- **NGOs** can receive **foreign contributions** for **social, educational, religious, economic, and cultural programmes**.
  एनजीओ सामाजिक, शैक्षिक, धार्मिक, आर्थिक तथा सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के लिए **विदेशी अंशदान** प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- The amended Rules state that the **certificate of registration** or the application form for new registrations shall specify the **purpose or purposes** for which registration is granted, chosen only from the list of purposes as specified in the **Schedule** appended to the rules; and the **States** or **U.T.s** in which the NGO proposes to undertake activities.
  संशोधित नियमों के अनुसार **पंजीकरण प्रमाणपत्र** अथवा नए पंजीकरण का आवेदन-पत्र केवल नियमों के साथ संलग्न **अनुसूची (Schedule)** में दिए गए उद्देश्यों में से चयनित **उद्देश्य अथवा उद्देश्यों** को निर्दिष्ट करेगा तथा उन **राज्यों** या **केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** का उल्लेख करेगा जहाँ एनजीओ गतिविधियाँ संचालित करना चाहता है।
- Those with existing **FCRA registrations** are expected to update the purpose and intimate the **Central government** within **a year**.
  जिनके पास पहले से **एफसीआरए पंजीकरण** है, उन्हें **एक वर्ष** के भीतर अपने उद्देश्य अद्यतन कर **केंद्र सरकार** को सूचित करना होगा।
- Some categories specifically exclude **political activities**.
  कुछ श्रेणियों में **राजनीतिक गतिविधियों** को विशेष रूप से बाहर रखा गया है।
- The **educational purpose** lists **22 activities**, but adds the qualifier **"strictly non-political in nature"** to the category covering awareness programmes on **constitutional rights**,

fundamental duties, and **civic responsibilities**.
शैक्षिक उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत **22 गतिविधियाँ** सूचीबद्ध हैं, किन्तु **संवैधानिक अधिकारों**, **मौलिक कर्तव्यों** तथा **नागरिक उत्तरदायित्वों** पर आधारित जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों के लिए **"पूर्णतः गैर-राजनीतिक प्रकृति"** की शर्त जोड़ी गई है।

- Under **cultural purpose**, there are **18 categories**, including **"promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions."**
सांस्कृतिक उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत **18 श्रेणियाँ** हैं, जिनमें **"भारतीय परंपराओं से प्रेरित समकालीन कलाओं का संवर्धन"** भी शामिल है।
- The Rules specify that these must exclude **political** or **ideological content**.
नियम स्पष्ट करते हैं कि इनमें **राजनीतिक** अथवा **वैचारिक सामग्री** शामिल नहीं होनी चाहिए।
- As many as **16 categories** of **religious activities** have been permitted which includes **"conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)"** and **"burial/cremation ground development and maintenance."**
धार्मिक गतिविधियों की **16 श्रेणियों** को अनुमति दी गई है, जिनमें **"धार्मिक शिक्षा, नैतिक शिक्षा, सत्संग, प्रवचन तथा ध्यान शिविर (धर्म परिवर्तन के प्रचार को छोड़कर)"** तथा **"कब्रिस्तान/श्मशान भूमि का विकास और रखरखाव"** शामिल हैं।
- There are **19 categories** under the **economic purpose** and **30 items** under the **social category**.
आर्थिक उद्देश्य के अंतर्गत **19 श्रेणियाँ** तथा **सामाजिक श्रेणी** के अंतर्गत **30 मदें** शामिल हैं।

What are the penalties for violations?
उल्लंघनों पर क्या दंड निर्धारित किए गए हैं?

- The **MHA** has also notified an order specifying penalties for **FCRA violations**, including **excess administrative spending**, **speculative investments**, **misuse of funds**, **unauthorised receipt or utilisation of foreign contributions**, and the use of funds for **unapproved purposes** or in **States/U.T.s** not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission.
गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) ने **एफसीआरए उल्लंघनों** के लिए दंड निर्धारित करने वाला आदेश भी अधिसूचित किया है, जिसमें **प्रशासनिक व्यय की सीमा से अधिक खर्च**, **सट्टात्मक निवेश**, **धन का दुरुपयोग**, **विदेशी अंशदान की अनधिकृत प्राप्ति अथवा उपयोग**, तथा **अनुमोदित उद्देश्यों** या **ऐसे राज्यों/केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** में धन का उपयोग शामिल है जो एनजीओ के पंजीकरण अथवा पूर्व अनुमति में शामिल नहीं हैं।
- Any utilisation of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to **30%** of the amount misused or **₹1 lakh**, whichever is higher.
जिस उद्देश्य के लिए धन प्राप्त हुआ हो उसके अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य उद्देश्य के लिए उसका उपयोग करने पर दुरुपयोग की गई राशि का **30%** अथवा **₹1 लाख**, जो भी अधिक हो, तक का दंड लगाया जा सकता है।
- Likewise, using **foreign contributions** for purposes or in areas not covered by an NGO's registration or prior permission invites a penalty of **30%** of the amount involved or **₹1 lakh**, whichever is higher.
इसी प्रकार, एनजीओ के पंजीकरण अथवा पूर्व अनुमति में शामिल न किए गए उद्देश्यों या क्षेत्रों में **विदेशी अंशदान** का उपयोग करने पर संबंधित राशि का **30%** अथवा **₹1 लाख**, जो भी अधिक हो, का दंड लगाया जाएगा।
- In addition, spending beyond the permitted **administrative expense limit** or engaging in **speculative use of funds** will be penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of **₹1 lakh**.
इसके अतिरिक्त, अनुमत **प्रशासनिक व्यय सीमा** से अधिक खर्च करने अथवा **धन के सट्टात्मक उपयोग** पर संबंधित राशि के प्रतिशत के आधार पर जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा, जिसकी न्यूनतम राशि **₹1 लाख** होगी।

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What is the Opposition saying?
विपक्ष क्या कह रहा है?

- **Opposition** members have said that the new Rules will adversely affect the functioning of **civil society organisations**.
  विपक्ष के सदस्यों का कहना है कि नए नियम **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** के कार्यकलापों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव डालेंगे।
- **Congress General Secretary (Organisation) K.C. Venugopal** said that forcing **NGOs** to choose from a **"rigid, government-mandated list"** of activities and restricting their operational geography would undermine their ability to respond to emergencies.
  कांग्रेस के महासचिव (संगठन) के. सी. वेणुगोपाल ने कहा कि **एनजीओ** को **"सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित कठोर गतिविधियों की सूची"** में से चयन करने के लिए बाध्य करना तथा उनके कार्यक्षेत्र को सीमित करना आपातकालीन परिस्थितियों में उनकी प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता को कमजोर करेगा।
- **John Brittas**, **Communist Party of India (Marxist) Rajya Sabha** member, wrote to **Home Minister Amit Shah** raising constitutional concerns.
  भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी (मार्क्सवादी) के **राज्यसभा सदस्य जॉन ब्रिटास** ने **गृह मंत्री अमित शाह** को पत्र लिखकर संवैधानिक चिंताएँ व्यक्त कीं।
- "Collectively, these changes signify a decisive shift from regulating **foreign contribution** to regulating **voluntary organisations** themselves," he wrote.
  उन्होंने लिखा, **"सामूहिक रूप से ये परिवर्तन विदेशी अंशदान के विनियमन से आगे बढ़कर स्वयं स्वैच्छिक संगठनों के विनियमन की दिशा में एक निर्णायक परिवर्तन का संकेत देते हैं।"**

GS Paper II: International Relations	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Modi hands over 'Made in India' vessel to Seychelles मोदी ने सेशेल्स को 'मेड इन इंडिया' पोत सौंपा
28J6	The story of a shipwrecked hegemon एक जहाज़-डूबे वर्चस्ववादी शक्ति की कहानी

Modi hands over 'Made in India' vessel to Seychelles

GS II: IR
Press Trust of India
VICTORIA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday handed over a 'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard, reaffirming New Delhi's commitment to strengthening the archipelago nation's maritime capabilities.

Mr. Modi and Seychelles President Patrick Herminie participated in the handover ceremony at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, Seychelles, during Mr. Modi's three-day visit to the Indian Ocean archipelago.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the vessel, *PS LESPWAR*, will strengthen Seychelles' maritime surveillance and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities.

Mr. Modi on Saturday described the India-Seychelles friendship as "steady, strong and long-lasting" and said the two countries would "together win the race" as he addressed a state dinner hosted by Mr. Herminie.

Addressing the dinner, Mr. Herminie affirmed the enduring bond between the two nations. "India has been a steadfast friend to Seychelles, a sentiment warmly reciprocated by our people and our vibrant Indian diaspora," he said.

The dinner was attended by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Seychelles Speaker of the National Assembly Azarel Ernesta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora Barry Faure.

The Prime Minister received a ceremonial Guard of Honour.

]Mr. Modi also visited a giant tortoise enclosure at the Seychelles National Botanical Garden.

28J6. Modi hands over 'Made in India' vessel to Seychelles
मोदी ने सेशेल्स को 'मेड इन इंडिया' पोत सौंपा

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on **Saturday** handed over a **'Made in India' Fast Patrol Vessel** to the **Seychelles Coast Guard**, reaffirming **New Delhi's** commitment to strengthening the archipelago nation's **maritime capabilities**.
  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने **शनिवार** को **सेशेल्स कोस्ट गार्ड** को **'मेड इन इंडिया' फास्ट पेट्रोल वेसल** सौंपा, जिससे द्वीपीय राष्ट्र की **समुद्री क्षमताओं** को सुदृढ़ करने के प्रति **नई दिल्ली** की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई गई।
- **Mr. Modi** and **Seychelles President Patrick Herminie** participated in the handover ceremony at the **Coast Guard Base** in **Victoria, Seychelles**, during **Mr. Modi's three-day visit** to the **Indian Ocean archipelago**.

श्री मोदी और **सेशेल्स के राष्ट्रपति पैट्रिक हर्मिनी** ने **हिंद महासागर** के द्वीपसमूह की **तीन दिवसीय यात्रा** के दौरान **सेशेल्स के विक्टोरिया** स्थित **कोस्ट गार्ड बेस** में आयोजित हस्तांतरण समारोह में भाग लिया।

- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** said the vessel, **PS LESPWAR**, will strengthen **Seychelles' maritime surveillance** and **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol capabilities**.
  विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने कहा कि यह पोत **PS LESPWAR**, **सेशेल्स की समुद्री निगरानी** तथा **विशिष्ट आर्थिक क्षेत्र (EEZ) की गश्ती क्षमताओं** को मजबूत करेगा।
- **Mr. Modi** on **Saturday** described the **India-Seychelles friendship** as **"steady, strong and long-lasting"** and said the two countries would **"together win the race"** as he addressed a **state dinner** hosted by **Mr. Herminie**.
  श्री मोदी ने **शनिवार** को **भारत-सेशेल्स मित्रता** को **"स्थिर, मजबूत और दीर्घकालिक"** बताया और कहा कि दोनों देश **"मिलकर सफलता की दौड़ जीतेंगे"**, जब उन्होंने **श्री हर्मिनी** द्वारा आयोजित **राजकीय रात्रिभोज** को संबोधित किया।
- Addressing the **dinner**, **Mr. Herminie** affirmed the **enduring bond** between the two nations.
  रात्रिभोज को संबोधित करते हुए **श्री हर्मिनी** ने दोनों देशों के बीच **स्थायी संबंधों** की पुष्टि की।
- "**India** has been a **steadfast friend** to **Seychelles**, a sentiment warmly reciprocated by our people and our vibrant **Indian diaspora**," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**भारत**, **सेशेल्स** का एक **अटल मित्र** रहा है और इस भावना का हमारे लोग तथा हमारा सक्रिय **भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय** भी पूरे स्नेह के साथ प्रत्युत्तर देते हैं।"
- The **dinner** was attended by **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar**, **Seychelles Speaker of the National Assembly Azarel Ernesta**, **Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora Barry Faure**.
  इस **रात्रिभोज** में **विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर**, **सेशेल्स की राष्ट्रीय विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष अज़ारेल एर्नेस्टा**, तथा **विदेश एवं प्रवासी मामलों के मंत्री बैरी फॉरे** उपस्थित थे।
- The **Prime Minister** received a **ceremonial Guard of Honour**.
  प्रधानमंत्री को **औपचारिक गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर** प्रदान किया गया।
- **Mr. Modi** also visited a **giant tortoise enclosure** at the **Seychelles National Botanical Garden**.
  श्री मोदी ने **सेशेल्स राष्ट्रीय वनस्पति उद्यान** में स्थित **विशाल कछुओं के बाड़े** का भी दौरा किया।

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The story of a shipwrecked hegemon

War on Iran

The war the U.S. and Israel launched has come to a fragile pause with a preliminary agreement between Washington and Tehran, but it has already diminished America's presence in the region, prompting Gulf countries to seek a new *modus vivendi* with Tehran, while Israel, isolated and angry, is clinging on to its Lebanon card

Stanly Johny

Troubled waters: Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from Musandam, Oman, on June 16. REUTERS

THE GIST

- The U.S.-Iran MoU says the ceasefire should come into force on all fronts, including Lebanon, and that Lebanon's sovereignty should be respected
- Tehran would get access to its frozen funds and the U.S. would help create a development plan for Iran, involving $300 billion
- Iran has promised never to make a nuclear bomb and to ensure safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz without any charge for 60 day

"When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations," President Donald Trump told Iranians on February 28, after the U.S. and Israel launched an all-out war on their country. He asked the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), armed forces and police to "lay down" weapons. "You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death," warned Mr. Trump.

The initial blow was devastating for Iran. More than 40 senior officials were killed, including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, IRGC commander Mohammad Pakpour and Defence Council chief Ali Shamkhani. Senior Israeli officials had likened the June 12, 2025 strike on Iran, which killed a host of military officers, to the 'Red Wedding', the infamous massacre of House Stark members in *Game of Thrones*. But that attack paled in comparison with the February 28 strikes. This was Iran's true 'Red Wedding' moment.

The U.S. and Israel expected the decapitation strike to trigger the collapse of the Iranian state or plunge the country, already rocked by January's violent protests, into chaos, paving the way for a more amenable leadership to emerge. Mr. Trump wanted a quick, Venezuela-like solution. This confidence was reflected in his conversation with allies during the early hours of the war. According to Israel's *Ynet News*, Mr. Trump told British Prime Minister Keir Starmer that the war would be over "in three days". When he urged Mr. Starmer to deploy aircraft carriers to West Asia, the British PM said he would first consult his team the following week. "But the war has already started. Next week, the war is going to be over... in three days," said Mr. Trump.

But he was wrong.

Iran's response rested on three pillars. One, preserving the state and preventing regime collapse; two, retaliating by regionalising the war; three, enhancing the global economic cost by wielding its most potent strategic lever – the Strait of Hormuz. The state recovered quickly from the initial shock. Ali Larijani, secretary of the National Security Council, was already in charge of critical decision-making. President Masoud Pezeshkian focused on managing the war-time economy and civil administration. Within days of the U.S. attack, Ahmad Vahidi, the 'ghost general' of the IRGC, took command of the war effort. (Larijani was later killed in an Israeli strike and was swiftly replaced by Mohammad Bagher Zolqadr, another IRGC commander).

Iran also started striking U.S. bases in Persian Gulf countries and Jordan, besides directly attacking Israel. Among the six Gulf kingdoms, all but Oman have permanent U.S. military bases. Bases, missile defence batteries and sites of American economic presence were all targeted. Russia reportedly shared intelligence with Iran. On March 1, the second day of the war, the IRGC Navy announced that the Strait of Hormuz, through which one fifth of the world's seaborne oil passed before the war, was closed to all traffic. Shipping companies halted transits, commercial traffic collapsed, insurance costs rocketed and the price of crude oil soared, pushing the global economy to a cliff.

Mr. Trump, having failed to meet his objectives quickly, doubled down on his rhetoric. On March 6, he demanded Iran's "unconditional surrender" and ruled out any deal with Tehran. Two days later, Iran's Assembly of Experts chose Mojtaba Khamenei, son of the former leader Ali Khamenei, as the new 'Leader of the Revolution'. In his first message as the leader, Mojtaba termed the war an "existential struggle", and said the fighting would continue and that the Strait of Hormuz would remain shut. He delivered a clear message: Iran, despite the punishing American, Israeli attacks, preferred war over surrender.

"Iran was trying to avoid this war from the very beginning. A political solution was available [before the war started]. But Trump and [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu were not interested in an agreement. They wanted to change Iran's government and take over Iran's oil, creating Israel's hegemony in this part of the world," Foad Izadi, professor of world studies at the University of Tehran, told *The Hindu*. "Of course, they have inflicted huge damage on Iran's infrastructure and killed a lot of people. But they have failed [to meet their objectives]. And when they realised that they have failed, they entered negotiations," he added.

Stubborn realities

In Mr. Trump's view, the U.S. secured a decisive victory over Iran. He said Iran's navy, air force, air defences and much of its attack capability had been destroyed, and that Tehran was begging for a deal. Yet, he faced a series of stubborn realities. The swift victory he had anticipated remained elusive; Iran's state survived the bombing; there was no viable military option to reopen the Strait of Hormuz; and Iran's nuclear programme remained unaddressed and unresolved. "The war has deeply scarred the entire region. Iran suffered heavy blows. Its Supreme Leader was killed, key military and nuclear sites were destroyed, yet it survived and proved it could strike back asymmetrically," Mohammed Soliman, author of *West Asia: A New American Grand Strategy in the Middle East*, and a senior fellow at The Middle East Institute, told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Trump had two options: press ahead with the air campaign, further depleting America's offensive and defensive stockpiles; or engage Iran diplomatically. If continuing the strikes did not produce a desirable outcome, prolonging the campaign would become futile. He chose the diplomatic alternative. It was at this point Pakistan, a nuclear power with good ties to both Washington and Tehran, stepped in to offer mediation. On April 8, just hours after threatening to erase Iran's civilisation, Mr. Trump announced a "double-sided ceasefire".

But the ceasefire did not mean an end to the conflict. Mr. Trump declared that the Strait of Hormuz would be open. Both Iran and Pakistan said the ceasefire covered Lebanon as well. Israel had seized parts of southern Lebanon after the war broke out. Israel continued its strikes, which strained the U.S.-Iran ceasefire. Tehran did not reopen the strait. After direct talks between the U.S. and Iran in Islamabad on April 11-12 failed to make any breakthrough, Mr. Trump announced a blockade of Iranian ports aimed at choking the country's already broken economy further. He did not want to return to active war, but he wanted to make Iran concede on his critical demands. Iran's closure of the strait and the American blockade led to repeated skirmishes between the two sides. But despite the tensions, they stayed engaged in talks, exchanging drafts through Pakistan. Iran took a phased approach towards the conflict. It wanted to negotiate a preliminary deal first to bring the war to an end and remove the bottlenecks for shipping in and out of the Persian Gulf, and then, in phase two, hold discussions on the nuclear question. The Trump administration, despite its public protests, accepted this line.

On June 15, U.S. and Iran announced the memorandum of understanding, extending the ceasefire by 60 more days and paving the way for more substantive talks on critical issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and western sanctions. The memorandum also said the ceasefire should come into force on all fronts, including Lebanon; the U.S. blockade would be lifted; Tehran would get access to its frozen funds and the U.S. would help create a development plan for Iran, involving $300 billion. On the other side, Iran promised never to make a nuclear bomb (Iran's official position has always been that it is not seeking to build a bomb, a position which it put on record in the 2015 deal signed with the Obama administration). Iran also promised to ensure safe passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz without any charge for 60 days.

Mr. Trump's claims of victory do not align with the text of the MoU. The U.S., which started the war seeking regime change, ultimately offered substantial concessions to the same government, in exchange for commitments not to pursue a nuclear bomb, and to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, which had been open before the war. "It is both a strategic and a military defeat. No strategic or military goals were attained. The region will now have to recalibrate its relation to the U.S. and abandon unrealistic expectations about American power," Bruno Macaes, a Portuguese political scientist and author, told *The Hindu*.

A new security order

Before the war began, West Asia looked like a different region. Israel, after regionalising its post-October 7 wars, looked confident of meeting its final objective – bring down the Islamic Republic and build a unipolar West Asia where it would act as the principal security player. The Abraham Accords, which saw the UAE, Bahrain and Morocco sign normalisation agreements with Israel, built the foundation for this 'new Middle East'. Gulf countries were worried about Iran but felt protected by American military presence. America's promise for security had been the bedrock of the U.S.-Gulf partnership for decades. As Jimmy Carter said in January 1980, "Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States..." Iran upended not just the Carter doctrine but also the Trumpian effort to reshape West Asia around Israel as its core and Arab states as its pillars.

The U.S. could do little as Iran unleashed its drones and missiles at American bases across the region. Rather than providing security, the bases became magnets for Iranian projectiles. "The idea before the war was that the U.S. would provide security to the Gulf countries. But what happened was that the Gulf countries were burning through their defensive weapons to protect U.S. bases on their soil," said an Emirati official, requesting anonymity.

At least 13 American bases in the Gulf, including the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia, the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, the U.S. Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain and the Al Sader and Al Ruwais facilities in the UAE, were damaged. According to a *Wall Street Journal* visual investigation based on satellite imagery, Iranian attacks devastated the U.S. Navy's base in Bahrain. The U.S. could do little when Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City, the world's largest LNG export complex, was hit on March 18. Gulf countries watched with pain and shock as Iran drilled holes into the U.S.-led security architecture.

"Stability will have to come from within since the U.S. proved incapable of providing it. As for U.S. policy, it will become almost entirely mercantile: focus on deals in energy, AI and, of course, weapons," said Mr. Macaes. Mr. Soliman of the Middle East Institute agreed: "Gulf Arab states will now accelerate their security self-reliance, diversify their defence relationships in addition to the U.S., and seek more pragmatic ways to manage relations with Tehran."

Gulf states have already begun moving in this direction. They seem to have recognised that the Islamic Republic is not going anywhere, and for their own security and for the safe passage of shipping through Hormuz, they will need to work with Tehran on the basis of peaceful co-existence. What they require is regional stability, and for that stability, as Mr. Macaes put it, they would have to bring "Iran back from the cold".

"Part of what we are doing now, as regional countries, is to create this regional security framework between us and Iran," Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani said recently in an interview. "That will hopefully have economic cooperation in the future between all of us," he added. Saudi Arabia reportedly reached out to Iran to reach an understanding so that the kingdom would be spared if war resumed. U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance recently said the UAE, which has very close ties with Israel, "is having conversations with Iran that have never happened before, including with the IRGC, about economic incentives." Oman has always kept the diplomatic channels open with Tehran despite the war.

The pre-October 7 push by the U.S. to bring Gulf monarchies and Israel, the two pillars of America's West Asia policy, closer to build a joint front against Iran appears to have been shattered by this war. "The Abraham Accords and the effort to create a Sunni-Zionist alliance against Iran are dead," Trita Parsi, executive vice president of Quincy Institute, told *The Hindu*. "The war proved that the containment of Iran only leads to war, instability, and the defeat of such an alliance. The Arab side sees Israel as a greater threat than needs to be contained, and Iran as a state that they – from a security standpoint – need to integrate with economically, because containment and war failed."

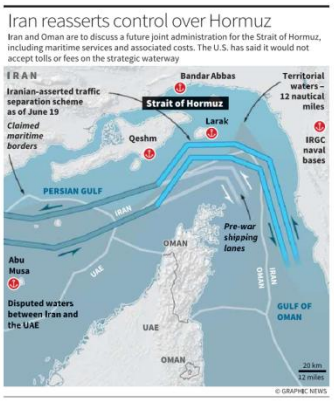
Israel, left alone

One country that had long sought this war, and was among the most affected by it, was Israel. It was the principal architect of the campaign. Yet, as the conflict went against the initial expectations, Mr. Trump sidelined Israel and chose talks with Iran, ultimately reaching the MoU. With Iran now rewriting the regional security order and engaging in direct talks with the U.S., Mr. Netanyahu's big push to remap West Asia appears to have backfired. "The end result (of the war) may be the decontainment of Iran and the recontainment of Israel – perhaps going back to the pre-1991 era in which Israel was the regional and international outcast," said Mr. Parsi.

Israel stands increasingly isolated on the world stage. Without the U.S., its ability to shape security and geopolitical outcomes is limited. Many in Israel see the U.S.-Iran deal as a major strategic setback. "Israel is going to regret this war because nothing was achieved and Israel lost Trump," Gideon Levy, Israeli journalist and author, told *The Hindu*. "Israel should learn now that not everything can be achieved by force, but unfortunately Israel will not draw this lesson."

At this point, Mr. Netanyahu's focus is on the trump card he possesses – Lebanon. On June 26, Israel and Lebanon, under U.S. mediation, agreed to a deal under which Israeli troops would stay in southern Lebanon. Iran and Hezbollah have demanded a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The first article of the MoU calls for respecting Lebanon's "territorial integrity and sovereignty" – an indirect call for Israeli troop withdrawal. If Israel doesn't withdraw, clashes with Hezbollah will persist, meaning a ceasefire in Lebanon would remain out of reach. Tensions have already spilled over into the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran insists that ships should follow its designated route. It attacked a vessel transiting an "unauthorised" route last week, and the U.S. struck Iran on Saturday and Tehran retaliated by attacking U.S. bases in the region. But the U.S. strikes are unlikely to force Iran to give up its newly asserted control over the strait.

"We have to wait and see whether the U.S. and Israel are done with the war or this is just a pause," said Mr. Izadi, the Iranian professor. "Iran wants these attacks to stop; to get its money back; sanctions to be lifted and its authority over Hormuz recognised. The strait is in Iran's territory, in its contiguous waters. These are our red lines," he said. "The U.S. can accept these reasonable demands or they can start the war again. It's a decision they have to make."



28J6. The story of a shipwrecked hegemon
एक जहाज़-डूबे वर्चस्ववादी शक्ति की कहानी

- The war the **U.S.** and **Israel** launched has come to a fragile pause with a preliminary agreement between **Washington** and **Tehran**, but it has already diminished **America's** presence in the region, prompting **Gulf** countries to seek a new **modus vivendi** with **Tehran**, while **Israel**, isolated and angry, is clinging on to its **Lebanon** card.

अमेरिका और **इज़राइल** द्वारा शुरू किया गया युद्ध **वॉशिंगटन** और **तेहरान** के बीच एक प्रारंभिक समझौते के साथ एक नाज़ुक विराम पर पहुँचा है, लेकिन इसने पहले ही क्षेत्र में **अमेरिका** की उपस्थिति को कम कर दिया है, जिससे **खाड़ी** देशों को **तेहरान** के साथ नया **मोडस विवेंडी (सह-अस्तित्व की व्यवस्था)** तलाशने के लिए प्रेरित

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किया गया है, जबकि अलग-थलग और क्रोधित **इज़राइल** अभी भी अपने **लेबनान** वाले विकल्प से चिपका हुआ है।

- "When we are finished, take over your government.
  "**जब** हम समाप्त कर लेंगे, तब **अपनी सरकार** अपने हाथ में ले लेना।
- It will be yours to take.
  वह तुम्हारे हाथ में लेने के लिए होगी।
- This will be probably your only chance for generations," **President Donald Trump** told **Iranians** on **February 28**, after the **U.S.** and **Israel** launched an all-out war on their country.
  यह संभवतः कई पीढ़ियों में तुम्हारा **एकमात्र अवसर** होगा," **राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने **28 फ़रवरी** को **ईरानियों** से कहा, जब **अमेरिका** और **इज़राइल** ने उनके देश पर पूर्ण युद्ध शुरू कर दिया।
- He asked the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**, armed forces and police to "lay down" weapons.
  उन्होंने **इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC)**, सशस्त्र बलों और पुलिस से अपने हथियार "**डाल देने**" के लिए कहा।
- "You will be treated fairly with total immunity, or you will face certain death," warned **Mr. Trump**.
  "तुम्हारे साथ **पूर्ण प्रतिरक्षा** के साथ निष्पक्ष व्यवहार किया जाएगा, अन्यथा तुम्हें निश्चित मृत्यु का सामना करना पड़ेगा," **श्री ट्रंप** ने चेतावनी दी।
- The initial blow was devastating for **Iran**.
  प्रारंभिक हमला **ईरान** के लिए विनाशकारी था।
- More than **40 senior officials** were killed, including **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, **IRGC commander Mohammad Pakpour** and **Defence Council chief Ali Shamkhani**.
  40 से अधिक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी मारे गए, जिनमें **सर्वोच्च नेता अयातुल्ला अली ख़ामेनेई**, **IRGC कमांडर मोहम्मद पकपौर** और **रक्षा परिषद प्रमुख अली शमखानी** शामिल थे।
- Senior **Israeli** officials had likened the **June 12, 2025** strike on **Iran**, which killed a host of military officers, to the **'Red Wedding'**, the infamous massacre of **House Stark** members in **Game of Thrones**.
  वरिष्ठ **इज़राइली** अधिकारियों ने **12 जून, 2025** को **ईरान** पर हुए उस हमले, जिसमें अनेक सैन्य अधिकारी मारे गए थे, की तुलना **'रेड वेडिंग'** से की थी, जो **गेम ऑफ थ्रोन्स** में **हाउस स्टार्क** के सदस्यों के कुख्यात नरसंहार का दृश्य था।
- But that attack paled in comparison with the **February 28** strikes.
  लेकिन वह हमला **28 फ़रवरी** के हमलों की तुलना में फीका पड़ गया।
- This was **Iran's** true **'Red Wedding'** moment.
  यह **ईरान** का वास्तविक **'रेड वेडिंग'** क्षण था।
- The **U.S.** and **Israel** expected the decapitation strike to trigger the collapse of the **Iranian** state or plunge the country, already rocked by **January's** violent protests, into chaos, paving the way for a more amenable leadership to emerge.
  अमेरिका और **इज़राइल** को उम्मीद थी कि नेतृत्व-विनाशकारी हमला **ईरानी** राज्य के पतन का कारण बनेगा या **जनवरी** के हिंसक प्रदर्शनों से पहले ही प्रभावित देश को अराजकता में धकेल देगा, जिससे अधिक अनुकूल नेतृत्व के उभरने का मार्ग प्रशस्त होगा।
- **Mr. Trump** wanted a quick, **Venezuela-like** solution.
  श्री ट्रंप एक त्वरित, **वेनेज़ुएला-जैसे** समाधान की अपेक्षा कर रहे थे।
- This confidence was reflected in his conversation with allies during the early hours of the war.
  यह आत्मविश्वास युद्ध के शुरुआती घंटों में सहयोगियों के साथ उनकी बातचीत में भी दिखाई दिया।
- According to **Israel's Ynet News**, **Mr. Trump** told **British Prime Minister Keir Starmer** that the war would be over "in three days".

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इज़राइल के Ynet News के अनुसार, **श्री ट्रंप** ने **ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टारमर** से कहा कि यह युद्ध "**तीन दिनों में**" समाप्त हो जाएगा।

- When he urged **Mr. Starmer** to deploy aircraft carriers to **West Asia**, the **British PM** said he would first consult his team the following week.
  जब उन्होंने **श्री स्टारमर** से **पश्चिम एशिया** में विमानवाहक पोत तैनात करने का आग्रह किया, तो **ब्रिटिश प्रधानमंत्री** ने कहा कि वह पहले अगले सप्ताह अपनी टीम से परामर्श करेंगे।
- "But the war has already started.
  "लेकिन युद्ध तो पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है।
- Next week, the war is going to be over... in **three days**," said **Mr. Trump**.
  अगले सप्ताह तक युद्ध समाप्त हो जाएगा... **तीन दिनों** में," **श्री ट्रंप** ने कहा।
- But he was wrong.
  लेकिन **वह** गलत थे।
- **Iran's** response rested on **three pillars**.
  ईरान की प्रतिक्रिया **तीन स्तंभों** पर आधारित थी।
- One, preserving the **state** and preventing **regime collapse**;
  पहला, **राज्य** को सुरक्षित रखना और **शासन व्यवस्था के पतन** को रोकना।
- Two, retaliating by **regionalising the war**;
  दूसरा, **युद्ध का क्षेत्रीय विस्तार** करके प्रतिशोध लेना।
- Three, enhancing the **global economic cost** by wielding its most potent strategic lever — the **Strait of Hormuz**.
  तीसरा, अपने सबसे शक्तिशाली रणनीतिक साधन — **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** — का उपयोग करके **वैश्विक आर्थिक लागत** को बढ़ाना।
- The **state** recovered quickly from the initial shock.
  राज्य प्रारंभिक झटके से शीघ्र ही उबर गया।
- **Ali Larijani**, secretary of the **National Security Council**, was already in charge of critical decision-making.
  राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद के सचिव **अली लारिजानी** पहले से ही महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लेने की जिम्मेदारी संभाल रहे थे।
- **President Masoud Pezeshkian** focused on managing the **war-time economy** and **civil administration**.
  राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेज़ेश्कियन ने **युद्धकालीन अर्थव्यवस्था** और **नागरिक प्रशासन** के प्रबंधन पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया।
- Within days of the **U.S.** attack, **Ahmad Vahidi**, the **'ghost general'** of the **IRGC**, took command of the **war effort**.
  अमेरिका के हमले के कुछ ही दिनों के भीतर **IRGC** के **'घोस्ट जनरल' अहमद वाहिदी** ने **युद्ध अभियान** की कमान संभाल ली।
- (**Larijani** was later killed in an **Israeli** strike and was swiftly replaced by **Mohammed Bagher Zolqadr**, another **IRGC** commander).
  (**लारिजानी** बाद में **इज़राइली** हमले में मारे गए और उनकी जगह शीघ्र ही **IRGC** के एक अन्य कमांडर **मोहम्मद बाघेर ज़ोलक़द्र** को नियुक्त कर दिया गया।)
- **Iran** also started striking **U.S.** bases in **Persian Gulf** countries and **Jordan**, besides directly attacking **Israel**.
  ईरान ने **इज़राइल** पर सीधे हमले करने के साथ-साथ **फ़ारस की खाड़ी** के देशों और **जॉर्डन** में स्थित **अमेरिकी** ठिकानों पर भी हमले शुरू कर दिए।
- Among the **six Gulf kingdoms**, all but **Oman** have permanent **U.S. military bases**.
  छह खाड़ी राजतंत्रों में **ओमान** को छोड़कर सभी में स्थायी **अमेरिकी सैन्य अड्डे** हैं।

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- **Bases**, **missile defence batteries** and sites of **American economic presence** were all targeted.
  सैन्य अड्डों, **मिसाइल रक्षा प्रणालियों** और **अमेरिकी आर्थिक उपस्थिति** वाले स्थलों को निशाना बनाया गया।
- **Russia** reportedly shared intelligence with **Iran**.
  बताया गया कि **रूस** ने **ईरान** के साथ खुफिया जानकारी साझा की।
- On **March 1**, the second day of the war, the **IRGC Navy** announced that the **Strait of Hormuz**, through which **one fifth** of the world's seaborne oil passed before the war, was closed to all traffic.
  1 मार्च, युद्ध के दूसरे दिन, **IRGC नौसेना** ने घोषणा की कि **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य**, जिसके माध्यम से युद्ध से पहले दुनिया के समुद्री मार्ग से भेजे जाने वाले तेल का **पाँचवाँ हिस्सा** गुजरता था, सभी यातायात के लिए बंद कर दिया गया है।
- **Shipping companies** halted transits, **commercial traffic** collapsed, **insurance costs** rocketed and the price of **crude oil** soared, pushing the **global economy** to a cliff.
  शिपिंग कंपनियों ने आवागमन रोक दिया, **व्यावसायिक यातायात** ठप हो गया, **बीमा लागत** तेजी से बढ़ गई और **कच्चे तेल** की कीमतें आसमान छूने लगीं, जिससे **वैश्विक अर्थव्यवस्था** संकट के कगार पर पहुँच गई।
- **Mr. Trump**, having failed to meet his objectives quickly, doubled down on his rhetoric.
  अपने उद्देश्यों को शीघ्र प्राप्त करने में असफल रहने के बाद **श्री ट्रंप** ने अपनी बयानबाज़ी और अधिक तीव्र कर दी।
- On **March 6**, he demanded **Iran's** "**unconditional surrender**" and ruled out any deal with **Tehran**.
  6 मार्च को उन्होंने **ईरान** के "**बिना शर्त आत्मसमर्पण**" की मांग की और **तेहरान** के साथ किसी भी समझौते की संभावना से इनकार कर दिया।
- Two days later, **Iran's Assembly of Experts** chose **Mojtaba Khamenei**, son of the former leader **Ali Khamenei**, as the new **'Leader of the Revolution'**.
  दो दिन बाद **ईरान की असेंबली ऑफ एक्सपर्ट्स** ने पूर्व नेता **अली ख़ामेनेई** के पुत्र **मोजतबा ख़ामेनेई** को नया **'क्रांति का नेता'** चुना।
- In his first message as the leader, **Mojtaba** termed the war an "**existential struggle**", and said the fighting would continue and that the **Strait of Hormuz** would remain shut.
  नेता के रूप में अपने पहले संदेश में **मोजतबा** ने इस युद्ध को "**अस्तित्व की लड़ाई**" बताया और कहा कि संघर्ष जारी रहेगा तथा **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** बंद रहेगा।
- He delivered a clear message: **Iran**, despite the punishing **American**, **Israeli** attacks, preferred war over surrender.
  उन्होंने स्पष्ट संदेश दिया कि **ईरान**, **अमेरिकी** और **इज़राइली** हमलों की भारी मार झेलने के बावजूद, आत्मसमर्पण की अपेक्षा युद्ध को प्राथमिकता देता है।
- "**Iran** was trying to avoid this war from the very beginning.
  "**ईरान** शुरू से ही इस युद्ध से बचने की कोशिश कर रहा था।
- A **political solution** was available [before the war started].
  युद्ध शुरू होने से पहले **राजनीतिक समाधान** उपलब्ध था।
- But **Trump** and [**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin**] **Netanyahu** were not interested in an agreement.
  लेकिन **ट्रंप** और [**इज़राइली प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन**] **नेतन्याहू** किसी समझौते में रुचि नहीं रखते थे।
- They wanted to change **Iran's government** and take over **Iran's oil**, creating **Israel's hegemony** in this part of the
  वे **ईरान की सरकार** बदलना चाहते थे और **ईरान के तेल** पर नियंत्रण करना चाहते थे, ताकि इस क्षेत्र में **इज़राइल का वर्चस्व** स्थापित किया जा सके।
- world," **Foad Izadi**, professor of **world studies** at the **University of Tehran**, told **The Hindu**.
  दुनिया," **तेहरान विश्वविद्यालय** में **विश्व अध्ययन** के प्रोफेसर **फोआद इज़ादी** ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।

- "Of course, they have inflicted huge damage on **Iran's infrastructure** and killed a lot of people.
  "निस्संदेह, उन्होंने **ईरान के बुनियादी ढाँचे** को भारी नुकसान पहुँचाया है और बहुत से लोगों की जान ली है।
- But they have failed [to meet their objectives].
  लेकिन वे [अपने उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में] असफल रहे हैं।
- And when they realised that they had failed, they entered negotiations," he added.
  और जब उन्हें यह एहसास हुआ कि वे असफल हो गए हैं, तब वे **वार्ता** में शामिल हुए," उन्होंने आगे कहा।

Stubborn realities
कठोर वास्तविकताएँ

- In **Mr. Trump's** view, the **U.S.** secured a decisive victory over **Iran**.
  श्री ट्रंप के अनुसार, **अमेरिका** ने **ईरान** पर निर्णायक विजय प्राप्त की।
- He said **Iran's navy**, **air force**, **air defences** and much of its **attack capability** had been destroyed, and that **Tehran** was begging for a deal.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **ईरान की नौसेना**, **वायुसेना**, **वायु रक्षा प्रणाली** और उसकी अधिकांश **आक्रमण क्षमता** नष्ट हो चुकी है तथा **तेहरान** समझौते के लिए गिड़गिड़ा रहा है।
- Yet, he faced a series of **stubborn realities**.
  फिर भी, उन्हें कई **कठोर वास्तविकताओं** का सामना करना पड़ा।
- The swift victory he had anticipated remained elusive; **Iran's state** survived the bombing; there was no viable military option to reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**; and **Iran's nuclear programme** remained unaddressed and unresolved.
  जिस त्वरित विजय की उन्होंने अपेक्षा की थी, वह नहीं मिली; **ईरानी राज्य** बमबारी के बावजूद बचा रहा; **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** को पुनः खोलने का कोई व्यवहारिक सैन्य विकल्प नहीं था; और **ईरान का परमाणु कार्यक्रम** अनसुलझा और बिना समाधान के बना रहा।
- "The war has deeply scarred the entire region.
  "इस युद्ध ने पूरे क्षेत्र पर गहरा घाव छोड़ा है।
- **Iran** suffered heavy blows.
  ईरान को भारी क्षति उठानी पड़ी।
- Its **Supreme Leader** was killed, key **military** and **nuclear sites** were destroyed, yet it survived and proved it could strike back asymmetrically," **Mohammed Soliman**, author of **West Asia: A New American Grand Strategy in the Middle East**, and a senior fellow at **The Middle East Institute**, told **The Hindu**.
  उसके **सर्वोच्च नेता** मारे गए, प्रमुख **सैन्य** और **परमाणु ठिकाने** नष्ट कर दिए गए, फिर भी वह बचा रहा और उसने साबित किया कि वह **असममित तरीके** से जवाबी हमला कर सकता है," **वेस्ट एशिया: ए न्यू अमेरिकन ग्रैंड स्ट्रेटेजी इन द मिडिल ईस्ट** के लेखक तथा **द मिडिल ईस्ट इंस्टीट्यूट** के वरिष्ठ फेलो **मोहम्मद सुलेमान** ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।
- **Mr. Trump** had two options: press ahead with the **air campaign**, further depleting **America's offensive and defensive stockpiles**; or engage **Iran** diplomatically.
  श्री ट्रंप के सामने दो विकल्प थे: **हवाई अभियान** जारी रखना, जिससे **अमेरिका के आक्रामक और रक्षात्मक हथियार भंडार** और कम हो जाते; या **ईरान** के साथ कूटनीतिक रूप से बातचीत करना।
- If continuing the strikes did not produce a desirable outcome, prolonging the campaign would become futile.
  यदि हमले जारी रखने से अपेक्षित परिणाम नहीं मिलते, तो अभियान को लंबा खींचना निरर्थक हो जाता।
- He chose the **diplomatic alternative**.
  उन्होंने **कूटनीतिक विकल्प** चुना।
- It was at this point **Pakistan**, a **nuclear power** with good ties to both **Washington** and **Tehran**, stepped in to offer mediation.

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इसी समय **पाकिस्तान**, जो एक **परमाणु शक्ति** है और जिसके **वॉशिंगटन** तथा **तेहरान** दोनों से अच्छे संबंध हैं, मध्यस्थता की पेशकश करने के लिए आगे आया।

- On **April 8**, just hours after threatening to erase **Iran's civilisation**, **Mr. Trump** announced a "**double-sided ceasefire**".
  8 अप्रैल को, **ईरान की सभ्यता** को मिटा देने की धमकी देने के कुछ ही घंटों बाद, **श्री ट्रंप** ने "**दो-तरफ़ा युद्धविराम**" की घोषणा की।
- But the **ceasefire** did not mean an end to the conflict.
  लेकिन **युद्धविराम** का अर्थ संघर्ष का अंत नहीं था।
- **Mr. Trump** declared that the **Strait of Hormuz** would be open.
  श्री ट्रंप ने घोषणा की कि **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** खुला रहेगा।
- Both **Iran** and **Pakistan** said the **ceasefire** covered **Lebanon** as well.
  ईरान और **पाकिस्तान** दोनों ने कहा कि **युद्धविराम लेबनान** पर भी लागू होगा।
- **Israel** had seized parts of southern **Lebanon** after the war broke out.
  युद्ध शुरू होने के बाद **इज़राइल** ने दक्षिणी **लेबनान** के कुछ हिस्सों पर कब्ज़ा कर लिया था।
- **Israel** continued its strikes, which strained the **U.S.-Iran ceasefire**.
  इज़राइल ने अपने हमले जारी रखे, जिससे **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्धविराम** पर दबाव बढ़ गया।
- **Tehran** did not reopen the strait.
  तेहरान ने जलडमरूमध्य को पुनः नहीं खोला।
- After direct talks between the **U.S.** and **Iran** in **Islamabad** on **April 11-12** failed to make any breakthrough, **Mr. Trump** announced a blockade of **Iranian ports** aimed at choking the country's already broken economy further.
  11-12 अप्रैल को **इस्लामाबाद** में **अमेरिका** और **ईरान** के बीच हुई प्रत्यक्ष वार्ता में कोई सफलता नहीं मिलने के बाद, **श्री ट्रंप** ने **ईरानी बंदरगाहों** की नाकेबंदी की घोषणा की, जिसका उद्देश्य देश की पहले से ही कमजोर अर्थव्यवस्था को और अधिक पंगु बनाना था।
- He did not want to return to active war, but he wanted to make **Iran** concede on his critical demands.
  वह सक्रिय युद्ध में लौटना नहीं चाहते थे, लेकिन वे चाहते थे कि **ईरान** उनकी महत्वपूर्ण मांगों को स्वीकार करे।
- **Iran's** closure of the strait and the **American blockade** led to repeated skirmishes between the two sides.
  ईरान द्वारा जलडमरूमध्य बंद किए जाने और **अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी** के कारण दोनों पक्षों के बीच बार-बार झड़पें हुईं।
- But despite the tensions, they stayed engaged in talks, exchanging drafts through **Pakistan**.
  लेकिन तनाव के बावजूद दोनों पक्ष **पाकिस्तान** के माध्यम से मसौदों का आदान-प्रदान करते हुए वार्ता में लगे रहे।
- **Iran** took a phased approach towards the conflict.
  ईरान ने इस संघर्ष के प्रति चरणबद्ध दृष्टिकोण अपनाया।
- It wanted to negotiate a **preliminary deal** first to bring the war to an end and remove the bottlenecks for shipping in and out of the **Persian Gulf**, and then, in **phase two**, hold discussions on the **nuclear question**.
  वह पहले एक **प्रारंभिक समझौता** करना चाहता था ताकि युद्ध समाप्त हो और **फ़ारस की खाड़ी** से आने-जाने वाले जहाज़ों की बाधाएँ दूर हों, और उसके बाद **दूसरे चरण** में **परमाणु मुद्दे** पर चर्चा की जाए।
- The **Trump administration**, despite its public protests, accepted this line.
  ट्रंप प्रशासन ने सार्वजनिक विरोध के बावजूद इस दृष्टिकोण को स्वीकार कर लिया।
- On **June 15**, **U.S.** and **Iran** announced the **memorandum of understanding**, extending the **ceasefire** by **60 more days** and paving the way for more substantive talks on critical issues such as **Iran's nuclear programme** and **western sanctions**.
  15 जून को **अमेरिका** और **ईरान** ने **समझौता ज्ञापन (मेमोरेंडम ऑफ अंडरस्टैंडिंग)** की घोषणा की, जिसके

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तहत **युद्धविराम** को **60 और दिनों** के लिए बढ़ाया गया तथा **ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम** और **पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों** जैसे महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर अधिक सार्थक वार्ता का मार्ग प्रशस्त हुआ।

- The **memorandum** also said the **ceasefire** should come into force on all fronts, including
  समझौता ज्ञापन में यह भी कहा गया कि **युद्धविराम** सभी मोर्चों पर लागू होना चाहिए, जिसमें शामिल हैं...
- **Lebanon**; the **U.S. blockade** would be lifted; **Tehran** would get access to its **frozen funds** and the **U.S.** would help create a **development plan** for **Iran**, involving **$300 billion**.
  लेबनान; **अमेरिकी नाकेबंदी** हटा ली जाएगी; **तेहरान** को अपनी **जमी हुई निधियों** तक पहुँच मिलेगी और **अमेरिका**, **300 अरब डॉलर** की भागीदारी के साथ **ईरान** के लिए एक **विकास योजना** तैयार करने में सहायता करेगा।
- On the other side, **Iran** promised never to make a **nuclear bomb** (**Iran's** official position has always been that it is not seeking to build a bomb, a position which it put on record in the **2015 deal** signed with the **Obama administration**).
  दूसरी ओर, **ईरान** ने कभी भी **परमाणु बम** नहीं बनाने का वादा किया (**ईरान** का आधिकारिक रुख हमेशा से यही रहा है कि वह परमाणु बम बनाने का इच्छुक नहीं है, और इस स्थिति को उसने **ओबामा प्रशासन** के साथ हुए **2015 के समझौते** में भी दर्ज किया था।)
- **Iran** also promised to ensure safe passage of ships through the **Strait of Hormuz** without any charge for **60 days**.
  ईरान ने यह भी वादा किया कि वह **60 दिनों** तक **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से गुजरने वाले जहाज़ों की सुरक्षित आवाजाही बिना किसी शुल्क के सुनिश्चित करेगा।
- **Mr. Trump's** claims of victory do not align with the text of the **MoU**.
  श्री ट्रंप के विजय संबंधी दावे **समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** के पाठ से मेल नहीं खाते।
- The **U.S.**, which started the war seeking **regime change**, ultimately offered substantial concessions to the same government, in exchange for commitments not to pursue a **nuclear bomb**, and to reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**, which had been open before the war.
  अमेरिका, जिसने **शासन परिवर्तन** के उद्देश्य से युद्ध शुरू किया था, अंततः उसी सरकार को महत्वपूर्ण रियायतें देने पर सहमत हो गया, बदले में **परमाणु बम** न बनाने और **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य**, जो युद्ध से पहले खुला था, को पुनः खोलने की प्रतिबद्धता प्राप्त की।
- "It is both a **strategic** and a **military defeat**.
  "यह **रणनीतिक** और **सैन्य पराजय** दोनों है।
- No **strategic** or **military goals** were attained.
  कोई भी **रणनीतिक** या **सैन्य लक्ष्य** प्राप्त नहीं किया जा सका।
- The region will now have to recalibrate its relation to the **U.S.** and abandon unrealistic expectations about **American power**," **Bruno Macaes**, a **Portuguese political scientist** and author, told **The Hindu**.
  अब इस क्षेत्र को **अमेरिका** के साथ अपने संबंधों का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना होगा और **अमेरिकी शक्ति** के बारे में अवास्तविक अपेक्षाओं को छोड़ना होगा," **पुर्तगाली राजनीतिक वैज्ञानिक** और लेखक **ब्रूनो माकाएस** ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।

A new security order
एक नई सुरक्षा व्यवस्था

- Before the war began, **West Asia** looked like a different region.
  युद्ध शुरू होने से पहले **पश्चिम एशिया** एक अलग ही क्षेत्र दिखाई देता था।
- **Israel**, after regionalising its **post-October 7 wars**, looked confident of meeting its final objective — bring down the **Islamic Republic** and build a **unipolar West Asia** where it would act as the principal security player.
  इज़राइल, **7 अक्टूबर** के बाद के अपने युद्धों का क्षेत्रीय विस्तार करने के बाद, अपने अंतिम उद्देश्य —

इस्लामी गणराज्य को गिराने और **एकध्रुवीय पश्चिम एशिया** बनाने, जहाँ वह प्रमुख सुरक्षा शक्ति के रूप में कार्य करे — को प्राप्त करने के प्रति आश्वस्त दिखाई दे रहा था।

- The **Abraham Accords**, which saw the **UAE**, **Bahrain** and **Morocco** sign normalisation agreements with **Israel**, built the foundation for this **'new Middle East'**.
  अब्राहम समझौते, जिनके तहत **यूएई**, **बहरीन** और **मोरक्को** ने **इज़राइल** के साथ सामान्यीकरण समझौते किए, इस **'नए मध्य पूर्व'** की नींव बने।
- **Gulf countries** were worried about **Iran** but felt protected by **American military presence**.
  खाड़ी देश ईरान को लेकर चिंतित थे, लेकिन **अमेरिकी सैन्य उपस्थिति** के कारण स्वयं को सुरक्षित महसूस करते थे।
- **America's** promise for security had been the bedrock of the **U.S.-Gulf partnership** for decades.
  अमेरिका द्वारा सुरक्षा का आश्वासन दशकों से **अमेरिका-खाड़ी साझेदारी** की आधारशिला रहा था।
- As **Jimmy Carter** said in **January 1980**, "Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the **Persian Gulf** region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the **United States**..."
  जैसा कि **जिमी कार्टर** ने **जनवरी 1980** में कहा था, "हमारी स्थिति बिल्कुल स्पष्ट होनी चाहिए: **फ़ारस की खाड़ी** क्षेत्र पर नियंत्रण पाने का किसी भी बाहरी शक्ति का प्रयास **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के महत्वपूर्ण हितों पर हमला माना जाएगा..."
- **Iran** upended not just the **Carter doctrine** but also the **Trumpian** effort to reshape **West Asia** around **Israel** as its core and **Arab states** as its pillars.
  ईरान ने केवल **कार्टर सिद्धांत** को ही नहीं, बल्कि **ट्रंपवादी** उस प्रयास को भी उलट दिया, जिसका उद्देश्य **इज़राइल** को केंद्र और **अरब देशों** को उसके स्तंभ बनाकर **पश्चिम एशिया** का पुनर्गठन करना था।
- The **U.S.** could do little as **Iran** unleashed its **drones** and **missiles** at **American bases** across the region.
  जब **ईरान** ने पूरे क्षेत्र में स्थित **अमेरिकी ठिकानों** पर अपने **ड्रोन** और **मिसाइलें** दागीं, तब **अमेरिका** बहुत कम कर सका।
- Rather than providing security, the **bases** became magnets for **Iranian projectiles**.
  सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के बजाय, ये **सैन्य अड्डे ईरानी प्रक्षेपास्त्रों** के प्रमुख लक्ष्य बन गए।
- "The idea before the war was that the **U.S.** would provide security to the **Gulf countries**.
  "युद्ध से पहले यह धारणा थी कि **अमेरिका**, **खाड़ी देशों** को सुरक्षा प्रदान करेगा।
- But what happened was that the **Gulf countries** were burning through their **defensive weapons** to protect **U.S. bases** on their soil," said an **Emirati official**, requesting anonymity.
  लेकिन हुआ यह कि **खाड़ी देश** अपनी भूमि पर स्थित **अमेरिकी ठिकानों** की रक्षा के लिए अपने **रक्षात्मक हथियारों** का तेजी से उपयोग करने लगे," एक **अमीराती अधिकारी** ने नाम न प्रकाशित करने की शर्त पर कहा।
- At least **13 American bases** in the **Gulf**, including the **Al Udeid Air Base** in **Qatar**, the **Prince Sultan Air Base** in **Saudi Arabia**, the **Ali Al Salem Air Base** in **Kuwait**, the **U.S. Fifth Fleet** headquarters in **Bahrain** and the **Al Sader** and **Al Ruwais** facilities in the **UAE**, were damaged.
  खाड़ी क्षेत्र में स्थित कम से कम **13 अमेरिकी सैन्य अड्डे**, जिनमें **कतर** का **अल उदैद एयर बेस**, **सऊदी अरब** का **प्रिंस सुल्तान एयर बेस**, **कुवैत** का **अली अल सलेम एयर बेस**, **बहरीन** में **अमेरिकी पाँचवें बेड़े** का मुख्यालय तथा **यूएई** की **अल सादेर** और **अल रुवैस** सुविधाएँ शामिल हैं, क्षतिग्रस्त हुईं।
- According to a **Wall Street Journal** visual investigation based on **satellite imagery**, **Iranian attacks** devastated the **U.S. Navy's base** in **Bahrain**.
  उपग्रह चित्रों पर आधारित **वॉल स्ट्रीट जर्नल** की दृश्य जाँच के अनुसार, **ईरानी हमलों** ने **बहरीन** स्थित **अमेरिकी नौसेना के अड्डे** को भारी क्षति पहुँचाई।
- The **U.S.** could do little when **Qatar's Ras Laffan Industrial City**, the world's largest **LNG export complex**, was hit on **March 18**.

जब **18 मार्च** को **कतर** का **रास लफ़्फ़ान इंडस्ट्रियल सिटी**, जो दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा **एलएनजी निर्यात परिसर** है, हमले का शिकार हुआ, तब **अमेरिका** बहुत कम कर सका।

- **Gulf countries** watched with pain and shock as **Iran** drilled holes into the **U.S.-led security architecture**.
  खाड़ी देशों ने पीड़ा और आश्चर्य के साथ देखा कि **ईरान** ने **अमेरिका-नेतृत्व वाली सुरक्षा व्यवस्था** में गंभीर दरारें पैदा कर दीं।
- "**Stability** will have to come from within since the **U.S.** proved incapable of providing it.
  "**स्थिरता** अब भीतर से ही आनी होगी क्योंकि **अमेरिका** इसे प्रदान करने में असमर्थ सिद्ध हुआ है।
- As for **U.S. policy**, it will become almost entirely **mercantile**: focus on deals in **energy**, **AI** and, of course, **weapons**," said **Mr. Macaes**.
  जहाँ तक **अमेरिकी नीति** का प्रश्न है, वह लगभग पूरी तरह **व्यापारिक** हो जाएगी: उसका ध्यान **ऊर्जा**, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** और निश्चित रूप से **हथियारों** के सौदों पर केंद्रित रहेगा," **श्री माकाएस** ने कहा।
- **Mr. Soliman** of the **Middle East Institute** agreed: "**Gulf Arab states** will now accelerate their **security self-reliance**, diversify their **defence relationships** in addition to the **U.S.**, and seek more pragmatic ways to manage relations with **Tehran**."
  मिडिल ईस्ट इंस्टीट्यूट के **श्री सुलेमान** ने सहमति जताई: "**खाड़ी अरब देश** अब अपनी **सुरक्षा आत्मनिर्भरता** को तेज़ करेंगे, **अमेरिका** के अतिरिक्त अपने **रक्षा संबंधों** में विविधता लाएँगे और **तेहरान** के साथ संबंधों के प्रबंधन के लिए अधिक व्यावहारिक रास्ते अपनाएँगे।"
- **Gulf states** have already begun moving in this direction.
  खाड़ी देशों ने पहले ही इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ना शुरू कर दिया है।
- They seem to have recognised that the **Islamic**
  ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि उन्होंने यह स्वीकार कर लिया है कि **इस्लामी**...
- **Republic** is not going anywhere, and for their own security and for the safe passage of shipping through **Hormuz**, they will need to work with **Tehran** on the basis of **peaceful co-existence**.
  गणराज्य कहीं जाने वाला नहीं है, और अपनी सुरक्षा तथा **होर्मुज़** से जहाज़ों की सुरक्षित आवाजाही सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उन्हें **तेहरान** के साथ **शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व** के आधार पर काम करना होगा।
- What they require is **regional stability**, and for that stability, as **Mr. Macaes** put it, they would have to bring "**Iran back from the cold**".
  उन्हें **क्षेत्रीय स्थिरता** की आवश्यकता है, और उस स्थिरता के लिए, जैसा कि **श्री माकाएस** ने कहा, उन्हें "**ईरान को अलगाव से वापस लाना**" होगा।
- "Part of what we are doing now, as **regional countries**, is to create this **regional security framework** between us and **Iran**," **Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Al Thani** said recently in an interview.
  "**क्षेत्रीय देशों** के रूप में हम अभी जो कर रहे हैं, उसका एक हिस्सा हमारे और **ईरान** के बीच इस **क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा ढाँचे** का निर्माण करना है," **कतर के प्रधानमंत्री शेख मोहम्मद अल थानी** ने हाल ही में एक साक्षात्कार में कहा।
- "That will hopefully have **economic cooperation** in the future between all of us," he added.
  "आशा है कि भविष्य में इससे हम सभी के बीच **आर्थिक सहयोग** विकसित होगा," उन्होंने आगे कहा।
- **Saudi Arabia** reportedly reached out to **Iran** to reach an understanding so that the kingdom would be spared if war resumed.
  बताया गया कि **सऊदी अरब** ने **ईरान** से समझ बनाने के लिए संपर्क किया ताकि यदि युद्ध फिर शुरू हो, तो उसका राज्य उससे बचा रहे।
- **U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance** recently said the **UAE**, which has very close ties with **Israel**, "is having conversations with **Iran** that have never happened before, including with the **IRGC**, about **economic incentives**."
  अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति जे.डी. वेंस ने हाल ही में कहा कि **यूएई**, जिसके **इज़राइल** के साथ बहुत घनिष्ठ संबंध हैं, "**ईरान** के साथ, यहाँ तक कि **IRGC** के साथ भी, **आर्थिक प्रोत्साहनों** पर ऐसी बातचीत कर रहा है जो पहले कभी नहीं हुई।"

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- **Oman** has always kept the **diplomatic channels** open with **Tehran** despite the war.
  ओमान ने युद्ध के बावजूद हमेशा **तेहरान** के साथ **कूटनीतिक चैनल** खुले रखे हैं।
- The pre-**October 7** push by the **U.S.** to bring **Gulf monarchies** and **Israel**, the two pillars of **America's West Asia policy**, closer to build a joint front against **Iran** appears to have been shattered by this war.
  7 अक्टूबर से पहले **अमेरिका** द्वारा **खाड़ी राजतंत्रों** और **इज़राइल**, जो **अमेरिका की पश्चिम एशिया नीति** के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ थे, को **ईरान** के विरुद्ध एक साझा मोर्चा बनाने के लिए निकट लाने का प्रयास इस युद्ध से ध्वस्त होता प्रतीत होता है।
- "The **Abraham Accords** and the effort to create a **Sunni-Zionist alliance** against **Iran** are dead," **Trita Parsi**, executive vice president of **Quincy Institute**, told **The Hindu**.
  "**अब्राहम समझौते** और **ईरान** के विरुद्ध **सुन्नी-ज़ायोनिस्ट गठबंधन** बनाने का प्रयास समाप्त हो चुका है," **क्विन्सी इंस्टीट्यूट** के कार्यकारी उपाध्यक्ष **त्रिता पारसी** ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।
- "The war proved that the **containment of Iran** only leads to war, instability, and the defeat of such an alliance.
  "इस युद्ध ने सिद्ध कर दिया कि **ईरान को नियंत्रित करने की नीति** केवल युद्ध, अस्थिरता और ऐसे गठबंधन की पराजय की ओर ले जाती है।
- The **Arab** side sees **Israel** as a greater threat than needs to be contained, and **Iran** as a state that they — from a **security** standpoint — need to integrate with economically, because containment and war failed."
  अरब पक्ष **इज़राइल** को अधिक बड़ा खतरा मानता है जिसे नियंत्रित किया जाना चाहिए, जबकि **ईरान** को वह ऐसा देश मानता है जिसके साथ **सुरक्षा** के दृष्टिकोण से आर्थिक एकीकरण आवश्यक है, क्योंकि नियंत्रण की नीति और युद्ध दोनों असफल रहे।"

Israel, left alone
इज़राइल, अकेला पड़ गया

- One country that had long sought this war, and was among the most affected by it, was **Israel**.
  एक देश जिसने लंबे समय से इस युद्ध की इच्छा की थी और जो इससे सबसे अधिक प्रभावित देशों में शामिल था, वह **इज़राइल** था।
- It was the principal architect of the campaign.
  वह इस अभियान का प्रमुख योजनाकार था।
- Yet, as the conflict went against the initial expectations, **Mr. Trump** sidelined **Israel** and chose talks with **Iran**, ultimately reaching the **MoU**.
  फिर भी, जब संघर्ष प्रारंभिक अपेक्षाओं के विपरीत गया, तो **श्री ट्रंप** ने **इज़राइल** को किनारे कर **ईरान** के साथ वार्ता का मार्ग चुना और अंततः **समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** तक पहुँचे।
- With **Iran** now rewriting the **regional security order** and engaging in direct talks with the **U.S.**, **Mr. Netanyahu's** big push to remap **West Asia** appears to have backfired.
  अब जबकि **ईरान क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा व्यवस्था** को नए सिरे से परिभाषित कर रहा है और **अमेरिका** के साथ प्रत्यक्ष वार्ता कर रहा है, **श्री नेतन्याहू** का **पश्चिम एशिया** का नया नक्शा बनाने का बड़ा प्रयास उल्टा पड़ता दिखाई देता है।
- "The end result (of the war) may be the **decontainment of Iran** and the **recontainment of Israel** — perhaps going back to the pre-**1991** era in which **Israel** was the regional and international outcast," said **Mr. Parsi**.
  "इस युद्ध का अंतिम परिणाम **ईरान पर नियंत्रण नीति का अंत** और **इज़राइल को पुनः सीमित कर दिया जाना** हो सकता है — संभवतः **1991** से पहले के उस दौर की तरह, जब **इज़राइल** क्षेत्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अलग-थलग था," **श्री पारसी** ने कहा।

- **Israel** stands increasingly isolated on the **world stage**.
  इज़राइल विश्व मंच पर लगातार अधिक अलग-थलग होता जा रहा है।
- Without the **U.S.**, its ability to shape **security** and **geopolitical outcomes** is limited.
  अमेरिका के बिना **सुरक्षा** और **भूराजनीतिक परिणामों** को प्रभावित करने की उसकी क्षमता सीमित है।
- Many in **Israel** see the **U.S.-Iran deal** as a major **strategic setback**.
  इज़राइल में बहुत से लोग **अमेरिका-ईरान समझौते** को एक बड़ा **रणनीतिक झटका** मानते हैं।
- "**Israel** is going to regret this war because nothing was achieved and **Israel** lost **Trump**," **Gideon Levy**, **Israeli journalist** and author, told **The Hindu**.
  "**इज़राइल** इस युद्ध पर पछताएगा क्योंकि इससे कुछ भी हासिल नहीं हुआ और **इज़राइल** ने **ट्रंप** को खो दिया," **इज़राइली पत्रकार** और लेखक **गिडियन लेवी** ने **द हिंदू** से कहा।
- "**Israel** should learn now that not everything can be achieved by **force**, but unfortunately **Israel** will not draw this lesson."
  "**इज़राइल** को अब यह सीखना चाहिए कि हर चीज़ **बल प्रयोग** से प्राप्त नहीं की जा सकती, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से **इज़राइल** यह सबक नहीं सीखेगा।"
- At this point, **Mr. Netanyahu's** focus is on the **trump card** he possesses — **Lebanon**.
  इस समय **श्री नेतन्याहू** का ध्यान उनके पास मौजूद **सबसे बड़े दाँव** — **लेबनान** — पर केंद्रित है।
- On **June 26**, **Israel** and **Lebanon**, under **U.S. mediation**, agreed to a deal under which **Israeli troops** would stay in southern **Lebanon**.
  26 जून को **अमेरिकी मध्यस्थता** के तहत **इज़राइल** और **लेबनान** एक ऐसे समझौते पर सहमत हुए, जिसके अनुसार **इज़राइली सैनिक** दक्षिणी **लेबनान** में बने रहेंगे।
- **Iran** and **Hezbollah** have demanded a complete **Israeli withdrawal** from **Lebanon**.
  ईरान और **हिज़्बुल्लाह** ने **लेबनान** से **इज़राइली सेना की पूर्ण वापसी** की मांग की है।
- The first article of the **MoU** calls for respecting **Lebanon's territorial integrity and sovereignty** — an indirect call for **Israeli troop withdrawal**.
  समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) का पहला अनुच्छेद **लेबनान की क्षेत्रीय अखंडता और संप्रभुता** के सम्मान की बात करता है — जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से **इज़राइली सैनिकों की वापसी** की मांग है।
- If **Israel** doesn't withdraw, clashes with **Hezbollah** will persist, meaning a **ceasefire** in **Lebanon** would remain out of reach.
  यदि **इज़राइल** पीछे नहीं हटता, तो **हिज़्बुल्लाह** के साथ झड़पें जारी रहेंगी, जिसका अर्थ है कि **लेबनान** में **युद्धविराम** संभव नहीं होगा।
- Tensions have already spilled over into the **Strait of Hormuz**, where **Iran** insists that ships should follow its designated route.
  तनाव पहले ही **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** तक पहुँच चुका है, जहाँ **ईरान** इस बात पर ज़ोर देता है कि जहाज़ उसी के निर्धारित मार्ग का पालन करें।
- It attacked a vessel transiting an "**unauthorised**" route last week, and the **U.S.** struck **Iran** on Saturday and **Tehran** retaliated by attacking **U.S. bases** in the region.
  पिछले सप्ताह उसने एक ऐसे जहाज़ पर हमला किया जो "**अनधिकृत**" मार्ग से गुजर रहा था, और शनिवार को **अमेरिका** ने **ईरान** पर हमला किया, जिसके जवाब में **तेहरान** ने क्षेत्र में स्थित **अमेरिकी ठिकानों** पर हमला किया।
- But the **U.S. strikes** are unlikely to force **Iran** to give up its newly asserted control over the **strait**.
  लेकिन **अमेरिकी हमले ईरान** को **जलडमरूमध्य** पर अपने नए घोषित नियंत्रण को छोड़ने के लिए मजबूर कर पाएँगे, इसकी संभावना कम है।
- "We have to wait and see whether the **U.S.** and **Israel** are done with the war or this is just a pause," said **Mr. Izadi**, the **Iranian professor**.
  "हमें यह देखना होगा कि क्या **अमेरिका** और **इज़राइल** वास्तव में युद्ध समाप्त कर चुके हैं या यह केवल एक विराम है," **ईरानी प्रोफेसर श्री इज़ादी** ने कहा।

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- "**Iran** wants these attacks to stop; to get its **money** back; **sanctions** to be lifted and its authority over **Hormuz** recognised.
  "**ईरान** चाहता है कि ये हमले रुकें; उसका **धन** वापस मिले; **प्रतिबंध** हटाए जाएँ और **होर्मुज़** पर उसके अधिकार को मान्यता मिले।
- The **strait** is in **Iran's territory**, in its **contiguous waters**.
  यह **जलडमरूमध्य ईरान के क्षेत्र** और उसके **सन्निहित जलक्षेत्र** में स्थित है।
- These are our **red lines**," he said.
  "ये हमारी **लाल रेखाएँ** हैं," उन्होंने कहा।
- "The **U.S.** can accept these **reasonable demands** or they can start the war again.
  "**अमेरिका** इन **उचित मांगों** को स्वीकार कर सकता है या फिर युद्ध दोबारा शुरू कर सकता है।
- It's a decision they have to make."
  यह निर्णय उन्हें ही लेना है।"

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TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Tax rates on low-alcohol liquor to be included in Finance Bill कम-अल्कोहल वाली मदिरा पर कर दरें वित्त विधेयक में शामिल की जाएंगी
28J6	Why is Delhi's EV policy 2.0 facing opposition? दिल्ली की ईवी नीति 2.0 का विरोध क्यों हो रहा है?
28J6	This hardy coffee hybrid may be your morning cup of the future यह सुदृढ़ कॉफी संकर किस्म भविष्य में आपकी सुबह की कॉफी बन सकती है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Tax rates on low-alcohol liquor to be included in Finance Bill

GS III: Economy
The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid the political row over lowering the sales tax on low-alcoholic beverages in Kerala, the revised tax rates have been included in the Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026, which will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly on July 1.

Section 3 of the Bill says the words 'low-alcoholic beverages' is to be inserted after 'horti-wine' in the Kerala General Sales Tax Act, 1963.

The rates have been pegged at 120% and 175% respectively for alcoholic beverages with alcohol strength ranging from 0.5% v/v (volume by volume) to 10% v/v, and those with strength above 10% v/v and up to 20% v/v. These were the rates announced by Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan in the Revised Budget.

At the same time, the specific amendment will not come into force immediately even if the Bill gets passed. The Bill notes that it will come into force when the government notifies it in the official gazette.

The announcement sparked a major political storm, with the Opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF) alleging that it promotes alcohol addiction.

Mr. Satheesan had informed the Assembly on Wednesday that a final decision rests with the UDF. Mr. Satheesan had also pointed out that low-alcohol beverages as a new category was notified by the LDF government as part of its 2022-23 liquor policy.

किया था।

28J6. Tax rates on low-alcohol liquor to be included in Finance Bill

कम-अल्कोहल वाली मदिरा पर कर दरें वित्त विधेयक में शामिल की जाएंगी

- Amid the **political row** over lowering the **sales tax** on **low-alcoholic beverages** in **Kerala**, the revised **tax rates** have been included in the **Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026**, which will be introduced in the **Legislative Assembly** on **July 1**.

केरल में **कम-अल्कोहल वाले पेयों** पर **बिक्री कर** कम किए जाने को लेकर जारी **राजनीतिक विवाद** के बीच संशोधित **कर दरों** को **वित्त (संख्या 3) विधेयक, 2026** में शामिल किया गया है, जिसे **1 जुलाई** को **विधानसभा** में प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।

- **Section 3** of the **Bill** says the words **'low-alcoholic beverages'** is to be inserted after **'horti-wine'** in the **Kerala General Sales Tax Act, 1963**.

विधेयक की **धारा 3** में कहा गया है कि **केरल सामान्य बिक्री कर अधिनियम, 1963** में **'horti-wine'** के बाद **'low-alcoholic beverages'** शब्द जोड़े जाएंगे।

- The **rates** have been pegged at **120%** and **175%** respectively for **alcoholic beverages** with **alcohol strength** ranging from **0.5% v/v (volume by volume) to 10% v/v**, and those with strength above **10% v/v** and up to **20% v/v**.

कर दरें क्रमशः **120%** और **175%** निर्धारित की गई हैं, जिनमें **0.5% v/v (वॉल्यूम बाय वॉल्यूम) से 10% v/v** तक **अल्कोहल की मात्रा** वाले **मादक पेय**, तथा **10% v/v** से अधिक और **20% v/v** तक अल्कोहल की मात्रा वाले पेय शामिल हैं।

- These were the **rates** announced by **Chief Minister V. D. Satheesan** in the **Revised Budget**.

ये वही **कर दरें** हैं जिनकी घोषणा **मुख्यमंत्री वी. डी. सतीशन** ने **संशोधित बजट** में की थी।

- At the same time, the **specific amendment** will not come into force immediately even if the **Bill** gets passed.

साथ ही, **विशिष्ट संशोधन विधेयक** पारित हो जाने के बाद भी तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू नहीं होगा।

- The **Bill** notes that it will come into force when the **government** notifies it in the **official gazette**.

विधेयक में उल्लेख किया गया है कि यह तब प्रभावी होगा जब **सरकार** इसे **राजपत्र (Official Gazette)** में अधिसूचित करेगी।

- The **announcement** sparked a major **political storm**, with the **Opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF)** alleging that it promotes **alcohol addiction**.

इस **घोषणा** के बाद बड़ा **राजनीतिक विवाद** खड़ा हो गया, जिसमें **विपक्षी लेफ्ट डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट (LDF)** ने आरोप लगाया कि यह **शराब की लत** को बढ़ावा देती है।

- **Mr. Satheesan** had informed the **Assembly** on **Wednesday** that a **final decision** rests with the **UDF**.

श्री सतीशन ने **बुधवार** को **विधानसभा** को बताया था कि **अंतिम निर्णय यूडीएफ (UDF)** के पास है।

- **Mr. Satheesan** had also pointed out that **low-alcohol beverages** as a new category was notified by the **LDF government** as part of its **2022-23 liquor policy**.

श्री सतीशन ने यह भी बताया कि **कम-अल्कोहल वाले पेयों** को एक नई श्रेणी के रूप में **एलडीएफ सरकार** ने अपनी **2022-23 की आबकारी (Liquor) नीति** के तहत अधिसूचित

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Why is Delhi's EV policy 2.0 facing opposition?

Who is concerned and on what grounds? What do proponents say? Is the power grid ready for the impact?

GS III: Economy

The story so far:

Building on the momentum gained from its 2020 Electric Vehicles (EV) policy, which led to Delhi achieving almost 14% EV penetration by 2025, compared to the national average of 8%, the Delhi government issued the revised draft EV Policy in early April. Currently under stakeholder consultation, the policy envisages a complete ban on the registration of new internal combustion engine (ICE) three-wheelers from January 1, 2027. It also proposes a ban on new ICE two-wheeler registrations from April 1, 2028. The rationale behind the latter is straightforward: 67% of Delhi's registered vehicle stock comprises two-wheelers, and if the national capital is to achieve cleaner air in the foreseeable future, this segment requires targeted attention to enable the transition. The revised draft policy also proposes electrification mandates for school buses – with a target of 30% electrification by 2030 – fleet aggregators such as cab-hailing platforms and delivery services, as well as government transport fleets. While the number of vehicles in these segments is considerably lower than private two-wheelers, their pollution burden is disproportionately higher because of their daily utilisation.

Who is objecting to the policy and why?

Industry executives and people familiar with the stakeholder consultations say manufacturers represented by bodies such as the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers have expressed reservations about their ability to scale up production of electric variants within the proposed timelines. They worry about the possibility of losing market share and argue that the market is not yet ready to pivot to an all-electric paradigm, as economies of scale have not yet reduced EV prices sufficiently to compete with comparable ICE two-wheelers.

Industry bodies argue that the market is not yet ready to pivot to an all-electric paradigm, as economies of scale have not yet reduced EV prices sufficiently

They also point to gaps in both public and private charging infrastructure. While there has been considerable progress in the former through charger deployment mandates, service delivery and reliability remain a concern, with breakdowns, theft of charging equipment, and power outages reported at several locations. As for private charging, there has been persistent hesitation among Resident Welfare Associations and apartment complexes in permitting community charging stations.

Stakeholders also point to the lack of competitive financing, particularly for electric light commercial vehicles, quality after-sales service, and the decline in resale values of used EVs. Battery replacement costs and India's continued dependence on imported battery technologies are also being flagged, particularly as much of the global EV battery supply chain remains concentrated in China.

Automobile manufacturers have therefore argued for a more market-led transition, driven primarily by demand-side incentives.

What are supporters of the revised EV policy saying?

Proponents argue that regulation – much like the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency norms that pushed manufacturers to improve fuel efficiency in conventional vehicles – must sometimes push the envelope in pursuit of a larger public good. In this case, they argue, the public good is Delhi's clean air. Indeed, the aim of both the 2020 policy and the revised draft policy is to address the contribution of road transport to Delhi's winter air pollution.

Think tanks and critics have also applied a social justice and labour lens, arguing that the policy must address the underbelly of the sector – the vast network of after-sales service providers built around ICE vehicles which will now have to pivot to a new technology. Many of these small businesses may be ill-equipped to make that transition within two years unless the State government also mandates large-scale reskilling programmes, ensures easier financing for small workshops, and provides incentives to upgrade their equipment as part of the broader EV transition.

Is India's power grid ready for the impact?

Another urgent issue must be addressed if such a rapid scale-up is to succeed – the ability of Delhi's electricity grid to handle peak-time charging loads and the substantial increase in power demand that widespread transport electrification will bring. Here, however, there is some reassurance. Studies by WRI India, CSTEP, and other energy think tanks suggest that if charging is managed through smart charging, time-of-day tariffs, and staggered charging patterns, the additional electricity demand from EVs is unlikely to overwhelm Delhi's grid in the near term. They argue that the larger challenge lies in strengthening local distribution infrastructure, particularly transformers and distribution feeders, rather than overall generation capacity.

28J6. Why is Delhi's EV policy 2.0 facing opposition?

दिल्ली की ईवी नीति 2.0 का विरोध क्यों हो रहा है?

- **Who is concerned and on what grounds? What do proponents say? Is the power grid ready for the impact?**
  किन पक्षों को चिंता है और किस आधार पर? समर्थकों का क्या कहना है? क्या विद्युत ग्रिड इस प्रभाव को झेलने के लिए तैयार है?
- **Building** on the momentum gained from its **2020 Electric Vehicles (EV) policy**, which led to Delhi achieving almost **14% EV penetration** by **2025**, compared to the national average of **8%**, the Delhi government issued the revised draft **EV Policy** in early **April**.
  2020 की इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) नीति से प्राप्त गति के आधार पर, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **2025** तक दिल्ली में लगभग **14% ईवी प्रवेश (EV Penetration)** प्राप्त हुआ, जबकि राष्ट्रीय औसत **8%** था, **दिल्ली सरकार** ने **अप्रैल** की शुरुआत में संशोधित मसौदा **ईवी नीति** जारी की।
- Currently under **stakeholder consultation**, the policy envisages a complete ban on the registration of new **internal combustion engine (ICE) three-wheelers** from **January 1, 2027**.
  वर्तमान में **हितधारकों से परामर्श** के अधीन यह नीति **1 जनवरी, 2027** से नए **आंतरिक दहन इंजन (ICE) तीन-पहिया वाहनों** के पंजीकरण पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध का प्रस्ताव करती है।
- It also proposes a ban on new **ICE two-wheeler** registrations from **April 1, 2028**.
  यह **1 अप्रैल, 2028** से नए **आईसीई (ICE) दो-पहिया वाहनों** के पंजीकरण पर भी प्रतिबंध का प्रस्ताव करती है।
- The rationale behind the latter is straightforward: **67%** of Delhi's registered vehicle stock comprises **two-wheelers**, and if the national capital is to achieve cleaner air in the foreseeable future, this segment requires targeted attention to enable the transition.
  इसके पीछे का तर्क स्पष्ट है: दिल्ली के पंजीकृत वाहनों के कुल भंडार का **67%** हिस्सा **दो-पहिया वाहनों** का है, और यदि राष्ट्रीय राजधानी को निकट भविष्य में स्वच्छ वायु प्राप्त करनी है, तो इस क्षेत्र पर परिवर्तन को सक्षम बनाने हेतु विशेष ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

- The revised draft policy also proposes **electrification mandates** for **school buses** — with a target of **30% electrification** by **2030** — **fleet aggregators** such as cab-hailing platforms and delivery services, as well as **government transport fleets**.
  संशोधित मसौदा नीति **स्कूल बसों** के लिए **विद्युतीकरण अनिवार्यता** का भी प्रस्ताव करती है — **2030** तक **30% विद्युतीकरण** का लक्ष्य रखते हुए — साथ ही **फ्लीट एग्रीगेटर्स**, जैसे कैब-हेलिंग प्लेटफ़ॉर्म और डिलीवरी सेवाएँ, तथा **सरकारी परिवहन बेड़े** भी इसके अंतर्गत शामिल हैं।
- While the number of vehicles in these segments is considerably lower than private **two-wheelers**, their pollution burden is disproportionately higher because of their daily utilisation.
  यद्यपि इन श्रेणियों में वाहनों की संख्या निजी **दो-पहिया वाहनों** की तुलना में काफी कम है, फिर भी उनके दैनिक उपयोग के कारण उनका प्रदूषण भार अनुपातहीन रूप से अधिक है।

Who is objecting to the policy and why?
नीति का विरोध कौन कर रहा है और क्यों?

- **Industry executives** and people familiar with the **stakeholder consultations** say manufacturers represented by bodies such as the **Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers** have expressed reservations about their ability to scale up production of electric variants within the proposed timelines.
  उद्योग के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी तथा **हितधारक परामर्श** से जुड़े लोगों का कहना है कि **सोसाइटी ऑफ इंडियन ऑटोमोबाइल मैन्युफैक्चरर्स** जैसे संगठनों द्वारा प्रतिनिधित्व किए जाने वाले निर्माताओं ने प्रस्तावित समयसीमा के भीतर इलेक्ट्रिक मॉडलों के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की अपनी क्षमता को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।
- They worry about the possibility of losing **market share** and argue that the market is not yet ready to pivot to an **all-electric paradigm**, as **economies of scale** have not yet reduced **EV prices** sufficiently to compete with comparable **ICE two-wheelers**.
  उन्हें **बाज़ार हिस्सेदारी** खोने की आशंका है और उनका तर्क है कि बाज़ार अभी पूरी तरह **सर्व-इलेक्ट्रिक व्यवस्था** की ओर परिवर्तन के लिए तैयार नहीं है, क्योंकि **बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन (Economies of Scale)** के बावजूद **ईवी की कीमतें** अभी इतनी कम नहीं हुई हैं कि वे समान **आईसीई दो-पहिया वाहनों** से प्रतिस्पर्धा कर सकें।
- They also point to gaps in both **public** and **private charging infrastructure**.
  वे **सार्वजनिक** तथा **निजी चार्जिंग अवसंरचना** दोनों में कमियों की ओर भी संकेत करते हैं।
- While there has been considerable progress in the former through **charger deployment mandates**, service delivery and reliability remain a concern, with **breakdowns**, **theft of charging equipment**, and **power outages** reported at several locations.
  यद्यपि **चार्जर स्थापना अनिवार्यता** के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक चार्जिंग अवसंरचना में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति हुई है, फिर भी सेवा उपलब्धता और विश्वसनीयता चिंता का विषय बनी हुई है, क्योंकि कई स्थानों पर **खराबी**, **चार्जिंग उपकरणों की चोरी**, तथा **बिजली कटौती** की घटनाएँ सामने आई हैं।
- As for **private charging**, there has been persistent hesitation among **Resident Welfare Associations** and **apartment complexes** in permitting **community charging stations**.
  जहाँ तक **निजी चार्जिंग** का प्रश्न है, वहाँ **रेज़िडेंट वेलफेयर एसोसिएशनों (RWA)** तथा **अपार्टमेंट परिसरों** द्वारा **सामुदायिक चार्जिंग स्टेशनों** की अनुमति देने में लगातार हिचकिचाहट बनी हुई है।
- Stakeholders also point to the lack of competitive **financing**, particularly for **electric light commercial vehicles**, quality **after-sales service**, and the decline in **resale values** of used **EVs**.
  हितधारक प्रतिस्पर्धी **वित्तपोषण** की कमी, विशेषकर **इलेक्ट्रिक हल्के वाणिज्यिक वाहनों** के लिए, गुणवत्तापूर्ण **बिक्री-पश्चात सेवा**, तथा प्रयुक्त **ईवी** के **पुनर्विक्रय मूल्य** में गिरावट की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित करते हैं।
- **Battery replacement costs** and India's continued dependence on imported **battery technologies** are also being flagged, particularly as much of the global **EV battery supply chain** remains concentrated in **China**.
  बैटरी बदलने की लागत तथा आयातित **बैटरी प्रौद्योगिकियों** पर भारत की निरंतर निर्भरता को भी प्रमुख चिंता

के रूप में रेखांकित किया जा रहा है, विशेषकर इसलिए क्योंकि वैश्विक **ईवी बैटरी आपूर्ति शृंखला** का बड़ा हिस्सा अभी भी **चीन** में केंद्रित है।

- **Automobile manufacturers** have therefore argued for a more **market-led transition**, driven primarily by **demand-side incentives**.
  इसलिए **ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माताओं** ने मुख्यतः **मांग-पक्षीय प्रोत्साहनों** द्वारा संचालित अधिक **बाज़ार-आधारित परिवर्तन** की वकालत की है।

What are supporters of the revised EV policy saying?
संशोधित ईवी (EV) नीति के समर्थक क्या कह रहे हैं?

- **Proponents** argue that **regulation** — much like the **Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency** norms that pushed manufacturers to improve **fuel efficiency** in conventional vehicles — must sometimes push the envelope in pursuit of a larger **public good**.
  समर्थकों का तर्क है कि **विनियमन (Regulation)** — ठीक उसी प्रकार जैसे **कॉर्पोरेट एवरेज फ्यूल एफिशिएंसी (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency)** मानकों ने निर्माताओं को पारंपरिक वाहनों में **ईंधन दक्षता** सुधारने के लिए प्रेरित किया — कभी-कभी व्यापक **लोकहित** की प्राप्ति के लिए सीमाओं से आगे बढ़कर कार्य करना आवश्यक होता है।
- In this case, they argue, the **public good** is **Delhi's clean air**.
  उनका कहना है कि इस मामले में **लोकहित** का अर्थ **दिल्ली की स्वच्छ वायु** है।
- Indeed, the aim of both the **2020 policy** and the revised draft policy is to address the contribution of **road transport** to Delhi's **winter air pollution**.
  वास्तव में, **2020 की नीति** तथा संशोधित मसौदा नीति दोनों का उद्देश्य दिल्ली के **शीतकालीन वायु प्रदूषण** में **सड़क परिवहन** के योगदान को कम करना है।
- **Think tanks** and critics have also applied a **social justice** and **labour** lens, arguing that the policy must address the underbelly of the sector — the vast network of **after-sales service providers** built around **ICE vehicles** which will now have to pivot to a new technology.
  थिंक टैंक तथा आलोचकों ने **सामाजिक न्याय** और **श्रम** के दृष्टिकोण से भी इस विषय का विश्लेषण किया है और तर्क दिया है कि नीति को इस क्षेत्र के उस कमज़ोर पक्ष पर भी ध्यान देना चाहिए — अर्थात **आईसीई (ICE) वाहनों** के इर्द-गिर्द विकसित **बिक्री-पश्चात सेवा प्रदाताओं** के विशाल नेटवर्क को, जिसे अब नई प्रौद्योगिकी की ओर परिवर्तन करना होगा।
- Many of these **small businesses** may be ill-equipped to make that transition within **two years** unless the **State government** also mandates **large-scale reskilling programmes**, ensures easier **financing** for small workshops, and provides **incentives** to upgrade their equipment as part of the broader **EV transition**.
  इनमें से अनेक **लघु व्यवसाय दो वर्षों** के भीतर इस परिवर्तन के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से तैयार नहीं हो पाएँगे, जब तक कि **राज्य सरकार बड़े पैमाने पर पुनः कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम (Reskilling Programmes)** अनिवार्य न करे, छोटे कार्यशालाओं के लिए सरल **वित्तपोषण** सुनिश्चित न करे, तथा व्यापक **ईवी परिवर्तन** के अंतर्गत उनके उपकरणों के उन्नयन हेतु **प्रोत्साहन** उपलब्ध न कराए।

Is India's power grid ready for the impact?
क्या भारत का विद्युत ग्रिड इस प्रभाव के लिए तैयार है?

- Another urgent issue must be addressed if such a rapid scale-up is to succeed — the ability of **Delhi's electricity grid** to handle **peak-time charging loads** and the substantial increase in **power demand** that widespread **transport electrification** will bring.
  यदि इस प्रकार के तीव्र विस्तार को सफल बनाना है, तो एक अन्य अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण विषय का समाधान आवश्यक है — **दिल्ली के विद्युत ग्रिड** की **अधिकतम समय (पीक-टाइम) के चार्जिंग भार** को वहन करने की

क्षमता तथा व्यापक **परिवहन विद्युतीकरण** के कारण उत्पन्न होने वाली **बिजली की मांग** में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि।

- Here, however, there is some reassurance.
  हालाँकि, इस विषय में कुछ आश्वस्त करने वाले संकेत भी हैं।
- Studies by **WRI India**, **CSTEP**, and other **energy think tanks** suggest that if charging is managed through **smart charging**, **time-of-day tariffs**, and **staggered charging patterns**, the additional electricity demand from **EVs** is unlikely to overwhelm **Delhi's grid** in the near term.
  WRI India, **CSTEP**, तथा अन्य **ऊर्जा थिंक टैंकों** के अध्ययनों से संकेत मिलता है कि यदि चार्जिंग का प्रबंधन **स्मार्ट चार्जिंग**, **समय-आधारित विद्युत शुल्क (Time-of-Day Tariffs)** तथा **क्रमबद्ध चार्जिंग पैटर्न (Staggered Charging Patterns)** के माध्यम से किया जाए, तो **ईवी** से उत्पन्न अतिरिक्त बिजली की मांग निकट भविष्य में **दिल्ली के विद्युत ग्रिड** पर अत्यधिक दबाव नहीं डालेगी।
- They argue that the larger challenge lies in strengthening local **distribution infrastructure**, particularly **transformers** and **distribution feeders**, rather than overall **generation capacity**.
  उनका तर्क है कि वास्तविक और बड़ी चुनौती समग्र **विद्युत उत्पादन क्षमता** बढ़ाने की अपेक्षा स्थानीय **वितरण अवसंरचना**, विशेषकर **ट्रांसफॉर्मरों** तथा **डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन फीडरों**, को सुदृढ़ बनाने में निहित है।

This hardy coffee hybrid may be your morning cup of the future

GS III: Economy

Meena Menon

While the world's coffee drinkers favour Arabica or Robusta, a newly identified hybrid called Coffea x libex (the X denotes its hybrid status) – or just Libex – could be their brew of choice in future.

The world drinks roughly 17,000 tonnes of Arabica and 10,000 tonnes of Robusta beans (pre-roasting) every day. Together, they account for more than 99.99% of global coffee production. However, they are susceptible to rising temperatures and erratic rainfall. Libex on the other hand may be able to grow in warmer temperatures and under a wider range of rainfall patterns, according to research from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the U.K. It was recently published in *Scientific Reports*.

The researchers investigated coffee samples from Central America, Africa, and Asia to quantify hybridisation between Liberica and Excelsa and assess the hybrid's potential to be cultivated. While hybrids between these two species had long been inferred from their physical characteristics, their existence had not been confirmed using genomic evidence. The team analysed 113 individual plant samples to confirm that Excelsa and Liberica had indeed been hybridised in cultivation. The team also reported that improved genotypes of these hybrids can be brought to production using clonal propagation, micropropagation or by grafting to select rootstocks, such as those of Liberica or Excelsa. The Indian version of Libex is a "delicious coffee," Akshay Dashrath of the South India Coffee Company (SICC) and a study co-author, said. Material from the Malleshwara Estate near Ballupet in Hassan district, taken from trees planted between 1980 and 1982, was confirmed by Kew to be an Excelsa-Liberica hybrid.

On the SICC site, Mr. Dashrath wrote that according to a leading coffee roaster in the U.K. with whom he works, "Early tastings of Libex reveal a balanced and approachable cup, blending tropical fruit notes from Liberica with chocolate and dried fruit depth from Excelsa."

Traditionally, farmers grew Excelsa as a boundary marker in coffee estates. While Liberica is a low-yielding coffee, Mr. Dashrath said Libex has better yield and outturn (the conversion ratio of fresh fruit to coffee beans), which is good news for farmers. Libex also has thinner pulp and parchment, which can make post-harvest processing more efficient and improve quality relative to Liberica.

(Meena Menon is an independent journalist. She has a PhD from the University of Leeds. meenamenon@gmail.com)

28J6. This hardy coffee hybrid may be your morning cup of the future
यह सुदृढ़ कॉफी संकर किस्म भविष्य में आपकी सुबह की कॉफी बन सकती है।

- While the world's **coffee** drinkers favour **Arabica** or **Robusta**, a newly identified hybrid called **Coffea x libex** (the X denotes its hybrid status) — or just **Libex** — could be their brew of choice in future.
- जहाँ विश्व के अधिकांश **कॉफी** उपभोक्ता **अरेबिका** या **रोबस्टा** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं, वहीं **कॉफिया एक्स लाइबेक्स (Coffea x libex)** (जिसमें X इसके संकर होने का संकेत देता है) — अथवा संक्षेप में **लाइबेक्स** — भविष्य में उनकी पसंदीदा कॉफी बन सकती है।
- The world drinks roughly **17,000 tonnes** of **Arabica** and **10,000 tonnes** of **Robusta** beans (pre-roasting) every day.
- विश्व में प्रतिदिन लगभग **17,000 टन अरेबिका** तथा **10,000 टन रोबस्टा** कॉफी बीन्स (भुनाई से पूर्व) का उपभोग किया जाता है।
- Together, they account for more than **99.99%** of global **coffee production**.
- दोनों मिलकर वैश्विक **कॉफी उत्पादन** का **99.99%** से अधिक हिस्सा बनाते हैं।
- However, they are susceptible to **rising temperatures** and **erratic rainfall**.
- हालाँकि, ये **बढ़ते तापमान** और **अनियमित वर्षा** के प्रति अत्यधिक संवेदनशील हैं।

- **Libex** on the other hand may be able to grow in **warmer temperatures** and under a wider range of **rainfall patterns**, according to research from the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, in the **U.K.**
- इसके विपरीत, **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** के **रॉयल बोटैनिक गार्डन्स, क्यू** के शोध के अनुसार **लाइबेक्स** अधिक **उच्च तापमान** तथा **वर्षा के व्यापक पैटर्न** में भी उगाया जा सकता है।
- It was recently published in **Scientific Reports**.
- यह शोध हाल ही में **साइंटिफिक रिपोर्ट्स** में प्रकाशित हुआ।
- The researchers investigated **coffee samples** from **Central America**, **Africa**, and **Asia** to quantify hybridisation between **Liberica** and **Excelsa** and assess the hybrid's potential to be cultivated.
- शोधकर्ताओं ने **मध्य अमेरिका**, **अफ्रीका** तथा **एशिया** से प्राप्त **कॉफी नमूनों** का अध्ययन कर **लिबेरिका** और **एक्सेल्सा** के बीच संकरण का आकलन किया तथा इस संकर की खेती की संभावनाओं का मूल्यांकन किया।
- While hybrids between these two species had long been inferred from their physical characteristics, their existence had not been confirmed using **genomic evidence**.
- यद्यपि इन दोनों प्रजातियों के संकर होने का अनुमान लंबे समय से उनके भौतिक गुणों के आधार पर लगाया जाता रहा था, किंतु **जीनोमिक प्रमाणों** के आधार पर इसकी पुष्टि नहीं हुई थी।
- The team analysed **113 individual plant samples** to confirm that **Excelsa** and **Liberica** had indeed been hybridised in cultivation.
- दल ने **113 व्यक्तिगत पौधों के नमूनों** का विश्लेषण कर यह पुष्टि की कि खेती के दौरान वास्तव में **एक्सेल्सा** और **लिबेरिका** का संकरण हुआ था।
- The team also reported that improved **genotypes** of these hybrids can be brought to production using **clonal propagation**, **micropropagation** or by **grafting** to select rootstocks, such as those of **Liberica** or **Excelsa**.
- दल ने यह भी बताया कि इन संकरों के उन्नत **जीनोटाइप** को **क्लोनल प्रवर्धन**, **माइक्रोप्रोपेगेशन** अथवा **ग्राफ्टिंग** के माध्यम से, **लिबेरिका** या **एक्सेल्सा** जैसे चयनित मूलवृंतों पर विकसित कर उत्पादन में लाया जा सकता है।
- The Indian version of **Libex** is a "**delicious coffee**," **Akshay Dashrath** of the **South India Coffee Company (SICC)** and a study co-author, said.
- अध्ययन के सह-लेखक तथा **साउथ इंडिया कॉफी कंपनी (SICC)** के **अक्षय दशरथ** ने कहा कि **लाइबेक्स** का भारतीय संस्करण "**स्वादिष्ट कॉफी**" है।
- Material from the **Malleshwara Estate** near **Ballupet** in **Hassan district**, taken from trees planted between **1980 and 1982**, was confirmed by **Kew** to be an **Excelsa-Liberica hybrid**.
- **हासन जिले** के **बल्लूपेट** के निकट स्थित **मल्लेश्वर एस्टेट** में **1980 से 1982** के बीच लगाए गए वृक्षों से प्राप्त सामग्री की **क्यू** द्वारा **एक्सेल्सा-लिबेरिका संकर** के रूप में पुष्टि की गई।
- On the **SICC** site, Mr. **Dashrath** wrote that according to a leading **coffee roaster** in the **U.K.** with whom he works, "Early tastings of **Libex** reveal a balanced and approachable cup, blending **tropical fruit** notes from **Liberica** with **chocolate** and **dried fruit** depth from **Excelsa**."
- **एसआईसीसी** की वेबसाइट पर श्री **दशरथ** ने लिखा कि उनके साथ कार्य करने वाले **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** के एक प्रमुख **कॉफी रोस्टर** के अनुसार, "**लाइबेक्स** के प्रारंभिक स्वाद परीक्षणों में **लिबेरिका** के **उष्णकटिबंधीय फलों** के स्वाद के साथ **एक्सेल्सा** के **चॉकलेट** और **सूखे फलों** की गहराई का संतुलित मिश्रण मिलता है।"
- Traditionally, farmers grew **Excelsa** as a **boundary marker** in coffee estates.
- परंपरागत रूप से किसान **कॉफी बागानों** में **एक्सेल्सा** को **सीमा-चिह्न** के रूप में लगाते थे।
- While **Liberica** is a **low-yielding coffee**, Mr. **Dashrath** said **Libex** has better **yield** and **outturn** (the conversion ratio of fresh fruit to coffee beans), which is good news for farmers.
- श्री **दशरथ** ने कहा कि जहाँ **लिबेरिका** कम उत्पादन देने वाली **कॉफी** है, वहीं **लाइबेक्स** में बेहतर **उपज** तथा **आउटटर्न** (ताज़े फल से कॉफी बीन्स बनने का अनुपात) मिलता है, जो किसानों के लिए शुभ संकेत है।
- **Libex** also has thinner **pulp** and **parchment**, which can make **post-harvest processing** more efficient and improve quality relative to **Liberica**.

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- **लाइबेक्स** में **गूदा** तथा **पार्चमेंट परत** अपेक्षाकृत पतली होती है, जिससे **कटाई के बाद की प्रसंस्करण प्रक्रिया** अधिक प्रभावी बन सकती है और **लिबेरिका** की तुलना में गुणवत्ता में सुधार हो सकता है।
- (**Meena Menon** is an independent journalist.
- (**मीना मेनन** एक स्वतंत्र पत्रकार हैं।
- She has a **PhD** from the **University of Leeds**.
- उन्होंने **लीड्स विश्वविद्यालय** से **पीएच.डी.** की उपाधि प्राप्त की।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Fake patents are poisoning India's race for academic excellence फर्जी पेटेंट भारत की शैक्षणिक उत्कृष्टता की दौड़ को विषाक्त बना रहे हैं
28J6	Capturing sunlight in a bottle and using it when needed बोतल में सूर्य के प्रकाश को संचित करना और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उसका उपयोग करना
28J6	Why does wet paper tear so easily? गीला कागज़ इतनी आसानी से क्यों फट जाता है?

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Fake patents are poisoning India's race for academic excellence

Researchers have reported some firms selling U.K. design registrations to Indian academics to artificially boost institutional rankings; these registrations, often granted in 11 days without novelty checks, are misrepresented as international patents

GS III: S&T

T.V. Padma
NEW DELHI

A worrying new trend of 'fake patents', in which education companies sell thousands of patents registered in the U.K. to academics from India and elsewhere, has raised concerns among research integrity experts.

Authors, from the U.K. and the U.S., of a report published in the *International Journal of Educational Integrity* wrote "eight firms ... are likely involved in the sale of thousands of U.K. registered designs to Indian academics for the purpose of academic reputation manipulation."

Patent offices don't examine design applications for novelty, innovation or uniqueness, and they award them quickly. This is unlike the more stringent process for patents, which are typically used to commercialise a new discovery, Subhash Lakhotia, Distinguished Professor at the Cytogenetics Laboratory at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, said.

Not all filed patents are accepted either, and only a small fraction of the accepted ones end up being used by industry. "Thus, the real value of a patent is when it is used by industry for a process or product," Prof. Lakhotia, who is also on the advisory board of India Research Watch, a watchdog on Indian research, said.

'Fake' patents, filed without any original research by the person (or persons) in whose name the patent is filed, "refer to a non-existing entity," he said. "This unhealthy and ... unethical act is promoted by shady companies acting as patent-filing or facilitating agencies – they sell the authorship of a patent for a non-existing entity to academics, who gain by earning academic points during assessment for academic excellence."

In the report, the authors spotlighted firms selling inventorship positions on design patents in the U.K., but 'sales' have also been recorded from India and Australia. However, these countries don't issue design patents; they issue design registrations, Reese Richardson, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center of Science and Innovation at Northwestern University, U.S. and one of the authors of the report, said. According to her, design patents issued in the U.S. have to pass a novelty review and have a good chance of being rejected. Design registrations, on the other hand, are usually granted with minimal review.

Red herrings

'Eight firms ... are likely involved in the sale of thousands of U.K. registered designs to Indian academics'

- Academics are buying U.K. design registrations in a bid to manipulate their professional evaluations
- Design registrations are granted without rigorous novelty reviews, unlike actual patents that require innovation and uniqueness
- The misuse of these fake patents is driven by institutional rankings that prioritise quantitative data over quality
- Intense competition for jobs and rankings in India makes these unethical practices particularly attractive to many local academics
- These purchased roles are fraudulent because the designs cover only appearance and involve no actual scientific invention
- Experts have recommended removing quantitative IP metrics from rankings to discourage this unethical practice

Rubber-stamping: Some unscrupulous agencies exploit individuals' or institutions' desire to secure better ranks by selling fake patents or research papers. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Look and function

In the U.K., the design registrations Dr. Richardson's team studied were usually granted in around 11 days. "What clients are actually buying are ownership positions on these design registrations", she said. "Moreover, because these registrations are for 'designs', they cover the way an object looks, not how it functions," she added. So when an academic buys an "inventorship" on a "U.K. design patent", "there are a number of lies taking place," she added. "The academic has not invented anything; the device does not exist (let alone work); what they have obtained is not a patent; and it does not cover the functionality of the product even if it did work."

Yet these academics can then tell their employers they have obtained an "international patent", helping them towards a promotion. "As far as I am aware, selling fake patents has only emerged on the academic black market in India," Dr. Richardson said.

Prof. Lakhotia identifies three factors that contribute to this distinction: the large population seeking education and jobs, the use of quantitative metrics without any serious assessment of quality, and the reliance of nearly all international and national academic ranking agencies on quantitative parameters.

"Other related problems have emerged because of the insistence of Indian rankings on patents," Dr. Richardson added. "For instance, many private Indian universities have been filing thousands of utility patents in India in the hopes of pumping up their numbers, often more than the IITs, combined. However, ... less than 2% of these patents actually wind up being granted."

According to Prof. Lakhotia, an urgent step to curb the growing global menace of fake patents and papers is to stop all institutional rankings based on quantitative data. In the absence of independent verification, institutions unethically inflate these data, he said.

"The mere filing of a patent ... must not be used for assessment," he explained, and that only patents used by industry should be included. And "the agencies that brazenly broker such fake patents and research publications must be taken to task severely." "We need to have stronger mechanisms to identify, catalogue, and respond to scientific misconduct," Anant Bhan, adjunct professor at Yenepoya (deemed) University, Mangaluru, and an expert on bioethics, said.

Some research funders in India, like Anusandhan National Research Foundation, and some regulators have been looking into using retractions as indicators. "We do need to ramp up efforts" and have a nimble regulatory oversight and governance system, Dr. Bhan added.

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28J6. Fake patents are poisoning India's race for academic excellence
फर्जी पेटेंट भारत की शैक्षणिक उत्कृष्टता की दौड़ को विषाक्त बना रहे हैं

- Researchers have reported some **firms** selling **U.K. design registrations** to Indian academics to artificially boost **institutional rankings**; these registrations, often granted in **11 days** without novelty checks, are misrepresented as **international patents**.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने बताया है कि कुछ **फर्मे** भारतीय शिक्षाविदों को **यू.के. डिज़ाइन पंजीकरण** बेच रही हैं ताकि **संस्थागत रैंकिंग** को कृत्रिम रूप से बढ़ाया जा सके; ये पंजीकरण, जिन्हें अक्सर **11 दिनों** में नवीनता की जांच के बिना प्रदान कर दिया जाता है, **अंतरराष्ट्रीय पेटेंट** के रूप में गलत ढंग से प्रस्तुत किए जाते हैं।
- A worrying new trend of **'fake patents'**, in which education companies sell thousands of patents registered in the U.K. to academics from India and elsewhere, has raised concerns among **research integrity experts**.
  'फर्जी पेटेंट' की एक चिंताजनक नई प्रवृत्ति, जिसमें शिक्षा कंपनियां यू.के. में पंजीकृत हजारों पेटेंट भारत और अन्य देशों के शिक्षाविदों को बेचती हैं, ने **शोध सत्यनिष्ठा विशेषज्ञों** के बीच चिंता पैदा कर दी है।

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- Authors, from the U.K. and the U.S., of a report published in the **International Journal of Educational Integrity** wrote "eight firms … are likely involved in the sale of thousands of **U.K. registered designs** to Indian academics for the purpose of **academic reputation manipulation**."
  International Journal of Educational Integrity में प्रकाशित एक रिपोर्ट के यू.के. और यू.एस. के लेखकों ने लिखा कि "आठ फर्में … भारतीय शिक्षाविदों को हजारों **यू.के. पंजीकृत डिज़ाइन** बेचने में शामिल होने की संभावना है, जिसका उद्देश्य **शैक्षणिक प्रतिष्ठा में हेरफेर** करना है।"
- **Patent offices** don't examine **design applications** for novelty, innovation or uniqueness, and they award them quickly.
  पेटेंट कार्यालय डिज़ाइन आवेदनों की नवीनता, नवाचार या विशिष्टता की जांच नहीं करते हैं, और उन्हें शीघ्र स्वीकृत कर देते हैं।
- This is unlike the more stringent process for **patents**, which are typically used to commercialise a new discovery, **Subhash Lakhotia**, Distinguished Professor at the Cytogenetics Laboratory at **Banaras Hindu University**, Varanasi, said.
  यह **पेटेंट** की अधिक कठोर प्रक्रिया से भिन्न है, जिनका उपयोग सामान्यतः किसी नई खोज के व्यावसायीकरण के लिए किया जाता है, ऐसा **बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय**, वाराणसी की साइटोजेनेटिक्स प्रयोगशाला के विशिष्ट प्रोफेसर **सुभाष लखोटिया** ने कहा।
- Not all filed **patents** are accepted either, and only a small fraction of the accepted ones end up being used by industry.
  दायर किए गए सभी **पेटेंट** स्वीकृत नहीं होते, और स्वीकृत पेटेंटों का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा ही उद्योग द्वारा उपयोग में लाया जाता है।
- "Thus, the real value of a **patent** is when it is used by industry for a process or product," Prof. Lakhotia, who is also on the advisory board of **India Research Watch**, a watchdog on Indian research, said.
  "इस प्रकार, किसी **पेटेंट** का वास्तविक मूल्य तब होता है जब उसका उपयोग उद्योग किसी प्रक्रिया या उत्पाद के लिए करता है," भारतीय शोध पर निगरानी रखने वाले संगठन **India Research Watch** के सलाहकार मंडल के सदस्य प्रो. लखोटिया ने कहा।
- **'Fake' patents**, filed without any original research by the person (or persons) in whose name the patent is filed, "refer to a non-existing entity," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **'फर्जी' पेटेंट**, जिन्हें उस व्यक्ति (या व्यक्तियों) द्वारा बिना किसी मौलिक शोध के दायर किया जाता है जिसके नाम पर पेटेंट दाखिल किया गया है, "एक अस्तित्वहीन इकाई को संदर्भित करते हैं।"
- "This unhealthy and … unethical act is promoted by **shady companies** acting as patent-filing or facilitating agencies — they sell the authorship of a patent for a non-existing entity to academics, who gain by earning academic points during assessment for **academic excellence**."
  "यह अस्वस्थ और … अनैतिक कार्य **संदिग्ध कंपनियों** द्वारा बढ़ावा दिया जाता है, जो पेटेंट दाखिल करने या सुविधा प्रदान करने वाली एजेंसियों के रूप में कार्य करती हैं — वे एक अस्तित्वहीन इकाई के लिए पेटेंट की लेखकीयता शिक्षाविदों को बेचती हैं, जिन्हें **शैक्षणिक उत्कृष्टता** के मूल्यांकन के दौरान अंक प्राप्त हो जाते हैं।"
- In the report, the authors spotlighted firms selling **inventorship positions** on **design patents** in the U.K., but 'sales' have also been recorded from **India** and **Australia**.
  रिपोर्ट में लेखकों ने यू.के. में **डिज़ाइन पेटेंटों** पर **आविष्कारक पद** बेचने वाली फर्मों को उजागर किया, लेकिन ऐसे 'बिक्री' के मामले **भारत** और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** से भी दर्ज किए गए हैं।
- However, these countries don't issue **design patents**; they issue **design registrations**, **Reese Richardson**, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center of Science and Innovation at **Northwestern University**, U.S. and one of the authors of the report, said.
  हालांकि, ये देश **डिज़ाइन पेटेंट** जारी नहीं करते; वे **डिज़ाइन पंजीकरण** जारी करते हैं, ऐसा **Northwestern University**, अमेरिका के Center of Science and Innovation की पोस्टडॉक्टोरल फेलो तथा रिपोर्ट की सह-लेखिका **रीज़ रिचर्डसन** ने कहा।

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- According to her, **design patents** issued in the U.S. have to pass a **novelty review** and have a good chance of being rejected.
  उनके अनुसार, अमेरिका में जारी **डिज़ाइन पेटेंटों** को **नवीनता समीक्षा** से गुजरना पड़ता है और उनके अस्वीकृत होने की अच्छी संभावना रहती है।
- **Design registrations**, on the other hand, are usually granted with minimal review.
  दूसरी ओर, **डिज़ाइन पंजीकरण** सामान्यतः न्यूनतम समीक्षा के साथ प्रदान कर दिए जाते हैं।

Look and function
रूप और कार्य

- In the U.K., the **design registrations** Dr. Richardson's team studied were usually granted in around **11 days**.
  यू.के. में डॉ. रिचर्डसन की टीम द्वारा अध्ययन किए गए **डिज़ाइन पंजीकरण** सामान्यतः लगभग **11 दिनों** में प्रदान कर दिए गए।
- "What clients are actually buying are **ownership positions** on these design registrations", she said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "ग्राहक वास्तव में इन डिज़ाइन पंजीकरणों पर **स्वामित्व की स्थिति** खरीद रहे हैं।"
- "Moreover, because these registrations are for '**designs**', they cover the way an object looks, not how it functions," she added.
  उन्होंने आगे कहा, "इसके अतिरिक्त, क्योंकि ये पंजीकरण '**डिज़ाइनों**' के लिए हैं, इसलिए ये किसी वस्तु के दिखने के तरीके को कवर करते हैं, उसके कार्य करने के तरीके को नहीं।"
- So when an academic buys an "**inventorship**" on a "**U.K. design patent**", "there are a number of lies taking place," she added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि जब कोई शिक्षाविद "**यू.के. डिज़ाइन पेटेंट**" पर "**आविष्कारक**" का दर्जा खरीदता है, तब "कई प्रकार के झूठ एक साथ बोले जा रहे होते हैं।"
- "The academic has not invented anything; the device does not exist (let alone work); what they have obtained is not a **patent**; and it does not cover the functionality of the product even if it did work."
  "उस शिक्षाविद ने कुछ भी आविष्कार नहीं किया है; वह उपकरण अस्तित्व में ही नहीं है (काम करना तो दूर की बात है); जो उसने प्राप्त किया है वह **पेटेंट** नहीं है; और यदि वह उत्पाद वास्तव में काम भी करे, तब भी यह उसके कार्यात्मक पहलू को कवर नहीं करता।"
- Yet these academics can then tell their employers they have obtained an "**international patent**", helping them towards a **promotion**.
  फिर भी ये शिक्षाविद अपने नियोक्ताओं से कह सकते हैं कि उन्होंने एक **अंतरराष्ट्रीय पेटेंट** प्राप्त किया है, जिससे उन्हें **पदोन्नति** पाने में सहायता मिलती है।
- "As far as I am aware, selling fake patents has only emerged on the **academic black market** in India," Dr. Richardson said.
  डॉ. रिचर्डसन ने कहा, "जहाँ तक मेरी जानकारी है, **फर्जी पेटेंट** बेचना केवल भारत के **शैक्षणिक काले बाज़ार** में ही उभरा है।"
- Prof. Lakhotia identifies **three factors** that contribute to this distinction: the large population seeking education and jobs, the use of **quantitative metrics** without any serious assessment of quality, and the reliance of nearly all international and national academic ranking agencies on **quantitative parameters**.
  प्रो. लखोटिया ने इस स्थिति के लिए **तीन कारकों** की पहचान की है: शिक्षा और रोजगार की तलाश करने वाली बड़ी आबादी, गुणवत्ता के गंभीर मूल्यांकन के बिना **मात्रात्मक मानकों** का उपयोग, और लगभग सभी राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतरराष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक रैंकिंग एजेंसियों का **मात्रात्मक मानकों** पर निर्भर रहना।
- "Other related problems have emerged because of the insistence of Indian rankings on **patents**," Dr. Richardson added.

डॉ. रिचर्डसन ने कहा, "भारतीय रैंकिंग में **पेटेंटों** पर अत्यधिक जोर देने के कारण अन्य संबंधित समस्याएं भी उत्पन्न हुई हैं।"

- "For instance, many private Indian universities have been filing thousands of **utility patents** in India in the hopes of pumping up their numbers, often more than the **IITs**, combined."
  "उदाहरण के लिए, कई निजी भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय अपनी संख्या बढ़ाने की आशा में भारत में हजारों **यूटिलिटी पेटेंट** दाखिल कर रहे हैं, जो अक्सर सभी **आईआईटी** मिलाकर दाखिल किए गए पेटेंटों से भी अधिक होते हैं।"
- "However, … less than **2%** of these patents actually wind up being granted."
  "हालांकि, … इन पेटेंटों में से **2%** से भी कम वास्तव में स्वीकृत होते हैं।"
- According to Prof. Lakhotia, an urgent step to curb the growing global menace of **fake patents** and papers is to stop all **institutional rankings** based on quantitative data.
  प्रो. लखोटिया के अनुसार, **फर्जी पेटेंटों** और शोध-पत्रों के बढ़ते वैश्विक खतरे को रोकने के लिए एक तात्कालिक कदम यह है कि मात्रात्मक आंकड़ों पर आधारित सभी **संस्थागत रैंकिंग** समाप्त कर दी जाएं।
- In the absence of **independent verification**, institutions unethically inflate these data, he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **स्वतंत्र सत्यापन** के अभाव में संस्थान अनैतिक रूप से इन आंकड़ों को बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- "The mere filing of a **patent** … must not be used for assessment," he explained, and that only patents used by industry should be included.
  उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया कि केवल **पेटेंट** दाखिल कर देना मूल्यांकन का आधार नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि केवल उन्हीं पेटेंटों को शामिल किया जाना चाहिए जिनका उद्योग द्वारा उपयोग किया गया हो।
- And "the agencies that brazenly broker such **fake patents** and research publications must be taken to task severely."
  और "जो एजेंसियां खुलेआम ऐसे **फर्जी पेटेंटों** और शोध प्रकाशनों की दलाली करती हैं, उनके विरुद्ध कठोर कार्रवाई की जानी चाहिए।"
- "We need to have stronger mechanisms to identify, catalogue, and respond to **scientific misconduct**," **Anant Bhan**, adjunct professor at **Yenepoya (deemed) University**, Mangaluru, and an expert on **bioethics**, said.
  येनपोया (डीम्ड) विश्वविद्यालय, मंगलुरु के सहायक प्रोफेसर तथा **जैव-नैतिकता** विशेषज्ञ **अनंत भान** ने कहा, "हमें **वैज्ञानिक कदाचार** की पहचान करने, उसका अभिलेखीकरण करने और उसके प्रति प्रभावी प्रतिक्रिया देने के लिए अधिक मजबूत तंत्र विकसित करने की आवश्यकता है।"
- Some **research funders** in India, like **Anusandhan National Research Foundation**, and some regulators have been looking into using **retractions** as indicators.
  भारत में कुछ **शोध वित्तपोषक**, जैसे **अनुसंधान नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन**, तथा कुछ नियामक **रिट्रैक्शन** को संकेतक के रूप में उपयोग करने पर विचार कर रहे हैं।
- "We do need to ramp up efforts" and have a nimble **regulatory oversight** and **governance system**, Dr. Bhan added.
  डॉ. भान ने आगे कहा, "हमें अपने प्रयासों को और तेज़ करना होगा तथा एक सक्षम **नियामकीय निगरानी** और **सुशासन प्रणाली** विकसित करनी होगी।"

Capturing sunlight in a bottle and using it when needed

GS III: S&T

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE
D. Balasubramanian

Thanks to the initiatives of UNESCO and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), most countries across the world have adopted 'green' solutions that reduce environmental carbon dioxide. The use of solar panels to capture sunlight and turn it into electricity has been a particularly successful strategy. Many countries across the world have seen a large-scale expansion in the installation of solar panels.

In India, a typical home solar panel installation connected to the grid today costs about ₹30,000 per kW after subsidies under the 'Surya Ghar Mufti Bijili Yojana'. A 2-kW system can cover the basic electricity needs of a typical household. And there are crores of such panels across the country. India's rooftop solar capacity is now 23 gigawatt (GW).

In all, India's land-based solar panels generate about 150 GW of power. Ingenious solar panel installations, such as those over irrigation canals, and floating solar panels in lakes and dam-based water reservoirs are expected to produce an additional 102 GW in the near future. Recently, India has also become 'greener' by installing wind turbines and introducing electric trains, trucks, buses, and cars.

Solar panels convert energy from the sun into electricity when photons excite electrons in silicon crystals, causing them to be freed and to flow from a positively charged layer in the solar cell towards a negatively charged layer, creating an electric current. Inverters are used to convert this flow of electrons into a usable alternating current.

In India, a typical home solar panel installation connected to the grid today costs about ₹30,000 per kW after subsidies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But solar panels work during the daytime when the sun is shining. Home systems that have batteries to store power cost 1.5-times more. If there is a way by which we can more efficiently store captured energy, it would be ideal. This is what a group of researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara, led by Prof. Grace Han, have done by designing what are referred to as molecular photo-switches (DOI: 10.1126/science.aec6413). These involve molecules that, upon absorbing solar light, convert themselves into a different shape (called isomerisation) and store the energy. This is referred to as photo-switching. Here, the molecule stores solar thermal energy in a molecular form, also known as molecular solar thermal (or MOST). The molecule the researchers have chosen, after consultation with a group at University of California at Los Angeles, is an alkaloid called 2-pyrimidone. It switches itself upon receiving photons into an isomer called Dewar pyrimidone. The latter isomeric molecule is highly strained and releases heat as much as 1.65 million joules per kg of MOST molecules. This heat allows this technology to be a practical tool to store heat and deliver it when needed for water heating, cooking, and other needs.

As a member of the research team mentioned, thermal energy from the sun can now be bottled for later use. Silicon-based panels use red and near-infrared regions of the light spectrum (400-1,100 nm). Solar thermal molecules use wavelengths below 500 nm, in the ultraviolet region.

Apart from the pyrimidones, there must be other compounds that too can act as photo-switches and heat storage units. As the solar panels across India capture sunlight during the day, scientists should be able to synthesise more MOST molecules and distribute them to the people who put up solar panels on their roofs. That would make India greener.

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28J6. Capturing sunlight in a bottle and using it when needed
बोतल में सूर्य के प्रकाश को संचित करना और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उसका उपयोग करना

- **Thanks to the initiatives of UNESCO and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, **most countries** across the world have adopted **'green' solutions** that reduce environmental **carbon dioxide**.
  यूनेस्को (UNESCO) तथा **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपरेखा अभिसमय (UNFCCC)** की पहलों के कारण, विश्व के **अधिकांश देशों** ने पर्यावरणीय **कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड** को कम करने वाले **'हरित' समाधानों** को अपनाया है।
- The use of **solar panels** to capture **sunlight** and turn it into **electricity** has been a particularly successful strategy.
  सौर पैनलों का उपयोग **सूर्य के प्रकाश** को ग्रहण करके उसे **विद्युत** में परिवर्तित करने के लिए एक विशेष रूप से सफल रणनीति रही है।
- Many countries across the world have seen a large-scale expansion in the installation of **solar panels**.
  विश्व के अनेक देशों में **सौर पैनलों** की स्थापना का बड़े पैमाने पर विस्तार देखा गया है।
- In **India**, a typical home **solar panel** installation connected to the grid today costs about **₹30,000 per kW** after subsidies under the **'Surya Ghar Mufti Bijili Yojana'**.
  भारत में आज **ग्रिड** से जुड़े एक सामान्य घरेलू **सौर पैनल** की स्थापना पर **'सूर्य घर मुफ्त बिजली योजना'** के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी के बाद लगभग **₹30,000 प्रति किलोवाट** का खर्च आता है।
- A **2-kW system** can cover the basic electricity needs of a typical household.
  एक **2-किलोवाट प्रणाली** एक सामान्य परिवार की बुनियादी **बिजली** आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर सकती है।
- And there are crores of such panels across the country.
  और पूरे देश में ऐसे **करोड़ों सौर पैनल** स्थापित हैं।
- **India's rooftop solar capacity** is now **23 gigawatt (GW)**.
  भारत की रूफटॉप सौर क्षमता अब **23 गीगावाट (GW)** है।
- In all, **India's land-based solar panels** generate about **150 GW** of power.
  कुल मिलाकर, **भारत के भूमि-आधारित सौर पैनल** लगभग **150 गीगावाट (GW)** बिजली उत्पन्न करते हैं।

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- Ingenious **solar panel** installations, such as those over **irrigation canals**, and **floating solar panels** in lakes and dam-based water reservoirs are expected to produce an additional **102 GW** in the near future.
  सिंचाई नहरों के ऊपर लगाए गए **सौर पैनलों** तथा झीलों एवं बांध-आधारित जलाशयों में स्थापित **फ्लोटिंग सोलर पैनलों** जैसी अभिनव व्यवस्थाओं से निकट भविष्य में अतिरिक्त **102 गीगावाट (GW)** बिजली उत्पादन की अपेक्षा है।
- Recently, **India** has also become 'greener' by installing **wind turbines** and introducing **electric trains, trucks, buses, and cars**.
  हाल ही में **भारत** ने **पवन टर्बाइनों** की स्थापना तथा **विद्युत चालित ट्रेनों, ट्रकों, बसों और कारों** को अपनाकर स्वयं को और अधिक **हरित** बनाया है।
- **Solar panels** convert energy from the **sun** into **electricity** when **photons** excite **electrons** in **silicon crystals**, causing them to be freed and to flow from a positively charged layer in the solar cell towards a negatively charged layer, creating an **electric current**.
  जब **फोटॉन**, **सिलिकॉन क्रिस्टलों** में उपस्थित **इलेक्ट्रॉनों** को उत्तेजित करते हैं, तब **सौर पैनल सूर्य** की ऊर्जा को **विद्युत** में परिवर्तित करते हैं, जिससे इलेक्ट्रॉन मुक्त होकर सौर सेल की धनावेशित परत से ऋणावेशित परत की ओर प्रवाहित होते हैं और **विद्युत धारा** उत्पन्न होती है।
- **Inverters** are used to convert this flow of electrons into a usable **alternating current**.
  इस इलेक्ट्रॉनों के प्रवाह को उपयोगी **प्रत्यावर्ती धारा (Alternating Current)** में बदलने के लिए **इन्वर्टर** का उपयोग किया जाता है।
- But **solar panels** work during the daytime when the **sun** is shining.
  लेकिन **सौर पैनल** केवल दिन के समय कार्य करते हैं, जब **सूर्य** चमक रहा होता है।
- Home systems that have **batteries** to store power cost **1.5-times** more.
  वे घरेलू प्रणालियाँ जिनमें बिजली संग्रहित करने के लिए **बैटरियाँ** होती हैं, उनकी लागत **1.5 गुना** अधिक होती है।
- If there is a way by which we can more efficiently store captured **energy**, it would be ideal.
  यदि ऐसा कोई तरीका हो जिससे हम संग्रहित **ऊर्जा** को अधिक कुशलता से सुरक्षित रख सकें, तो वह आदर्श होगा।
- This is what a group of researchers at the **University of California at Santa Barbara**, led by **Prof. Grace Han**, have done by designing what are referred to as **molecular photo-switches** (**DOI: 10.1126/science.aec6413**).
  यही कार्य **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया, सांता बारबरा** में **प्रो. ग्रेस हान** के नेतृत्व में शोधकर्ताओं के एक समूह ने **मॉलिक्यूलर फोटो-स्विच** विकसित करके किया है (**DOI: 10.1126/science.aec6413**)।
- These involve molecules that, upon absorbing **solar light**, convert themselves into a different shape (called **isomerisation**) and store the energy.
  इनमें ऐसे अणु शामिल हैं, जो **सौर प्रकाश** को अवशोषित करने पर स्वयं को एक भिन्न संरचना (**आइसोमराइजेशन**) में परिवर्तित कर लेते हैं और ऊर्जा को संग्रहित कर लेते हैं।
- This is referred to as **photo-switching**.
  इसे **फोटो-स्विचिंग** कहा जाता है।
- Here, the molecule stores **solar thermal energy** in a molecular form, also known as **molecular solar thermal (MOST)**.
  यहाँ अणु **सौर तापीय ऊर्जा** को आणविक रूप में संग्रहित करता है, जिसे **मॉलिक्यूलर सोलर थर्मल (MOST)** भी कहा जाता है।
- The molecule the researchers have chosen, after consultation with a group at **University of California at Los Angeles**, is an **alkaloid** called **2-pyrimidone**.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया, लॉस एंजिल्स** के एक समूह से परामर्श के बाद **2-पाइरीमिडोन** नामक एक **एल्कलॉइड** का चयन किया।
- It switches itself upon receiving **photons** into an **isomer** called **Dewar pyrimidone**.
  यह **फोटॉनों** को प्राप्त करने पर स्वयं को **डिवार पाइरीमिडोन** नामक एक **आइसोमर** में परिवर्तित कर लेता है।

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- The latter **isomeric molecule** is highly strained and releases heat as much as **1.65 million joules per kg** of **MOST molecules**.
  यह **आइसोमेरिक अणु** अत्यधिक तनावयुक्त होता है और **MOST अणुओं** के प्रति किलोग्राम पर **16.5 लाख जूल** तक ऊष्मा मुक्त करता है।
- This heat allows this technology to be a practical tool to store heat and deliver it when needed for **water heating, cooking**, and other needs.
  यह ऊष्मा इस तकनीक को **पानी गर्म करने, खाना पकाने** तथा अन्य आवश्यकताओं के लिए ऊष्मा संग्रहित करने और आवश्यकता पड़ने पर उपलब्ध कराने का व्यावहारिक साधन बनाती है।
- As a member of the research team mentioned, **thermal energy** from the **sun** can now be bottled for later use.
  उल्लिखित शोध दल के अनुसार, **सूर्य** से प्राप्त **तापीय ऊर्जा** को अब भविष्य में उपयोग के लिए बोतल में संचित किया जा सकता है।
- **Silicon-based panels** use **red** and **near-infrared** regions of the light spectrum (**400-1,100 nm**).
  सिलिकॉन-आधारित पैनल प्रकाश स्पेक्ट्रम के **लाल** तथा **निकट-अवरक्त** क्षेत्र (**400-1,100 नैनोमीटर**) का उपयोग करते हैं।
- **Solar thermal molecules** use wavelengths below **500 nm**, in the **ultraviolet region**.
  सौर तापीय अणु 500 नैनोमीटर से कम तरंगदैर्ध्य वाले **पराबैंगनी क्षेत्र** का उपयोग करते हैं।
- Apart from the **pyrimidones**, there must be other compounds that too can act as **photo-switches** and **heat storage units**.
  पाइरीमिडोनों के अतिरिक्त ऐसे अन्य यौगिक भी होने चाहिए जो **फोटो-स्विच** तथा **ऊष्मा भंडारण इकाइयों** के रूप में कार्य कर सकें।
- As the **solar panels** across **India** capture **sunlight** during the day, scientists should be able to synthesise more **MOST molecules** and distribute them to the people who put up **solar panels** on their roofs.
  जब **भारत** भर में **सौर पैनल** दिन के समय **सूर्य के प्रकाश** को ग्रहण करते हैं, तब वैज्ञानिकों को अधिक **MOST अणुओं** का संश्लेषण करके उन्हें अपने घरों की छतों पर **सौर पैनल** लगाने वाले लोगों तक पहुँचाना चाहिए।
- That would make **India** greener.
  इससे **भारत** और अधिक **हरित** बन जाएगा।

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Watered-down bonds

Why does wet paper tear so easily?

GS III: S&T

As the southwest monsoon sweeps over India, people brace for storms, floods, and the occasional sight of a damaged bookstore or library. What makes the last a particularly sad sight is that paper tears easily when it's wet.

Paper is made primarily from wood pulp, which contains a dense network of cellulose fibers.

Cellulose consists of the compound $C_6H_{10}O_5$ attached to each other in long chains. Many of these chains clump together to form fibres, and the fibres are attached to each other using hydrogen bonds, i.e. a bond involving a hydrogen atom on one end. While hydrogen bonds are weaker than covalent, ionic or metallic bonds, millions of them act to keep paper together, along with the fibres also being entangled.

When paper is wet, water molecules penetrate between the cellulose fibres. Because water can also form hydrogen bonds, it competes with and disrupts some of the hydrogen bonds that normally hold neighbouring fibres together.

Water also causes the cellulose fibres to absorb moisture and swell, loosening the network and reducing friction. As a result, the fibres can slide past one another more easily, so less force is needed to tear wet paper.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

28J6. Why does wet paper tear so easily?
गीला कागज़ इतनी आसानी से क्यों फट जाता है?

- As the **southwest monsoon** sweeps over **India**, people brace for **storms**, **floods**, and the occasional sight of a damaged **bookstore** or **library**.

जब **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून भारत** में फैलता है, तो लोग **तूफानों**, **बाढ़** और कभी-कभी क्षतिग्रस्त **पुस्तकालय** या **बुकस्टोर** को देखने के लिए तैयार रहते हैं।

- What makes the last a particularly sad sight is that **paper** tears easily when it's **wet**.

इनमें सबसे अधिक दुखद दृश्य यह होता है कि **कागज़ गीला** होने पर बहुत आसानी से फट जाता है।

- **Paper** is made primarily from **wood pulp**, which contains a dense network of **cellulose fibres**.

कागज़ मुख्य रूप से **वुड पल्प (लकड़ी के गूदे)** से बनाया जाता है, जिसमें **सेल्यूलोज़ रेशों** का सघन जाल होता है।

- **Cellulose** consists of the compound **C6H10O5** attached to each other in long chains.

सेल्यूलोज़ C6H10O5 यौगिक से बना होता है, जिसके अणु लंबी श्रृंखलाओं में एक-दूसरे से जुड़े होते हैं।

- Many of these chains clump together to form **fibres**, and the **fibres** are attached to each other using **hydrogen bonds**, i.e. a bond involving a **hydrogen atom** on one end.

इनमें से अनेक श्रृंखलाएँ मिलकर **रेशों (फाइबर्स)** का निर्माण करती हैं, और ये **रेशे हाइड्रोजन बंधों** द्वारा एक-दूसरे से जुड़े रहते हैं, अर्थात ऐसा बंध जिसमें एक सिरे पर **हाइड्रोजन परमाणु** शामिल होता है।

- While **hydrogen bonds** are weaker than **covalent**, **ionic** or **metallic bonds**, millions of them act to keep **paper** together, along with the **fibres** also being entangled.

यद्यपि **हाइड्रोजन बंध सहसंयोजक (कोवेलेंट)**, **आयनिक** या **धात्विक बंधों** की तुलना में कमजोर होते हैं, फिर भी इनके लाखों बंध मिलकर **कागज़** को एक साथ बनाए रखते हैं, साथ ही **रेशे** भी आपस में उलझे रहते हैं।

- When **paper** is **wet**, **water molecules** penetrate between the **cellulose fibres**.

जब **कागज़ गीला** हो जाता है, तो **जल के अणु सेल्यूलोज़ रेशों** के बीच प्रवेश कर जाते हैं।

- Because **water** can also form **hydrogen bonds**, it competes with and disrupts some of the **hydrogen bonds** that normally hold neighbouring **fibres** together.

क्योंकि **जल** भी **हाइड्रोजन बंध** बना सकता है, इसलिए वह सामान्यतः पास-पास के **रेशों** को जोड़े रखने वाले कुछ **हाइड्रोजन बंधों** से प्रतिस्पर्धा करता है और उन्हें बाधित कर देता है।

- **Water** also causes the **cellulose fibres** to absorb **moisture** and swell, loosening the network and reducing **friction**.

जल सेल्यूलोज़ रेशों को **नमी** अवशोषित करने और फूलने का कारण बनता है, जिससे उनका जाल ढीला हो जाता है और **घर्षण** कम हो जाता है।

- As a result, the **fibres** can slide past one another more easily, so less **force** is needed to tear **wet paper**.

परिणामस्वरूप, **रेशे** एक-दूसरे के ऊपर अधिक आसानी से खिसक जाते हैं, इसलिए **गीले कागज़** को फाड़ने के लिए कम **बल** की आवश्यकता होती है।

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How saving elephants helps forests breathe easier

GS III: Environment

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Protecting the endangered Asiatic elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) indirectly helps safeguard India's forests as powerful carbon stores, a new scientific study has said.

The research, however, warned that long-term carbon stabilisation cannot be ensured merely by declaring more areas as elephant reserves but by improving habitat quality, restoring wildlife corridors, and strengthening forest management. Carbon stabilisation, a vital mechanism for removing greenhouse gases and mitigating climate change, is the process of trapping atmospheric carbon and locking it into stable, solid forms (such as in soil or organic matter). This helps resist decay, erosion, or the release of carbon back into the atmosphere.

The study, published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, assessed the relationship between elephant conservation efforts, the expansion of elephant reserves, and wildlife-associated carbon stock enhancement in India from 1992 to 2025. Noida-based Amity University's Tarun Kathula and Tanu Jindal are its authors.

The researchers found that India's elephant reserve network expanded from 18,297 sq. km. (across three elephant reserves) to 80,777 sq. km. (33 elephant reserves), while the elephant population increased by about 6.7% from 25,604 estimated during 1992-93. Despite the marginal increase in the number of pachyderms, the estimated carbon stored within the elephant reserves increased by 38%.

The increase should not be interpreted as the elephants directly creating more forest biomass, the researchers said, as it "primarily reflects enhanced protection and reduced degradation of pre-existing forest carbon stocks."

Elephants remain ecologically vital, despite their limited contribution to faunal biomass, the researchers said. THULASI KAKKAT

The study estimated that about 95% of the increase in carbon storage resulted from the expansion of protected forest areas. However, elephant reserves are not uniformly conserved in the same manner as legally designated national parks or tiger reserves.

Ecosystem engineers

Elephants, often described as ecosystem engineers, remain ecologically vital, despite their limited contribution to faunal biomass, the researchers said. The gentle giants, they pointed out, disperse seeds, enrich soils with dung, create space for diverse vegetation, and help maintain healthy forests capable of storing carbon over the long term.

The researchers also found a weak relationship between the number of elephant reserves and the elephant population growth, suggesting that administrative declarations alone cannot secure the species' future if habitats remain fragmented or poorly managed.

Declining numbers

The study further underlined a worrying trend – the decline in elephant numbers under a new census methodology called Synchronised All-India Elephant Estimate (SAIEE) 2021-25, while the number of elephant reserves has stabilised. The SAIEE count of 22,446 was 4,065 elephants fewer than the 2017 estimate, but the enumerators asserted that the two different counting methods should not be compared.

Comparable patterns were observed in the African savannah ecosystems, where mega-herbivore management improved vegetation carbon stocks by 20-30%. "Such consistency across regions supports the ecological principle that mega-fauna protection complements forest-carbon goals," their study said. "Policy integration of these results can strengthen India's commitments to achieve 2.5-3 billion tCO_2 (total carbon dioxide) equivalent additional carbon sink by 2030. Incorporating wildlife-inclusive accounting within REDD+ frameworks could generate measurable ecosystem-service credits while ensuring co-benefits for biodiversity," the study said. REDD expands to 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation'.

28J6. How saving elephants helps forests breathe easier
हाथियों का संरक्षण वनों को अधिक स्वस्थ रूप से 'सांस लेने' में कैसे मदद करता है

- Protecting the endangered **Asiatic elephant (Elephas maximus indicus)** indirectly helps safeguard **India's forests** as powerful **carbon stores**, a new **scientific study** has said.
  एक नए **वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन** के अनुसार, संकटग्रस्त **एशियाई हाथी (Elephas maximus indicus)** का संरक्षण अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से **भारत के वनों** को शक्तिशाली **कार्बन भंडार** के रूप में सुरक्षित रखने में सहायता करता है।
- The research, however, warned that long-term **carbon stabilisation** cannot be ensured merely by declaring more areas as **elephant reserves** but by improving **habitat quality**, restoring **wildlife corridors**, and strengthening **forest management**.
  हालाँकि, शोध में चेतावनी दी गई है कि दीर्घकालिक **कार्बन स्थिरीकरण** केवल अधिक क्षेत्रों को **हाथी रिजर्व** घोषित करने से सुनिश्चित नहीं किया जा सकता, बल्कि **आवास गुणवत्ता** में सुधार, **वन्यजीव गलियारों** की बहाली और **वन प्रबंधन** को सुदृढ़ करने से ही संभव है।
- **Carbon stabilisation**, a vital mechanism for removing **greenhouse gases** and mitigating **climate change**, is the process of trapping atmospheric **carbon** and locking it into stable, solid forms (such as in **soil** or **organic matter**).
  कार्बन स्थिरीकरण, जो **ग्रीनहाउस गैसों** को हटाने और **जलवायु परिवर्तन** को कम करने का एक महत्वपूर्ण तंत्र है, वायुमंडलीय **कार्बन** को पकड़कर उसे **मिट्टी** या **कार्बनिक पदार्थ** जैसे स्थिर ठोस रूपों में सुरक्षित रखने की प्रक्रिया है।
- This helps resist **decay**, **erosion**, or the release of **carbon** back into the atmosphere.
  इससे **अपघटन**, **कटाव**, अथवा **कार्बन** के पुनः वायुमंडल में उत्सर्जन को रोकने में सहायता मिलती है।
- The study, published in the latest issue of the **Journal of Threatened Taxa**, assessed the relationship between **elephant conservation efforts**, the expansion of **elephant reserves**,

and **wildlife-associated carbon stock enhancement** in India from **1992 to 2025**.
Journal of Threatened Taxa के नवीनतम अंक में प्रकाशित इस अध्ययन ने **1992 से 2025** तक भारत में **हाथी संरक्षण प्रयासों**, **हाथी रिजर्वों के विस्तार**, तथा **वन्यजीव-संबद्ध कार्बन भंडार वृद्धि** के बीच संबंध का आकलन किया।

- **Noida-based Amity University's Tarun Kathula and Tanu Jindal** are its authors.
इस अध्ययन के लेखक **नोएडा स्थित एमिटी विश्वविद्यालय** के **तरुण कथुला** और **तनु जिंदल** हैं।
- The researchers found that **India's elephant reserve network** expanded from **18,297 sq. km.** (across **three elephant reserves**) to **80,777 sq. km.** (**33 elephant reserves**), while the **elephant population** increased by about **6.7%** from **25,604** estimated during **1992-93**.
शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि **भारत का हाथी रिजर्व नेटवर्क 18,297 वर्ग किमी** (केवल **तीन हाथी रिजर्व**) से बढ़कर **80,777 वर्ग किमी** (**33 हाथी रिजर्व**) हो गया, जबकि **1992-93** में अनुमानित **25,604** हाथियों की तुलना में **हाथियों की संख्या** लगभग **6.7%** बढ़ी।
- Despite the marginal increase in the number of **pachyderms**, the estimated **carbon** stored within the **elephant reserves** increased by **38%**.
हाथियों की संख्या में मामूली वृद्धि के बावजूद **हाथी रिजर्वों** में संग्रहीत अनुमानित **कार्बन** में **38%** की वृद्धि हुई।
- The increase should not be interpreted as the **elephants** directly creating more **forest biomass**, the researchers said, as it "primarily reflects enhanced protection and reduced degradation of pre-existing **forest carbon stocks**."
शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि इस वृद्धि का अर्थ यह नहीं है कि **हाथियों** ने सीधे अधिक **वन जैवभार** उत्पन्न किया, बल्कि यह मुख्यतः पहले से मौजूद **वन कार्बन भंडारों** की बेहतर सुरक्षा और कम क्षरण को दर्शाता है।
- The study estimated that about **95%** of the increase in **carbon storage** resulted from the expansion of **protected forest areas**.
अध्ययन के अनुसार **कार्बन भंडारण** में हुई वृद्धि का लगभग **95%** भाग **संरक्षित वन क्षेत्रों** के विस्तार के कारण हुआ।
- However, **elephant reserves** are not uniformly conserved in the same manner as legally designated **national parks** or **tiger reserves**.
हालाँकि, **हाथी रिजर्वों** का संरक्षण उसी प्रकार समान रूप से नहीं किया जाता जैसा कि विधिक रूप से अधिसूचित **राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों** या **बाघ अभयारण्यों** का किया जाता है।

Ecosystem engineers
पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के अभियंता

- **Elephants**, often described as **ecosystem engineers**, remain ecologically vital, despite their limited contribution to **faunal biomass**, the researchers said.
शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार **हाथियों** को अक्सर **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के अभियंता** कहा जाता है और **जीव-जंतु जैवभार** में सीमित योगदान के बावजूद वे पारिस्थितिक दृष्टि से अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- The gentle giants, they pointed out, disperse **seeds**, enrich **soils** with **dung**, create space for diverse **vegetation**, and help maintain healthy **forests** capable of storing **carbon** over the long term.
उन्होंने बताया कि ये विशाल किंतु शांत स्वभाव वाले जीव **बीजों** का प्रसार करते हैं, **गोबर** से **मिट्टी** को समृद्ध बनाते हैं, विविध **वनस्पतियों** के लिए स्थान तैयार करते हैं और ऐसे स्वस्थ **वनों** को बनाए रखने में मदद करते हैं जो दीर्घकाल तक **कार्बन** का भंडारण कर सकें।
- The researchers also found a weak relationship between the number of **elephant reserves** and the **elephant population growth**, suggesting that administrative declarations alone cannot secure the species' future if **habitats** remain fragmented or poorly managed.
शोधकर्ताओं ने **हाथी रिजर्वों** की संख्या और **हाथियों की जनसंख्या वृद्धि** के बीच कमजोर संबंध भी पाया,

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जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि यदि **आवास** खंडित या खराब प्रबंधित रहें तो केवल प्रशासनिक घोषणाएँ इस प्रजाति का भविष्य सुरक्षित नहीं कर सकतीं।

Declining numbers
घटती संख्या

- The study further underlined a worrying trend — the decline in **elephant numbers** under a new census methodology called **Synchronised All-India Elephant Estimate (SAIEE) 2021-25**, while the number of **elephant reserves** has stabilised.
  अध्ययन ने एक चिंताजनक प्रवृत्ति को भी रेखांकित किया— **Synchronised All-India Elephant Estimate (SAIEE) 2021-25** नामक नई गणना पद्धति के तहत **हाथियों की संख्या** में गिरावट आई है, जबकि **हाथी रिजर्वों** की संख्या स्थिर हो गई है।
- The **SAIEE** count of **22,446** was **4,065 elephants** fewer than the **2017 estimate**, but the enumerators asserted that the two different counting methods should not be compared.
  SAIEE के अनुसार **22,446** हाथियों की गणना हुई, जो **2017 के अनुमान** से **4,065 हाथी** कम थी, लेकिन गणनाकर्ताओं ने स्पष्ट किया कि दोनों अलग-अलग गणना पद्धतियों की तुलना नहीं की जानी चाहिए।
- Comparable patterns were observed in the **African savannah ecosystems**, where **mega-herbivore management** improved **vegetation carbon stocks** by **20-30%**.
  इसी प्रकार का पैटर्न **अफ्रीकी सवाना पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** में भी देखा गया, जहाँ **विशाल शाकाहारी जीवों के प्रबंधन** से **वनस्पति कार्बन भंडार** में **20-30%** की वृद्धि हुई।
- "Such consistency across regions supports the ecological principle that **mega-fauna protection** complements **forest-carbon goals**," their study said.
  अध्ययन में कहा गया, "विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में ऐसी समानता इस पारिस्थितिक सिद्धांत का समर्थन करती है कि **विशाल वन्यजीवों का संरक्षण**, **वन-कार्बन लक्ष्यों** को पूरक बनाता है।"
- "**Policy integration** of these results can strengthen **India's commitments** to achieve **2.5-3 billion tCO_2 (total carbon dioxide) equivalent additional carbon sink by 2030**.
  "इन परिणामों का **नीतिगत एकीकरण**, **2030 तक 2.5-3 अरब टन CO_2 समतुल्य अतिरिक्त कार्बन सिंक** बनाने की **भारत की प्रतिबद्धताओं** को मजबूत कर सकता है।
- Incorporating **wildlife-inclusive accounting** within **REDD+ frameworks** could generate measurable **ecosystem-service credits** while ensuring **co-benefits for biodiversity**," the study said.
  अध्ययन के अनुसार **REDD+ ढाँचे** में **वन्यजीव-समावेशी लेखांकन** को शामिल करने से मापनीय **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवा क्रेडिट** उत्पन्न किए जा सकते हैं, साथ ही **जैव विविधता** के लिए सहायक लाभ भी सुनिश्चित किए जा सकते हैं।
- **REDD** expands to **'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation'**.
  REDD का पूर्ण रूप **'वनों की कटाई और वन क्षरण से होने वाले उत्सर्जन में कमी (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)'** है।

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GS Paper III: Internal Security	28 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
28J6	Khukuri: a symbol of courage and loyalty खुकुरी: साहस और निष्ठा का प्रतीक

Khukuri: a symbol of courage and loyalty

Once used by the Gorkha soldiers to fight the British Army, the *khukuri* knife's uses have transformed over time according to the needs of the Nepali people, who continue to use it extensively in combat as well as in their homes

GS III: Internal Security

Prabhat Khanal

The *khukuri* knife is an iconic symbol of the Gorkha military, originally from Nepal, and is closely associated with the Gorkha soldier, symbolising strength, courage, bravery and loyalty.

A typical *khukuri* blade has a distinctive curved shape, and a hard blade, measuring 16 to 18 inches, can be used as both a weapon during combat and a tool in Nepal. *Khukuris* are forged from spring steel with a notch at the end of the blade, designed so that blood and sap drip off the knife instead of seeping onto the hardwood handle.

According to the Nepal Army, after 1744, the *khukuri* worn by the Gorkha soldiers who fought under the leadership of Prithvi Narayan Shah, who was the king of the Gorkha kingdom, in the Nepal Unification Campaign, made a significant contribution to the creation of modern Nepal.

When Britain initially encountered Gorkhas in the mountains of Nepal in 1814, the Gorkhas fought so fiercely and admirably with their *khukuris*. After that, the *khukuri* became the symbol of courage, bravery, and warfare skills of the Gorkha soldier, and they were recruited into the British Army. Now, the Indian Army currently fields seven active Gorkha Rifles regiments and the British Army has one primary Gorkha infantry regiment, The Royal Gorkha Rifles (RGR).

The Nepal Army uses the *khukuri* as a combat weapon, a survival tool in field operations, and an important part of military training. It is also carried during parades and ceremonial events, cultural events, symbolising the courage, tradition, and identity of Nepali soldiers.

Though the *khukuri* is best known as a ruthless combat weapon, the knife has several other uses. Gorkhas can use their *khukuris* to chop or carve wood, cut meat and vegetables, dig, and hunt wild animals.

The act of sharpening a *khukuri* is a ritualistic process, symbolising the soldier's commitment to duty and honour. People of Nepal worship the *khukuri* during various festivals.

Although the *khukuri* has undergone some changes in its appearance from ancient times to the modern era, its importance, respect, and identity have not diminished.

Firm grip: A man demonstrating the proper handling of a handcrafted *khukuri* knife in a factory, showcasing its precision, balance, and readiness for action.

28J6. Khukuri: a symbol of courage and loyalty
खुकुरी: साहस और निष्ठा का प्रतीक

- **Once used by the Gorkha soldiers to fight the British Army, the khukuri knife's uses have transformed over time according to the needs of the Nepali people, who continue to use it extensively in combat as well as in their homes.**
  ब्रिटिश सेना के विरुद्ध **गोरखा सैनिकों** द्वारा कभी उपयोग की जाने वाली **खुकुरी** का उपयोग समय के साथ **नेपाली लोगों** की आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार बदल गया है, जो आज भी इसका व्यापक रूप से **युद्ध** तथा अपने **घरों** में करते हैं।
- The **khukuri knife** is an iconic symbol of the **Gorkha military**, originally from **Nepal**, and is closely associated with the **Gorkha soldier**, symbolising **strength, courage, bravery and loyalty**.
  खुकुरी चाकू, मूल रूप से **नेपाल** का, **गोरखा सेना** का एक प्रतिष्ठित प्रतीक है और **गोरखा सैनिक** से घनिष्ठ रूप से जुड़ा हुआ है, जो **शक्ति, साहस, वीरता और निष्ठा** का प्रतीक है।
- A typical **khukuri blade** has a distinctive curved shape, and a hard blade, measuring **16 to 18 inches**, can be used as both a **weapon** during combat and a **tool** in Nepal.
  एक सामान्य **खुकुरी ब्लेड** का आकार विशिष्ट रूप से मुड़ा हुआ होता है, तथा **16 से 18 इंच** लंबा कठोर ब्लेड **युद्ध** के दौरान **हथियार** और नेपाल में **उपकरण** दोनों के रूप में उपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- **Khukuris** are forged from **spring steel** with a notch at the end of the blade, designed so that **blood** and **sap** drip off the knife instead of seeping onto the **hardwood handle**.
  खुकुरी को **स्प्रिंग स्टील** से बनाया जाता है तथा इसके ब्लेड के सिरे पर एक कटाव होता है, जिसे इस प्रकार बनाया गया है कि **रक्त** और **पेड़ों का रस** चाकू से नीचे टपक जाएँ, बजाय इसके कि वे **कठोर लकड़ी के हैंडल** पर बहें।

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- According to the **Nepal Army**, after **1744**, the **khukuri** worn by the **Gorkha soldiers** who fought under the leadership of **Prithvi Narayan Shah**, who was the king of the **Gorkha kingdom**, in the **Nepal Unification Campaign**, made a significant contribution to the creation of **modern Nepal**.
  नेपाल सेना के अनुसार, **1744** के बाद **गोरखा राज्य** के राजा **पृथ्वी नारायण शाह** के नेतृत्व में **नेपाल एकीकरण अभियान** में लड़ने वाले **गोरखा सैनिकों** द्वारा धारण की गई **खुकुरी** ने **आधुनिक नेपाल** के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया।
- When **Britain** initially encountered **Gorkhas** in the mountains of **Nepal** in **1814**, the **Gorkhas** fought so fiercely and admirably with their **khukuris**.
  जब **1814** में **ब्रिटेन** का पहली बार **नेपाल** के पर्वतों में **गोरखाओं** से सामना हुआ, तब **गोरखाओं** ने अपनी **खुकुरियों** के साथ अत्यंत वीरता और अदम्य साहस से युद्ध किया।
- After that, the **khukuri** became the symbol of **courage, bravery, and warfare skills** of the **Gorkha soldier**, and they were recruited into the **British Army**.
  इसके बाद **खुकुरी**, **गोरखा सैनिकों** के **साहस, वीरता और युद्ध कौशल** का प्रतीक बन गई तथा उन्हें **ब्रिटिश सेना** में भर्ती किया गया।
- Now, the **Indian Army** currently fields **seven active Gorkha Rifles regiments** and the **British Army** has one primary **Gorkha infantry regiment**, **The Royal Gorkha Rifles (RGR)**.
  वर्तमान में **भारतीय सेना** में **गोरखा राइफल्स** की **सात सक्रिय रेजिमेंटें** हैं तथा **ब्रिटिश सेना** में एक प्रमुख **गोरखा पैदल सेना रेजिमेंट**, **द रॉयल गोरखा राइफल्स (RGR)** है।
- The **Nepal Army** uses the **khukuri** as a **combat weapon**, a **survival tool** in field operations, and an important part of **military training**.
  नेपाल सेना, **खुकुरी** का उपयोग **युद्ध हथियार**, फील्ड अभियानों में **जीवनरक्षक उपकरण**, तथा **सैन्य प्रशिक्षण** के महत्वपूर्ण भाग के रूप में करती है।
- It is also carried during **parades** and **ceremonial events**, **cultural events**, symbolising the **courage, tradition, and identity** of **Nepali soldiers**.
  इसे **परेड**, **औपचारिक समारोहों** तथा **सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों** में भी धारण किया जाता है, जो **नेपाली सैनिकों** के **साहस, परंपरा और पहचान** का प्रतीक है।
- Though the **khukuri** is best known as a ruthless **combat weapon**, the knife has several other uses.
  यद्यपि **खुकुरी** को मुख्यतः एक प्रभावशाली **युद्ध हथियार** के रूप में जाना जाता है, फिर भी इसके अनेक अन्य उपयोग भी हैं।
- **Gorkhas** can use their **khukuris** to chop or carve **wood**, cut **meat** and **vegetables**, **dig**, and hunt **wild animals**.
  गोरखा अपनी **खुकुरी** का उपयोग **लकड़ी** काटने या तराशने, **मांस** और **सब्जियाँ** काटने, **खुदाई** करने तथा **जंगली जानवरों** का शिकार करने के लिए कर सकते हैं।
- The act of sharpening a **khukuri** is a ritualistic process, symbolising the soldier's commitment to **duty** and **honour**.
  खुकुरी को धार देना एक **अनुष्ठानिक प्रक्रिया** है, जो सैनिक की **कर्तव्यनिष्ठा** और **सम्मान** के प्रति उसकी प्रतिबद्धता का प्रतीक है।
- People of **Nepal** worship the **khukuri** during various **festivals**.
  नेपाल के लोग विभिन्न **त्योहारों** के दौरान **खुकुरी** की पूजा करते हैं।
- Although the **khukuri** has undergone some changes in its appearance from ancient times to the modern era, its **importance, respect, and identity** have not diminished.
  यद्यपि **खुकुरी** के स्वरूप में प्राचीन काल से आधुनिक युग तक कुछ परिवर्तन हुए हैं, फिर भी इसका **महत्व, सम्मान और पहचान** कम नहीं हुई है।

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PCS Special:	26 June
26J6	Mahesh Dixit, IPS officer of 1993 batch, named new IB chief 1993 बैच के आईपीएस अधिकारी महेश दीक्षित नए आईबी प्रमुख नियुक्त
26J6	Centre's hike in passport application fee to take effect on July 1 पासपोर्ट आवेदन शुल्क में केंद्र की बढ़ोतरी 1 जुलाई से लागू होगी

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Mahesh Dixit, IPS officer of 1993 batch, named new IB chief

PCS

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Mahesh Dixit, a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre has been appointed as Director, Intelligence Bureau (DIB), a government order said.

He succeeds Tapan Kumar Deka, who held the post since 2022. His tenure ends on June 30.

Mr. Dixit, a medical doctor by education, has led the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) desk and has also served in Nagaland and Bihar.

He was Deputy Director of IB in J&K from 2009-12 and from 2012-15, he was posted in Nagaland.

He took charge of the Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB) of J&K in 2020 and served there till 2024, overseeing the security preparedness and intelligence-based operations post revocation of Article 370 in the erstwhile State.

He is among the Home Ministry officials who are engaged in talks with civil society leaders of Ladakh.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Thursday approved the appointment of Mr. Dixit, Special Director, IB as Director, Intelligence Bureau for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the order said.

Due to retire in August 2027, he has been granted extension in service under the provisions of FR 56d) and Rule 16 (1A) of All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, the order said.

Mahesh Dixit

He served in J&K from 2020 to 2024, in the period post the revocation of Article 370

26J6. Mahesh Dixit, IPS officer of 1993 batch, named new IB chief

1993 बैच के आईपीएस अधिकारी महेश दीक्षित नए आईबी प्रमुख नियुक्त

- **Mahesh Dixit, a 1993 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre has been appointed as Director, Intelligence Bureau (DIB), a government order said.**

1993 बैच के आंध्र प्रदेश कैडर के भारतीय पुलिस सेवा (IPS) अधिकारी महेश दीक्षित को निदेशक, इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो (DIB) नियुक्त किया गया है, ऐसा एक सरकारी आदेश में कहा गया।

- He succeeds **Tapan Kumar Deka**, who held the post since **2022**.

वह **तपन कुमार डेका** का स्थान लेंगे, जो **2022** से इस पद पर कार्यरत थे।

- His tenure ends on **June 30**.

उनका कार्यकाल **30 जून** को समाप्त हो रहा है।

- Mr. **Dixit**, a **medical doctor** by education, has led the **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) desk** and has also served in **Nagaland** and **Bihar**.

शिक्षा से **मेडिकल डॉक्टर** श्री **दीक्षित** ने **जम्मू और कश्मीर (J&K) डेस्क** का नेतृत्व किया है और **नागालैंड** तथा **बिहार** में भी सेवा दी है।

- He was **Deputy Director of IB** in **J&K** from **2009-12** and from **2012-15**, he was posted in **Nagaland**.

वह **2009-12** तक **जम्मू-कश्मीर** में **आईबी के उपनिदेशक (Deputy Director of IB)** रहे और **2012-15** के दौरान उनकी तैनाती **नागालैंड** में रही।

- He took charge of the **Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau (SIB)** of **J&K** in **2020** and served there till **2024**, overseeing the **security preparedness** and **intelligence-based operations** post revocation of **Article 370** in the erstwhile State.

उन्होंने **2020** में **जम्मू-कश्मीर के सहायक इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो (SIB)** का कार्यभार संभाला और **2024** तक वहाँ सेवा दी, जहाँ उन्होंने पूर्ववर्ती राज्य में **अनुच्छेद 370** हटाए जाने के बाद **सुरक्षा तैयारियों** और **खुफिया-आधारित अभियानों** की निगरानी की।

- He is among the **Home Ministry** officials who are engaged in talks with **civil society leaders** of **Ladakh**.

वह **गृह मंत्रालय** के उन अधिकारियों में शामिल हैं जो **लद्दाख** के **नागरिक समाज के नेताओं** के साथ वार्ता में शामिल हैं।

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** on **Thursday** approved the appointment of Mr. **Dixit**, **Special Director, IB** as **Director, Intelligence Bureau** for a tenure of **two years** from the date of assumption of the charge of the post or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the order said.

मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति (ACC) ने **गुरुवार** को श्री **दीक्षित**, **स्पेशल डायरेक्टर, आईबी** की **निदेशक, इंटेलिजेंस ब्यूरो** के रूप में नियुक्ति को **दो वर्ष** के कार्यकाल के लिए, पदभार ग्रहण करने की तिथि से या अगले आदेश तक, जो भी पहले हो, मंजूरी दे दी, आदेश में कहा गया।

- Due to retire in **August 2027**, he has been granted **extension in service** under the provisions of **FR 56(d)** and **Rule 16 (1A) of All India Services (Death cum Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958**, the order said.

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अगस्त 2027 में सेवानिवृत्त होने वाले उन्हें **FR 56(d)** तथा **अखिल भारतीय सेवाएँ (मृत्यु-सह-सेवानिवृत्ति लाभ) नियम, 1958** के **नियम 16 (1A)** के प्रावधानों के तहत **सेवा विस्तार** प्रदान किया गया है, आदेश में कहा गया।

Centre's hike in passport application fee to take effect on July 1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing 36 pages has been hiked from ₹1,500 to ₹2,500, as the Union government revised the passport fee structure through an amendment to the Passports Rules, 1980.

The new rules will come into effect from July 1.

According to a notification dated June 20, and published by the Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday, the reissue of a 36-page passport will also cost ₹2,500. A tatkal application for a fresh or reissued passport will cost ₹5,000 as opposed to the current ₹3,500 rate.

Similarly, the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a passport containing 60 pages has been hiked from ₹2,000 to ₹3,500. The tatkal fee for 60-page passports will be ₹6,000 as against the current ₹4,000.

For minors, the fees for a fresh passport or reissue of passport containing 36 pages is ₹1,750, the notification added.

In its notification, the government also issued a schedule which will substitute the "Schedule IV to the Passports Rules, 1980". The revised schedule mentions two sub-categories: for applicants 18 years of age and above, and minors aged between 15 to 18 years, if applied under this category; and minor applicants below 18 years of age.

26J6. Centre's hike in passport application fee to take effect on July 1

पासपोर्ट आवेदन शुल्क में केंद्र की बढ़ोतरी 1 जुलाई से लागू होगी

- The application fee for an ordinary fresh passport containing **36 pages** has been hiked from **₹1,500** to **₹2,500**, as the **Union government** revised the passport fee structure through an amendment to the **Passports Rules, 1980**.

36 पृष्ठों वाले सामान्य नए पासपोर्ट का आवेदन शुल्क **₹1,500** से बढ़ाकर **₹2,500** कर दिया गया है, क्योंकि **केंद्र सरकार** ने **पासपोर्ट नियम, 1980** में संशोधन के माध्यम से पासपोर्ट शुल्क संरचना में बदलाव किया है।

- The new rules will come into effect from **July 1**.

नए नियम **1 जुलाई** से लागू होंगे।

- According to a **notification** dated **June 20**, and published by the **Ministry of External Affairs** on Thursday, the reissue of a **36-page passport** will also cost **₹2,500**.

20 जून की **अधिसूचना**, जिसे **विदेश मंत्रालय** ने गुरुवार को प्रकाशित किया, के अनुसार **36 पृष्ठों वाले पासपोर्ट** के पुनः जारी करने का शुल्क भी **₹2,500** होगा।

- A **tatkal** application for a fresh or reissued passport will cost **₹5,000** as opposed to the current **₹3,500** rate.

नए या पुनः जारी किए गए पासपोर्ट के लिए **तत्काल** आवेदन का शुल्क वर्तमान **₹3,500** के बजाय **₹5,000** होगा।

- Similarly, the application fee for an ordinary fresh passport or reissue of a passport containing **60 pages** has been hiked from **₹2,000** to **₹3,500**.

इसी प्रकार **60 पृष्ठों** वाले सामान्य नए पासपोर्ट या उसके पुनः जारी करने का आवेदन शुल्क **₹2,000** से बढ़ाकर **₹3,500** कर दिया गया है।

- The **tatkal fee** for **60-page passports** will be **₹6,000** as against the current **₹4,000**.

60 पृष्ठों वाले पासपोर्ट के लिए **तत्काल शुल्क** वर्तमान **₹4,000** के बजाय **₹6,000** होगा।

- For **minors**, the fees for a fresh passport or reissue of passport containing **36 pages** is **₹1,750**, the notification added.

नाबालिगों के लिए **36 पृष्ठों** वाले नए पासपोर्ट या उसके पुनः जारी करने का शुल्क **₹1,750** होगा, अधिसूचना में यह भी कहा गया है।

- In its **notification**, the government also issued a schedule which will substitute the **"Schedule IV to the Passports Rules, 1980"**.

अपनी **अधिसूचना** में सरकार ने एक नई अनुसूची भी जारी की है, जो **"पासपोर्ट नियम, 1980 की अनुसूची-IV"** का स्थान लेगी।

- The revised schedule mentions **two sub-categories**: for applicants **18 years of age and above**, and minors aged **15 to 18 years**, if applied under this category; and minor applicants **below 18 years of age**.

संशोधित अनुसूची में **दो उप-श्रेणियों** का उल्लेख किया गया है: **18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु** के आवेदकों तथा इस श्रेणी के अंतर्गत आवेदन करने वाले **15 से 18 वर्ष** आयु के नाबालिगों के लिए; और **18 वर्ष से कम आयु** के नाबालिग आवेदकों के लिए।

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GS Paper 1: History	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	Punjab CM says 'mask' used to create fake video पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, फर्जी वीडियो बनाने के लिए 'मास्क' का इस्तेमाल किया गया'
26J6	One who holds all things वह जो समस्त सृष्टि को धारण करता है

Punjab CM says 'mask' used to create fake video

GS I: History

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Amid the ongoing controversy over an objectionable video, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday said a conspiracy had been hatched to malign his image on religious grounds, even as the Opposition parties accused the Chief Minister of misleading the people of Punjab with diversionary statements.

Mr. Mann alleged that a Canada-based person, whom he identified as Jagman Samra, had used a mask resembling his face to create the video. "The fake video was filmed in a hotel in Canada, whereas I have not visited the country since 2016. The mask was clearly visible in the video and my neck surgery scar was missing. The makers of the fake video have been identified and will be exposed after verification," he said at a press conference here. He said the matter would be placed before the Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, along with the evidence.

Bhagwant Mann

On June 15, the Sikh clergy at Akal Takht had declared Mr. Mann *Guru Dokhi* (a betrayer of the Guru) and *Khalsa Panth Virodhi* (opponent of the Sikh community).

'For political benefit'

"For the past several days, a fake and fabricated video of mine has been circulated repeatedly. Religious directives were also issued only to derive political benefit," Mr. Mann said.

26J6. Punjab CM says 'mask' used to create fake video
पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा, फर्जी वीडियो बनाने के लिए 'मास्क' का इस्तेमाल किया गया

- Amid the ongoing controversy over an objectionable video, **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann** on Thursday said a conspiracy had been hatched to malign his image on **religious grounds**, even as the **Opposition parties** accused the Chief Minister of misleading the people of Punjab with diversionary statements.
  आपत्तिजनक वीडियो को लेकर जारी विवाद के बीच **पंजाब के मुख्यमंत्री भगवंत मान** ने गुरुवार को कहा कि **धार्मिक आधार** पर उनकी छवि खराब करने की साजिश रची गई है, जबकि **विपक्षी दलों** ने मुख्यमंत्री पर भटकाने वाले बयान देकर पंजाब के लोगों को गुमराह करने का आरोप लगाया।
- Mr. **Mann** alleged that a **Canada-based** person, whom he identified as **Jagman Samra**, had used a **mask** resembling his face to create the video.

श्री **मान** ने आरोप लगाया कि **कनाडा** में रहने वाले **जगमन समरा** नामक व्यक्ति ने उनके चेहरे जैसा **मास्क** पहनकर यह वीडियो बनाया।

- "The fake video was filmed in a hotel in **Canada**, whereas I have not visited the country since **2016**.
  "यह फर्जी वीडियो **कनाडा** के एक होटल में फिल्माया गया था, जबकि मैं **2016** के बाद से उस देश नहीं गया हूँ।"
- The **mask** was clearly visible in the video and my **neck surgery scar** was missing.
  वीडियो में **मास्क** स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे रहा था और मेरी **गर्दन की सर्जरी का निशान** भी नहीं था।
- The makers of the fake video have been identified and will be exposed after verification," he said at a press conference here.
  उन्होंने यहाँ आयोजित एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा, "फर्जी वीडियो बनाने वालों की पहचान कर ली गई है और सत्यापन के बाद उन्हें बेनकाब किया जाएगा।"
- He said the matter would be placed before the **Akal Takht**, the highest **Sikh temporal seat**, along with the evidence.
  उन्होंने कहा कि इस मामले को साक्ष्यों के साथ **अकाल तख्त**, जो **सिखों की सर्वोच्च धार्मिक-लौकिक संस्था** है, के समक्ष रखा जाएगा।
- On **June 15**, the Sikh clergy at **Akal Takht** had declared Mr. **Mann Guru Dokhi** (a betrayer of the Guru) and **Khalsa Panth Virodhi** (opponent of the Sikh community).
  15 जून को **अकाल तख्त** के सिख धर्मगुरुओं ने श्री **मान** को **गुरु दोखी** (गुरु का विश्वासघाती) और **खालसा पंथ विरोधी** (सिख समुदाय का विरोधी) घोषित किया था।

'For political benefit'
'राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए'

- "For the past several days, a **fake** and **fabricated video** of mine has been circulated repeatedly.
  "पिछले कई दिनों से मेरा **फर्जी** और **गढ़ा हुआ वीडियो** बार-बार प्रसारित किया जा रहा है।"
- Religious directives were also issued only to derive **political benefit**," Mr. **Mann** said.
  श्री **मान** ने कहा, "केवल **राजनीतिक लाभ** प्राप्त करने के लिए धार्मिक निर्देश भी जारी किए गए।"

FAITH
GS I: History; A&C

One who holds all things

The tenth of Muharram stands apart in the Islamic calendar. Ashura, derived from the Arabic *ashara* (ten), arrives as both a summons to remembrance and an invitation to gratitude. For Shias, it is a solemn period of mourning. Hussein – Prophet Muhammad's grandson and the third Shia Imam – refused to yield to tyranny and was killed in the Battle of Karbala on this day in 680 CE.

In Sunni tradition, the day is marked by voluntary fasting – an observance that predates the tragedy at Karbala. Prophet Muhammad came upon Jews fasting in Madinah on the day to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from Pharaoh (referring to the parting of the Red Sea). He declares that Muslims had greater right to honour Prophet Musa (Moses) and prescribed the fast. Beyond this foundational event confirmed in Sahih al-Bukhari, several divine interventions are associated with Ashura in classical Islamic narrations. Prophet Yunus (Jonah) was freed from the belly of the whale on this day, illustrating the power of sincere repentance. Prophet Adam's transgression was forgiven by Allah, marking the beginning of human redemption. Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) was cast into a massive fire by King Nimrod, and emerged unharmed through Allah's command - an outcome symbolising unwavering faith. Prophet Ayyub (Job)'s affliction was cured after years of trial and tribulation – the ultimate reward for *sabr* (steadfast patience).Ashura reminds the faithful of one constant: that no trial is final. Every Prophet tested was ultimately upheld – not just by their own strength, but by the mercy of the One who holds all things.

Mohammed Hidhayat

26J6. One who holds all things
वह जो समस्त सृष्टि को धारण करता है

- The **tenth of Muharram** stands apart in the **Islamic calendar**.

मुहर्रम की **दसवीं तारीख इस्लामी कैलेंडर** में विशेष महत्व रखती है।

- **Ashura**, derived from the Arabic **ashara (ten)**, arrives as both a summons to remembrance and an invitation to gratitude.

आशूरा, जो अरबी शब्द **अशरा (दस)** से निकला है, स्मरण का आह्वान और कृतज्ञता व्यक्त करने का अवसर दोनों लेकर आता है।

- For **Shias**, it is a solemn period of mourning.

शिया मुसलमानों के लिए यह गहरे शोक का समय होता है।

- **Hussein** — **Prophet Muhammad's** grandson and the **third Shia Imam** — refused to yield to tyranny and was killed in the **Battle of Karbala** on this day in **680 CE**.

हुसैन — **पैगंबर मुहम्मद** के नवासे और **तीसरे शिया इमाम** — ने अत्याचार के

सामने झुकने से इनकार किया और **680 ईस्वी** में इसी दिन **कर्बला के युद्ध** में शहीद हुए।

- In **Sunni** tradition, the day is marked by **voluntary fasting** — an observance that predates the tragedy at **Karbala**.
  सुन्नी परंपरा में यह दिन **स्वैच्छिक रोज़ा** रखकर मनाया जाता है, जो **कर्बला** की त्रासदी से भी पहले की परंपरा है।
- **Prophet Muhammad** came upon **Jews** fasting in **Madinah** on the day to commemorate the deliverance of the **Israelites** from **Pharaoh** (referring to the parting of the **Red Sea**).
  पैगंबर मुहम्मद ने **मदीना** में **यहूदियों** को इस दिन रोज़ा रखते देखा, जो **इस्राएलियों** को **फ़िरऔन** से मुक्ति मिलने (अर्थात **लाल सागर** के विभाजन) की स्मृति में रखा जाता था।
- He declares that **Muslims** had greater right to honour **Prophet Musa (Moses)** and prescribed the fast.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **मुसलमानों** को **हज़रत मूसा (मूसा अलैहिस्सलाम)** का सम्मान करने का अधिक अधिकार है और उन्होंने इस दिन रोज़ा रखने का निर्देश दिया।
- Beyond this foundational event confirmed in **Sahih al-Bukhari**, several divine interventions are associated with **Ashura** in classical Islamic narrations.
  सहीह अल-बुखारी में वर्णित इस मूल घटना के अतिरिक्त, पारंपरिक इस्लामी वर्णनों में **आशूरा** के दिन कई दिव्य घटनाओं का भी उल्लेख मिलता है।
- **Prophet Yunus (Jonah)** was freed from the belly of the whale on this day, illustrating the power of sincere repentance.
  हज़रत यूनुस (यूनुस अलैहिस्सलाम) को इसी दिन मछली के पेट से मुक्ति मिली, जो सच्चे पश्चाताप की शक्ति को दर्शाती है।
- **Prophet Adam's** transgression was forgiven by **Allah**, marking the beginning of human redemption.
  हज़रत आदम की त्रुटि को **अल्लाह** ने क्षमा किया, जिससे मानव मुक्ति की शुरुआत हुई।
- **Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham)** was cast into a massive fire by **King Nimrod**, and emerged unharmed through **Allah's** command – an outcome symbolising unwavering faith.
  हज़रत इब्राहीम (इब्राहीम अलैहिस्सलाम) को **राजा निमरोद** ने विशाल अग्नि में डलवा दिया, लेकिन **अल्लाह** के आदेश से वे सुरक्षित बाहर निकल आए, जो अटूट आस्था का प्रतीक है।
- **Prophet Ayyub (Job)'s** affliction was cured after years of trial and tribulation — the ultimate reward for **sabr (steadfast patience)**.
  हज़रत अय्यूब (अय्यूब अलैहिस्सलाम) की वर्षों की कठिन परीक्षा और कष्ट के बाद बीमारी दूर हुई, जो **सब्र (अटल धैर्य)** का सर्वोच्च प्रतिफल था।
- **Ashura** reminds the faithful of one constant: that no trial is final.
  आशूरा ईमान वालों को यह स्थायी सत्य याद दिलाता है कि कोई भी परीक्षा अंतिम नहीं होती।
- Every **Prophet** tested was ultimately upheld — not just by their own strength, but by the mercy of the **One who holds all things**.
  हर **पैगंबर**, जिसकी परीक्षा ली गई, अंततः सफल हुआ — केवल अपनी शक्ति से नहीं, बल्कि **उस ईश्वर की दया** से, **जो समस्त सृष्टि को धारण करता है**।

GS Paper 1: Society	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	Revisiting India's ultrasound laws भारत के अल्ट्रासाउंड कानूनों की पुनर्समीक्षा
26J6	In a first, Swedish Minister brings baby to EU talks पहली बार, स्वीडन की मंत्री अपने शिशु को यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की बैठक में लेकर पहुँचीं

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Revisiting India's ultrasound laws

Technological shifts and rising need for community-based cancer screening suggest that regulatory frameworks should adapt to distinguish between different use cases of ultrasound. An amendment to the PCPNDT Act could legalise community-based ultrasound using a high-frequency linear probe, as it will not impact sex determination

GS I: Society

FULL CONTEXT

Parth Sharma
Senthil Kumar A.R.

Mrs. Janki (name changed), a 45-year-old woman, came to a health camp organised in rural Assam with a complaint of a painless breast lump. She had noticed the lump three months earlier and reported that it had gradually increased in size. On examination, the doctor suspected breast cancer and advised her to visit a cancer hospital located two hours away for further evaluation.

"But I have no pain. The hospital is so far away. There is nobody to come with me to the hospital," Mrs. Janki said. Despite repeated counselling, she refused to seek further care.

Three months later, Janki finally presented to the hospital. By then, she had developed a large, bleeding mass in her breast. She was diagnosed with advanced stage breast cancer and died six months later.

Technological advances, like portable ultrasound machines, have made it possible to bring cancer diagnostics, such as ultrasound imaging and ultrasound-guided biopsies, closer to people's homes. This machine could, perhaps, have given Mrs. Janaki a diagnosis at her doorstep. However, India's Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act treats the movement of an ultrasound machine outside a registered facility as a serious offence, with penalties that can include a minimum of three months' non-bailable imprisonment.

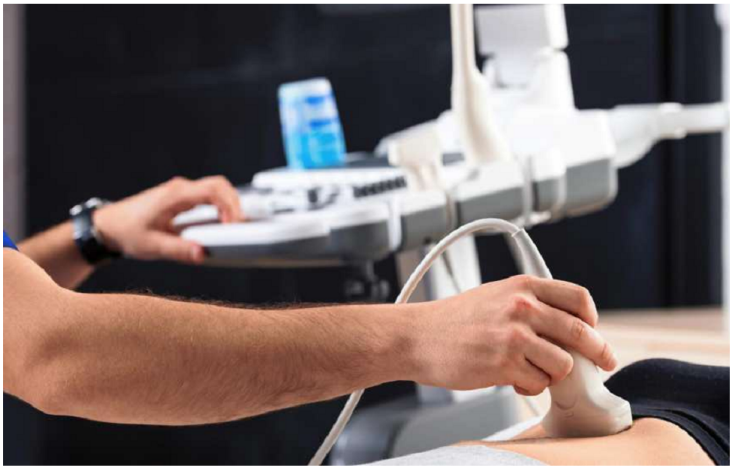
Provisions of the PCPNDT Act

The PCPNDT Act was introduced in 1994 in response to a sharp decline in the child sex ratio in India, driven by a strong societal preference for male children and the growing misuse of technologies such as ultrasonography for prenatal sex determination, followed by selective abortion of female foetuses. Abortion of female foetuses became more evident from the 1980s, with the increasing availability of imaging technologies, raising serious ethical, demographic, and public health concerns. The legislation, therefore, aimed not only to prevent the misuse of medical technology but also to address the deeper issue of gender discrimination.

The law mandates registration of all genetic clinics, ultrasound centres, and laboratories and strictly prohibits the communication or disclosure of the sex of the foetus. It prescribes detailed record-keeping, monitoring mechanisms, and penalties to ensure compliance.

Under this Act, the purchase of an ultrasound machine is not a routine commercial transaction but a tightly-regulated process. A clinic or hospital must first be registered with the district government as a genetic clinic or imaging centre before acquiring a machine. Purchasing one without prior registration is illegal. Manufacturers or dealers are required to verify the buyer's credentials and obtain a written undertaking that the machine will not be used for sex determination. The sale must be documented with invoice details that match the registered centre, and the transaction is reported to the authorities for monitoring.

Once installed, the machine must remain at the approved location, its details must be recorded in official registers, and strict documentation, including patient records for every scan, must be maintained.



Expanding access: Portable, handheld ultrasound devices can make it technically feasible to bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes. GETTY IMAGES

Impact of PCPNDT Act

Following the introduction of the PCPNDT Act, the sex ratio at birth in India has shown a gradual improvement at the national level. While this improvement cannot be conclusively attributed to the introduction of the Act, several unintended consequences can be directly attributed to it.

Evidence suggests that families whose first child is a girl tend to have more children in an effort to have a son, compared to families with a firstborn boy. Following restrictions on prenatal sex selection, families experienced a 25% higher child mortality rate among firstborn girls relative to firstborn boys. This could be explained by the decline in parental investment in health, particularly among girls. Fertility also increased in these families, indicating a shift toward having more children when sex selection was not an option. Having a larger number of children also led to dilution of resources, likely reducing overall investment per child. Similar patterns were observed in education as gender disparities widened. These effects were more pronounced among poorer, rural households that were more affected by the restrictions, as they could not afford illegal services to abort the child.

Recent reports indicate that sex-selective practices continue despite decades of legal prohibition. In October 2025, authorities uncovered an illegal racket in Karnataka where organised networks were carrying out prenatal sex determination and facilitating abortions, often targeting vulnerable women from rural areas. Similar crackdowns across different States show that such activities are frequently conducted outside formal health systems, using portable ultrasound devices, informal providers, and covert arrangements to evade regulation.

The issue is not confined to India. Reports from the United Kingdom indicates that son preference may persist among some diaspora communities as well. Reports have also raised concerns that families of Indian origin may be engaging in sex-selective practices even in settings with stricter oversight, highlighting the deep-rooted nature of gender bias that transcends national boundaries.

Taken together, these patterns underscore a critical limitation of legislative approaches. While laws such as the PCPNDT Act establish an essential regulatory framework, they are insufficient on their own to drive social change.

The case for reform

Available evidence suggests that the PCPNDT Act has not fully achieved its intended objectives and may, in some contexts, have had unintended adverse effects. Additionally, fear of legal repercussions and stringent regulatory requirements has had a chilling effect on service provision.

Moreover, The PCPNDT Act has not kept pace with advances in ultrasound technology. Portable, handheld ultrasound devices, often connected to smartphones or tablets, make it technically feasible to bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes, which is particularly relevant for early cancer detection in underserved areas. However, the use of such devices at the community level is currently illegal in India.

Modern high-frequency probes used for applications such as cancer detection and the assessment of other superficial conditions cannot be used for foetal sex determination, yet remain subject to the same regulatory restrictions, limiting access to essential diagnostic care.

Recent developments in artificial intelligence (AI) further strengthen the case for a more nuanced regulatory approach. AI-enabled ultrasound systems can assist with image acquisition and interpretation, and in some configurations generate automated reports based on pattern recognition without requiring full image storage or display. Such technologies could enable safe, purpose-specific use of ultrasound for diagnostic applications while substantially reducing the risk of misuse for foetal sex determination.

Recent research has also demonstrated the potential of AI in improving access to reliable ultrasonography. In a pilot study, portable ultrasound scans performed by individuals with minimal training were combined with AI to identify suspicious breast lesions with high accuracy, correctly flagging all confirmed cancer cases. This suggests that AI-assisted ultrasound could enable frontline health workers to assess patients with breast lumps, refer those with suspicious findings for further evaluation, and reassure those with benign conditions.

For countries such as India, where access to specialist radiologists and diagnostic imaging remains uneven, especially in rural areas where nearly 70% of the population resides, such innovations could substantially improve the timely assessment and treatment of symptomatic patients. Earlier diagnosis and referral have the potential to reduce breast cancer mortality while expanding access to care in rural and underserved areas. This contrasts with many Western countries, where breast cancer control strategies rely more heavily on mammographic screening programmes that detect tumours before symptoms appear but require considerably greater resources and infrastructure.

Serving a greater need

These technological shifts and the rising need for community-based cancer screening in view of the high cancer burden in India suggest that regulatory frameworks need to adapt to distinguish between different use cases of ultrasound. An amendment to the Act could make community-based ultrasound using a high-frequency linear probe legal, as it will not impact sex determination. Additionally, the Act should incorporate provisions addressing emerging technologies, including AI-enabled and safeguarded USG imaging systems designed to prevent the determination or disclosure of foetal sex, irrespective of intent.

(Dr. Parth Sharma is a community physician working in the department of preventive oncology and public health at Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre. Dr. Senthil Kumar A.R. is a consultant radiologist and former director of the department of radiology, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, U.K. Views are personal.)

THE GIST

- The PCPNDT Act was introduced in 1994 to curb prenatal sex determination and the selective abortion of female foetuses in response to a declining child sex ratio.
- The law has not kept pace with advances in ultrasound technology, including portable handheld devices that can bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes.
- For countries such as India, where access to specialist radiologists and diagnostic imaging remains uneven, such innovation could aid early cancer detection, particularly in underserved areas.

26J6. Revisiting India's ultrasound laws
भारत के अल्ट्रासाउंड कानूनों की पुनर्समीक्षा

- Technological shifts and rising need for **community-based cancer screening** suggest that regulatory frameworks should adapt to distinguish between different use cases of **ultrasound**.

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तकनीकी परिवर्तनों और **सामुदायिक स्तर पर कैंसर जांच (Community-based Cancer Screening)** की बढ़ती आवश्यकता यह संकेत देती है कि नियामक ढाँचे को **अल्ट्रासाउंड (Ultrasound)** के विभिन्न उपयोगों के बीच अंतर करने के लिए अनुकूलित किया जाना चाहिए।

- An amendment to the **PCPNDT Act** could legalize community-based ultrasound using a **high-frequency linear probe**, as it will not impact **sex determination**.
  PCPNDT अधिनियम में संशोधन करके **उच्च-आवृत्ति वाले लीनियर प्रोब (High-Frequency Linear Probe)** के माध्यम से सामुदायिक स्तर पर अल्ट्रासाउंड को वैध बनाया जा सकता है, क्योंकि इससे **लिंग निर्धारण (Sex Determination)** प्रभावित नहीं होगा।
- Mrs. **Janki** (name changed), a **45-year-old** woman, came to a health camp organised in **rural Assam** with a complaint of a painless **breast lump**.
  जांकी (बदला हुआ नाम), **45 वर्षीय** महिला, **ग्रामीण असम** में आयोजित एक स्वास्थ्य शिविर में बिना दर्द वाली **स्तन की गाँठ (Breast Lump)** की शिकायत लेकर आई।
- She had noticed the lump three months earlier and reported that it had gradually increased in size.
  उन्होंने तीन महीने पहले इस गाँठ को महसूस किया था और बताया कि इसका आकार धीरे-धीरे बढ़ता गया।
- On examination, the doctor suspected **breast cancer** and advised her to visit a **cancer hospital** located two hours away for further evaluation.
  जाँच के दौरान डॉक्टर को **स्तन कैंसर (Breast Cancer)** की आशंका हुई और उन्होंने आगे की जाँच के लिए दो घंटे दूर स्थित **कैंसर अस्पताल (Cancer Hospital)** जाने की सलाह दी।
- "But I have no pain. The hospital is so far away. There is nobody to come with me to the hospital," Mrs. Janki said.
  "लेकिन मुझे कोई दर्द नहीं है। अस्पताल बहुत दूर है। मेरे साथ अस्पताल जाने वाला भी कोई नहीं है," श्रीमती जांकी ने कहा।
- Despite repeated counselling, she refused to seek further care.
  बार-बार परामर्श दिए जाने के बावजूद उन्होंने आगे उपचार कराने से इनकार कर दिया।
- Three months later, Janki finally presented to the hospital.
  तीन महीने बाद अंततः जांकी अस्पताल पहुँचीं।
- By then, she had developed a large, bleeding mass in her breast.
  तब तक उनके स्तन में एक बड़ी और रक्तस्राव करने वाली गाँठ विकसित हो चुकी थी।
- She was diagnosed with **advanced stage breast cancer** and died six months later.
  उनमें **उन्नत अवस्था के स्तन कैंसर (Advanced Stage Breast Cancer)** का निदान हुआ और छह महीने बाद उनकी मृत्यु हो गई।
- Technological advances, like **portable ultrasound machines**, have made it possible to bring **cancer diagnostics**, such as **ultrasound imaging** and **ultrasound-guided biopsies**, closer to people's homes.
  पोर्टेबल अल्ट्रासाउंड मशीनों (Portable Ultrasound Machines) जैसी तकनीकी प्रगति ने **कैंसर निदान (Cancer Diagnostics)**, जैसे **अल्ट्रासाउंड इमेजिंग (Ultrasound Imaging)** और **अल्ट्रासाउंड-निर्देशित बायोप्सी (Ultrasound-Guided Biopsies)**, को लोगों के घरों के अधिक निकट पहुँचाना संभव बना दिया है।
- This machine could, perhaps, have given Mrs. Janaki a diagnosis at her doorstep.
  संभवतः यह मशीन श्रीमती जांकी को उनके घर पर ही रोग का निदान उपलब्ध करा सकती थी।
- However, India's **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act** treats the movement of an **ultrasound machine** outside a registered facility as a serious offence, with penalties that can include a minimum of **three months' non-bailable imprisonment**.
  हालाँकि, भारत का **गर्भाधान-पूर्व एवं प्रसव-पूर्व निदान तकनीक (PCPNDT) अधिनियम** किसी पंजीकृत केंद्र के बाहर **अल्ट्रासाउंड मशीन** ले जाने को एक गंभीर अपराध मानता है, जिसकी सज़ा में न्यूनतम **तीन महीने का गैर-जमानती कारावास (Non-Bailable Imprisonment)** भी शामिल हो सकता है।

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Provisions of the PCPNDT Act
PCPNDT अधिनियम के प्रावधान

- The **PCPNDT Act** was introduced in **1994** in response to a sharp decline in the **child sex ratio** in India, driven by a strong societal preference for **male children** and the growing misuse of technologies such as **ultrasonography** for **prenatal sex determination**, followed by selective abortion of **female foetuses**.
  PCPNDT अधिनियम को **1994** में भारत में **बाल लिंगानुपात (Child Sex Ratio)** में तेज़ गिरावट के जवाब में लागू किया गया था, जिसका कारण **पुत्र वरीयता (Male Children Preference)** और **अल्ट्रासोनोग्राफी (Ultrasonography)** जैसी तकनीकों का **जन्मपूर्व लिंग निर्धारण (Prenatal Sex Determination)** तथा उसके बाद **महिला भ्रूण (Female Foetuses)** के चयनात्मक गर्भपात के लिए बढ़ता दुरुपयोग था।
- Abortion of **female foetuses** became more evident from the **1980s**, with the increasing availability of imaging technologies, raising serious **ethical**, **demographic**, and **public health** concerns.
  1980 के दशक से **महिला भ्रूणों (Female Foetuses)** के गर्भपात की घटनाएँ अधिक स्पष्ट होने लगीं, क्योंकि इमेजिंग तकनीकों की उपलब्धता बढ़ी, जिससे गंभीर **नैतिक (Ethical)**, **जनसांख्यिकीय (Demographic)** और **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य (Public Health)** संबंधी चिंताएँ उत्पन्न हुईं।
- The legislation, therefore, aimed not only to prevent the misuse of medical technology but also to address the deeper issue of **gender discrimination**.
  इसलिए इस कानून का उद्देश्य केवल चिकित्सा तकनीक के दुरुपयोग को रोकना नहीं था, बल्कि **लैंगिक भेदभाव (Gender Discrimination)** की गहरी समस्या का समाधान करना भी था।
- The law mandates registration of all **genetic clinics**, **ultrasound centres**, and **laboratories** and strictly prohibits the communication or disclosure of the **sex of the foetus**.
  यह कानून सभी **जेनेटिक क्लीनिक (Genetic Clinics)**, **अल्ट्रासाउंड केंद्रों (Ultrasound Centres)** और **प्रयोगशालाओं (Laboratories)** के पंजीकरण को अनिवार्य बनाता है तथा **भ्रूण के लिंग (Sex of the Foetus)** की जानकारी देना या प्रकट करना सख्ती से प्रतिबंधित करता है।
- It prescribes detailed **record-keeping**, **monitoring mechanisms**, and **penalties** to ensure compliance.
  अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इसमें विस्तृत **अभिलेख-रखरखाव (Record-Keeping)**, **निगरानी तंत्र (Monitoring Mechanisms)** और **दंड (Penalties)** का प्रावधान किया गया है।
- Under this Act, the purchase of an **ultrasound machine** is not a routine commercial transaction but a tightly-regulated process.
  इस अधिनियम के अंतर्गत **अल्ट्रासाउंड मशीन** की खरीद कोई सामान्य व्यावसायिक लेन-देन नहीं, बल्कि एक कड़े नियमन वाली प्रक्रिया है।
- A clinic or hospital must first be registered with the **district government** as a **genetic clinic** or **imaging centre** before acquiring a machine.
  किसी मशीन को खरीदने से पहले किसी क्लीनिक या अस्पताल को **जिला सरकार** के साथ **जेनेटिक क्लीनिक** या **इमेजिंग केंद्र (Imaging Centre)** के रूप में पंजीकृत होना आवश्यक है।
- Purchasing one without prior registration is illegal.
  पूर्व पंजीकरण के बिना ऐसी मशीन खरीदना अवैध है।
- Manufacturers or dealers are required to verify the buyer's credentials and obtain a written undertaking that the machine will not be used for **sex determination**.
  निर्माताओं या विक्रेताओं के लिए खरीदार की पात्रता की जाँच करना और यह लिखित आश्वासन लेना अनिवार्य है कि मशीन का उपयोग **लिंग निर्धारण (Sex Determination)** के लिए नहीं किया जाएगा।
- The sale must be documented with invoice details that match the registered centre, and the transaction is reported to the authorities for monitoring.
  बिक्री का पूरा रिकॉर्ड ऐसे चालान (Invoice) के साथ रखा जाना चाहिए जिसकी जानकारी पंजीकृत केंद्र से मेल खाती हो, तथा इस लेन-देन की सूचना निगरानी के लिए संबंधित अधिकारियों को दी जाती है।

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- Once installed, the machine must remain at the approved location, its details must be recorded in official registers, and strict documentation,
  एक बार स्थापित होने के बाद मशीन को स्वीकृत स्थान पर ही रखा जाना चाहिए, उसका विवरण आधिकारिक अभिलेखों में दर्ज होना चाहिए, और कड़े **दस्तावेज़ीकरण (Documentation)** का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।

Impact of PCPNDT Act
PCPNDT अधिनियम का प्रभाव

- including **patient records** for every scan, must be maintained.
  प्रत्येक स्कैन के लिए **रोगी अभिलेख (Patient Records)** सहित सभी रिकॉर्ड सुरक्षित रखे जाने चाहिए।
- Following the introduction of the **PCPNDT Act**, the **sex ratio at birth** in India has shown a gradual improvement at the national level.
  PCPNDT अधिनियम लागू होने के बाद भारत में **जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात (Sex Ratio at Birth)** में राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर धीरे-धीरे सुधार देखने को मिला है।
- While this improvement cannot be conclusively attributed to the introduction of the Act, several unintended consequences can be directly attributed to it.
  यद्यपि इस सुधार का पूरा श्रेय निश्चित रूप से इस अधिनियम को नहीं दिया जा सकता, फिर भी इसके कई **अनपेक्षित परिणाम (Unintended Consequences)** सीधे इससे जुड़े हुए हैं।
- Evidence suggests that families whose first child is a **girl** tend to have more children in an effort to have a **son**, compared to families with a firstborn **boy**.
  साक्ष्य बताते हैं कि जिन परिवारों की पहली संतान **लड़की** होती है, वे **लड़का** पाने के प्रयास में पहली संतान **लड़का** होने वाले परिवारों की तुलना में अधिक बच्चे पैदा करते हैं।
- Following restrictions on **prenatal sex selection**, families experienced a **25% higher child mortality rate** among firstborn girls relative to firstborn boys.
  जन्मपूर्व लिंग चयन (Prenatal Sex Selection) पर प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने के बाद, पहली संतान के रूप में जन्मी लड़कियों में पहली संतान लड़कों की तुलना में **25% अधिक बाल मृत्यु दर (Child Mortality Rate)** देखी गई।
- This could be explained by the decline in **parental investment** in health, particularly among girls.
  इसे विशेषकर लड़कियों के स्वास्थ्य पर **माता-पिता के निवेश (Parental Investment)** में कमी से समझाया जा सकता है।
- Fertility also increased in these families, indicating a shift toward having more children when sex selection was not an option.
  इन परिवारों में **प्रजनन दर (Fertility)** भी बढ़ गई, जिससे यह संकेत मिलता है कि जब लिंग चयन संभव नहीं रहा तो अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने की प्रवृत्ति बढ़ी।
- Having a larger number of children also led to dilution of resources, likely reducing overall investment per child.
  अधिक बच्चों के होने से संसाधनों का बँटवारा हुआ, जिससे प्रत्येक बच्चे पर कुल निवेश कम होने की संभावना रही।
- Similar patterns were observed in **education** as **gender disparities** widened.
  शिक्षा (Education) के क्षेत्र में भी ऐसे ही रुझान देखे गए, जहाँ **लैंगिक असमानताएँ (Gender Disparities)** बढ़ गईं।
- These effects were more pronounced among poorer, rural households that were more affected by the restrictions, as they could not afford illegal services to abort the child.
  ये प्रभाव गरीब और ग्रामीण परिवारों में अधिक स्पष्ट थे, क्योंकि वे गर्भपात के लिए अवैध सेवाओं का खर्च नहीं उठा सकते थे।
- Recent reports indicate that **sex-selective practices** continue despite decades of legal prohibition.

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हाल की रिपोर्टें बताती हैं कि दशकों से कानूनी प्रतिबंध होने के बावजूद **लिंग-चयन संबंधी प्रथाएँ (Sex-Selective Practices)** अब भी जारी हैं।

- In **October 2025**, authorities uncovered an illegal racket in **Karnataka** where organised networks were carrying out **prenatal sex determination** and facilitating abortions, often targeting vulnerable women from rural areas.
  अक्टूबर 2025 में अधिकारियों ने **कर्नाटक** में एक अवैध गिरोह का पर्दाफाश किया, जहाँ संगठित नेटवर्क **जन्मपूर्व लिंग निर्धारण (Prenatal Sex Determination)** और गर्भपात कराने का कार्य कर रहे थे तथा अक्सर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों की कमजोर महिलाओं को निशाना बना रहे थे।
- Similar crackdowns across different **States** show that such activities are frequently conducted outside formal health systems, using **portable ultrasound devices**, informal providers, and covert arrangements to evade regulation.
  विभिन्न **राज्यों** में हुई इसी प्रकार की कार्रवाई से पता चलता है कि ऐसी गतिविधियाँ अक्सर औपचारिक स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था के बाहर **पोर्टेबल अल्ट्रासाउंड उपकरणों (Portable Ultrasound Devices)**, अनौपचारिक सेवा प्रदाताओं तथा गुप्त व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से संचालित की जाती हैं ताकि नियमों से बचा जा सके।
- The issue is not confined to **India**.
  यह समस्या केवल **भारत** तक सीमित नहीं है।
- Reports from the **United Kingdom** indicates that **son preference** may persist among some diaspora communities as well.
  यूनाइटेड किंगडम की रिपोर्टें संकेत देती हैं कि कुछ प्रवासी समुदायों में भी **पुत्र वरीयता (Son Preference)** बनी हुई है।
- Reports have also raised concerns that families of **Indian origin** may be engaging in **sex-selective practices** even in settings with stricter oversight, highlighting the deep-rooted nature of **gender bias** that transcends national boundaries.
  रिपोर्टों में यह चिंता भी व्यक्त की गई है कि **भारतीय मूल (Indian Origin)** के कुछ परिवार कड़ी निगरानी वाले देशों में भी **लिंग-चयन संबंधी प्रथाओं** में शामिल हो सकते हैं, जो राष्ट्रीय सीमाओं से परे फैले गहरे **लैंगिक पूर्वाग्रह (Gender Bias)** को दर्शाता है।
- Taken together, these patterns underscore a critical limitation of legislative approaches.
  इन सभी रुझानों से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि केवल विधायी उपायों की एक महत्वपूर्ण सीमा है।
- While laws such as the **PCPNDT Act** establish an essential regulatory framework, they are insufficient on their own to drive social change.
  यद्यपि **PCPNDT अधिनियम** जैसे कानून एक आवश्यक नियामक ढाँचा प्रदान करते हैं, लेकिन अकेले वे सामाजिक परिवर्तन लाने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।

The case for reform
सुधार की आवश्यकता

- Available evidence suggests that the **PCPNDT Act** has not fully achieved its intended objectives and may, in some contexts, have had unintended adverse effects.
  उपलब्ध साक्ष्य बताते हैं कि **PCPNDT अधिनियम** अपने सभी उद्देश्यों को पूरी तरह प्राप्त नहीं कर पाया है और कुछ परिस्थितियों में इसके **अनपेक्षित प्रतिकूल प्रभाव (Unintended Adverse Effects)** भी पड़े हैं।
- Additionally, fear of **legal repercussions** and stringent regulatory requirements has had a chilling effect on service provision.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **कानूनी परिणामों (Legal Repercussions)** के भय और कड़े नियामक प्रावधानों ने सेवाओं के प्रावधान पर नकारात्मक प्रभाव डाला है।
- Moreover, the **PCPNDT Act** has not kept pace with advances in **ultrasound technology**.
  इसके अलावा **PCPNDT अधिनियम अल्ट्रासाउंड तकनीक (Ultrasound Technology)** में हुए विकास के अनुरूप स्वयं को अद्यतन नहीं कर पाया है।

- Portable, handheld **ultrasound devices**, often connected to **smartphones** or **tablets**, make it technically feasible to bring diagnostic services closer to patients' homes, which is particularly relevant for early **cancer detection** in underserved areas.
  पोर्टेबल, हाथ में पकड़े जाने वाले **अल्ट्रासाउंड उपकरण (Ultrasound Devices)**, जो अक्सर **स्मार्टफोन** या **टैबलेट** से जुड़े होते हैं, तकनीकी रूप से यह संभव बनाते हैं कि रोग-निदान सेवाएँ मरीजों के घरों तक पहुँच सकें, जो विशेष रूप से कम सुविधाओं वाले क्षेत्रों में **कैंसर की प्रारंभिक पहचान (Cancer Detection)** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- However, the use of such devices at the **community level** is currently illegal in India.
  हालाँकि, ऐसे उपकरणों का **सामुदायिक स्तर (Community Level)** पर उपयोग वर्तमान में भारत में अवैध है।
- Modern **high-frequency probes** used for applications such as **cancer detection** and the assessment of other superficial conditions cannot be used for **foetal sex determination**, yet remain subject to the same regulatory restrictions, limiting access to essential diagnostic care.
  कैंसर की पहचान (Cancer Detection) और अन्य सतही रोगों के परीक्षण में प्रयुक्त आधुनिक **उच्च-आवृत्ति प्रोब (High-Frequency Probes)** का उपयोग **भ्रूण के लिंग निर्धारण (Foetal Sex Determination)** के लिए नहीं किया जा सकता, फिर भी वे समान नियामक प्रतिबंधों के अधीन हैं, जिससे आवश्यक निदान सेवाओं तक पहुँच सीमित हो जाती है।
- Recent developments in **artificial intelligence (AI)** further strengthen the case for a more nuanced regulatory approach.
  कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (Artificial Intelligence - AI) में हाल के विकास अधिक संतुलित और सूक्ष्म नियामक दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता को और मजबूत करते हैं।
- **AI-enabled ultrasound systems** can assist with image acquisition and interpretation, and in some configurations generate automated reports based on pattern recognition without requiring full image storage or display.
  AI-सक्षम अल्ट्रासाउंड प्रणालियाँ (AI-enabled Ultrasound Systems) चित्र प्राप्त करने और उनकी व्याख्या करने में सहायता कर सकती हैं तथा कुछ व्यवस्थाओं में पूर्ण चित्र संग्रहित या प्रदर्शित किए बिना पैटर्न पहचान के आधार पर स्वचालित रिपोर्ट भी तैयार कर सकती हैं।
- Such technologies could enable safe, purpose-specific use of **ultrasound** for diagnostic applications while substantially reducing the risk of misuse for **foetal sex determination**.
  ऐसी तकनीकें **अल्ट्रासाउंड** का सुरक्षित और उद्देश्य-विशिष्ट निदान उपयोग संभव बना सकती हैं तथा **भ्रूण के लिंग निर्धारण** के लिए इसके दुरुपयोग के जोखिम को काफी हद तक कम कर सकती हैं।
- Recent research has also demonstrated the potential of **AI** in improving access to reliable **ultrasonography**.
  हाल के शोधों ने विश्वसनीय **अल्ट्रासोनोग्राफी (Ultrasonography)** तक पहुँच बढ़ाने में **AI** की क्षमता भी प्रदर्शित की है।
- In a pilot study, portable ultrasound scans performed by individuals with minimal training were combined with **AI** to identify suspicious **breast lesions** with high accuracy, correctly flagging all confirmed **cancer cases**.
  एक पायलट अध्ययन में कम प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त व्यक्तियों द्वारा किए गए पोर्टेबल अल्ट्रासाउंड स्कैन को **AI** के साथ जोड़कर संदिग्ध **स्तन घावों (Breast Lesions)** की उच्च सटीकता से पहचान की गई और सभी पुष्टि किए गए **कैंसर मामलों (Cancer Cases)** को सही ढंग से चिह्नित किया गया।
- This suggests that **AI-assisted ultrasound** could enable frontline health workers to assess patients with **breast lumps**, refer those with suspicious findings for further evaluation, and reassure those with benign conditions.
  इससे संकेत मिलता है कि **AI-सहायित अल्ट्रासाउंड (AI-assisted Ultrasound)** अग्रिम पंक्ति के स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को **स्तन की गाँठ (Breast Lump)** वाले मरीजों का मूल्यांकन करने, संदिग्ध मामलों को आगे की जाँच के लिए भेजने तथा सामान्य रोगियों को आश्वस्त करने में सक्षम बना सकता है।

- For countries such as **India**, where access to specialist **radiologists** and diagnostic imaging remains uneven, especially in rural areas where nearly **70%** of the population resides, such innovations could substantially improve the timely assessment and treatment of symptomatic patients.
  भारत जैसे देशों में, जहाँ विशेषज्ञ **रेडियोलॉजिस्ट (Radiologists)** और निदान इमेजिंग तक पहुँच असमान है, विशेषकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जहाँ लगभग **70%** आबादी रहती है, ऐसे नवाचार समय पर रोग मूल्यांकन और उपचार में उल्लेखनीय सुधार ला सकते हैं।
- Earlier diagnosis and referral have the potential to reduce **breast cancer mortality** while expanding access to care in rural and underserved areas.
  शीघ्र निदान और रेफरल से **स्तन कैंसर से होने वाली मृत्यु (Breast Cancer Mortality)** कम की जा सकती है तथा ग्रामीण और वंचित क्षेत्रों में उपचार की पहुँच बढ़ाई जा सकती है।
- This contrasts with many **Western countries**, where breast cancer control strategies rely more heavily on **mammographic screening programmes** that detect tumours before symptoms appear but require considerably greater resources and infrastructure.
  यह स्थिति कई **पश्चिमी देशों (Western Countries)** से भिन्न है, जहाँ **मैमोग्राफिक स्क्रीनिंग कार्यक्रम (Mammographic Screening Programmes)** पर अधिक निर्भरता होती है, जो लक्षण प्रकट होने से पहले ट्यूमर का पता लगा लेते हैं, लेकिन इनके लिए अधिक संसाधन और आधारभूत संरचना की आवश्यकता होती है।

Serving a greater need
एक बड़ी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति

- These technological shifts and the rising need for **community-based cancer screening** in view of the high **cancer burden** in India suggest that regulatory frameworks need to adapt to distinguish between different use cases of **ultrasound**.
  भारत में बढ़ते **कैंसर भार (Cancer Burden)** को देखते हुए ये तकनीकी परिवर्तन और **सामुदायिक स्तर पर कैंसर जांच (Community-based Cancer Screening)** की बढ़ती आवश्यकता यह संकेत देती है कि नियामक ढाँचे को **अल्ट्रासाउंड** के विभिन्न उपयोगों के बीच अंतर करने के लिए अनुकूलित किया जाना चाहिए।
- An amendment to the **Act** could make community-based ultrasound using a **high-frequency linear probe** legal, as it will not impact **sex determination**.
  अधिनियम में संशोधन करके **उच्च-आवृत्ति वाले लीनियर प्रोब (High-Frequency Linear Probe)** के माध्यम से सामुदायिक स्तर पर अल्ट्रासाउंड को वैध बनाया जा सकता है, क्योंकि इससे **लिंग निर्धारण (Sex Determination)** प्रभावित नहीं होगा।
- Additionally, the **Act** should incorporate provisions addressing emerging technologies, including **AI-enabled** and safeguarded **USG imaging systems** designed to prevent the determination or disclosure of **foetal sex**, irrespective of intent.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **अधिनियम** में उभरती हुई तकनीकों से संबंधित प्रावधान भी शामिल किए जाने चाहिए, जिनमें **AI-सक्षम (AI-enabled)** तथा सुरक्षित **USG इमेजिंग सिस्टम** शामिल हों, जिन्हें किसी भी परिस्थिति में **भ्रूण के लिंग (Foetal Sex)** का निर्धारण या खुलासा रोकने के उद्देश्य से विकसित किया गया हो।

PATRIOTIC IAS

In a first, Swedish Minister brings baby to EU talks

GS I: Society

Agence France Presse
BRUSSELS

Sweden's Environment Minister brought her baby to an EU meeting Thursday, in a barrier-breaking move she showed it was possible to be both "a present Minister and a present mother".

Romina Pourmokhtari arrived at the ministerial talks in Luxembourg with her three-month-old son, Adam, in a sling with a pram-pushing aide in tow – becoming the latest public figure to shake up conventions around motherhood and work.

"Happy also to be an example of not having to choose between being a present Minister and a present mother," the 30-year-old told journalists as Adam rested on her chest.

Her French colleague Monique Barbut promptly gave her a baby gift. An EU official said it was thought to be the first time a baby was brought to one of the bloc's ministerial meetings.

Mothers are particularly affected by the challenge of juggling work and childcare, with studies showing women tend to miss out on promotions, career opportunities and higher earnings after having a child. In a bid to make the lives of female lawmakers easier, the European Parliament recently changed its internal rules to allow new mothers the right to vote by proxy.

Ms. Pourmokhtari is not the first politician to highlight maternity struggles. In 2018 former New Zealand leader Jacinda Ardern won accolades for bringing her three-month-old daughter, Neve, to the United Nations General Assembly in the first such appearance by a baby in the organisation's history. A year earlier Larissa Waters made Australian political history by becoming the first woman to nurse her newborn baby in the nation's Parliament.

26J6. In a first, Swedish Minister brings baby to EU talks

पहली बार, स्वीडन की मंत्री अपने शिशु को यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की बैठक में लेकर पहुँचीं

- **Sweden's Environment Minister** brought her baby to an **EU** meeting Thursday, in a barrier-breaking move she showed it was possible to be both "a present **Minister** and a present **mother**".

स्वीडन की पर्यावरण मंत्री (Sweden's Environment Minister) गुरुवार को अपने शिशु को **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** की बैठक में लेकर पहुँचीं। इस बाधाओं को तोड़ने वाले कदम के माध्यम से उन्होंने यह दिखाया कि एक साथ एक सक्रिय **मंत्री (Minister)** और एक समर्पित **माँ (Mother)** होना संभव है।

- **Romina Pourmokhtari** arrived at the ministerial talks in **Luxembourg** with her **three-month-old** son, **Adam**, in a sling with a pram-pushing aide in tow — becoming the latest public figure to shake up conventions around **motherhood** and **work**.

रोमिना पूरमोख्तारी (Romina Pourmokhtari) अपने **तीन महीने** के बेटे **एडम (Adam)** को बेबी स्लिंग में लेकर **लक्ज़मबर्ग (Luxembourg)** में आयोजित मंत्रिस्तरीय वार्ता में पहुँचीं, जबकि उनके साथ एक सहायक प्रैम लेकर चल रहा था। इस प्रकार वे **मातृत्व (Motherhood)** और **कार्य (Work)** से जुड़ी पारंपरिक धारणाओं को चुनौती देने वाली नवीनतम सार्वजनिक हस्ती बन गईं।

- "Happy also to be an example of not having to choose between being a present **Minister** and a present **mother**," the **30-year-old** told journalists as **Adam** rested on her chest.

"मुझे इस बात की भी खुशी है कि मैं इस बात का उदाहरण बन सकी कि एक सक्रिय **मंत्री** और एक समर्पित **माँ** होने के बीच किसी एक को चुनना आवश्यक नहीं है," **30 वर्षीय** मंत्री ने पत्रकारों से कहा, जब **एडम** उनकी छाती से लगा हुआ था।

- Her **French** colleague **Monique Barbut** promptly gave her a baby gift.

उनकी **फ्रांसीसी (French)** सहयोगी **मोनिक बारबू (Monique Barbut)** ने उन्हें तुरंत शिशु के लिए एक उपहार दिया।

- An **EU official** said it was thought to be the first time a baby was brought to one of the bloc's ministerial meetings.

एक **EU अधिकारी** ने कहा कि माना जा रहा है कि यह पहली बार है जब किसी शिशु को यूरोपीय संघ की मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक में लाया गया है।

- **Mothers** are particularly affected by the challenge of juggling **work** and **childcare**, with studies showing women tend to miss out on **promotions**, **career opportunities** and **higher earnings** after having a child.

माताएँ (Mothers) विशेष रूप से **काम (Work)** और **बच्चों की देखभाल (Childcare)** के बीच संतुलन बनाने की चुनौती से प्रभावित होती हैं। अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि बच्चे के जन्म के बाद महिलाओं को अक्सर **पदोन्नति (Promotions)**, **करियर के अवसर (Career Opportunities)** और **अधिक आय (Higher Earnings)** से वंचित रहना पड़ता है।

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- In a bid to make the lives of female lawmakers easier, the **European Parliament** recently changed its internal rules to allow new mothers the right to **vote by proxy**.
  महिला सांसदों का जीवन आसान बनाने के उद्देश्य से **यूरोपीय संसद (European Parliament)** ने हाल ही में अपने आंतरिक नियमों में बदलाव किया, जिससे नई माताओं को **प्रतिनिधि के माध्यम से मतदान (Vote by Proxy)** का अधिकार मिल गया।
- Ms. **Pourmokhtari** is not the first politician to highlight **maternity** struggles.
  सुश्री **पूरमोख्तारी (Pourmokhtari) मातृत्व (Maternity)** से जुड़ी चुनौतियों को उजागर करने वाली पहली राजनेता नहीं हैं।
- In **2018** former **New Zealand** leader **Jacinda Ardern** won accolades for bringing her **three-month-old** daughter, **Neve**, to the **United Nations General Assembly** in the first such appearance by a baby in the organisation's history.
  2018 में **न्यूज़ीलैंड (New Zealand)** की पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **जैसिंडा आर्डर्न (Jacinda Ardern)** ने अपनी **तीन महीने** की बेटी **नीव (Neve)** को **संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (United Nations General Assembly)** में साथ लाकर व्यापक प्रशंसा प्राप्त की। यह संयुक्त राष्ट्र के इतिहास में किसी शिशु की पहली ऐसी उपस्थिति थी।
- A year earlier **Larissa Waters** made **Australian** political history by becoming the first woman to nurse her newborn baby in the nation's **Parliament**.
  इससे एक वर्ष पहले **लैरिसा वॉटर्स (Larissa Waters)** ने **ऑस्ट्रेलिया (Australian)** के राजनीतिक इतिहास में नया अध्याय लिखा था, जब वे देश की **संसद (Parliament)** में अपने नवजात शिशु को स्तनपान कराने वाली पहली महिला बनीं।

GS Paper 1: Geography	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	188 dead, 1,500 injured in Venezuela earthquakes वेनेजुएला में आए भूकंपों में 188 लोगों की मौत, 1,500 घायल
26J6	3 States close ranks on Tungabhadra basin तुंगभद्रा बेसिन पर 3 राज्यों ने एकजुटता दिखाई

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A swirling vortex in the wild

Spinning top: A rare tornado-like funnel cloud formed amid a sudden downpour near Pudukottai and Vaagaikulam in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu on June 21. The tornado ripped off the roof of a few structures in the mini theme park near the Vaagaikulam toll plaza. However,no fatalities were reported.

188 dead, 1,500 injured in Venezuela earthquakes

'Doublet earthquake' with initial 7.2 magnitude quake was closely followed by a stronger 7.5 one

Aid on the way from U.S., European countries, UN, says interim leader; India, China offer help

Tremors from the strongest earthquake to hit Venezuela in 126 years felt in Colombia, Brazil

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
LA GUAIRA

A pair of powerful earthquakes that rocked Venezuela have killed at least 188 people and left more than 1,500 hurt, officials said on Thursday as residents searched for loved ones trapped under rubble after many buildings were flattened within minutes.

An international outpouring of aid quickly followed the tremors on Wednesday evening, which the United States Geological Survey (USGS) measured as magnitude 7.2 and 7.5, centred west of the capital Caracas. Tremors from the earthquakes were also felt in neighbouring Colombia and Brazil.

Interim President Delcy Rodriguez said that intense rescue efforts were going on, noting that the State of La Guaira was hit hard.

"Dozens of buildings have collapsed, and we are currently carrying out very intense rescue efforts to save as many lives as God allows us to save," Ms. Rodriguez said on state television on Thursday.

"La Guaira State is a true tragedy, and has become a disaster zone."

The first earthquake, with an epicentre 21 kilometres west of the coastal town of Moron, occurred at 6.04 p.m. local time on Wednesday, the USGS said. Within a minute, a 7.5-magnitude earthquake struck about 45 kilometres away. They struck at depths of 22 kilometres and 10 kilometres, respectively.

Scores of rescuers from the U.S. and several European countries and UN specialists were on their way to help search for survivors, Ms. Rodriguez said while nations including China, India, Brazil, and war-battered Iran offered help. However, threatening to complicate the relief effort, the international airport near Caracas was closed due to "serious damage," she said, with social media videos showing the terminal's ceiling collapsing over travellers.

Lost in seconds: A woman holds a boy near a collapsed building in Caracas, Venezuela, on Thursday following the earthquakes. AFP

Officials were trying to make the most of the daylight hours to rescue people believed to be trapped under the rubble, the Interim President said.

'Big logistical role'

"Deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the severe earthquakes in Venezuela," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a statement. "We pray for the speedy recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with all those affected... India stands ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.

The U.S. "stands ready, willing, and able to help," President Donald Trump said in a social media post.

"We have a whole-of-government response. It will be big, it will be fast, and it will be effective," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told reporters during a visit to Bahrain, saying his country's military would play a "big logistical role".

Washington is closely involved in oil-rich Venezuela after U.S. forces captured President Nicolas Maduro in January.

The strongest earthquake to hit Venezuela in 126 years will require "massive collective efforts", the United Nations' aid chief Tom Fletcher said in a statement. He said the UN was "fully mobilised" to send aid.

Parts of the capital Caracas lost power and cellphone coverage while subway services were suspended and natural gas shut off, the interim President. Classes will also be canceled for several days, and the Ministry of Education said some school buildings would be used as shelters and donation centers.

On Thursday, the UN human rights mission in Venezuela called on the government to lift local restrictions on social media.

"In the coming hours and days, timely access to reliable information and communication channels will be essential for the protection of the lives, safety, and well-being of the population," the mission said in a statement.

The strongest tremors in earthquake-prone Venezuela's recent history occurred in the northeast in 1997, killing 73 people, and in Caracas in 1967, when 236 people died.

(With inputs from AP and Reuters)

188 dead, 1,500 injured in Venezuela earthquakes
वेनेजुएला में आए भूकंपों में 188 लोगों की मौत, 1,500 घायल

- **'doublet earthquake with the initial 7.2 magnitude quake was closely followed by a stronger 7.5 one.**
  प्रारंभिक 7.2 तीव्रता के 'डबलट भूकंप' के तुरंत बाद 7.5 तीव्रता का उससे भी अधिक शक्तिशाली भूकंप आया।
- **Aid on the way from U.S., European countries, UN, says interim leader; India, China offer help.**
  अंतरिम नेता ने कहा कि अमेरिका, यूरोपीय देशों और संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) से सहायता रास्ते में है; भारत और चीन ने भी मदद की पेशकश की है।
- **Tremors from the strongest earthquake to hit Venezuela in 126 years felt in Colombia, Brazil.**
  126 वर्षों में वेनेजुएला में आए सबसे शक्तिशाली भूकंप के झटके कोलंबिया और ब्राज़ील में भी महसूस किए गए।
- A pair of powerful **earthquakes** that rocked **Venezuela** have killed at least **188 people** and left more than **1,500** hurt, officials said on Thursday.
  वेनेजुएला को हिला देने वाले शक्तिशाली **दोहरे भूकंपों** में कम से कम **188 लोगों** की मौत हो गई है और **1,500** से अधिक लोग घायल हुए हैं, अधिकारियों ने गुरुवार को कहा।
- Residents searched for loved ones trapped under **rubble** after many **buildings** were flattened within minutes.
  कई **इमारतों** के कुछ ही मिनटों में धराशायी हो जाने के बाद लोग **मलबे** में फँसे अपने प्रियजनों की तलाश कर रहे थे।
- An international outpouring of **aid** quickly followed the tremors on Wednesday evening, which the **United States Geological Survey (USGS)** measured as magnitude **7.2** and **7.5**, centred west of the capital **Caracas**.
  बुधवार शाम आए झटकों के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय **सहायता** तेजी से पहुँचने लगी, जिन्हें **संयुक्त राज्य भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (USGS)** ने **7.2** और **7.5** तीव्रता का मापा, जिनका केंद्र राजधानी **कराकास** के पश्चिम में था।
- **Tremors** from the earthquakes were also felt in neighbouring **Colombia** and **Brazil**.
  इन **भूकंपों के झटके** पड़ोसी **कोलंबिया** और **ब्राज़ील** में भी महसूस किए गए।
- **Interim President Delcy Rodriguez** said that intense **rescue efforts** were going on, noting that the **State of La Guaira** was hit hard.

अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति डेल्सी रोड्रिगेज़ ने कहा कि तेज़ **बचाव अभियान** जारी हैं और **ला गुआइरा राज्य** सबसे अधिक प्रभावित हुआ है।

- "Dozens of **buildings** have collapsed, and we are currently carrying out very intense **rescue efforts** to save as many lives as God allows us to save," Ms. Rodriguez said on state television on Thursday.
  सुश्री रोड्रिगेज़ ने गुरुवार को सरकारी टेलीविजन पर कहा, "दर्जनों **इमारतें** ढह गई हैं, और हम जितनी अधिक जानें ईश्वर की कृपा से बचा सकते हैं, उन्हें बचाने के लिए बेहद तेज़ **बचाव अभियान** चला रहे हैं।"
- "**La Guaira State** is a true tragedy, and has become a **disaster zone**."
  "**ला गुआइरा राज्य** वास्तव में एक त्रासदी बन गया है और अब एक **आपदा क्षेत्र** में बदल चुका है।"
- The first **earthquake**, with an **epicentre** 21 kilometres west of the coastal town of **Moron**, occurred at **6.04 p.m.** local time on Wednesday, the **USGS** said.
  USGS के अनुसार, पहला **भूकंप**, जिसका **केंद्र** तटीय नगर **मोरोन** से 21 किलोमीटर पश्चिम में था, बुधवार को स्थानीय समयानुसार **शाम 6:04 बजे** आया।
- Within a minute, a **7.5-magnitude earthquake** struck about **45 kilometres** away.
  एक मिनट के भीतर लगभग **45 किलोमीटर** दूर **7.5 तीव्रता** का दूसरा **भूकंप** आया।
- They struck at depths of **22 kilometres** and **10 kilometres**, respectively.
  ये दोनों भूकंप क्रमशः **22 किलोमीटर** और **10 किलोमीटर** की गहराई पर आए।
- Scores of **rescuers** from the **U.S.** and several **European countries** and **UN specialists** were on their way to help search for **survivors**, Ms. Rodriguez said.
  सुश्री रोड्रिगेज़ ने कहा कि **अमेरिका**, कई **यूरोपीय देशों** और **संयुक्त राष्ट्र के विशेषज्ञों** के **बचावकर्मी जीवित बचे लोगों** की तलाश में सहायता के लिए रास्ते में हैं।
- Nations including **China, India, Brazil**, and war-battered **Iran** offered help.
  चीन, भारत, ब्राज़ील और युद्धग्रस्त **ईरान** सहित कई देशों ने सहायता की पेशकश की।
- However, threatening to complicate the **relief effort**, the **international airport** near **Caracas** was closed due to "serious damage," she said.
  हालाँकि, **राहत कार्यों** को जटिल बनाने वाली स्थिति में **कराकास** के निकट स्थित **अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे** को "गंभीर क्षति" के कारण बंद कर दिया गया, उन्होंने कहा।
- **Social media videos** showed the terminal's **ceiling** collapsing over travellers.
  सोशल मीडिया वीडियो में टर्मिनल की **छत** यात्रियों के ऊपर गिरती हुई दिखाई गई।
- Officials were trying to make the most of the **daylight hours** to rescue people believed to be trapped under the **rubble**, the **Interim President** said.
  अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि अधिकारी **दिन के उजाले** का पूरा उपयोग करते हुए **मलबे** में फँसे माने जा रहे लोगों को बचाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

'Big logistical role'
'बड़ी लॉजिस्टिक भूमिका'

- "Deeply saddened by the **devastation** caused by the severe **earthquakes** in **Venezuela**," **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** said in a statement.
  "**वेनेजुएला** में आए भीषण **भूकंपों** से हुई **तबाही** से मैं अत्यंत दुखी हूँ," **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने एक बयान में कहा।
- "We pray for the speedy recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with all those affected... **India** stands ready to extend all possible assistance," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "हम घायलों के शीघ्र स्वस्थ होने की प्रार्थना करते हैं और सभी प्रभावित लोगों के साथ एकजुटता से खड़े हैं... **भारत** हर संभव सहायता देने के लिए तैयार है।"
- The **U.S.** "stands ready, willing, and able to help," **President Donald Trump** said in a social media post.

अमेरिका "सहायता के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार, इच्छुक और सक्षम है," **राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा।

- "We have a **whole-of-government response**.
  "हमारी ओर से **पूरी सरकार की समन्वित प्रतिक्रिया** होगी।"
- It will be big, it will be fast, and it will be effective," **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** told reporters during a visit to **Bahrain**, saying his country's **military** would play a "**big logistical role**".
  "यह व्यापक होगी, तेज़ होगी और प्रभावी होगी," **अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो** ने **बहरीन** यात्रा के दौरान पत्रकारों से कहा और बताया कि उनके देश की **सेना** "**बड़ी लॉजिस्टिक भूमिका**" निभाएगी।
- **Washington** is closely involved in **oil-rich Venezuela** after **U.S. forces** captured **President Nicolas Maduro** in January.
  जनवरी में **अमेरिकी बलों** द्वारा **राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो** को पकड़ने के बाद **वॉशिंगटन** का **तेल-समृद्ध वेनेज़ुएला** में गहरा जुड़ाव है।
- The strongest **earthquake** to hit **Venezuela** in **126 years** will require "**massive collective efforts**", the **United Nations' aid chief Tom Fletcher** said in a statement.
  126 वर्षों में **वेनेज़ुएला** में आए सबसे शक्तिशाली **भूकंप** से निपटने के लिए "**व्यापक सामूहिक प्रयासों**" की आवश्यकता होगी, **संयुक्त राष्ट्र के राहत प्रमुख टॉम फ्लेचर** ने एक बयान में कहा।
- He said the **UN** was "**fully mobilised**" to send aid.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** सहायता भेजने के लिए "**पूरी तरह सक्रिय**" हो चुका है।
- Parts of the capital **Caracas** lost **power** and **cellphone coverage** while **subway services** were suspended and **natural gas** shut off, the **interim President** said.
  अंतरिम राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि राजधानी **कराकास** के कुछ हिस्सों में **बिजली** और **मोबाइल नेटवर्क** बंद हो गए, जबकि **मेट्रो सेवाएँ** निलंबित कर दी गईं और **प्राकृतिक गैस** की आपूर्ति रोक दी गई।
- Classes will also be canceled for several days, and the **Ministry of Education** said some **school buildings** would be used as **shelters** and **donation centers**.
  कक्षाएँ भी कई दिनों तक रद्द रहेंगी, और **शिक्षा मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि कुछ **स्कूल भवनों** का उपयोग **आश्रय स्थलों** और **दान केंद्रों** के रूप में किया जाएगा।
- On Thursday, the **UN human rights mission** in **Venezuela** called on the government to lift local restrictions on **social media**.
  गुरुवार को **वेनेज़ुएला** में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार मिशन** ने सरकार से **सोशल मीडिया** पर स्थानीय प्रतिबंध हटाने का आग्रह किया।
- "In the coming hours and days, timely access to reliable **information** and **communication channels** will be essential for the protection of the lives, safety, and well-being of the population," the mission said in a statement.
  मिशन ने एक बयान में कहा, "आने वाले घंटों और दिनों में विश्वसनीय **जानकारी** तथा **संचार माध्यमों** तक समय पर पहुँच लोगों के जीवन, सुरक्षा और कल्याण की रक्षा के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक होगी।"
- The strongest **tremors** in earthquake-prone **Venezuela's** recent history occurred in the northeast in **1997**, killing **73 people**, and in **Caracas** in **1967**, when **236 people** died.
  भूकंप-प्रवण **वेनेज़ुएला** के हालिया इतिहास में सबसे शक्तिशाली **झटके 1997** में उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र में आए थे, जिनमें **73 लोगों** की मृत्यु हुई थी, और **1967** में **कराकास** में आए भूकंप में **236 लोगों** की जान गई थी।
- (With inputs from **AP** and **Reuters**)
  (**AP** और **Reuters** से प्राप्त जानकारी के साथ)

3 States close ranks on Tungabhadra basin

Joining hands: Chief Ministers D.K. Shivakumar, N. Chandrababu Naidu, and A. Revanth Reddy share a stage on Thursday. ANI

GS I: Geography

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana on Thursday signalled a "historic" broader political and administrative consensus on protecting the interests of farmers in the Tungabhadra basin and pursuing long-term solutions to irrigation and water-sharing issues.

At an event organised by the Karnataka government and the Tungabhadra Board in Koppal district to mark the inauguration of the newly installed 33 spillway gates of the reservoir in Vijayanagara, Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and his Telangana and Andhra Pradesh counterparts, A. Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu, stressed the need for cooperation in addressing the concerns of lakhs of farmers dependent on the inter-State project.

The Chief Ministers said the three States have arrived at a historic consensus to safeguard the interests of farmers in the Tungabhadra basin.

Tungabhadra desilting

Ahead of the inauguration, the three Chief Ministers held a nearly hour-long meeting with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to discuss key irrigation issues concerning the three States.

Desilting of the Tungabhadra reservoir, where an estimated 33 tmcft of silt has accumulated over the years significantly affecting its storage capacity, was discussed.

Mr. Patil said the Union government will first dredge the Tungabhadra dam as part of its larger plan to desilt major reservoirs.

He said the Chief Ministers had expressed their commitment to extend full cooperation in the exercise.

Pointing out that silt accumulation had reduced the storage capacity of many dams, including the Tungabhadra, Mr. Patil said that, as per the proposed programme, the Centre will provide the technical support, and the dredging would be completed at the earliest possible time with the involvement of the three States.

Calling the replacement of all the 33 spillway gates of the Tungabhadra dam "historic", Mr. Shivakumar said it was done in the larger interest of farmers and the long-term safety of the reservoir.

CENTRE PROPOSES PANEL
» PAGE 3

3 States close ranks on Tungabhadra basin
तुंगभद्रा बेसिन पर 3 राज्यों ने एकजुटता दिखाई

- **Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana** on Thursday signalled a **"historic"** broader **political** and **administrative consensus** on protecting the interests of **farmers** in the **Tungabhadra basin** and pursuing **long-term solutions** to **irrigation** and **water-sharing** issues.

कर्नाटक, आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना ने गुरुवार को **तुंगभद्रा बेसिन** के **किसानों** के हितों की रक्षा करने तथा **सिंचाई** और **जल-बंटवारे** से जुड़े मुद्दों के **दीर्घकालिक समाधान** तलाशने के लिए व्यापक **राजनीतिक** और **प्रशासनिक सहमति** को **"ऐतिहासिक"** बताया।

- At an event organised by the **Karnataka government** and the **Tungabhadra Board** in **Koppal district** to mark the inauguration of the newly installed **33 spillway gates** of the **reservoir** in **Vijayanagara**, **Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar** and his **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh** counterparts, **A. Revanth Reddy** and **N. Chandrababu Naidu**, stressed the need for **cooperation** in addressing the concerns of **lakhs of farmers** dependent on the **inter-State project**.

कर्नाटक सरकार और **तुंगभद्रा बोर्ड** द्वारा **कोप्पल जिले** में **विजयनगर** स्थित **जलाशय** के नवनिर्मित **33 स्पिलवे गेटों** के उद्घाटन के अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में **कर्नाटक के मुख्यमंत्री डी.के. शिवकुमार** तथा उनके **तेलंगाना** और **आंध्र प्रदेश** के समकक्ष **ए. रेवंत रेड्डी** और **एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने **अंतर्राज्यीय परियोजना** पर निर्भर **लाखों किसानों** की चिंताओं के समाधान के लिए **सहयोग** की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।

- The **Chief Ministers** said the three **States** have arrived at a **historic consensus** to safeguard the interests of **farmers** in the **Tungabhadra basin**.

मुख्यमंत्रियों ने कहा कि तीनों **राज्य तुंगभद्रा बेसिन** के **किसानों** के हितों की रक्षा के लिए **ऐतिहासिक सहमति** पर पहुँचे हैं.

Tungabhadra desilting
तुंगभद्रा का गाद हटाने का कार्य

- Ahead of the inauguration, the three **Chief Ministers** held a nearly **hour-long meeting** with **Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil** to discuss key **irrigation issues** concerning the three **States**.

उद्घाटन से पहले तीनों **मुख्यमंत्रियों** ने **केंद्रीय जल शक्ति मंत्री सी.आर. पाटिल** के साथ लगभग **एक घंटे** तक बैठक कर तीनों **राज्यों** से जुड़े प्रमुख **सिंचाई मुद्दों** पर चर्चा की।

- **Desilting** of the **Tungabhadra reservoir**, where an estimated **33 tmcft** of **silt** has accumulated over the years significantly affecting its **storage capacity**, was discussed.

तुंगभद्रा जलाशय की **गाद निकासी (डीसिल्टिंग)** पर चर्चा हुई, जहाँ वर्षों में अनुमानित **33 टीएमसीएफटी गाद** जमा हो गई है, जिससे इसकी **भंडारण क्षमता** पर गंभीर प्रभाव पड़ा है।

- Mr. **Patil** said the **Union government** will first **dredge** the **Tungabhadra dam** as part of its larger plan to **desilt major reservoirs**.

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श्री पाटिल ने कहा कि **केंद्र सरकार** प्रमुख **जलाशयों की गाद निकासी** की अपनी व्यापक योजना के तहत सबसे पहले **तुंगभद्रा बांध** की **ड्रेजिंग** करेगी।

- He said the **Chief Ministers** had expressed their commitment to extend full **cooperation** in the exercise.

  उन्होंने कहा कि **मुख्यमंत्रियों** ने इस कार्य में पूरा **सहयोग** देने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की है।
- Pointing out that **silt accumulation** had reduced the **storage capacity** of many **dams**, including the **Tungabhadra**, Mr. **Patil** said that, as per the proposed programme, the **Centre** will provide the **technical support**, and the **dredging** would be completed at the earliest possible time with the involvement of the three **States**.

  यह बताते हुए कि **गाद के जमाव** से **तुंगभद्रा** सहित कई **बांधों** की **भंडारण क्षमता** कम हो गई है, **श्री पाटिल** ने कहा कि प्रस्तावित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार **केंद्र तकनीकी सहायता** प्रदान करेगा और तीनों **राज्यों** की भागीदारी से **ड्रेजिंग** का कार्य जल्द से जल्द पूरा किया जाएगा।
- Calling the replacement of all the **33 spillway gates** of the **Tungabhadra dam "historic"**, Mr. **Shivakumar** said it was done in the larger interest of **farmers** and the **long-term safety** of the **reservoir**.

  तुंगभद्रा बांध के सभी **33 स्पिलवे गेटों** के प्रतिस्थापन को **"ऐतिहासिक"** बताते हुए **श्री शिवकुमार** ने कहा कि यह कार्य **किसानों** के व्यापक हित और **जलाशय** की **दीर्घकालिक सुरक्षा** को ध्यान में रखकर किया गया है।

GS Paper II: Governance	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	CBSE directive on vocational education sparks backlash व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पर CBSE के निर्देश से विरोध की लहर
26J6	Onerous rules कठोर नियम

CBSE directive on vocational education sparks backlash

GS II: Governance: Education

BENGALURU

After the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) made *Kaushal Vikas* (Vocational Education) mandatory for Class 9 students after the 2026-27 academic year began, many schools in Bengaluru have expressed concern.

The CBSE has introduced *Kaushal Vikas* as a mandatory subject for Class 9 students, rather than keeping it optional. The same will continue when these Class 9 students move to Class 10 for the academic year 2027-28, and the marks will be included in the board exams.

The principal of a CBSE school in Sarjapura Road, said, "In our school, we plan the finance and budget in October and November for the next academic year. We hire teachers for the vacant posts after many rounds of interviews and a lot of scrutiny. An academic calendar and lesson plans are assigned to respective subject teachers even before the school begins. We received the circular a few days ago and we are still figuring out who has to be recruited to teach the *Kaushal Vikas* subject. We must also include it in our weekly timetable and adjust it as per the total number of hours of teaching."

The CBSE has introduced *Kaushal Vikas* as a mandatory subject for Class 9.

Another principal of a school in Yelahanka said, "Students will be in trouble because they choose what career they would like to pursue and start preparing for various exams such as NEET, JEE, CET and others at this stage. Adding one more mandatory subject is a burden. We already run 14 various clubs that teach students innovation, public speaking, art and theatre and others."

26J6. CBSE directive on vocational education sparks backlash

व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पर CBSE के निर्देश से विरोध की लहर

- **CBSE directive on vocational education sparks backlash**
- **व्यावसायिक शिक्षा पर CBSE के निर्देश से विरोध की लहर**
- After the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** made **Kaushal Vikas (Vocational Education)** mandatory for **Class 9** students after the **2026-27 academic year** began, many schools in **Bengaluru** have expressed concern.

केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (CBSE) द्वारा **2026-27 शैक्षणिक वर्ष** शुरू होने

के बाद **कक्षा 9** के विद्यार्थियों के लिए **कौशल विकास (व्यावसायिक शिक्षा)** को अनिवार्य किए जाने के बाद **बेंगलुरु** के कई विद्यालयों ने चिंता व्यक्त की है।

- The **CBSE** has introduced **Kaushal Vikas** as a **mandatory subject** for **Class 9** students, rather than keeping it **optional**.
  CBSE ने **कक्षा 9** के विद्यार्थियों के लिए **कौशल विकास** को **वैकल्पिक** रखने के बजाय **अनिवार्य विषय** के रूप में लागू किया है।
- The same will continue when these **Class 9 students** move to **Class 10** for the academic year **2027-28**, and the **marks** will be included in the **board exams**.
  जब ये **कक्षा 9** के विद्यार्थी **2027-28 शैक्षणिक वर्ष** में **कक्षा 10** में जाएंगे, तब भी यह व्यवस्था जारी रहेगी और इसके **अंक बोर्ड परीक्षा** में शामिल किए जाएंगे।
- The **principal** of a **CBSE school** in **Sarjapura Road**, said, "In our school, we plan the **finance** and **budget** in **October** and **November** for the next academic year.
  सरजापुरा रोड स्थित एक **CBSE विद्यालय** के **प्रधानाचार्य** ने कहा, "हमारे विद्यालय में अगले शैक्षणिक वर्ष के लिए **अक्टूबर** और **नवंबर** में **वित्त** और **बजट** की योजना बनाई जाती है।
- We hire **teachers** for the vacant posts after many rounds of **interviews** and a lot of **scrutiny**.
  हम रिक्त पदों के लिए कई चरणों के **साक्षात्कार** और गहन **जांच** के बाद **शिक्षकों** की नियुक्ति करते हैं।
- An **academic calendar** and **lesson plans** are assigned to respective **subject teachers** even before the school begins.
  विद्यालय शुरू होने से पहले ही **शैक्षणिक कैलेंडर** और **पाठ योजनाएँ** संबंधित **विषय शिक्षकों** को सौंप दी जाती हैं।
- We received the **circular** a few days ago and we are still figuring out who has to be recruited to teach the **Kaushal Vikas** subject.
  हमें कुछ दिन पहले ही **परिपत्र** मिला है और हम अभी भी यह तय कर रहे हैं कि **कौशल विकास** विषय पढ़ाने के लिए किसकी नियुक्ति की जाए।
- We must also include it in our **weekly timetable** and adjust it as per the total number of **teaching hours**."
  हमें इसे अपने **साप्ताहिक समय-सारणी** में भी शामिल करना होगा और **शिक्षण घंटों** की कुल संख्या के अनुसार समायोजित करना होगा।"
- Another **principal** of a school in **Yelahanka** said, "Students will be in trouble because they choose what **career** they would like to pursue and start preparing for various **exams** such as **NEET, JEE, CET** and others at this stage.
  येलहंका के एक अन्य विद्यालय के **प्रधानाचार्य** ने कहा, "विद्यार्थियों को कठिनाई होगी क्योंकि इसी चरण में वे अपने **करियर** का चयन करते हैं और **NEET, JEE, CET** तथा अन्य **परीक्षाओं** की तैयारी शुरू करते हैं।
- Adding one more **mandatory subject** is a **burden**.
  एक और **अनिवार्य विषय** जोड़ना एक **अतिरिक्त बोझ** है।
- We already run **14 various clubs** that teach students **innovation, public speaking, art** and **theatre** and others.
  हम पहले से ही **14 विभिन्न क्लब** संचालित करते हैं, जो विद्यार्थियों को **नवाचार, सार्वजनिक भाषण, कला** और **रंगमंच** सहित कई अन्य गतिविधियों का प्रशिक्षण देते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

GS II: Governance

Onerous rules

The newly amended FCRA Rules point to a renewed attempt to stifle NGOs

Civil society organisations play a vital role in areas such as health, education, disaster relief, and civil liberties and rights, stepping in where the state falls short. Yet, the Indian state has treated NGOs with suspicion, using the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, to impose stringent restrictions on their functioning. Earlier this week, the FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026 were notified, which require all NGOs registered under the FCRA, 2010, to confine their work to activities specified for their category and to the States and Union Territories named in their registration. They must also disclose their social media handles, websites and publications and are barred from carrying "political content". The new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require NGOs to pay separate fees for each category of work and to each State or Union Territory in which they operate, replacing the earlier system of a single registration fee. These increase compliance costs and paperwork. While the government argues that such measures promote transparency, even-handedness and national security, the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of NGOs. The operation of the FCRA regime has been far from transparent. As CPI(M) MP John Brittas recently complained, parliamentary questions on FCRA cancellations and non-renewals have been disallowed as "secret", even though more than 20,000 registrations have reportedly been revoked over the past decade on opaque grounds. Far from improving transparency, the new rules burden NGOs with greater barriers and commitments, raising concerns that the Centre intends to create a chilling effect.

In *Noel Harper* (2022), the Supreme Court upheld the stringent 2020 FCRA amendments, accepting the state's invocation of sovereignty and national security. Yet, in in 2020, the Court had read down rules that would have classified the rights activism of civil society bodies, including protests and demonstrations as work "of a political nature", drawing a distinction between party politics and the everyday work of social and economic betterment. The new Rules seek to treat advocacy and "political content" as grounds for disqualification. In March 2026, the Centre had proposed amendments allowing a government-appointed authority to take over the assets of NGOs whose registrations were cancelled, surrendered, or not renewed. Following strong protests, particularly from minority institutions, it put the proposal on hold. Now, the newly notified rules seem another way of throttling NGOs that utilise foreign funding for civil society work. The Centre should withdraw the punitive provisions, particularly those on multiple fees and political content, and adopt fairer rules.

26J6. Onerous rules
कठोर नियम

- **The newly amended FCRA Rules point to a renewed attempt to stifle NGOs.**

नए संशोधित FCRA नियम गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs) को दबाने के नए प्रयास की ओर संकेत करते हैं।

- **Civil society organisations** play a vital role in areas such as **health, education, disaster relief, and civil liberties and rights**, stepping in where the **state** falls short.

नागरिक समाज संगठन स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा, आपदा राहत तथा नागरिक स्वतंत्रताओं और अधिकारों जैसे क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं और वहाँ कार्य करते हैं जहाँ **राज्य** की व्यवस्था कम पड़ जाती है।

- Yet, the **Indian state** has treated **NGOs** with suspicion, using the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010**, to impose stringent restrictions on their functioning.

फिर भी **भारतीय राज्य** ने **NGOs** को संदेह की दृष्टि से देखा है और उनके कार्यों पर कड़े प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम (FCRA), 2010** का उपयोग किया है।

- Earlier this week, the **FCRA Amendment Rules, 2026** were notified, which require all **NGOs** registered under the **FCRA, 2010**, to confine their work to activities specified for their category and to the **States** and **Union Territories** named in their registration.

इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में **FCRA संशोधन नियम, 2026** अधिसूचित किए गए, जिनके अनुसार **FCRA, 2010** के तहत पंजीकृत सभी **NGOs** को केवल अपनी श्रेणी के लिए निर्धारित गतिविधियों तथा अपने पंजीकरण में उल्लिखित **राज्यों** और **केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों** तक ही अपना कार्य सीमित रखना होगा।

- They must also disclose their **social media handles**, **websites** and **publications** and are barred from carrying **"political content"**.

उन्हें अपने **सोशल मीडिया हैंडल**, **वेबसाइट** और **प्रकाशनों** का भी खुलासा करना होगा तथा **"राजनीतिक सामग्री"** प्रकाशित करने पर रोक रहेगी।

- The new rules impose stringent penalties for using funds for unapproved purposes and require **NGOs** to pay separate fees for each category of work and to each **State** or **Union Territory** in which they operate, replacing the earlier system of a single registration fee.

नए नियम बिना अनुमति वाले उद्देश्यों के लिए धन का उपयोग करने पर कड़े दंड का प्रावधान करते हैं तथा **NGOs** को प्रत्येक कार्य-श्रेणी और प्रत्येक **राज्य** या **केंद्र शासित प्रदेश** के लिए अलग-अलग शुल्क देना होगा, जिससे पहले की एकल पंजीकरण शुल्क व्यवस्था समाप्त हो जाएगी।

- These increase **compliance costs** and paperwork.

इससे **अनुपालन लागत** और कागजी कार्यवाही बढ़ जाती है।

- While the **government** argues that such measures promote **transparency**, **even-handedness** and **national security**, the rules are clearly meant to stifle the work of **NGOs**.

यद्यपि **सरकार** का तर्क है कि ऐसे उपाय **पारदर्शिता**, **निष्पक्षता** और **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** को बढ़ावा देते हैं, लेकिन ये नियम स्पष्ट रूप से **NGOs** के कार्यों को बाधित करने के उद्देश्य से बनाए गए हैं।

- The operation of the **FCRA** regime has been far from transparent.
  FCRA व्यवस्था का संचालन पारदर्शी नहीं रहा है।
- As **CPI(M) MP John Brittas** recently complained, parliamentary questions on **FCRA** cancellations and non-renewals have been disallowed as "secret", even though more than **20,000 registrations** have reportedly been revoked over the past decade on opaque grounds.
  जैसा कि **CPI(M) सांसद जॉन ब्रिटास** ने हाल ही में शिकायत की, **FCRA** पंजीकरण रद्द होने और नवीनीकरण न होने से जुड़े संसदीय प्रश्नों को "गोपनीय" बताकर अस्वीकार कर दिया गया, जबकि पिछले दशक में कथित रूप से **20,000 से अधिक पंजीकरण** अस्पष्ट आधारों पर रद्द किए जा चुके हैं।
- Far from improving **transparency**, the new rules burden **NGOs** with greater barriers and commitments, raising concerns that the **Centre** intends to create a **chilling effect**.
  पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के बजाय नए नियम **NGOs** पर अधिक बाधाएँ और दायित्व थोपते हैं, जिससे यह आशंका पैदा होती है कि **केंद्र** का उद्देश्य **भय का माहौल (chilling effect)** बनाना है।
- In **Noel Harper (2022)**, the **Supreme Court** upheld the stringent **2020 FCRA amendments**, accepting the state's invocation of **sovereignty** and **national security**.
  Noel Harper (2022) मामले में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **2020 के FCRA संशोधनों** को बरकरार रखा और **संप्रभुता** तथा **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा** के राज्य के तर्क को स्वीकार किया।
- Yet, in **2020**, the Court had read down rules that would have classified the **rights activism** of **civil society bodies**, including **protests** and **demonstrations**, as work "of a political nature", drawing a distinction between **party politics** and the everyday work of **social and economic betterment**.
  फिर भी **2020** में न्यायालय ने उन नियमों की सीमित व्याख्या की थी जो **नागरिक समाज संगठनों** के **अधिकार संबंधी आंदोलनों**, जिनमें **विरोध प्रदर्शन** और **धरने** शामिल हैं, को "राजनीतिक प्रकृति" का कार्य मानते थे तथा **दलीय राजनीति** और **सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक सुधार** के दैनिक कार्यों के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट किया था।
- The new **Rules** seek to treat **advocacy** and **"political content"** as grounds for disqualification.
  नए **नियम वकालत (advocacy)** और **"राजनीतिक सामग्री"** को अयोग्यता का आधार बनाने का प्रयास करते हैं।
- In **March 2026**, the **Centre** had proposed amendments allowing a **government-appointed authority** to take over the assets of **NGOs** whose registrations were cancelled, surrendered, or not renewed.
  मार्च 2026 में **केंद्र** ने ऐसे संशोधन प्रस्तावित किए थे, जिनके तहत **सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त प्राधिकरण** उन **NGOs** की संपत्तियों का अधिग्रहण कर सकता था जिनका पंजीकरण रद्द, समर्पित या नवीनीकृत नहीं हुआ था।
- Following strong protests, particularly from **minority institutions**, it put the proposal on hold.
  विशेष रूप से **अल्पसंख्यक संस्थानों** के तीव्र विरोध के बाद इस प्रस्ताव को फिलहाल स्थगित कर दिया गया।
- Now, the newly notified rules seem another way of throttling **NGOs** that utilise **foreign funding** for **civil society** work.
  अब नए अधिसूचित नियम **विदेशी धन** का उपयोग करने वाले **नागरिक समाज** के **NGOs** को नियंत्रित करने का एक और तरीका प्रतीत होते हैं।
- The **Centre** should withdraw the punitive provisions, particularly those on **multiple fees** and **political content**, and adopt fairer rules.
  केंद्र को दंडात्मक प्रावधानों, विशेषकर **अनेक शुल्कों** और **राजनीतिक सामग्री** से संबंधित प्रावधानों को वापस लेकर अधिक न्यायसंगत नियम अपनाने चाहिए।

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GS Paper II: International Relations	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	Should Indian Seafarers Stop Serving on Sanctioned Ships? क्या भारतीय नाविकों को प्रतिबंधित (Sanctioned) जहाज़ों पर काम करना बंद कर देना चाहिए?

Should Indian seafarers stop serving on sanctioned ships?

Ajith Sukumaran
Retd. Additional Director General of Shipping

Biswanath Gupta
Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

PARLEY

While merchant ships across the world have been manned by Indian seafarers, officers, engineers and crew for years, recent conflicts have suddenly brought Indian seafarers into focus. A recent flashpoint was when the U.S. attacked three ships allegedly carrying Iranian cargo, on the grounds that they were sanctioned vessels. Three Indian seafarers were killed in those attacks. More recently, when the British detained a Russian-linked vessel that was supposedly under Western sanctions in the English Channel, the Indian captain was arrested. This raises an important question: should Indian seafarers continue serving on these so-called sanctioned ships? Ajith Sukumaran and Biswanath Gupta discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **M. Kalyanaraman.** Edited excerpts:

Could you give us some some background on Indian seafarers in general?

Ajith Sukumaran: Only recently has society started realising the importance of shipping, but unfortunately from a negative point of view. Whether it was the Titanic, the Exxon Valdez incident, or more recent maritime accidents, shipping has often been in the news for the wrong reasons. But the fact is that shipping carries around 90% of global trade by volume. It is the lifeline of modern society.

The Ever Given incident in 2021 showed this clearly. A 20,000-TEU container ship blocked the Suez Canal for six days, affecting around 20% of seaborne trade. Hundreds of ships were delayed, and loss to world trade was enormous.

The Strait of Hormuz is equally important. It carries around 11-12% of global seaborne trade, but it is strategically significant because of energy transportation. Nearly 25% of fossil fuels and around 20% of LNG move through this route. For India, this is critical because more than 85% of our energy requirements are imported, and almost all of it comes via ships.

But we often talk only about ships and cargo. Ships do not move on their own. They are operated by people. Seafarers take these vessels through difficult and risky situations, and society needs to recognise their contribution. These are high-value and high-risk assets, and they need competent professionals.

Modern cargoes also involve huge risks. LNG carriers, for example, carry enormous energy potential, yet they may be operated by only around 20-21 seafarers. Indian seafarers have been among the most respected in international shipping. They have built a reputation for their discipline and technical competence. Globally, there are around 1.8 million seafarers. India has more than five lakh registered seafarers, of whom around 3.2 lakh are active. This means one in five seafarers in global shipping is Indian. The foreign exchange contribution from Indian seafarers is estimated at between $6 billion and $9 billion annually. Their importance to India is much greater than many people realise.

Vessels at the Strait of Hormuz as seen from Oman on June 18. REUTERS

What is India's position on the sanctions imposed by countries such as the U.S., the U.K. and the European Union?

AS: There is a legal and a practical aspect. There are two broad categories of sanctions. One is UN sanctions, which are binding. The other is unilateral sanctions imposed by individual countries or groups such as the U.S., the U.K., the EU or the G-7. The challenge is that each country has its own list. It is not always easy to draw a line between sanctioned and non-sanctioned vessels. From the government's perspective, the issue is also practical. India has to protect its trade and its seafarers while dealing with international realities.

Should the government track these vessels and advise Indian seafarers not to join them?

AS: Whether India should impose a blanket ban is a political decision. Such a move would have consequences because India imports energy from different countries and employment is also important. The Directorate General of Shipping has issued guidelines that seafarers should be aware of the type of vessel they are joining and the risks involved. But every sanctioned vessel is not necessarily unsafe. If it is not operating in regions enforcing those sanctions, the situation changes. Therefore, it is not easy to identify every vessel and prohibit Indians from joining it.

What is the legal position on these sanctions

> The Directorate General of Shipping has issued guidelines that seafarers should be aware of the type of vessel they are joining and the risks involved. But every sanctioned vessel is not necessarily unsafe
> AJITH SUKUMARAN

and on the arrest of the captain in the U.K.?

Biswanath Gupta: There are two kinds of sanctions. UN Security Council sanctions passed under Chapter VII of the UN Charter are binding under international law. Unilateral sanctions are more contested. They are technically limited to the jurisdiction of the country imposing them, but powerful states often try to enforce them beyond their territory. In international law, this is highly contested – whether those sanctions are binding or non-binding. If a strong country is applying sanctions, they are binding by nature.

Regarding the Indian captain, international law raises the question of jurisdiction. India can question whether the British court has jurisdiction, especially if the incident occurred on the high seas. Another option is diplomatic protection. If an Indian citizen is affected by a violation of international law abroad, India can intervene. Regarding missile attacks on ships, the issue comes under the law of armed conflict in the United Nations Charter. Questions arise about necessity, proportionality and whether proper warnings were given. If sufficient warning was not given, India can take the issue to the international court.

International maritime law has always been important because many principles of international law developed through the law of the sea. Existing maritime frameworks can be useful in protecting seafarers.

Has India signed such maritime agreements?

BG: Yes, India is part of important international maritime frameworks. Since India has a large number of seafarers working globally, these agreements are significant. Some reports suggest that seafarers killed in conflict zones were pressured to enter dangerous areas with threats relating to wages, employment. These issues can be examined through international mechanisms.

What is the difference between dark fleet vessels and sanctioned vessels?

AS: Dark fleet vessels are identified through certain criteria. These may include fraudulent registration, false insurance documents, illegal ship-to-ship transfers, or switching off identification systems. The case of the Indian captain arrested in the English Channel was different. The issue was related to the vessel's registry and whether it was considered stateless. The ship apparently had Cameroon registration but midway through the voyage, before entering the English Channel, the ship seems to have lost the registration. We don't know how that happened. A ship must have a proper flag state. So the legal cover was that the ship was stateless. But whether the master should be held responsible is a separate question, because a captain may not always know about administrative issues.

Given this situation, what should India do?

BG: India should focus on diplomatic engagement. International platforms such as UNCLOS [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea] provide a space where countries can negotiate and raise concerns. The International Labour Organization is also important because seafarer welfare and rights are discussed there.

But should the government tell Indian seafarers not to join these ships?

BG: That cannot be the approach for a country like India. Much of our trade happens through the sea, and shipping is also an important source of employment. These global platforms remain important for protecting our interests.

AS: Yes, it can be done. Recruitment in India happens through agencies licensed by the Directorate General of Shipping, and any directions issued by the DG Shipping are binding on them. The government could maintain a dynamic list of sanctioned or high-risk vessels and require recruitment agencies to exercise caution while placing seafarers on them.

In many cases, vulnerable seafarers – those struggling to find employment or facing certification and documentation issues – are being targeted by agents and drawn into risky jobs. These seafarers often become innocent scapegoats in larger geopolitical conflicts.

The government has already taken an important first step by requiring seafarers to be informed. But awareness alone is not enough. The vulnerability remains, and in such circumstances, I believe the government has a responsibility to step in.

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

26J6. Should Indian Seafarers Stop Serving on Sanctioned Ships?
क्या भारतीय नाविकों को प्रतिबंधित (Sanctioned) जहाज़ों पर काम करना बंद कर देना चाहिए?

- While **merchant ships** across the world have been manned by **Indian seafarers**, officers, engineers, and crew for years, recent conflicts have suddenly brought **Indian seafarers** into focus.
  दुनिया भर के **व्यापारी जहाज़ों (Merchant Ships)** पर वर्षों से **भारतीय नाविक (Indian Seafarers)**, अधिकारी, इंजीनियर और चालक दल कार्यरत रहे हैं, लेकिन हाल के संघर्षों ने अचानक **भारतीय नाविकों** को चर्चा के केंद्र में ला दिया है।
- A recent flashpoint was when the **U.S.** attacked three ships allegedly carrying **Iranian cargo**, on the grounds that they were **sanctioned vessels**.

हाल ही में एक प्रमुख घटना तब हुई जब **अमेरिका (U.S.)** ने कथित रूप से **ईरानी माल (Iranian Cargo)** ले जा रहे तीन जहाज़ों पर यह कहते हुए हमला किया कि वे **प्रतिबंधित जहाज़ (Sanctioned Vessels)** थे।

- Three **Indian seafarers** were killed in those attacks.
  उन हमलों में तीन **भारतीय नाविकों** की मृत्यु हो गई।
- More recently, when the **British** detained a **Russian-linked vessel** that was supposedly under **Western sanctions** in the **English Channel**, the **Indian captain** was arrested.
  हाल ही में, जब **ब्रिटेन** ने **इंग्लिश चैनल** में **रूस से जुड़े एक जहाज़** को, जो कथित रूप से **पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों (Western Sanctions)** के अधीन था, हिरासत में लिया, तो उसके **भारतीय कप्तान** को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया।
- This raises an important question: should **Indian seafarers** continue serving on these so-called **sanctioned ships**?
  इससे एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न उठता है: क्या **भारतीय नाविकों** को ऐसे तथाकथित **प्रतिबंधित जहाज़ों** पर कार्य करना जारी रखना चाहिए?
- **Ajith Sukumaran** and **Biswanath Gupta** discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **M. Kalyanaraman**. Edited excerpts:
  अजीत सुकुमारन और **बिश्वनाथ गुप्ता** ने **एम. कल्याणरमन** द्वारा संचालित एक चर्चा में इस प्रश्न पर विचार किया। संपादित अंश:
- **Could you give us some some background on Indian seafarers in general?**
  क्या आप सामान्य रूप से भारतीय नाविकों के बारे में कुछ पृष्ठभूमि बता सकते हैं?
- **Ajith Sukumaran:** Only recently has society started realising the importance of **shipping**, but unfortunately from a negative point of view.
  अजीत सुकुमारन: समाज ने हाल ही में **शिपिंग (Shipping)** के महत्व को समझना शुरू किया है, लेकिन दुर्भाग्यवश एक नकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण से।
- Whether it was the **Titanic**, the **Exxon Valdez** incident, or more recent **maritime accidents**, shipping has often been in the news for the wrong reasons.
  चाहे वह **टाइटैनिक**, **एक्सॉन वाल्डेज़** दुर्घटना हो या हाल की **समुद्री दुर्घटनाएँ**, शिपिंग अक्सर गलत कारणों से समाचारों में रही है।
- But the fact is that shipping carries around **90% of global trade by volume**.
  लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि **विश्व व्यापार का लगभग 90% (मात्रा के आधार पर)** शिपिंग के माध्यम से होता है।
- It is the **lifeline** of modern society.
  यह आधुनिक समाज की **जीवनरेखा (Lifeline)** है।
- The **Ever Given** incident in **2021** showed this clearly.
  2021 की **एवर गिवेन (Ever Given)** घटना ने इसे स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाया।
- A **20,000-TEU container ship** blocked the **Suez Canal** for six days, affecting around **20% of seaborne trade**.
  एक **20,000-TEU कंटेनर जहाज़** ने **स्वेज़ नहर (Suez Canal)** को छह दिनों तक अवरुद्ध कर दिया, जिससे **समुद्री व्यापार का लगभग 20%** प्रभावित हुआ।
- Hundreds of ships were delayed, and loss to world trade was enormous.
  सैकड़ों जहाज़ों में देरी हुई और विश्व व्यापार को भारी नुकसान हुआ।
- The **Strait of Hormuz** is equally important.
  हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य (Strait of Hormuz) भी समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है।
- It carries around **11-12% of global seaborne trade**, but it is strategically significant because of **energy transportation**.
  इसके माध्यम से **वैश्विक समुद्री व्यापार का लगभग 11-12%** गुजरता है, लेकिन **ऊर्जा परिवहन** के कारण इसका सामरिक महत्व कहीं अधिक है।

- Nearly **25% of fossil fuels** and around **20% of LNG** move through this route.
  इस मार्ग से लगभग **25% जीवाश्म ईंधन (Fossil Fuels)** और लगभग **20% एलएनजी (LNG)** का परिवहन होता है।
- For **India**, this is critical because more than **85% of our energy requirements** are imported, and almost all of it comes via ships.
  भारत के लिए यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि हमारी **ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं का 85% से अधिक** आयात किया जाता है और इसका लगभग पूरा हिस्सा जहाज़ों के माध्यम से आता है।
- But we often talk only about **ships** and **cargo**.
  लेकिन हम अक्सर केवल **जहाज़ों** और **माल (Cargo)** की ही बात करते हैं।
- Ships do not move on their own.
  जहाज़ स्वयं नहीं चलते।
- They are operated by people.
  उन्हें मनुष्य संचालित करते हैं।
- **Seafarers** take these vessels through difficult and risky situations, and society needs to recognise their contribution.
  नाविक (Seafarers) इन जहाज़ों को कठिन और जोखिमपूर्ण परिस्थितियों से निकालते हैं, और समाज को उनके योगदान को पहचानने की आवश्यकता है।
- These are **high-value** and **high-risk assets**, and they need competent professionals.
  ये **उच्च मूल्य (High-Value)** और **उच्च जोखिम (High-Risk)** वाली परिसंपत्तियाँ हैं, जिनके संचालन के लिए कुशल पेशेवरों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Modern cargoes also involve huge risks.
  आधुनिक माल ढुलाई भी अत्यधिक जोखिम से जुड़ी होती है।
- **LNG carriers**, for example, carry enormous energy potential, yet they may be operated by only around **20-21 seafarers**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **एलएनजी वाहक (LNG Carriers)** अत्यधिक ऊर्जा क्षमता वाला माल लेकर चलते हैं, फिर भी उनका संचालन केवल लगभग **20-21 नाविकों** द्वारा किया जाता है।
- **Indian seafarers** have been among the most respected in international shipping.
  भारतीय नाविक अंतरराष्ट्रीय शिपिंग जगत में सबसे अधिक सम्मानित नाविकों में रहे हैं।
- They have built a reputation for their **discipline** and **technical competence**.
  उन्होंने अपने **अनुशासन (Discipline)** और **तकनीकी दक्षता (Technical Competence)** के कारण उत्कृष्ट प्रतिष्ठा अर्जित की है।
- Globally,
  वैश्विक स्तर पर,

What is India's position on the sanctions imposed by countries such as the U.S., the U.K. and the European Union?
अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन और यूरोपीय संघ जैसे देशों द्वारा लगाए गए प्रतिबंधों पर भारत का क्या दृष्टिकोण है?

- **AS:** There is a **legal** and a **practical** aspect. There are two broad categories of **sanctions**. One is **UN sanctions**, which are binding. The other is **unilateral sanctions** imposed by individual countries or groups such as the **U.S., the U.K., the EU or the G-7**. The challenge is that each country has its own list. It is not always easy to draw a line between **sanctioned** and **non-sanctioned vessels**. From the government's perspective, the issue is also practical. India has to protect its **trade** and its **seafarers** while dealing with international realities.
  एएस: इसका एक **कानूनी** और एक **व्यावहारिक** पक्ष है। **प्रतिबंधों** की दो व्यापक श्रेणियाँ हैं। पहली **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) के प्रतिबंध** हैं, जो बाध्यकारी होते हैं। दूसरी **एकतरफा प्रतिबंध** हैं, जो अलग-अलग देशों या **अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, यूरोपीय संघ (EU) या G-7** जैसे समूहों द्वारा लगाए जाते हैं। चुनौती यह है कि प्रत्येक देश की अपनी अलग सूची होती है। **प्रतिबंधित** और **गैर-प्रतिबंधित जहाजों** के बीच स्पष्ट अंतर करना हमेशा आसान नहीं

होता। सरकार के दृष्टिकोण से यह एक व्यावहारिक मुद्दा भी है। भारत को अंतरराष्ट्रीय परिस्थितियों का सामना करते हुए अपने **व्यापार** और अपने **नाविकों (Seafarers)** दोनों की सुरक्षा करनी होती है।

Should the government track these vessels and advise Indian seafarers not to join them?
क्या सरकार को इन जहाजों पर निगरानी रखनी चाहिए और भारतीय नाविकों को इन पर कार्य न करने की सलाह देनी चाहिए?

- **AS:** Whether India should impose a **blanket ban** is a political decision. Such a move would have consequences because India imports **energy** from different countries and **employment** is also important.
- The **Directorate General of Shipping** has issued guidelines that seafarers should be aware of the type of vessel they are joining and the risks involved. But every **sanctioned vessel** is not necessarily unsafe.
- If it is not operating in regions enforcing those sanctions, the situation changes.
- Therefore, it is not easy to identify every vessel and prohibit Indians from joining it.

एएस: भारत को **पूर्ण प्रतिबंध (Blanket Ban)** लगाना चाहिए या नहीं, यह एक राजनीतिक निर्णय है। ऐसा कदम परिणाम उत्पन्न करेगा क्योंकि भारत विभिन्न देशों से **ऊर्जा** आयात करता है और **रोजगार** भी महत्वपूर्ण है। **नौवहन महानिदेशालय (Directorate General of Shipping)** ने दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए हैं कि नाविकों को यह जानकारी होनी चाहिए कि वे किस प्रकार के जहाज पर जा रहे हैं और उससे जुड़े जोखिम क्या हैं। लेकिन हर **प्रतिबंधित जहाज** आवश्यक रूप से असुरक्षित नहीं होता। यदि वह उन क्षेत्रों में संचालित नहीं हो रहा है जहाँ उन प्रतिबंधों को लागू किया जाता है, तो स्थिति अलग हो जाती है। इसलिए प्रत्येक जहाज की पहचान करना और भारतीयों को उस पर कार्य करने से रोकना आसान नहीं है।

What is the legal position on these sanctions and on the arrest of the captain in the U.K.?
इन प्रतिबंधों तथा ब्रिटेन में कप्तान की गिरफ्तारी पर कानूनी स्थिति क्या है?

- **Biswanath Gupta:** There are two kinds of **sanctions**. **UN Security Council sanctions** passed under **Chapter VII of the UN Charter** are binding under international law. **Unilateral sanctions** are more contested. They are technically limited to the jurisdiction of the country imposing them, but powerful states often try to enforce them beyond their territory. In international law, this is highly contested — whether those sanctions are binding or non-binding. If a strong country is applying sanctions, they are binding by nature.

बिस्वनाथ गुप्ता: प्रतिबंधों के दो प्रकार होते हैं। **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद** द्वारा **संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर के अध्याय VII** के अंतर्गत लगाए गए प्रतिबंध अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के तहत बाध्यकारी होते हैं। **एकतरफा प्रतिबंध** अधिक विवादित होते हैं। तकनीकी रूप से वे केवल उसी देश के अधिकार क्षेत्र तक सीमित होते हैं जिसने उन्हें लगाया है, लेकिन शक्तिशाली देश अक्सर उन्हें अपने क्षेत्र से बाहर भी लागू करने का प्रयास करते हैं। अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून में यह अत्यधिक विवादित विषय है कि ऐसे प्रतिबंध बाध्यकारी हैं या नहीं। यदि कोई शक्तिशाली देश प्रतिबंध लागू करता है, तो व्यवहार में वे प्रभावी माने जाते हैं।

- Regarding the **Indian captain**, international law raises the question of **jurisdiction**. India can question whether the British court has jurisdiction, especially if the incident occurred on the **high seas**. Another option is **diplomatic protection**. If an Indian citizen is affected by a violation of international law abroad, India can intervene. Regarding **missile attacks** on ships, the issue comes under the **law of armed conflict** in the **United Nations Charter**. Questions arise about **necessity**, **proportionality** and whether proper warnings were given. If sufficient warning was not given, India can take the issue to the **international court**.

भारतीय कप्तान के संबंध में अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून में **अधिकार क्षेत्र (Jurisdiction)** का प्रश्न उठता है। भारत यह प्रश्न उठा सकता है कि क्या ब्रिटिश न्यायालय का अधिकार क्षेत्र बनता है, विशेषकर यदि घटना **उच्च समुद्र**

(High Seas) में हुई हो। दूसरा विकल्प **राजनयिक संरक्षण (Diplomatic Protection)** है। यदि किसी भारतीय नागरिक के साथ विदेश में अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून का उल्लंघन होता है, तो भारत हस्तक्षेप कर सकता है। जहाजों पर हुए **मिसाइल हमलों** के संबंध में यह विषय **संयुक्त राष्ट्र चार्टर** के अंतर्गत **सशस्त्र संघर्ष के कानून (Law of Armed Conflict)** के दायरे में आता है। इसमें **आवश्यकता (Necessity)**, **आनुपातिकता (Proportionality)** तथा पर्याप्त चेतावनी दिए जाने जैसे प्रश्न उठते हैं। यदि पर्याप्त चेतावनी नहीं दी गई हो, तो भारत इस मामले को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय** में ले जा सकता है।

- **International maritime law** has always been important because many principles of international law developed through the **law of the sea**. Existing maritime frameworks can be useful in protecting **seafarers**.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री कानून हमेशा महत्वपूर्ण रहा है क्योंकि अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के अनेक सिद्धांत **समुद्री कानून (Law of the Sea)** के माध्यम से विकसित हुए हैं। वर्तमान समुद्री ढाँचे **नाविकों (Seafarers)** की सुरक्षा में उपयोगी सिद्ध हो सकते हैं।

Has India signed such maritime agreements?
क्या भारत ने ऐसे समुद्री समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं?

- **BG:** Yes, India is part of important **international maritime frameworks**. Since India has a large number of **seafarers** working globally, these agreements are significant. Some reports suggest that seafarers killed in **conflict zones** were pressured to enter dangerous areas with threats relating to **wages** and **employment**. These issues can be examined through international mechanisms.
  बीजी: हाँ, भारत महत्वपूर्ण **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री ढाँचों (International Maritime Frameworks)** का हिस्सा है। चूँकि भारत के बड़ी संख्या में **नाविक (Seafarers)** विश्वभर में कार्यरत हैं, इसलिए ये समझौते अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं। कुछ रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, **संघर्ष क्षेत्रों (Conflict Zones)** में मारे गए नाविकों पर **वेतन** और **रोजगार** से संबंधित धमकियों के माध्यम से खतरनाक क्षेत्रों में जाने का दबाव डाला गया था। इन मुद्दों की जाँच अंतरराष्ट्रीय तंत्रों के माध्यम से की जा सकती है।

What is the difference between dark fleet vessels and sanctioned vessels?
डार्क फ्लीट जहाजों और प्रतिबंधित जहाजों में क्या अंतर है?

- **AS: Dark fleet vessels** are identified through certain criteria. These may include **fraudulent registration**, **false insurance documents**, **illegal**
- **ship-to-ship transfers**, or switching off **identification systems**.
  जहाज-से-जहाज स्थानांतरण (Ship-to-Ship Transfers), या **पहचान प्रणाली (Identification Systems)** को बंद कर देना।
- The case of the **Indian captain** arrested in the **English Channel** was different.
  इंग्लिश चैनल (English Channel) में गिरफ्तार किए गए **भारतीय कप्तान (Indian Captain)** का मामला अलग था।
- The issue was related to the vessel's **registry** and whether it was considered **stateless**.
  यह मुद्दा जहाज के **पंजीकरण (Registry)** और इस बात से संबंधित था कि क्या उसे **राज्यविहीन (Stateless)** माना गया था।
- The ship apparently had **Cameroon registration** but midway through the voyage, before entering the **English Channel**, the ship seems to have lost the registration.
  ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि जहाज का **कैमरून पंजीकरण (Cameroon Registration)** था, लेकिन यात्रा के बीच में, **इंग्लिश चैनल (English Channel)** में प्रवेश करने से पहले, जहाज का पंजीकरण समाप्त हो गया।
- We don't know how that happened.
  हमें नहीं पता कि ऐसा कैसे हुआ।

- A ship must have a proper **flag state**.
  किसी भी जहाज का एक वैध **ध्वज राज्य (Flag State)** होना आवश्यक है।
- So the legal cover was that the ship was **stateless**.
  इसलिए कानूनी आधार यह था कि जहाज **राज्यविहीन (Stateless)** था।
- But whether the **master** should be held responsible is a separate question, because a **captain** may not always know about administrative issues.
  लेकिन **मास्टर (Master)** को उत्तरदायी ठहराया जाना चाहिए या नहीं, यह एक अलग प्रश्न है, क्योंकि **कप्तान (Captain)** को हमेशा प्रशासनिक मामलों की जानकारी हो, यह आवश्यक नहीं है।

Given this situation, what should India do?
इस स्थिति में भारत को क्या करना चाहिए?

- **BG:** India should focus on **diplomatic engagement**.
  बीजी: भारत को **राजनयिक संवाद (Diplomatic Engagement)** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- International platforms such as **UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)** provide a space where countries can negotiate and raise concerns.
  UNCLOS (संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून अभिसमय) जैसे अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच देशों को बातचीत करने और अपनी चिंताएँ उठाने का अवसर प्रदान करते हैं।
- The **International Labour Organization** is also important because **seafarer welfare** and **rights** are discussed there.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय श्रम संगठन (International Labour Organization - ILO) भी महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि वहाँ **नाविकों के कल्याण (Seafarer Welfare)** और उनके **अधिकारों (Rights)** पर चर्चा की जाती है।

But should the government tell Indian seafarers not to join these ships?
लेकिन क्या सरकार को भारतीय नाविकों से कहना चाहिए कि वे इन जहाजों पर कार्य न करें?

- **BG:** That cannot be the approach for a country like **India**.
  बीजी: भारत जैसे देश के लिए यह उचित दृष्टिकोण नहीं हो सकता।
- Much of our **trade** happens through the sea, and **shipping** is also an important source of **employment**.
  हमारा अधिकांश **व्यापार (Trade)** समुद्र के माध्यम से होता है, और **शिपिंग (Shipping)** भी **रोजगार (Employment)** का एक महत्वपूर्ण स्रोत है।
- These global platforms remain important for protecting our interests.
  हमारे हितों की रक्षा के लिए ये वैश्विक मंच महत्वपूर्ण बने हुए हैं।
- **AS:** Yes, it can be done.
  एएस: हाँ, यह किया जा सकता है।
- Recruitment in **India** happens through agencies licensed by the **Directorate General of Shipping**, and any directions issued by the **DG Shipping** are binding on them.
  भारत में भर्ती **नौवहन महानिदेशालय (Directorate General of Shipping)** द्वारा लाइसेंस प्राप्त एजेंसियों के माध्यम से होती है, और **डीजी शिपिंग (DG Shipping)** द्वारा जारी कोई भी निर्देश उन पर बाध्यकारी होता है।
- The government could maintain a dynamic list of **sanctioned** or **high-risk vessels** and require recruitment agencies to exercise caution while placing seafarers on them.
  सरकार **प्रतिबंधित (Sanctioned)** या **उच्च जोखिम वाले जहाजों (High-Risk Vessels)** की एक गतिशील सूची बनाए रख सकती है और भर्ती एजेंसियों को उन पर नाविकों की नियुक्ति करते समय सावधानी बरतने का निर्देश दे सकती है।
- In many cases, vulnerable **seafarers** — those struggling to find **employment** or facing **certification** and **documentation** issues — are being targeted by agents and drawn into risky jobs.

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कई मामलों में कमजोर **नाविक (Seafarers)** — जो **रोजगार (Employment)** पाने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे होते हैं या **प्रमाणीकरण (Certification)** और **दस्तावेज़ीकरण (Documentation)** संबंधी समस्याओं का सामना कर रहे होते हैं — एजेंटों द्वारा निशाना बनाए जाते हैं और जोखिमपूर्ण नौकरियों में धकेल दिए जाते हैं।

- These seafarers often become innocent **scapegoats** in larger **geopolitical conflicts**.
  ये नाविक अक्सर बड़े **भूराजनीतिक संघर्षों (Geopolitical Conflicts)** में निर्दोष **बलि का बकरा (Scapegoats)** बन जाते हैं।
- The government has already taken an important **first step** by requiring seafarers to be informed.
  सरकार ने नाविकों को जानकारी देना अनिवार्य बनाकर पहले ही एक महत्वपूर्ण **पहला कदम (First Step)** उठाया है।
- But **awareness** alone is not enough.
  लेकिन केवल **जागरूकता (Awareness)** पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- The vulnerability remains, and in such circumstances, I believe the government has a **responsibility** to step in.
  कमज़ोरी अभी भी बनी हुई है, और ऐसी परिस्थितियों में मेरा मानना है कि सरकार की **जिम्मेदारी (Responsibility)** है कि वह हस्तक्षेप करे।

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India's shipbuilding ambitions can set sail with Korea

GS III: Economy

In April this year, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in India, his first visit to India and the first by a Korean leader in eight years. The meeting was remarkable in many ways, as it revived high-level political interaction at the leaders' level, resulting in the expansion of partnership in strategic sectors. However, the visit was special for another reason: it paved the way for strong collaboration between India and South Korea in the shipbuilding industry, a strategic sector that India is seeking to revive.

Seoul plugs into India's shipbuilding drive

Mr. Lee's visit has given positive momentum to the slowly progressing India-South Korea shipbuilding partnership, as seen in the slew of memoranda of understanding (MoU) and agreements signed during his trip. While the big three of the South Korean shipbuilding industry – Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI), HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering, and Hanwha Ocean – had already announced their investment plans, partnerships, or interests in India, Mr. Lee's support reiterates the South Korean government's strategic commitment to shipbuilding collaboration with India. Last year, a subsidiary of Hyundai signed an MoU with Cochin Shipyard Limited and has since announced plans to invest $4 billion in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, to construct a green shipyard. Similarly, SHI has signed a partnership with Swan Defence and Heavy Industries to build ships in India. These developments showcase India's attractiveness as a shipbuilding destination for global giants.

South Korea is also interested in developing a complementary supply chain that includes ancillary industries. For instance, the Korea Marine Equipment Association (KOMEA), which comprises 304 enterprises across ship design, shipbuilding, marine equipment, and ship repair, has opened an office in Mumbai. This is expected to pave the way for the development of a robust shipbuilding ecosystem in India. Such steps will help foster a shipbuilding cluster encompassing ancillary industries and other critical facilities required for scaling up the sector. Further, these partnerships are expected to provide the Indian shipbuilding industry with much-needed support, including design and engineering expertise as well as production know-how. This will help India develop human capital and adopt technology at scale, making its shipyards more competitive internationally. In addition, the various MoUs signed between India and South Korea – at both the government-to-government and business-to-business levels – on workforce development, maritime education, research, and innovation will further strengthen the shipbuilding ecosystem. Together, these efforts could help establish a holistic, cluster-led development model inspired by the success of the city of Ulsan in South Korea.

Abhishek Sharma
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South Korean partnerships could help accelerate India's ambitions to become a shipbuilding powerhouse

What has been accomplished in such a short time is commendable, but the task is far from complete. To emerge as a leading shipbuilding nation, India will have to pursue multiple objectives simultaneously. It must support the industry through proactive policy and fiscal measures while also responding effectively to external crises that could disrupt supply chains and affect demand. The sector will require sustained hand-holding until it becomes self-sufficient and capable of competing globally, particularly with established giants such as China.

Fill the gaps

There must be a focus on human capital development, policy and fiscal support, and bringing in ancillary industries. India's Maritime Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 clearly state the objective of being among the top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and in the top five by 2047.

Complementing initiatives such as the Maritime Development Fund, Shipbuilding Development Scheme, and Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy make it clearer that India is serious about attracting foreign investment in the shipping and shipbuilding sector.

However, policy and operational gaps persist. To rectify these gaps, India will have to focus on implementing a series of reforms related to regulatory consistency and legal predictability and also providing access to low-cost and long-term capital. Steps such as the creation of the Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SFCL), India's first non-banking financial company for the maritime sector, are a positive and welcome development.

However, the greater challenge will be establishing a comprehensive industrial ecosystem for shipbuilding. To achieve this, India will need to move quickly on workforce development, supplier localisation, and the creation of dedicated maritime institutions. In addition, Indian academia and research institutions will have to play a larger role in this developmental partnership to support the country's shipbuilding ambitions.

India must continue to focus on three key priorities: providing sustained policy and fiscal support, developing the capacity to absorb transferred technologies, and formulating a sectoral strategy with clearly defined goals and targets. The in-principle approval of the greenfield project in Tamil Nadu is a welcome development, signalling that approval and implementation bottlenecks need not be insurmountable. To capitalise on this opportunity, however, State governments, alongside the central government, must ensure timely follow-through at every stage, facilitate the entry of foreign investors, and provide continuous support throughout the investment process.

A proven pathway

While India's shipbuilding ambitions are ambitious, they are not impractical. South Korea's shipbuilding journey, from a minor player to a global leader in just 15 years, beginning in the 1970s, demonstrates what is possible. India can replicate that success by focusing on three priorities: sustained policy and financial support, competitive shipbuilding and industrial capacity, and a skilled workforce.

26J6. India's shipbuilding ambitions can set sail with Korea
कोरिया के साथ भारत की जहाज निर्माण महत्वाकांक्षाएँ नई उड़ान भर सकती हैं

- In **April** this year, **South Korean President Lee Jae Myung** met **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **India**, his first visit to India and the first by a Korean leader in **eight years**.
  इस वर्ष **अप्रैल** में **दक्षिण कोरिया के राष्ट्रपति ली जे म्युंग** ने **भारत** में **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** से मुलाकात की, जो उनकी भारत की पहली यात्रा तथा किसी कोरियाई नेता की **आठ वर्षों** में पहली भारत यात्रा थी।
- The meeting was remarkable in many ways, as it revived high-level political interaction at the leaders' level, resulting in the expansion of partnership in **strategic sectors**.
  यह बैठक कई दृष्टियों से महत्वपूर्ण रही क्योंकि इससे शीर्ष नेतृत्व स्तर पर राजनीतिक संवाद पुनः प्रारम्भ हुआ और **रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों** में साझेदारी का विस्तार हुआ।
- However, the visit was special for another reason: it paved the way for strong collaboration between **India** and **South Korea** in the **shipbuilding industry**, a strategic sector that India is seeking to revive.
  हालाँकि, यह यात्रा एक और कारण से विशेष रही क्योंकि इसने **भारत** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** के बीच **जहाज निर्माण उद्योग** में मजबूत सहयोग का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया, जिसे भारत पुनर्जीवित करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

Seoul plugs into India's shipbuilding drive
सियोल भारत के जहाज निर्माण अभियान से जुड़ रहा है

- Mr. **Lee's** visit has given positive momentum to the slowly progressing **India-South Korea shipbuilding partnership**, as seen in the slew of **Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)** and agreements signed during his trip.

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श्री **ली** की यात्रा ने धीरे-धीरे आगे बढ़ रही **भारत-दक्षिण कोरिया जहाज निर्माण साझेदारी** को नई गति दी है, जिसका प्रमाण उनकी यात्रा के दौरान हस्ताक्षरित अनेक **समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoU)** और समझौतों से मिलता है।

- While the big three of the **South Korean shipbuilding industry** — **Samsung Heavy Industries (SHI)**, **HD Korea Shipbuilding & Offshore Engineering**, and **Hanwha Ocean** — had already announced their investment plans, partnerships, or interests in India, Mr. Lee's support reiterates the **South Korean government's** strategic commitment to shipbuilding collaboration with India.
  यद्यपि **दक्षिण कोरिया के जहाज निर्माण उद्योग** की तीन प्रमुख कंपनियाँ — **सैमसंग हेवी इंडस्ट्रीज़ (SHI)**, **HD कोरिया शिपबिल्डिंग एंड ऑफशोर इंजीनियरिंग**, और **हनव्हा ओशन** — पहले ही भारत में निवेश योजनाओं, साझेदारियों या रुचि की घोषणा कर चुकी थीं, फिर भी श्री ली का समर्थन **दक्षिण कोरियाई सरकार** की भारत के साथ जहाज निर्माण सहयोग के प्रति रणनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराता है।
- Last year, a subsidiary of **Hyundai** signed an **MoU** with **Cochin Shipyard Limited** and has since announced plans to invest **$4 billion** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, to construct a **green shipyard**.
  पिछले वर्ष **ह्युंडई** की एक सहायक कंपनी ने **कोचीन शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड** के साथ **MoU** पर हस्ताक्षर किए और इसके बाद **तमिलनाडु के तूतीकोरिन** में **4 अरब डॉलर** निवेश कर एक **ग्रीन शिपयार्ड** बनाने की योजना की घोषणा की।
- Similarly, **SHI** has signed a partnership with **Swan Defence and Heavy Industries** to build ships in **India**.
  इसी प्रकार **SHI** ने **स्वान डिफेंस एंड हेवी इंडस्ट्रीज़** के साथ **भारत** में जहाज निर्माण के लिए साझेदारी की है।
- These developments showcase **India's** attractiveness as a shipbuilding destination for **global giants**.
  ये घटनाक्रम **भारत** को **वैश्विक कंपनियों** के लिए एक आकर्षक जहाज निर्माण गंतव्य के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- **South Korea** is also interested in developing a complementary **supply chain** that includes **ancillary industries**.
  दक्षिण कोरिया ऐसी पूरक **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** विकसित करने में भी रुचि रखता है जिसमें **सहायक उद्योग** शामिल हों।
- For instance, the **Korea Marine Equipment Association (KOMEA)**, which comprises **304 enterprises** across ship design, shipbuilding, marine equipment, and ship repair, has opened an office in **Mumbai**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **कोरिया मरीन इक्विपमेंट एसोसिएशन (KOMEA)**, जिसमें जहाज डिजाइन, जहाज निर्माण, समुद्री उपकरण और जहाज मरम्मत से जुड़ी **304 कंपनियाँ** शामिल हैं, ने **मुंबई** में अपना कार्यालय खोला है।
- This is expected to pave the way for the development of a robust **shipbuilding ecosystem** in **India**.
  इससे **भारत** में एक मजबूत **जहाज निर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** के विकास का मार्ग प्रशस्त होने की उम्मीद है।
- Such steps will help foster a **shipbuilding cluster** encompassing ancillary industries and other critical facilities required for scaling up the sector.
  ऐसे कदम **जहाज निर्माण क्लस्टर** के विकास में सहायक होंगे, जिसमें सहायक उद्योग और इस क्षेत्र के विस्तार के लिए आवश्यक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण सुविधाएँ शामिल होंगी।
- Further, these partnerships are expected to provide the **Indian shipbuilding industry** with much-needed support, including **design and engineering expertise** as well as **production know-how**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, इन साझेदारियों से **भारतीय जहाज निर्माण उद्योग** को **डिज़ाइन एवं इंजीनियरिंग विशेषज्ञता** तथा **उत्पादन संबंधी तकनीकी ज्ञान** सहित आवश्यक सहयोग मिलने की अपेक्षा है।
- This will help **India** develop **human capital** and adopt technology at scale, making its shipyards more competitive internationally.
  इससे **भारत** को **मानव संसाधन** विकसित करने और बड़े पैमाने पर तकनीक अपनाने में सहायता मिलेगी, जिससे उसके शिपयार्ड अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर अधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी बनेंगे।

- In addition, the various **MoUs** signed between **India** and **South Korea** — at both the **government-to-government** and **business-to-business** levels — on **workforce development**, **maritime education**, **research**, and **innovation** will further strengthen the shipbuilding ecosystem.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **भारत** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** के बीच **सरकार-से-सरकार** तथा **व्यवसाय-से-व्यवसाय** स्तर पर **कार्यबल विकास**, **समुद्री शिक्षा**, **अनुसंधान** और **नवाचार** से संबंधित विभिन्न **MoUs** जहाज निर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को और मजबूत करेंगे।
- Together, these efforts could help establish a holistic, **cluster-led development model** inspired by the success of the city of **Ulsan** in **South Korea**.
  ये सभी प्रयास मिलकर **दक्षिण कोरिया** के **उल्सान** शहर की सफलता से प्रेरित एक समग्र **क्लस्टर-आधारित विकास मॉडल** स्थापित करने में सहायक हो सकते हैं।
- What has been accomplished in such a short time is commendable, but the task is far from complete.
  इतने कम समय में जो उपलब्धियाँ प्राप्त हुई हैं वे सराहनीय हैं, लेकिन कार्य अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है।
- To emerge as a leading **shipbuilding nation**, **India** will have to pursue multiple objectives simultaneously.
  एक अग्रणी **जहाज निर्माण राष्ट्र** बनने के लिए **भारत** को एक साथ अनेक लक्ष्यों पर कार्य करना होगा।
- It must support the industry through proactive **policy** and **fiscal measures** while also responding effectively to external crises that could disrupt **supply chains** and affect demand.
  उसे सक्रिय **नीतिगत** और **राजकोषीय उपायों** के माध्यम से उद्योग का समर्थन करना होगा तथा उन बाहरी संकटों का प्रभावी ढंग से सामना करना होगा जो **आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** और मांग को प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- The sector will require sustained hand-holding until it becomes self-sufficient and capable of competing globally, particularly with established giants such as **China**.
  इस क्षेत्र को तब तक निरंतर समर्थन की आवश्यकता होगी जब तक यह आत्मनिर्भर होकर **चीन** जैसे स्थापित वैश्विक दिग्गजों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने में सक्षम न हो जाए।

Fill the gaps
कमियों को दूर करें

- There must be a focus on **human capital development**, **policy and fiscal support**, and bringing in **ancillary industries**.
  मानव संसाधन विकास, **नीतिगत एवं राजकोषीय समर्थन** तथा **सहायक उद्योगों** को बढ़ावा देने पर विशेष ध्यान देना होगा।
- **India's Maritime Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** clearly state the objective of being among the **top 10 shipbuilding nations** by **2030** and in the **top five** by **2047**.
  भारत का मैरीटाइम विज़न 2030 और **मैरीटाइम अमृत काल विज़न 2047** स्पष्ट रूप से **2030** तक **शीर्ष 10 जहाज निर्माण देशों** में तथा **2047** तक **शीर्ष पाँच** में शामिल होने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित करते हैं।
- Complementing initiatives such as the **Maritime Development Fund**, **Shipbuilding Development Scheme**, and **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy** make it clearer that **India** is serious about attracting **foreign investment** in the shipping and shipbuilding sector.
  मैरीटाइम डेवलपमेंट फंड, **शिपबिल्डिंग डेवलपमेंट स्कीम** और **शिपबिल्डिंग फाइनेंशियल असिस्टेंस पॉलिसी** जैसी पहलें यह स्पष्ट करती हैं कि **भारत** जहाजरानी और जहाज निर्माण क्षेत्र में **विदेशी निवेश** आकर्षित करने के प्रति गंभीर है।
- However, **policy** and **operational gaps** persist.
  हालाँकि **नीतिगत** और **परिचालन संबंधी कमियाँ** अभी भी बनी हुई हैं।
- To rectify these gaps, **India** will have to focus on implementing a series of reforms related to **regulatory consistency** and **legal predictability** and also providing access to **low-cost** and **long-term capital**.

इन कमियों को दूर करने के लिए **भारत** को **नियामकीय स्थिरता**, **कानूनी पूर्वानुमेयता** तथा **कम लागत** और **दीर्घकालिक पूंजी** की उपलब्धता से जुड़े सुधार लागू करने होंगे।

- Steps such as the creation of the **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SFCL)**, **India's** first **non-banking financial company** for the maritime sector, are a positive and welcome development.
  सागरमाला फाइनेंस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड (SFCL) जैसी पहल, जो **भारत** की समुद्री क्षेत्र की पहली **गैर-बैंकिंग वित्तीय कंपनी** है, एक सकारात्मक और स्वागतयोग्य कदम है।
- However, the greater challenge will be establishing a comprehensive **industrial ecosystem** for shipbuilding.
  हालाँकि सबसे बड़ी चुनौती जहाज निर्माण के लिए एक व्यापक **औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** स्थापित करना होगी।
- To achieve this, **India** will need to move quickly on **workforce development**, **supplier localisation**, and the creation of dedicated **maritime institutions**.
  इसे प्राप्त करने के लिए **भारत** को **कार्यबल विकास**, **आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के स्थानीयकरण** तथा समर्पित **समुद्री संस्थानों** की स्थापना पर तेजी से कार्य करना होगा।
- In addition, **Indian academia** and **research institutions** will have to play a larger role in this developmental partnership to support the country's shipbuilding ambitions.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **भारतीय शैक्षणिक संस्थानों** और **अनुसंधान संस्थानों** को देश की जहाज निर्माण महत्वाकांक्षाओं को समर्थन देने के लिए इस विकासात्मक साझेदारी में बड़ी भूमिका निभानी होगी।
- **India** must continue to focus on **three key priorities**: providing sustained **policy and fiscal support**, developing the capacity to absorb **transferred technologies**, and formulating a **sectoral strategy** with clearly defined goals and targets.
  भारत को **तीन प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं** पर ध्यान केंद्रित रखना होगा: निरंतर **नीतिगत और राजकोषीय समर्थन**, **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण** को अपनाने की क्षमता विकसित करना तथा स्पष्ट लक्ष्यों वाली **क्षेत्रीय रणनीति** तैयार करना।
- The **in-principle approval** of the **greenfield project** in **Tamil Nadu** is a welcome development, signalling that approval and implementation bottlenecks need not be insurmountable.
  तमिलनाडु में **ग्रीनफील्ड परियोजना** को मिली **सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति** एक सकारात्मक संकेत है कि स्वीकृति और कार्यान्वयन से जुड़ी बाधाएँ असाध्य नहीं हैं।
- To capitalise on this opportunity, however, **State governments**, alongside the **Central government**, must ensure timely follow-through at every stage, facilitate the entry of **foreign investors**, and provide continuous support throughout the investment process.
  हालाँकि इस अवसर का पूरा लाभ उठाने के लिए **राज्य सरकारों** को **केंद्र सरकार** के साथ मिलकर प्रत्येक चरण में समयबद्ध कार्यान्वयन सुनिश्चित करना होगा, **विदेशी निवेशकों** के प्रवेश को सुगम बनाना होगा और पूरे निवेश प्रक्रिया के दौरान निरंतर सहयोग देना होगा।

A proven pathway
एक सिद्ध मार्ग

- While **India's shipbuilding ambitions** are ambitious, they are not impractical.
  यद्यपि **भारत की जहाज निर्माण महत्वाकांक्षाएँ** बड़ी हैं, लेकिन वे अव्यावहारिक नहीं हैं।
- **South Korea's** shipbuilding journey, from a minor player to a **global leader** in just **15 years**, beginning in the **1970s**, demonstrates what is possible.
  दक्षिण कोरिया की जहाज निर्माण यात्रा, जो **1970 के दशक** से शुरू होकर मात्र **15 वर्षों** में एक छोटे खिलाड़ी से **वैश्विक नेता** बनने तक पहुँची, यह दर्शाती है कि क्या संभव है।
- **India** can replicate that success by focusing on **three priorities**: sustained **policy and financial support**, competitive **shipbuilding and industrial capacity**, and a **skilled workforce**.

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भारत भी **तीन प्राथमिकताओं** पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके इस सफलता को दोहरा सकता है: निरंतर **नीतिगत और वित्तीय समर्थन**, प्रतिस्पर्धी **जहाज निर्माण एवं औद्योगिक क्षमता**, तथा **कुशल कार्यबल**।

Amazon to invest additional $13 bn in AI, cloud: CEO

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy on Thursday announced an additional investment of $13 billion to expand AI and cloud infrastructure in India by 2030. This comes within six months of Amazon announcing $35 billion in new investments in the country. Mr. Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in the day at New Delhi and reiterated Amazon's long-term commitment to the country.

The CEO highlighted the growing importance of India, where Amazon operated several businesses including ecommerce, AI and cloud, and entertainment among others. He also noted that the company's India business was on a strong growth trajectory with strong customer demand, especially in e-commerce and AWS business.

"We came to India over a decade ago and have since been serving customers, sellers, developers, start-ups and enterprises through our different businesses. The response has been tremendous, with strong growth especially across our e-commerce, AI, and cloud businesses," Mr. Jassy said.

"As we grow Amazon in India, our business priorities continue to align with India's priorities of democratising access to AI, digitising small businesses, creating jobs, and enabling exports. We are investing over $48 billion in the coming five years to meet the strong demand across our business in India and to help the country achieve these priorities," he said.

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

This takes Amazon's total planned investment in expanding and supporting AI and cloud infrastructure to over $21 billion between 2026 and 2030, establishing it as one of the largest global AI and cloud infrastructure investors in the country.

According to an Amazon communique, the investment will expand AWS data centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, giving start-ups, enterprises and government organisations access to custom AI chips, managed AI services, secure and reliable cloud technologies and developer tools to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally.

Amazon's cumulative investments in India from 2010-2030 stand at over $88 billion, as per the company. The company plans to launch over 20 new fulfilment centres and over 100 new last-mile delivery stations this year, ensuring faster and reliable deliveries nationwide, especially in tier 3 and 4 cities.

26J6. Amazon to invest additional $13 bn in AI, cloud: CEO

अमेज़न AI और क्लाउड में अतिरिक्त 13 अरब डॉलर का निवेश करेगा: CEO

- **Amazon CEO Andy Jassy** on Thursday announced an additional investment of **$13 billion** to expand **AI** and **cloud infrastructure** in **India** by **2030**.

अमेज़न के CEO एंडी जैसी (Andy Jassy) ने गुरुवार को **भारत** में **2030** तक **AI** और **क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** के विस्तार के लिए अतिरिक्त **13 अरब डॉलर** के निवेश की घोषणा की।

- This comes within six months of **Amazon** announcing **$35 billion** in new investments in the country.

यह घोषणा **अमेज़न** द्वारा देश में **35 अरब डॉलर** के नए निवेश की घोषणा के छह महीने के भीतर की गई है।

- Mr. **Jassy** met **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** earlier in the day at **New Delhi** and reiterated **Amazon's** long-term commitment to the country.

श्री **जैसी** ने दिन में पहले **नई दिल्ली** में **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** से मुलाकात की और देश के प्रति **अमेज़न** की दीर्घकालिक प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

- The CEO highlighted the growing importance of **India**, where **Amazon** operated several businesses including **e-commerce**, **AI** and **cloud**, and **entertainment** among others.

CEO ने **भारत** के बढ़ते महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला, जहाँ **अमेज़न ई-कॉमर्स**, **AI**, **क्लाउड**, **मनोरंजन** सहित कई क्षेत्रों में कार्यरत है।

- He also noted that the company's **India** business was on a strong growth trajectory with strong customer demand, especially in **e-commerce** and **AWS** business.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि कंपनी का **भारत** में कारोबार मजबूत विकास की दिशा में बढ़ रहा है, जहाँ विशेष रूप से **ई-कॉमर्स** और **AWS** व्यवसाय में ग्राहकों की मांग काफी मजबूत है।

- "We came to **India** over a decade ago and have since been serving customers, sellers, developers, start-ups and enterprises through our different businesses.

"हम एक दशक से अधिक पहले **भारत** आए थे और तब से अपने विभिन्न व्यवसायों के माध्यम से ग्राहकों, विक्रेताओं, डेवलपर्स, **स्टार्ट-अप्स** और उद्यमों को सेवाएँ प्रदान कर रहे हैं।

- The response has been tremendous, with strong growth especially across our **e-commerce**, **AI**, and **cloud** businesses," Mr. **Jassy** said.

हमारे **ई-कॉमर्स**, **AI**, और **क्लाउड** व्यवसायों में विशेष रूप से तेज़ वृद्धि हुई है और हमें अत्यंत सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया मिली है," श्री **जैसी** ने कहा।

- "As we grow **Amazon** in **India**, our business priorities continue to align with **India's** priorities of democratising access to **AI**, digitising **small businesses**, creating **jobs**, and enabling **exports**.
  "जैसे-जैसे **भारत** में **अमेज़न** का विस्तार हो रहा है, हमारी व्यावसायिक प्राथमिकताएँ **भारत** की प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप हैं, जिनमें **AI** तक लोकतांत्रिक पहुँच, **लघु व्यवसायों** का डिजिटलीकरण, **रोज़गार** सृजन और **निर्यात** को बढ़ावा देना शामिल है।
- We are investing over **$48 billion** in the coming **five years** to meet the strong demand across our business in **India** and to help the country achieve these priorities," he said.
  हम आने वाले **पाँच वर्षों** में **भारत** में अपने व्यवसाय की बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने तथा देश को इन प्राथमिकताओं को हासिल करने में सहयोग देने के लिए **48 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक का निवेश कर रहे हैं," उन्होंने कहा।
- This takes **Amazon's** total planned investment in expanding and supporting **AI** and **cloud infrastructure** to over **$21 billion** between **2026** and **2030**, establishing it as one of the largest global **AI** and **cloud infrastructure** investors in the country.
  इससे **2026** से **2030** के बीच **AI** और **क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** के विस्तार एवं समर्थन हेतु **अमेज़न** का कुल नियोजित निवेश **21 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक हो जाएगा, जिससे वह देश में **AI** और **क्लाउड इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** के सबसे बड़े वैश्विक निवेशकों में शामिल हो जाएगा।
- According to an **Amazon** communique, the investment will expand **AWS data centre** capacity in **Mumbai** and **Hyderabad**, giving **start-ups**, **enterprises** and **government organisations** access to custom **AI chips**, managed **AI services**, secure and reliable **cloud technologies** and **developer tools** to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally.
  अमेज़न के एक आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, यह निवेश **मुंबई** और **हैदराबाद** में **AWS डेटा सेंटर** की क्षमता का विस्तार करेगा, जिससे **स्टार्ट-अप्स**, **उद्यमों** और **सरकारी संगठनों** को विशेष **AI चिप्स**, प्रबंधित **AI सेवाएँ**, सुरक्षित एवं विश्वसनीय **क्लाउड तकनीक** तथा **डेवलपर टूल्स** उपलब्ध होंगे, जिससे वे तेज़ी से नवाचार कर सकेंगे, शीघ्र विस्तार कर सकेंगे और वैश्विक ग्राहकों को सेवाएँ प्रदान कर सकेंगे।
- **Amazon's** cumulative investments in **India** from **2010-2030** stand at over **$88 billion**, as per the company.
  कंपनी के अनुसार, **2010-2030** के दौरान **भारत** में **अमेज़न** का कुल संचयी निवेश **88 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक होगा।
- The company plans to launch over **20 new fulfilment centres** and over **100 new last-mile delivery stations** this year, ensuring faster and reliable deliveries nationwide, especially in **Tier-3** and **Tier-4 cities**.
  कंपनी इस वर्ष **20 से अधिक नए फुलफिलमेंट सेंटर** और **100 से अधिक नए लास्ट-माइल डिलीवरी स्टेशन** शुरू करने की योजना बना रही है, जिससे पूरे देश में, विशेषकर **टियर-3** और **टियर-4 शहरों** में, तेज़ और विश्वसनीय डिलीवरी सुनिश्चित की जा सकेगी।

PATRIOTIC IAS

GS Paper III: Environment	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	Village youth track down wildlife wonders in drought-prone Satara सूखा-प्रभावित सतारा में गाँव के युवाओं ने वन्यजीवों के अद्भुत संसार का पता लगाया

Village youth track down wildlife wonders in drought-prone Satara

GS III: Environment

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

In a community-led survey, the locals from Maharashtra's Kiraksal, a hilly village in the drought-prone region of Satara, documented over 600 species.

Indian wolf, Bengal fox, striped hyena and many more were spotted using camera traps and GIS mapping. The 606 documented species include 212 birds, 34 herpetofauna, 160 vascular plants, and 18 mammals. The Kukudwad forest landscape, adjoining Kiraksal, hosts 295 distinct floral species.

The findings of the research - started in 2023 under the Kiraksal Conservation Project to document the "pulsating life" of the Mandesh area - was submitted earlier this year to the Chief Conservator of Forest, Kolhapur (Territorial) Forest Circle, Deputy Conservator of Forest (Territorial), Satara Forest Division, Maharashtra Forest Department, and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF India), who also funded the project.

Stripes and sights: A striped hyena at Kiraksal village in Satara district of Maharashtra; the village youth were trained to install cameras and monitor the captured footage in a community-led survey that documented more than 600 species in the hilly village. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We confirmed that Kiraksal is a breeding stronghold for the striped hyena, golden jackal, Bengal fox and the Indian grey wolf. We are currently monitoring two wolf packs, mapping active breeding dens and essential rendezvous sites for species persistence, in the rocky crevices of the Dambi Hills and Maddadara scrub forests of Kiraksal," said Chinmay Prakash Sawant, project lead and Mumbai-based wildlife biologist.

Involvement of locals

The study recognised that the colonial classification of areas at Maan taluka as wastelands are actually vital open natural ecosystems that constitute approximately 25.6% of the district, totalling 2,686 sq km. Maan taluka alone is spread across 1,451.19 sq. km, of which around 18.2 sq km comprises Kiraksal village on the border of Maan- Khatav tehsil.

The youth of Kiraksal village from Maan were trained to instal cameras and monitor the captured footage. Several villagers, previously involved in hunting and now having knowledge of dense areas, helped the team of biologists to locate sites spotting the hyenas and wolves. "The locals are the guardians. They have better knowledge and we use that knowledge," said Mr. Sawant, who has spent a fair amount of childhood vacations in Kiraksal.

The local community of Kiraksal involved in the project implemented a "trisystem" of self- imposed social prohibitions - *kurhad bandi* (ban on axe or prohibition on cutting trees), *shikar bandi* (hunting ban), and *vanva bandi* (forest fire ban) to maintain ecological health of the landscape. Along with the documentation, the research team also created awareness among the villagers to protect wildlife in the area, making them understand the importance of the food chain.

After the study, a proposal was submitted to the Deputy Conservator of Forests of Satara Forest Division to declare 23 villages, spread across 4,793 hectares of Maan and Khatav forest ranges, as Mandesh Conservation Reserve. "We are also working to include the continuous stretch of three clusters (Kiraksal, Kukudwad, and Kaledhon) to be conserved with legal protection," said Mr. Sawant.

26J6. Village youth track down wildlife wonders in drought-prone Satara
सूखा-प्रभावित सतारा में गाँव के युवाओं ने वन्यजीवों के अद्भुत संसार का पता लगाया

- In a **community-led survey**, the locals from **Maharashtra's Kiraksal**, a hilly village in the **drought-prone** region of **Satara**, documented over **600 species**.
  समुदाय-नेतृत्व वाले सर्वेक्षण में **महाराष्ट्र के किरकसल** के स्थानीय लोगों ने, जो **सतारा** के **सूखा-प्रभावित** क्षेत्र का एक पहाड़ी गाँव है, **600 से अधिक प्रजातियों** का दस्तावेजीकरण किया।
- **Indian wolf**, **Bengal fox**, **striped hyena** and many more were spotted using **camera traps** and **GIS mapping**.
  भारतीय भेड़िया, **बंगाल लोमड़ी**, **धारीदार लकड़बग्घा** सहित कई अन्य वन्यजीवों को **कैमरा ट्रैप** और **जीआईएस मैपिंग** की सहायता से देखा गया।
- The **606 documented species** include **212 birds**, **34 herpetofauna**, **160 vascular plants**, and **18 mammals**.
  दस्तावेजीकृत 606 प्रजातियों में **212 पक्षी**, **34 हर्पेटोफौना**, **160 संवहनी पौधे**, और **18 स्तनधारी** शामिल हैं।
- The **Kukudwad forest landscape**, adjoining **Kiraksal**, hosts **295 distinct floral species**.
  किरकसल से लगा **कुकुडवाड वन परिदृश्य 295 विशिष्ट पुष्पीय प्रजातियों** का निवास स्थान है।
- The **findings** of the **research** – started in **2023** under the **Kiraksal Conservation Project** to document the **"pulsating life"** of the **Mandesh** area – was submitted earlier this year to the **Chief Conservator of Forest, Kolhapur (Territorial) Forest Circle**, **Deputy Conservator of Forest (Territorial), Satara Forest Division**, **Maharashtra Forest Department**, and **World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF India)**, who also funded the project.
  अनुसंधान के **निष्कर्ष**, जो **2023** में **किरकसल संरक्षण परियोजना** के तहत **मांडेश** क्षेत्र के **"स्पंदित जीवन"** का दस्तावेजीकरण करने के लिए शुरू किए गए थे, इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में **मुख्य वन संरक्षक, कोल्हापुर (प्रादेशिक)**

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वन वृत्त, **उप वन संरक्षक (प्रादेशिक), सतारा वन प्रभाग**, **महाराष्ट्र वन विभाग**, और **वर्ल्ड वाइल्डलाइफ फंड फॉर नेचर (WWF इंडिया)** को सौंपे गए, जिसने इस परियोजना को वित्तीय सहायता भी प्रदान की।

- "We **confirmed** that **Kiraksal** is a **breeding stronghold** for the **striped hyena**, **golden jackal**, **Bengal fox** and the **Indian grey wolf**.
  "हमने **पुष्टि** की है कि **किरकसल**, **धारीदार लकड़बग्घा**, **सुनहरा सियार**, **बंगाल लोमड़ी** और **भारतीय धूसर भेड़िये** का एक प्रमुख **प्रजनन केंद्र** है।
- We are currently **monitoring two wolf packs**, mapping active **breeding dens** and essential **rendezvous sites** for species persistence, in the **rocky crevices** of the **Dambi Hills** and **Madladara scrub forests** of **Kiraksal**," said **Chinmay Prakash Sawant**, project lead and **Mumbai-based wildlife biologist**.
  हम वर्तमान में **भेड़ियों के दो झुंडों की निगरानी** कर रहे हैं तथा **किरकसल** की **डांबी पहाड़ियों** और **मदलादरा झाड़ीदार वनों** की **चट्टानी दरारों** में सक्रिय **प्रजनन मांदों** और प्रजातियों के संरक्षण के लिए आवश्यक **मिलन स्थलों** का मानचित्रण कर रहे हैं," परियोजना प्रमुख और **मुंबई स्थित वन्यजीव जीवविज्ञानी चिन्मय प्रकाश सावंत** ने कहा।

Involvement of locals
स्थानीय लोगों की भागीदारी

- The **study** recognised that the **colonial classification** of areas at **Maan taluka** as **wastelands** are actually **vital open natural ecosystems** that constitute approximately **25.6%** of the district, totalling **2,686 sq km**.
  अध्ययन ने माना कि **मान तालुका** के क्षेत्रों को **औपनिवेशिक वर्गीकरण** में **बंजर भूमि** कहा गया था, जबकि वे वास्तव में **महत्वपूर्ण खुले प्राकृतिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** हैं, जो जिले के लगभग **25.6%** क्षेत्र अर्थात **2,686 वर्ग किमी** में फैले हुए हैं।
- **Maan taluka** alone is spread across **1,451.19 sq. km**, of which around **18.2 sq km** comprises **Kiraksal village** on the border of **Maan-Khatav tehsil**.
  केवल **मान तालुका** ही **1,451.19 वर्ग किमी** क्षेत्र में फैला है, जिसमें लगभग **18.2 वर्ग किमी** क्षेत्र **मान-खटाव तहसील** की सीमा पर स्थित **किरकसल गाँव** का है।
- The local community of **Kiraksal** involved in the project implemented a **"tri-system"** of **self-imposed social prohibitions** – **kurhad bandi** (ban on axe or prohibition on cutting trees), **shikar bandi** (hunting ban), and **vanva bandi** (forest fire ban) to maintain **ecological health** of the landscape.
  परियोजना से जुड़े **किरकसल** के स्थानीय समुदाय ने परिदृश्य के **पारिस्थितिक स्वास्थ्य** को बनाए रखने के लिए **स्व-लगाए गए सामाजिक प्रतिबंधों** की **"त्रि-प्रणाली"** लागू की – **कुरहाड़ बंदी** (कुल्हाड़ी या पेड़ काटने पर प्रतिबंध), **शिकार बंदी** (शिकार पर प्रतिबंध), और **वनवा बंदी** (वनाग्नि पर प्रतिबंध)।
- Along with the **documentation**, the **research team** also created **awareness** among the villagers to protect **wildlife** in the area, making them understand the importance of the **food chain**.
  दस्तावेजीकरण के साथ-साथ **अनुसंधान दल** ने ग्रामीणों के बीच **जागरूकता** भी फैलाई ताकि वे क्षेत्र के **वन्यजीवों** की रक्षा करें और **खाद्य श्रृंखला** के महत्व को समझें।
- After the **study**, a proposal was submitted to the **Deputy Conservator of Forests** of **Satara Forest Division** to declare **23 villages**, spread across **4,793 hectares** of **Maan** and **Khatav forest ranges**, as **Mandesh Conservation Reserve**.
  अध्ययन के बाद **सतारा वन प्रभाग** के **उप वन संरक्षक** को एक प्रस्ताव सौंपा गया, जिसमें **मान** और **खटाव वन क्षेत्र** के **4,793 हेक्टेयर** में फैले **23 गाँवों** को **मांडेश संरक्षण रिजर्व** घोषित करने की मांग की गई।
- "We are also working to include the continuous stretch of **three clusters (Kiraksal, Kukudwad, and Kaledhon)** to be conserved with **legal protection**," said Mr. **Sawant**.
  "हम **तीन समूहों (किरकसल, कुकुडवाड और कालेढोन)** के सतत क्षेत्र को **कानूनी संरक्षण** के साथ सुरक्षित करने की दिशा में भी काम कर रहे हैं," **श्री सावंत** ने कहा।

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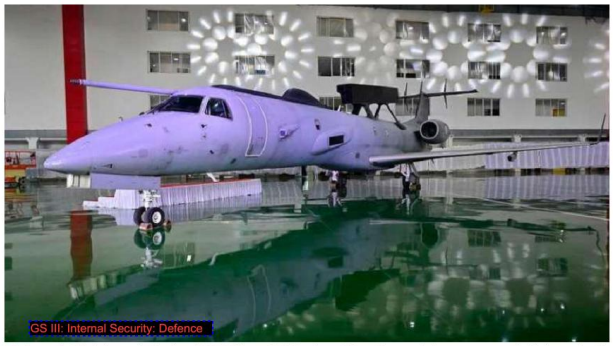
- The **youth** of **Kiraksal village** from **Maan** were trained to **instal cameras** and monitor the **captured footage**.
  मान के **किरकसल गाँव** के **युवाओं** को **कैमरे स्थापित करने** और **रिकॉर्ड किए गए फुटेज** की निगरानी करने का प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।
- Several **villagers**, previously involved in **hunting** and now having knowledge of dense areas, helped the team of **biologists** to locate sites spotting the **hyenas** and **wolves**.
  कई **ग्रामीण**, जो पहले **शिकार** में शामिल थे और अब घने क्षेत्रों का ज्ञान रखते हैं, उन्होंने **जीवविज्ञानियों** की टीम को **लकड़बग्घों** और **भेड़ियों** के देखे जाने वाले स्थानों की पहचान करने में सहायता की।
- "The **locals** are the **guardians**.
  "**स्थानीय लोग** ही इस क्षेत्र के **संरक्षक** हैं।
- They have better **knowledge** and we use that **knowledge**," said Mr. **Sawant**, who has spent a fair amount of **childhood vacations** in **Kiraksal**.
  उनके पास बेहतर **जानकारी** है और हम उसी **जानकारी** का उपयोग करते हैं," **श्री सावंत** ने कहा, जिन्होंने अपने **बचपन की कई छुट्टियाँ किरकसल** में बिताई हैं।
- The local community of **Kiraksal** involved in the project implemented a **"tri-system"** of **self-imposed social prohibitions**.
  परियोजना से जुड़े **किरकसल** के स्थानीय समुदाय ने **स्व-लगाए गए सामाजिक प्रतिबंधों** की **"त्रि-प्रणाली"** को लागू किया।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	26 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
26J6	**Netra, India's airborne surveillance platform, gets final operational nod** **भारत के हवाई निगरानी मंच 'नेत्र' को अंतिम परिचालन स्वीकृति मिली**

Eye in the sky



Mission ready: The indigenously developed NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control system during an event to receive final operational clearance at the Centre for Airborne Systems in Bengaluru, Karnataka, on Thursday. K. MURALI KUMAR (REPORT: PAGE 6)

Mission ready: The indigenously developed NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control system during an event to receive final operational clearance at the Centre for Airborne Systems in Beng aluru, Karnataka, on Thursday.

Netra, India's airborne surveillance platform, gets final operational nod

GS III: Internal Security

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The indigenous Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system, which played a pivotal role as a force multiplier for the Indian Air Force in the 2019 Balakot strikes and Operation Sindoor last year, was accorded final operational clearance (FOC) on Thursday.

Developed indigenously by the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS), the Netra AEW&C is integrated on the Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I aircraft platform.

The system encompasses a sophisticated suite of mission equipment, including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, Identification Friend or Foe (IFF), mission computer, secure communication networks, electronic support measures (ESM) and communication support measures. India is the fifth country in the world to develop this capability, as Netra can detect, track, identify and monitor airborne and maritime targets enhancing the network-centric operations capabilities of the IAF.

Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar Bharti and others, pose during a ceremony marking the FOC of NETRA on Thursday. MURALI KUMAR K

Dedication

At an event to mark the occasion, scientists and IAF officers dedicated the achievement to colleagues killed in a tragic air crash in 1999. The seeds of India's airborne warning and control system (AWACS) were sown in the early 1980s.

However, the tragic crash of a modified HS-748 Avro aircraft near Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu, with eight people aboard, including four IAF personnel and four scientists, on January 11, 1999 resulted in the programme being abandoned temporarily.

The programme took off again after being sanctioned afresh in 2004. During this intervening period, scientists kept their perseverance and hoped for the best.

"On January 11, 1999, the ill-fated aircraft had a crash. I salute personnel who were on board, who made their supreme sacrifice. Today we have shown that their sacrifice has not gone in vain. This FOC is dedicated to them," Director-General of Aeronautics Cluster of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), K. Rajalakshmi Menon said.

The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) for the Netra was accorded in 2015 and it was inducted into the IAF in 2017.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the development of six more AEW&C Mk-1A systems by the CABS.

26J6. Netra, India's airborne surveillance platform, gets final operational nod
भारत के हवाई निगरानी मंच 'नेत्र' को अंतिम परिचालन स्वीकृति मिली

- The indigenous **Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system**, which played a pivotal role as a **force multiplier** for the **Indian Air Force** in the **2019 Balakot strikes** and **Operation Sindoor** last year, was accorded **Final Operational Clearance (FOC)** on Thursday.
  स्वदेशी **नेत्र एयरबोर्न अर्ली वार्निंग एंड कंट्रोल (AEW&C) प्रणाली**, जिसने **2019 बालाकोट हमलों** और पिछले वर्ष के **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** में **भारतीय वायु सेना** के लिए **फोर्स मल्टीप्लायर** की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी, उसे गुरुवार को **अंतिम परिचालन स्वीकृति (FOC)** प्रदान की गई।
- Developed indigenously by the **Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS)**, the **Netra AEW&C** is integrated on the **Brazilian Embraer EMB-145I aircraft** platform.
  बेंगलुरु स्थित सेंटर फॉर एयरबोर्न सिस्टम्स (CABS) द्वारा स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित **नेत्र AEW&C** को **ब्राज़ीलियाई एम्ब्रेयर EMB-145I विमान** प्लेटफॉर्म पर एकीकृत किया गया है।
- The system encompasses a sophisticated suite of mission equipment, including an **Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar**, **Identification Friend or Foe (IFF)**, **mission computer**, **secure communication networks**, **electronic support measures (ESM)** and **communication support measures**.
  इस प्रणाली में अत्याधुनिक मिशन उपकरणों का समावेश है, जिनमें **एक्टिव इलेक्ट्रॉनिकली स्कैन्ड एरे (AESA) रडार**, **आइडेंटिफिकेशन फ्रेंड ऑर फो (IFF)**, **मिशन कंप्यूटर**, **सुरक्षित संचार नेटवर्क**, **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सपोर्ट मेजर्स (ESM)** तथा **कम्युनिकेशन सपोर्ट मेजर्स** शामिल हैं।

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- **India** is the **fifth country** in the world to develop this capability, as **Netra** can detect, track, identify and monitor airborne and maritime targets enhancing the **network-centric operations** capabilities of the **IAF**.
  भारत इस क्षमता को विकसित करने वाला दुनिया का **पाँचवाँ देश** बन गया है, क्योंकि **नेत्र** हवाई और समुद्री लक्ष्यों का पता लगाने, उनका पीछा करने, उनकी पहचान करने और उनकी निगरानी करने में सक्षम है, जिससे **भारतीय वायु सेना** की **नेटवर्क-केंद्रित अभियानों** की क्षमता बढ़ती है।

Dedication
समर्पण

- At an event to mark the occasion, **scientists** and **IAF officers** dedicated the achievement to colleagues killed in a tragic **air crash** in **1999**.
  इस अवसर पर आयोजित कार्यक्रम में **वैज्ञानिकों** और **भारतीय वायु सेना के अधिकारियों** ने इस उपलब्धि को **1999** की दुखद **विमान दुर्घटना** में मारे गए अपने साथियों को समर्पित किया।
- The seeds of **India's airborne warning and control system (AWACS)** were sown in the early **1980s**.
  भारत की एयरबोर्न वार्निंग एंड कंट्रोल सिस्टम (AWACS) की नींव **1980 के दशक** की शुरुआत में रखी गई थी।
- However, the tragic crash of a modified **HS-748 Avro aircraft** near **Arakkonam** in **Tamil Nadu**, with eight people aboard, including four **IAF** personnel and four scientists, on **January 11, 1999** resulted in the programme being abandoned temporarily.
  हालाँकि, **11 जनवरी 1999** को **तमिलनाडु** के **अरक्कोनम** के निकट संशोधित **HS-748 एव्रो विमान** की दुखद दुर्घटना, जिसमें चार **भारतीय वायु सेना** कर्मियों और चार वैज्ञानिकों सहित आठ लोग सवार थे, के कारण इस कार्यक्रम को अस्थायी रूप से रोक दिया गया।
- The programme took off again after being sanctioned afresh in **2004**.
  इस कार्यक्रम को **2004** में दोबारा स्वीकृति मिलने के बाद पुनः शुरू किया गया।
- During this intervening period, scientists kept their perseverance and hoped for the best.
  इस बीच के समय में वैज्ञानिकों ने धैर्य बनाए रखा और बेहतर परिणाम की आशा नहीं छोड़ी।
- "On **January 11, 1999**, the ill-fated aircraft had a crash.
  "**11 जनवरी 1999** को दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया था।"
- I salute personnel who were on board, who made their supreme sacrifice.
  मैं विमान में सवार उन सभी कर्मियों को नमन करता हूँ जिन्होंने सर्वोच्च बलिदान दिया।
- Today we have shown that their sacrifice has not gone in vain.
  आज हमने सिद्ध कर दिया है कि उनका बलिदान व्यर्थ नहीं गया।
- This **FOC** is dedicated to them," **Director-General of Aeronautics Cluster of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), K. Rajalakshmi Menon** said.
  रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) के **एरोनॉटिक्स क्लस्टर की महानिदेशक के. राजलक्ष्मी मेनन** ने कहा, "यह **FOC** उन्हीं को समर्पित है।"
- The **Initial Operational Clearance (IOC)** for the **Netra** was accorded in **2015** and it was inducted into the **IAF** in **2017**.
  नेत्र को **2015** में **प्रारंभिक परिचालन स्वीकृति (IOC)** प्रदान की गई थी और **2017** में इसे **भारतीय वायु सेना** में शामिल किया गया।
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has approved the development of **six more AEW&C Mk-1A systems** by the **CABS**.

  कैबिनेट कमेटी ऑन सिक्योरिटी (CCS) ने **CABS** द्वारा **छह और AEW&C Mk-1A प्रणालियों** के विकास को मंजूरी दे दी है।

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PCS Special:	25 June 2026
25J6	QUIZ: FIFA World Cup
25J6	Kim unveils plans for 10,000-tonne warships, nuclear navy in N. Korea किम ने उत्तर कोरिया में 10,000-टन के युद्धपोतों और परमाणु नौसेना की योजना का किया अनावरण।
25J6	DR Congo's living statue fan makes his World Cup debut डीआर कांगो के लिविंग स्टैच्यू प्रशंसक ने विश्व कप में अपना पहला पदार्पण किया।

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

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

25J6. QUIZ: FIFA World Cup

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

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

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

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

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

Answer: Oliver Kahn (Germany)

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

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

Answer: Paolo Rossi (Italy)

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

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

Answer: Franz Beckenbauer (Germany)

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

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

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

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

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

PCS

AFP

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

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

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

- **North Korea** will equip its **navy** with **nuclear weapons** and build larger **warships**, leader **Kim Jong-un** said, according to **state media** on Wednesday.

उत्तर कोरिया अपनी **नौसेना** को **परमाणु हथियारों** से लैस करेगा और बड़े **युद्धपोतों** का निर्माण करेगा, ऐसा **राज्य मीडिया** के अनुसार बुधवार को नेता **किम जोंग-उन** ने कहा।

- **Mr. Kim** made his remarks at the **commissioning** of the **Choe Hyon** — one of two **5,000-tonne class warships** launched last year — in the **port city** of **Nampho** on Tuesday.

श्री किम ने मंगलवार को **नम्फो** के **बंदरगाह शहर** में **चोए ह्योन** के **कमीशनिंग समारोह** के दौरान ये बातें कहीं, जो पिछले वर्ष लॉन्च किए गए दो **5,000-टन श्रेणी के युद्धपोतों** में से एक है।

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

PCS

REUTERS

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

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

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

- **DR Congo's** famous **living statue** finally made his **World Cup** debut on Tuesday.

डीआर कांगो की प्रसिद्ध **लिविंग स्टैच्यू** ने आखिरकार मंगलवार को **विश्व कप** में अपना पदार्पण किया।

- **Michel Nkuka Mboladinga**, who gained fame during the **AFCON** (Africa Cup of Nations) for posing as a statue of **Congo's** assassinated independence leader **Patrice Lumumba** for the entirety of games, attended the match against **Colombia** after missing the opener against **Portugal**.

मिशेल नकुका म्बोलाडिंगा, जिन्होंने **AFCON** के दौरान **कांगो** के

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

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

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

GS I: Geography

T. Ramakrishnan

CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

Giving one more reason why Rasimanal, and not Mekedatu, should be preferred, the former Chief Engineer explains that the submersible area for the Mekedatu project falls under the Cauvery wildlife sanctuary with numerous elephant corridors. "It is extremely difficult to get environmental and forest clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change," he says, wondering why Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has been giving an impression that the Mekedatu project will take off swiftly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

तमिलनाडु का रासिमनाल, मेकेदातु परियोजना का एक अच्छा वैकल्पिक स्थल

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

House panel seeks Ministry report on Great Nicobar Project

GS I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

K. C. Venugopal

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

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

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

संसदीय समिति ने ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना पर मंत्रालय से रिपोर्ट मांगी

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

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

GS I: Geography

Razor's edge

High heat and low rainfall is threatening agricultural produce

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

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

25J6. Razor's edge

नाज़ुक मोड़

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BJP councillors retake oath after court order

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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

The order came on a petition filed by Left Democratic Front Council Party leader in the corporation, S.P. Deepak.

Justice P.V. Kunhikrishnan held that the councillors' original oaths were invalid as per the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.

After the order, an oath-taking ceremony was held and 19 councillors took oath. One councillor is in jail. A Congress ward member of the Vadakkanchery grama panchayat in Palakkad was also directed to retake oath.

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

- They had taken oath in the name of **local deities**, **Bharath Matha**, and **"Balidaanis"** (martyrs in **RSS** parlance).

उन्होंने **स्थानीय देवताओं**, **भारत माता** तथा **"बलिदानियों"** (**आरएसएस** की शब्दावली में शहीद) के नाम पर शपथ ली थी।

- The order came on a **petition** filed by **Left Democratic Front Council Party** leader in the corporation, **S.P. Deepak**.

यह आदेश निगम में **वाम लोकतांत्रिक मोर्चा परिषद दल** के नेता **एस.पी. दीपक** द्वारा दायर **याचिका** पर आया।

- Justice **P.V. Kunhikrishnan** held that the councillors' original **oaths** were invalid as per the **Kerala Municipality Act, 1994**.

न्यायमूर्ति **पी.वी. कुन्हीकृष्णन** ने कहा कि **केरल नगरपालिका अधिनियम, 1994** के अनुसार पार्षदों द्वारा ली गई मूल **शपथें** वैध नहीं थीं।

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

GS II: Polity

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

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

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

Highlighting the importance of passports in connecting the Indian workforce with the global economy, MEA officials said the government will intensify mobility engagements with western nations and Japan in coming months to help citizens get secure employment opportunities in these industrialised economies.

Voter list exclusion

"Passport is a travel document, not a document of citizenship and theoretically speaking that distinguishes passport from other documents. Even though while travelling abroad, passport attests to your nationality, yet it is not a document of your citizenship," a senior official said, in response to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the Indian passport could be used to challenge an exclusion from the voter list through the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is currently under way in 16 States.

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

Another MEA official said that the Indian passport is issued "after a lot of due diligence and we make sure that the person who gets it is actually entitled, and we also base ourselves on documents from several government agencies like the Aadhaar, PAN card." The second official said that the MEA will host a major event on international mobility – the Human Resource Mobility Forum to be held in New Delhi from June 30 to July 1 – that will focus on countries like Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, and Denmark.

Ethical migration

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

"We have to demolish the myths that one can go to Italy or Greece using unfair means and then send home lots of money," the official said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- In addition, **one-stop centres** for **distressed women** in the **Indian diaspora** have been opened in the **Gulf countries** and **Singapore**, supported by the **Indian community**.

इसके अतिरिक्त, **भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय** की **संकटग्रस्त महिलाओं** के लिए **वन-स्टॉप केंद्र खाड़ी देशों** और **सिंगापुर** में **भारतीय समुदाय** के सहयोग से स्थापित किए गए हैं।

GS Paper II: Governance	25 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
25J6	Symbolism over substance? Public health officials slam T.N. govt.'s gold ring scheme प्रतीकवाद बनाम वास्तविक आवश्यकता? सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य अधिकारियों ने तमिलनाडु सरकार की स्वर्ण अंगूठी योजना की आलोचना की
25J6	SC had agreed that right to associate is no carte blanche for foreign funds उच्चतम न्यायालय ने माना था कि संगठन बनाने का अधिकार विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने की असीमित अनुमति नहीं है

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

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

GS II: Governance

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

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

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

Already, the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme provides maternal assistance of ₹14,000 in cash support and two nutritional kits valued at ₹4,000. With this in place, the questions raised are plenty – Can the State government sustain a recurring cost of ₹755.83 crore a year, or ₹17,000 per ring (today's gold rate), for 4,41,667 deliveries along with administration cost? Whether symbolic incentives such as gold rings are the best use of public resources when basic gaps in the health system remain unresolved? Does this self-defeat the State's family welfare measures by incentivising higher order births?

'Bizarre move'

A head of a government institution found it bizarre that the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) is tasked with procuring and supplying the rings, based on the yearly indent given by the Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine.

"TNMSC was set up in the 1990s with the objective of procuring quality medicines for government hospitals. But now, it is tasked with purchasing the yellow metal. How far this is ethical is a question to be asked," he said.

A health officer said that from a policy perspective, the scheme had no connection with the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (reducing global Maternal Mortality Ratio to less than 70 deaths per 1,00,000 live births and to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age by 2030).

Another public health officer said Tamil Nadu had already achieved near-universal institutional delivery coverage, with institutional deliveries exceeding 99%, leaving limited scope for further improvement on this indicator.

"A government's legitimacy comes from good governance, not symbolic kinship. Public resources should be directed towards strengthening systems and services that create lasting benefits," he said.

While more incentives are being introduced, many frontline healthcare personnel continue to face inadequate remuneration, he said, adding that Reproductive and Child Health contract staff receive approximately ₹4,500 per month.

'Self-defeating'

"There is an acute shortage of obstetricians and gynaecologists. The government should announce funds to hire more OB-GYNs as and when they announce such schemes," a doctor said.

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

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

Former Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine K. Kolandasamy said it was a good scheme as it would improve institutional deliveries.

The scheme could act as an incentive for families belonging to the lower-middle income group to opt for government hospitals for childbirth, thereby reducing their maternal and childbirth-related health expenditure in private hospitals, Mr. Kolandasamy added.

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

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

- Every year, the **Tamil Nadu government** will spend **₹755.83 crore** on gifting **one-gram gold rings** to roughly **4.42 lakh babies** born in **government hospitals** under its new scheme, **Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam**.
  प्रत्येक वर्ष **तमिलनाडु सरकार** अपनी नई योजना **थाइमामान थंगा मोथिरम थिट्टम** के तहत **सरकारी अस्पतालों** में जन्म लेने वाले लगभग **4.42 लाख शिशुओं** को **एक ग्राम के स्वर्ण छल्ले** उपहार में देने पर **₹755.83 करोड़** खर्च करेगी।
- The **gold ring** may be intended as a celebration of birth, but for many within the **public health sector**, the more pressing need is investment in the **workforce** and **infrastructure** that makes safe deliveries possible.
  स्वर्ण छल्ला जन्मोत्सव का प्रतीक हो सकता है, लेकिन **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र** से जुड़े अनेक लोगों के अनुसार अधिक आवश्यक आवश्यकता सुरक्षित प्रसव सुनिश्चित करने वाले **मानव संसाधन** और **आधारभूत संरचना** में निवेश की है।
- Already, the **Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme** provides maternal assistance of **₹14,000** in cash support and **two nutritional kits** valued at **₹4,000**.
  पहले से ही **डॉ. मुथुलक्ष्मी रेड्डी मातृत्व लाभ योजना** के अंतर्गत **₹14,000** की नकद सहायता तथा **₹4,000** मूल्य की **दो पोषण किटें** प्रदान की जाती हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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

GS II: Governance

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

SC judgments

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

The court had disapproved of the tendency to seek funds abroad, saying it gave an impression that the nation was incapable of looking after its own needs.

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

The government has argued in court that the FCRA, its Rules, and amendments were meant to regulate the manner of doing business, more importantly, concerning foreign contributions. The FCRA did not intend to stop charitable work. It has argued that the regulatory regime did not hurt the fundamental rights of individuals to form associations or practice a profession or carry on an occupation, trade or business under Article 19(1)(c) and Article 19(1)(g), respectively, of the Constitution.

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

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

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

- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2026**, notified by the **Union Home Ministry** on **June 22**, has introduced tougher limits on **NGOs** to receive **foreign donations**.
  22 जून को **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा अधिसूचित **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन नियम, 2026** ने **गैर-सरकारी संगठनों (NGOs)** के **विदेशी चंदा** प्राप्त करने पर अधिक कड़े प्रतिबंध लागू किए हैं।
- These amendments, and the ones before them, source their legality from the **Centre's** argument in the **Supreme Court** that the freedom to form **associations** or engage in the **"business" of charity** does not include a right to receive unbridled foreign funds or to use the money outside **"permissible activities"**.
  ये संशोधन तथा इनके पूर्व के संशोधन अपनी वैधता **केंद्र सरकार** के **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** में दिए गए उस तर्क से प्राप्त करते हैं कि **संघ बनाने** या **परोपकार के "व्यवसाय"** में संलग्न होने की स्वतंत्रता में असीमित विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने अथवा उसे **"अनुमेय गतिविधियों"** के बाहर उपयोग करने का अधिकार शामिल नहीं है।
- Among other changes, **Rule 9(1B)** mandates that **certificates of registration** of **NGOs** must specify the **"purpose or purposes and the States or Union Territories"**.

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

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

SC judgments
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय

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

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

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

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

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

Minister sees vast scope for BRICS nations in space sector

GS II: IR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

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

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

"The future of the space economy will not be shaped by nations working in isolation. It will be shaped by partnerships, shared innovation and collective ambition. BRICS countries have the potential to become one of the strongest pillars of this emerging global space ecosystem," Dr. Singh said.

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

Hosted by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, the two-day meeting was attended by heads of space agencies and senior officials from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates. The meeting also reviewed the progress in BRICS space cooperation and deliberated on key issues including space sustainability, debris-free missions and strengthening the BRICS remote sensing satellite constellation.

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

क्षेत्र में ब्रिक्स देशों के लिए व्यापक संभावनाएँ देखीं

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix

GS II: IR

Suhasini Haidar

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

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

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

U.S.-China ties and the Quad

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

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

As a result, the Quad, rebuilt in Trump 1.0 as a counter to China in the region, appears to be floundering. The U.S.'s National Defense Strategy released in January 2026 does not mention the Quad even once. In terms of substance, the Quad's combined agenda has been pared down to four areas of cooperation – maritime security, economic prosperity, critical and emerging minerals technology and disaster responses. Even within these limited objectives, there have been setbacks, such as over Artificial Intelligence cooperation. Despite Quad countries signing on to Pax Silica, and Critical Minerals Initiative Framework with the U.S., the Trump administration ordered Anthropic to end access to its latest models for all non-Americans.

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

The U.S.-Iran MoU and West Asia

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

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

Paragraph 6 stipulates that the U.S., along with regional allies, will provide at least $300 billion for Iran's reconstruction. These provisions imply commitments on behalf of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) states while giving Iran leverage on key issues – military, connectivity, and economic security. Oman and Qatar are now closer to Iran than before and have been part of the Pakistan-led mediation process, while countries such as Saudi Arabia are seeking new security arrangements with Türkiye, Pakistan, and Ukraine.

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

The U.S. and South Asia

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

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

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

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

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The U.S.'s reversion from INDOPACOM to PACOM suggests that its regional shifts run deeper than a simple name change

25J6. PACOM, the deeper meaning behind a dropped prefix
PACOM: हटाए गए उपसर्ग के पीछे का गहरा अर्थ

- The decision by the **United States military** to change the name of its **naval command** in the region from "**US INDOPACOM**" to "**US PACOM**" — **United States Indo-Pacific Command** to **United States Pacific Command** — reverting to its original name that was changed in **2018** can be dismissed as superficial, even trivial.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की सेना द्वारा क्षेत्र में अपने **नौसैनिक कमान** का नाम "**संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका हिंद-प्रशांत कमान**" से बदलकर "**संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका प्रशांत कमान**" करना — अर्थात् **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका हिंद-प्रशांत कमान** से पुनः **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका प्रशांत कमान** करना — तथा **2018** से पहले के मूल नाम पर लौटना, सतही अथवा तुच्छ परिवर्तन माना जा सकता है।

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- In **2018**, **U.S. Defence Secretary Jim Mattis** said that the name **INDOPACOM** was a recognition of the "**growing significance**" of the **Indian Ocean**, the **Indian subcontinent**, and **India** itself, and the **U.S.** dropped the term "**Asia-Pacific**" to "**Indo-Pacific**".
  2018 में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के रक्षा सचिव जिम मैटिस** ने कहा था कि **हिंद-प्रशांत कमान** नाम **हिंद महासागर**, **भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप** तथा स्वयं **भारत** के बढ़ते हुए **महत्त्व** की स्वीकृति का प्रतीक है, और इसी कारण **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने "**एशिया-प्रशांत**" के स्थान पर "**हिंद-प्रशांत**" शब्द का प्रयोग आरम्भ किया।
- Current **U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth** gave the signal, on **May 30**, that this understanding has now changed, at his speech at the annual **Shangri-La Dialogue** in **Singapore** — compared to more than **30 references** to the "**Indo-Pacific**" in his speech in **2025**, his speech this year contained not a single reference to the **Indo-Pacific region** or strategy.
  वर्तमान **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के युद्ध सचिव पीट हेगसेथ** ने **30 मई** को **सिंगापुर** में आयोजित वार्षिक **शांग्री-ला संवाद** में अपने भाषण के दौरान संकेत दिया कि अब यह दृष्टिकोण बदल चुका है। **2025** के उनके भाषण में "**हिंद-प्रशांत**" का **30 से अधिक बार** उल्लेख था, जबकि इस वर्ष के भाषण में **हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र** अथवा उससे संबंधित किसी रणनीति का एक बार भी उल्लेख नहीं किया गया।
- Given the centre stage that the **U.S.'s Indo-Pacific policy** has had in **India's strategic calculus** since **2018**, it is necessary, therefore, to go beyond the superficial to the subterranean or submarine, in this case.
  चूँकि **2018** से **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की हिंद-प्रशांत नीति भारत की सामरिक सोच** के केंद्र में रही है, इसलिए केवल सतही परिवर्तनों पर ध्यान देने के स्थान पर गहरे निहितार्थों का अध्ययन करना आवश्यक है।

U.S.-China ties and the Quad
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका-चीन संबंध और क्वाड

- The first, is the **U.S.'s outreach to China**, and concurrently diminishing salience of the **Quad** (**India, Japan, Australia, the U.S.**), which **Beijing** has always protested as an "**exclusive clique**" or derisively as "**ocean foam**".
  पहला पक्ष **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** द्वारा **चीन** के साथ बढ़ते संपर्क तथा साथ ही **क्वाड** (**भारत, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया और संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**) के घटते महत्त्व से संबंधित है, जिसे **बीजिंग** सदैव "**विशिष्ट समूह**" अथवा उपहासपूर्वक "**समुद्री झाग**" कहता रहा है।
- In the long term, the **U.S.** and **China** cannot shy away from the fierce **rivalry** between them, but it is clear that in the immediate term, **Trump 2.0** has decided to play nice.
  दीर्घकाल में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **चीन** के बीच की तीव्र **प्रतिस्पर्धा** से बचा नहीं जा सकता, किन्तु निकट भविष्य में यह स्पष्ट है कि **ट्रंप प्रशासन के वर्तमान कार्यकाल** ने सौहार्दपूर्ण व्यवहार अपनाने का निर्णय लिया है।
- **Mr. Trump's** references to a "**G-2**", including during a press availability with **Mr. Modi** on the sidelines of the **52nd G-7 summit** in **France** (**June 15 to 17**), are an early warning of a plan to recast the world into "**spheres of influence**", where **China** would be the predominant power in the continent, not as one pole in a **multipolar Asia**, as **India** envisions.
  श्री ट्रंप द्वारा "**जी-2**" का उल्लेख, जिसमें **फ्रांस** में आयोजित **बावनवें जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** (**15 से 17 जून**) के अवसर पर **श्री मोदी** के साथ संवाद भी शामिल है, इस बात का प्रारंभिक संकेत है कि विश्व को "**प्रभाव क्षेत्रों**" में पुनर्गठित करने की योजना बनाई जा रही है, जिसमें **चीन** महाद्वीप की प्रमुख शक्ति होगा, न कि **भारत** की परिकल्पना के अनुसार **बहुध्रुवीय एशिया** का एक ध्रुव।
- As a result, the **Quad**, rebuilt in **Trump 1.0** as a counter to **China** in the region, appears to be floundering.
  परिणामस्वरूप, **ट्रंप के प्रथम कार्यकाल** में क्षेत्र में **चीन** के संतुलन हेतु पुनर्जीवित किया गया **क्वाड** अब कमजोर पड़ता हुआ दिखाई दे रहा है।
- The **U.S.'s National Defense Strategy** released in **January 2026** does not mention the **Quad** even once.

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

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

The U.S.-Iran MoU and West Asia
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका-ईरान समझौता ज्ञापन और पश्चिम एशिया

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

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

- What was once a finely balanced approach now appears tilted towards **Israel** and the **United Arab Emirates**.
  जो नीति कभी अत्यंत संतुलित मानी जाती थी, वह अब **इज़राइल** और **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात** की ओर अधिक झुकी हुई दिखाई देती है।

The U.S. and South Asia
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और दक्षिण एशिया

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

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

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

GS II: IR

Reuters
VIENNA

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

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

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

Iran has not let the IAEA, which polices its nuclear programme, return to its most sensitive nuclear sites since the United States and Israel bombed them in June last year. The IAEA has inspected other sites, but inspections were suspended after the U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28.

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

A central issue in talks is what will happen to Iran's highly enriched uranium, including material enriched to up to 60% purity, a short step from the roughly 90% of weapons grade.

"Paragraph 8 of this memorandum of understanding states explicitly that nuclear activities that are going to be carried out with regards to nuclear material, facilities, will be supervised by the IAEA, in bold letters," Mr. Grossi said.

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

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

- The **UN nuclear watchdog** will carry out **inspections** in **Iran** soon following an interim **peace accord** between the **United States** and **Iran**, but modalities have yet to be finalised, the agency's chief **Rafael Grossi** said on Wednesday.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र का परमाणु निगरानी संगठन अमेरिका और **ईरान** के बीच हुए अंतरिम **शांति समझौते** के बाद जल्द ही **ईरान** में **निरीक्षण** करेगा, लेकिन प्रक्रियाएँ अभी अंतिम रूप नहीं ले पाई हैं, एजेंसी के प्रमुख **राफेल ग्रॉसी** ने बुधवार को कहा।
- The two sides signed a **14-point memorandum of understanding** last week setting out broad agreements in principle to end the war.
  दोनों पक्षों ने पिछले सप्ताह युद्ध समाप्त करने के सिद्धांतगत व्यापक समझौतों को निर्धारित करते हुए **14-बिंदुओं वाले समझौता ज्ञापन** पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- The interim accord paved the way for **60 days of talks** aimed at hammering out thornier details, including issues related to **Iran's nuclear programme**.
  इस अंतरिम समझौते ने **60 दिनों की वार्ता** का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया, जिसका उद्देश्य **ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम** सहित जटिल मुद्दों पर विस्तृत सहमति बनाना है।
- "The inspections will indeed take place," **International Atomic Energy Agency** chief **Rafael Grossi** told a press conference in **Japan**, an audio recording of which the **IAEA** posted online.
  "**निरीक्षण** निश्चित रूप से होंगे," **अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA)** के प्रमुख **राफेल ग्रॉसी** ने **जापान** में एक प्रेस वार्ता में कहा, जिसकी ऑडियो रिकॉर्डिंग **IAEA** ने ऑनलाइन साझा की।
- "We will be working on the modalities — dates, procedures, places — very soon," he said of discussions with **Tehran**.
  उन्होंने **तेहरान** के साथ चर्चा का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा, "हम बहुत जल्द प्रक्रियाओं—तिथियों, तरीकों और स्थानों—पर काम करेंगे।"
- **Iran** has not let the **IAEA**, which polices its **nuclear programme**, return to its most sensitive **nuclear sites** since the **United States** and **Israel** bombed them in June last year.

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

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

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

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

GS III: Economy

K. Umashanker
KURNOOL

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

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

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

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

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

- **Andhra Pradesh** Chief Minister **N. Chandrababu Naidu** inaugurated the **first unit** of a **gold mining project** at **Jonnagiri** in **Kurnool district** on Wednesday.
  आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री **एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने बुधवार को **कुरनूल जिले** के **जोन्नागिरि** में **स्वर्ण खनन परियोजना** की **पहली इकाई** का उद्घाटन किया।
- The **₹405-crore** plant was established by **Geomysore Services India Pvt. Limited (GMSI)**.
  ₹405 करोड़ की इस परियोजना की स्थापना **जियोमैसोर सर्विसेज इंडिया प्राइवेट लिमिटेड (GMSI)** द्वारा की गई।
- Mr. **Naidu** also laid the **foundation stone** for the **second unit**.
  श्री **नायडू** ने **दूसरी इकाई** की **आधारशिला** भी रखी।
- Marking the commencement of **sales**, he then handed over **gold** produced at the unit to **jewellery firms** in the State.

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

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

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

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

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

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

वाणिज्य मंत्री पीयूष गोयल 25-27 जून के दौरान **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** की यात्रा करेंगे, जहां वे अपने **ब्रिटिश समकक्ष** से मुलाकात करेंगे और **15 जुलाई** को **भारत-यू.के. व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौता (CETA)** तथा उससे जुड़े **डबल कंट्रीब्यूशन कन्वेंशन (DCC)** के क्रियान्वयन के लिए दोनों देशों की तैयारियों की समीक्षा करेंगे।

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

BHIM UPI to offer financial products

25J6. BHIM UPI to offer financial products

BHIM UPI पर उपलब्ध होंगे वित्तीय उत्पाद

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

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

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

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

"We have partnered with multiple banks to distribute credit cards and working with some of the NBFCs [for loans]. Also working with banks for national pension schemes. Insurance and investments [offerings] will follow little later," she told the meida.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

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

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

GS III: Environment

Kavitha Kannan

More than a thousand varieties of mangoes exist in India, the popular ones being Banganapalli, Dassheri, Alphonso, Badaami, Imaam Pasandh, and Malgoa. There is even a "Lalbagh" variety in Bengaluru. Many of us associate the fruit with a summer childhood memory, of eating it with our bare hands, the mango juice dripping on our clothes.

More recently, the fruit has become popular on social media platforms, where users explain hundreds of ways to cook and eat it. This year, the fruit's popularity reached a new height: the red carpet at the Met Gala in New York. Mangoes and Indian summers go hand-in-hand, yet do you know how this fruit comes to be?

In other words, the mango tree gives out flowers... and then what happens?

Making a mango

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

Each one of these flowers is the start of a mango in the making. Some flowers carry only the male parts while others only the female parts, and sometimes there can be flowers with both (which are biologically called hermaphrodites). Regardless, for the mango to form, pollen must travel between these flowers.

This is where pollinators make their mark. There is a curious history here. Mango cultivars had once insisted that mango flowers are pollinated only by wind. But this theory could not explain why the flowers issued a sweet odour. It had to be to attract insects.

To confirm that insects were indeed pollinators, researchers in Bengaluru teamed up with their peers from Germany to survey several Badami mango farms in the city's urban and rural areas. Their findings, published in 2023, were striking: "We found that allowing flowers access to ants and flying visitors (bees, hoverflies, nonsyrphid flies), dramatically increased mango yield by 350%, highlighting the importance of wild insects for mango pollination," the study paper read.

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

Effective pollination

The researchers also observed that the mango yields dropped when they barred crawling insects, such as ants, from the flowers. Soubadra Devy, a senior researcher at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru, and an author of the study, said ants are "messy pollinators" and that it is essential to investigate them as pollinators of mango in future studies.

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

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

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

Non-native bees to Mexico, such as European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*), were abundant and contributed to 80% of the pollination. Paradoxically, however, that did not result in a higher yield. The reason was that these non-native bees stayed around the same trees or in the same orchard and delivered the wrong pollen, resulting in malformed fruits. On the other hand, the native bees transferred pollen between orchards, giving rise to more full and juicy fruits.

Farmers' friends

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

The Bengaluru-based study observed that fewer bees visited the mango flowers, and the harvested fruits were lighter by almost 30%, resulting in a three-way loss for the farmer: expensive pesticides, loss of pollinators, and a loss in the fruit yield.

Dr. Devy said monoculture farms that prevail in rural areas are more prone to pest attacks, and hence suffer higher pollinator loss as well. However, she also said she sees hope in bee-safe pesticides and in farmers timing their sprays to avoid peak pollinator activity – practices already in use in several western countries.

"One recent welcome move", in her words, was the Indian government recognising pollinators in the country's new 'environmental accounting' framework. This framework recognised that India has more than 800 bee species, plus butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, bats and flies as pollinators and that they are ecologically important for agriculture. The government has also attached a monetary value equivalent to 8-10% of the total crop output value, amounting to ₹2.6 lakh crore in 2021-22, to pollinators.

Rights of pollinators

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

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

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

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

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

25J6. Kingmakers: meet the insects that make India's favourite mangoes किंगमेकर: उन कीटों से मिलिए जो भारत के सबसे प्रिय आमों का निर्माण करते हैं।

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

  एक **अध्ययन** में पाया गया है कि **जंगली कीटों** को **फूलों** तक पहुँचने की अनुमति देने से **आम की उपज** में **350%** की उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई, जिससे **आम के परागण** के लिए **जंगली कीटों** के महत्व पर प्रकाश पड़ता है; फिर भी, **स्थानीय मधुमक्खियाँ**, जो **बागों** में **परागकण** का स्थानांतरण करती हैं, उन **कीटनाशकों** से खतरे में हैं जो फसल को **कीटों** से सुरक्षित रखते हैं।
- **More than a thousand** varieties of **mangoes** exist in **India**, the popular ones being **Banganapalli, Dassheri, Alphonso, Badaami, Imaam Pasandh, and Malgoa**.

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

Making a mango
आम का निर्माण

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

Effective pollination
प्रभावी परागण

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

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

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

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

'Politically provocative'

On June 10, the officer, posted in Tripura, was informed about a pending enquiry against him for allegedly disseminating "audio/video messages and poster/banner for changing of the Government established by law across social media."

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

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

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

'Targeted harassment'

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

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

25J6. CRPF officer suspended, 20 others transferred after 'kin protested against CAPF Bill'
'परिजनों द्वारा सीएपीएफ विधेयक के विरोध' के बाद सीआरपीएफ अधिकारी निलंबित, 20 अन्य का तबादला

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

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

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

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

- Retired and serving officials of the **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)** expressed concern about the suspension of the decorated **DIG-rank officer**.
  केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (CAPF) के सेवानिवृत्त और कार्यरत अधिकारियों ने सम्मानित **DIG रैंक के अधिकारी** के निलंबन पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

- It is learnt that the officer has challenged the suspension, on the grounds that there is no **"disciplinary proceeding contemplated or pending"** against him as required under the **Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965**.
  जानकारी के अनुसार अधिकारी ने यह कहते हुए निलंबन को चुनौती दी है कि उनके विरुद्ध **"कोई अनुशासनात्मक कार्यवाही प्रस्तावित या लंबित नहीं है"**, जैसा कि **केंद्रीय सिविल सेवा (वर्गीकरण, नियंत्रण एवं अपील) नियम, 1965** के तहत आवश्यक है।

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PCS Special:	24 June 2026
24J6	President presents second set of Padma awards राष्ट्रपति ने पद्म पुरस्कारों के दूसरे समूह को प्रदान किया
24J6	Canberra town crier shouts his way into Guinness records कैनबरा के टाउन क्रायर ने अपनी आवाज़ के दम पर गिनीज रिकॉर्ड में बनाई जगह

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President presents second set of Padma awards

PCS

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Alka Yagnik, Mammootty, American oncologist Dattatreyudu Nori, Vijay Amritraj, industrialist S.K.M. Maeilanandhan, and social worker and educationist Vellappally Natesan received the Padma Bhushan from the President during the ceremony. Rupi Soren, wife of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha founder Shibu Soren, received the Padma Bhushan on behalf of the late leader.

Padma Shri

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

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

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

24J6. President presents second set of Padma awards
राष्ट्रपति ने पद्म पुरस्कारों के दूसरे समूह को प्रदान किया

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

Padma Shri
पद्म श्री

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

Canberra town crier shouts his way into Guinness records

PCS
Associated Press
MELBOURNE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- **Joseph McGrail-Bateup**, an Australian professional **air conditioner cleaner** and honorary **town crier**, has been recognised as the world's **loudest person**.
  ऑस्ट्रेलिया के पेशेवर **एयर कंडीशनर क्लीनर** और मानद **टाउन क्रायर जोसेफ मैकग्रेल-बेटअप** को दुनिया के **सबसे ऊँची आवाज़ वाले व्यक्ति** के रूप में मान्यता दी गई है।
- **Guinness World Records** last week acknowledged that the **58-year-old Canberra resident** recorded the loudest ever shout by an individual. He yelled "**now**" at **122.4 decibels (dB)**.
  गिनीज वर्ल्ड रिकॉर्ड्स ने पिछले सप्ताह स्वीकार किया कि **58 वर्षीय कैनबरा निवासी** ने किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा अब तक की सबसे ऊँची आवाज़ में चिल्लाने का रिकॉर्ड बनाया। उन्होंने "**now**" शब्द को **122.4 डेसिबल (dB)** की तीव्रता से चिल्लाया।
- That broke the previous record of **121.7 dB** set by Northern Ireland schoolteacher **Annalisa Flanagan** in **1994**.
  इसने **1994** में उत्तरी आयरलैंड की शिक्षिका **एनालिसा फ्लैनागन** द्वारा बनाए गए **121.7 dB** के पिछले रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया।
- She had yelled an ear-piercing "**quiet**."
  उन्होंने कानों को चीर देने वाली आवाज़ में "**quiet**" शब्द चिल्लाया था।
- That is in the noise range of a **chain saw**, a **jet aircraft taking off** and an **ambulance siren** at close range.
  यह ध्वनि स्तर **चेन सॉ**, उड़ान भरते हुए **जेट विमान**, और नज़दीक से सुनाई देने वाले **एम्बुलेंस सायरन** के शोर के बराबर है।
- The record attempt was not something Mr. McGrail-Bateup could train for, he said on Tuesday.
  मंगलवार को श्री मैकग्रेल-बेटअप ने कहा कि यह ऐसा रिकॉर्ड नहीं था जिसके लिए वे पहले से अभ्यास कर सकते थे।

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

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

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

GS I: History, Geography

A.D. Rangarajan
TIRUPATI

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

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

A team led by K. Muniratnam Reddy, Director (Epigraphy), ASI Mysuru, ventured deep into the forest range and worked for three days to find the inscriptions.

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

The inscriptions contained text in Telugu, Tamil and Kannada, representing characters of the 16th century. The inscriptions of the Sadasiva Devaraya era of Vijayanagara dynasty in 1554 were copied in the form of estampages for preservation and further study.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- However, this latest inscription of the **16th century** is a pointer to its past glory, when it was personally visited by the ruler of this region.

  किन्तु **16वीं शताब्दी** का यह नवीन अभिलेख इसके ऐतिहासिक वैभव का प्रमाण है, जब इस क्षेत्र के शासक ने स्वयं इस पवित्र स्थल की यात्रा की थी।

BJP chief says Syama Prasad Mookerjee was a great nationalist

GS I: History

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GS Paper 1: Geography	24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
24J6	T.N. raises concerns over Centre's norms on projects in Cauvery basin तमिलनाडु ने कावेरी बेसिन में परियोजनाओं संबंधी केंद्र के मानकों पर चिंता जताई
24J6	QUIZ

Parched river

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

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

GS I: Geography

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project reports

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24J6. QUIZ

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

Answer: Argentina

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

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

Answer: 60° South Latitude

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

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

Answer: The International Geophysical Year (IGY)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answer: 29

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

India's Antarctic Journey

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

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

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Is RSS a legal person?

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

GS II: Polity

EXPLAINER

Rizmi Lia M.

The story so far:

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

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

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

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

What is a legal person?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 2(31) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, defines 'person' expansively and includes a 'body of individuals', whether incorporated or not. Under the 1961 Act, the 'body of individuals' is a separate taxable entity comprising exclusively natural persons (human beings) who have come together for a shared purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

What about donations/*Gurudakshina*?

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

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

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

How can one join RSS?

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

Any person who wants to work towards the *sanatan dharma* can join the RSS, even if they don't visit the shakhas. There is no formal procedure or criterion that stops anybody for that matter from joining the organisation. There is a registration form on the website that requires one to fill up primary details for the same.

What are the RSS affiliates and are they registered?

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GIST

- According to legal theorist John Salmond, "A person is any being whom the law regards as capable of rights and bound by legal duties."
- The RSS's legal status came under scrutiny in the 1970s during tax proceedings in Bombay and Patna. The disputes centred on whether donations received as "guru dakshina" from RSS workers were taxable.
- RSS continues to describe itse as a voluntary socio-cultural organisation and a body of individuals rather than a registered corporate entity.

24J6. Is RSS a legal person?
क्या आरएसएस एक विधिक व्यक्ति है?

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What is a legal person?
विधिक व्यक्ति क्या है?

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

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

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

How does RSS describe itself and what is its organisational nature?
आरएसएस स्वयं को कैसे परिभाषित करता है और उसकी संगठनात्मक प्रकृति क्या है?

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

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

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

What are the legal options for registering a voluntary association in India?
भारत में किसी स्वैच्छिक संगठन के पंजीकरण के लिए क्या विधिक विकल्प उपलब्ध हैं?

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

What about donations/Gurudakshina?
दान/गुरुदक्षिणा का क्या प्रावधान है?

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

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

What about donations/Gurudakshina?
दान/गुरुदक्षिणा का क्या प्रावधान है?

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

How can one join RSS?
आरएसएस से कैसे जुड़ा जा सकता है?

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

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

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

What are the RSS affiliates and are they registered?
आरएसएस से संबद्ध संगठन कौन-कौन से हैं और क्या वे पंजीकृत हैं?

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

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

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TOPICS COVERED	
24J6	Centre tightens norms for foreign donations विदेशी अंशदानों के लिए केंद्र ने नियमों को और कड़ा किया
24J6	Reconnect public health with people's needs जनस्वास्थ्य को लोगों की आवश्यकताओं से पुनः जोड़ें
24J6	Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026: tough by design or default? सिविल सेवा प्रारंभिक परीक्षा 2026: उद्देश्यपूर्ण रूप से कठिन या परिस्थितिवश?
24J6	RBI tweaks process to onboard MSMEs on TReDS platform आरबीआई ने TReDS प्लेटफॉर्म पर MSMEs को शामिल करने की प्रक्रिया में बदलाव किया

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

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

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

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

GS II: Governance

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

Key functionaries

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

Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permitted by the Centre, according to the new Rules. NGOs must also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

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

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

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

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

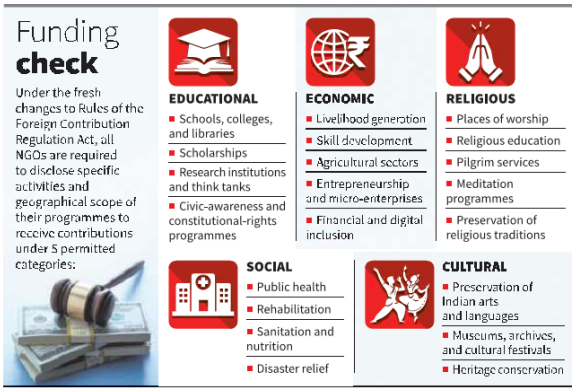
The "cultural" purpose lists "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions" among 18 categories, adding the caveat to "exclude political/ ideological content."

There are 16 permitted categories of religious activities, including "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)", and "burial/cremation ground development and maintenance." There are 19 activities listed under "economic" purpose, and 30 items under the "social" category.

Fines for violations

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

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



24J6. Centre tightens norms for foreign donations
विदेशी अंशदानों के लिए केंद्र ने नियमों को और कड़ा किया

- **Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)** wanting to access **foreign funds** must now stick to a list of activities specified by the **Centre**, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010**, notified on Monday.
  गैर-सरकारी संगठनों को अब **विदेशी धनराशि** प्राप्त करने के लिए **केंद्र सरकार** द्वारा निर्धारित गतिविधियों की सूची का पालन करना होगा। यह प्रावधान सोमवार को अधिसूचित **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2010** के नियमों में किए गए नवीनतम संशोधन में किया गया है।
- While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely **social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious**, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.
  यद्यपि विदेशी धन प्राप्त करने के इच्छुक संगठनों को **सामाजिक, आर्थिक, शैक्षिक, सांस्कृतिक और धार्मिक** — इन पाँच अनुमत श्रेणियों में से किसी एक के अंतर्गत पंजीकरण कराना आवश्यक है, किन्तु पहली बार प्रत्येक श्रेणी के लिए अलग-अलग गतिविधियों की सूची निर्धारित की गई है।
- NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications.
  अब संगठनों को अपनी गतिविधियों, कार्यक्रमों के भौगोलिक दायरे, अपनी वेबसाइटों, सामाजिक मीडिया खातों तथा प्रकाशनों का विवरण देना अनिवार्य होगा।
- They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous single fee for FCRA registrants.
  उन्हें अब प्रत्येक श्रेणी तथा प्रत्येक राज्य या केंद्रशासित प्रदेश, जहाँ वे कार्यरत हैं, के लिए अलग-अलग शुल्क देना होगा, जबकि पहले केवल एक ही शुल्क लिया जाता था।
- Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the changes within the next year.

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

- Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of **₹1 lakh**, according to another order from the **Union Home Ministry**.
  केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के एक अन्य आदेश के अनुसार, किसी भी उल्लंघन पर न्यूनतम **एक लाख रुपये** का जुर्माना लगाया जाएगा।
- The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the **FCRA**.
  मंत्रालय **विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम** के माध्यम से सभी विदेशी दानों का विनियमन करता है।
- Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.
  नियमों के पूर्व संशोधनों में केवल यह अपेक्षा की जाती थी कि संगठन यह आश्वासन दें कि विदेशी धन स्वीकार करने से भारत की **संप्रभुता और अखंडता**, विदेशी देशों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंधों अथवा **साम्प्रदायिक सद्भाव** पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ेगा।

Key functionaries
प्रमुख पदाधिकारी

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

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

Fines for violations
उल्लंघनों पर दण्ड

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

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

Reconnect public health with people's needs

Mathew George

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

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

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

The interpretation

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

A historical inquiry into the concept of wellness reveals that it was initially used to denote the absence of disease and was often contrasted with illness. It was also frequently used interchangeably with health. During the 1950s, the wellness movement popularised the idea of positive well-being by conceptualising health beyond its biological dimensions. The mental cure model similarly emphasised the psychological and spiritual aspects of healing. Influenced by these developments, the World Health Organization (WHO) defined health as not merely the absence of disease, thereby promoting the notion of positive well-being. Over time, wellness expanded beyond physiological health to include mental, spiritual, social and environmental dimensions, offering a more holistic understanding of health. In public health, however, the emphasis shifted towards health promotion – a population-based approach that recognises how social, economic and environmental conditions shape people's ability to adopt healthy behaviours.

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

The individualisation of health

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

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

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

Factors behind inadequate access to care

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

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

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

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

The views expressed are personal

24J6. Reconnect public health with people's needs
जनस्वास्थ्य को लोगों की आवश्यकताओं से पुनः जोड़ें

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

The interpretation
व्याख्या

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

Factors behind inadequate access to care
स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक अपर्याप्त पहुँच के पीछे के कारक

- It is well established that inadequate access to **health care** in India stems from the **unaffordability of care** in the private sector and the lack of quality **health-care facilities** in the public sector.
  यह भली-भाँति स्थापित तथ्य है कि भारत में **स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं** तक अपर्याप्त पहुँच का प्रमुख कारण निजी क्षेत्र में उपचार की **अधिक लागत (Unaffordability of Care)** तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में गुणवत्तापूर्ण **स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं** का अभाव है।
- Merely creating databases of individual **health records**, health facilities and **health-care professionals** cannot improve access to health care.
  केवल व्यक्तिगत **स्वास्थ्य अभिलेखों**, स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों और **स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों** के डेटाबेस तैयार कर देने मात्र से स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच में सुधार नहीं किया जा सकता।
- If the argument is that information is the first step towards strengthening the **health system**, there exists a substantial body of reports and datasets that provide such information.
  यदि यह तर्क दिया जाए कि **स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** को सुदृढ़ करने की दिशा में सूचना पहला कदम है, तो ऐसी जानकारी उपलब्ध कराने वाली पर्याप्त रिपोर्टें और आँकड़ा-संग्रह पहले से ही मौजूद हैं।
- The more pertinent question is how information contained in an individual's health record, through an **ABHA card**, can guarantee access to health care when **health-care infrastructure** remains grossly inadequate and unaffordable for large sections of the population.
  अधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह है कि किसी व्यक्ति के स्वास्थ्य अभिलेख में उपलब्ध जानकारी, **ABHA कार्ड** के माध्यम से, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं तक पहुँच की गारंटी कैसे दे सकती है, जबकि **स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना** अभी भी जनसंख्या के बड़े हिस्से के लिए अत्यंत अपर्याप्त और महँगी बनी हुई है।
- Even if every individual in a district possesses an **ABHA card** and all health facilities and health-care professionals are digitally mapped, the delivery of health care still requires a robust **institutional mechanism**.
  भले ही किसी जिले का प्रत्येक व्यक्ति **ABHA कार्ड** रखता हो और सभी स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों तथा स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों का डिजिटल मानचित्रण कर दिया गया हो, फिर भी स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं के प्रभावी वितरण के लिए एक सुदृढ़ **संस्थागत तंत्र** की आवश्यकता बनी रहती है।
- It primarily generates information on individuals, facilities and health-care professionals, all of which continue to operate largely in silos.
  यह मुख्यतः व्यक्तियों, स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों और स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों से संबंधित जानकारी उत्पन्न करता है, जबकि ये सभी अब भी बड़े पैमाने पर अलग-अलग और असंबद्ध रूप से कार्य करते हैं।

- For most people, access to **curative care** constitutes an immediate and pressing need.
  अधिकांश लोगों के लिए **उपचारात्मक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं (Curative Care)** तक पहुँच एक तात्कालिक और अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता है।
- Only after these basic health-care requirements are met can individuals meaningfully engage with **preventive** and **promotive health interventions**.
  इन बुनियादी स्वास्थ्य आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के बाद ही व्यक्ति प्रभावी रूप से **निवारक (Preventive)** तथा **स्वास्थ्य संवर्धन (Promotive Health Interventions)** संबंधी उपायों में भाग ले सकते हैं।

- When **public health policies** fail to recognise people's felt needs, they risk becoming mere vehicles for advancing the priorities of policymakers and health-care providers rather than addressing the actual concerns of the population.
  जब **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य नीतियाँ** लोगों की वास्तविक एवं अनुभवजन्य आवश्यकताओं को पहचानने में विफल रहती हैं, तब वे जनसंख्या की वास्तविक समस्याओं का समाधान करने के बजाय केवल नीति-निर्माताओं और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं की प्राथमिकताओं को आगे बढ़ाने का माध्यम बनकर रह जाने का जोखिम उठाती हैं।

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

• **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs)** were launched as one of the two pillars of the **Ayushman Bharat Programme** in **2018**.

• Their objective is to transform existing **Sub-Health Centres (SHCs)** and **Primary Health Centres (PHCs)** into facilities that provide **Comprehensive Primary Health Care (CPHC)** closer to people's homes.

• In recent years, AB-HWCs have been renamed **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs)**.

Why Were Health and Wellness Centres Needed?

Earlier, many government health centres focused mainly on:

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

However, India was witnessing a rapid rise in:

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

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

Main Objective

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

Services Provided

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

Maternal and Child Health

• Antenatal care.
• Postnatal care.
• Immunization.
• Nutrition counselling.

Communicable Diseases

• Tuberculosis.
• Malaria.
• Dengue.
• Other infectious diseases.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

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

Mental Health Services

• Basic counselling.
• Early identification and referral.

Geriatric Care

• Health services for elderly persons.

Palliative and Rehabilitative Care

• Care for chronically ill patients.

Emergency Medical Services

• Basic emergency care and referral support.

Free Medicines and Diagnostics

• Essential drugs.
• Basic laboratory investigations.

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Health Team at a Health and Wellness Centre

A typical centre may include:

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

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

Wellness Activities

These centres do not focus only on illness.

They also promote:

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

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

How It Helps a Common Citizen

Example

Suppose a villager in Uttar Pradesh develops symptoms of diabetes.

Earlier:

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

Now:

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

This reduces both cost and inconvenience.

Achievements

National Scale

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

Disease Screening

Large-scale screening has been conducted for:

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

Telemedicine

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

Connection with Ayushman Bharat

Ayushman Bharat has **two major components**:

Component 1

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

Component 2

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

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL HEALTH MISSION (ABDM)

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

Need for ABDM

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

Objectives of ABDM

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

Major Components of ABDM

Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA)

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

Health Facility Registry (HFR)

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

Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR)

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

Personal Health Records (PHR)

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

Scan and Share Facility

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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Civil Services Preliminary Examination 2026: tough by design or default?

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

GS II: Governance

Gopala Krishna V.

The story so far:

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

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

In 2009, the S.K. Khanna Committee recommended that the Preliminary Examination should be renamed as the Civil Services Aptitude Test with two common papers at the Preliminary. The preliminary exam was reconstituted to comprise two papers – General Studies Paper- I and General Studies Paper- II. The Paper I covers all conventional areas in 'Humanities', while Paper- II has questions on quantitative aptitude, reasoning, comprehension, interpersonal skills and communication, decision-making and problem-solving. The components of Paper- II were designed to test whether the aspirant had the ability to imbibe new technologies. Both the papers had equal weightage and the combined marks in both the papers were taken to determine merit. This change practically delinked the Preliminary Examination with the university system. After a few years, due to protests, Paper-II known as CSAT was made qualifying in nature. In practice, this meant that nearly five lakh aspirants were narrowed down to about 10,000 candidates solely based on their performance in the 100 questions attempted over two hours.

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

What changed this year?

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

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

This year, UPSC committed itself to greater transparency, and agreed to release the answer key of the preliminary exam immediately after it. Openness also meant that the questions had to be set from verifiable authoritative sources. The questions were framed using carefully curated information drawn from government websites.

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

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

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

What is the way out?

The perceived unfairness of the Preliminary Examination has been widely voiced by aspirants and has also been recently flagged by a Parliamentary Committee. However, the Chairman's acknowledgement of the paper's difficulty should not remain a mere instance of proverbial "ventilation therapy." Many crises in governance are not sudden surprises; they are warning signals that were noticed but not acted upon in time. This appears to be one such signal – one that calls for deeper reflection and timely course correction.

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

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

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

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

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

- The **Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination**, introduced in **1979** following the **Kothari Committee's** recommendations, was designed as a screening mechanism — a **'filter and funnel'** — to shortlist candidates for the descriptive Main examination.
  कोठारी समिति की सिफारिशों के आधार पर **1979** में प्रारम्भ की गई **सिविल सेवा (प्रारम्भिक) परीक्षा** को एक चयन तंत्र — अर्थात् **'छंटनी एवं चयन प्रक्रिया'** — के रूप में तैयार किया गया था, ताकि वर्णनात्मक मुख्य परीक्षा के लिए अभ्यर्थियों की सूची तैयार की जा सके।
- In its original format, it consisted of two components: an optional subject paper at the graduate level and a General Studies paper, with the optional paper carrying greater weight.
  अपने मूल स्वरूप में इसमें दो घटक थे: स्नातक स्तर का एक **वैकल्पिक विषय प्रश्नपत्र** और एक **सामान्य अध्ययन प्रश्नपत्र**, जिसमें वैकल्पिक विषय को अधिक महत्व दिया गया था।

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

- The questions were framed using carefully curated information drawn from government websites.
  प्रश्नों का निर्माण सरकारी वेबसाइटों से प्राप्त सावधानीपूर्वक चयनित जानकारी के आधार पर किया गया।
- Attempting the question paper entailed sifting through **55 pages** and comprehending **40,000 words** in two hours.
  प्रश्नपत्र को हल करने के लिए अभ्यर्थियों को **55 पृष्ठों** का अध्ययन करना पड़ा तथा मात्र दो घंटों में लगभग **40,000 शब्दों** को समझना पड़ा।
- In addition to this, the subject-wise distribution of questions was distorted and the style of questioning underwent a noticeable shift.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, विषयवार प्रश्नों का वितरण असंतुलित था और प्रश्न पूछने की शैली में भी स्पष्ट परिवर्तन देखा गया।
- This gap between the preparation and examination, coupled with the element of surprise, prompted the aspirants to voice their concerns.
  तैयारी और परीक्षा के बीच यह अंतर तथा अप्रत्याशितता का तत्व अभ्यर्थियों को अपनी चिंताएँ व्यक्त करने के लिए प्रेरित करने लगा।
- The nature of the question paper, thus, appears to be less a matter of a deliberate design and more a consequence of systemic constraints — a by-product of a short-sighted examination pattern established 15 years ago.
  इस प्रकार, प्रश्नपत्र की प्रकृति किसी सुनियोजित रणनीति का परिणाम कम और व्यवस्थागत सीमाओं का परिणाम अधिक प्रतीत होती है — यह लगभग **15 वर्ष पूर्व** स्थापित एक दूरदृष्टिहीन परीक्षा पद्धति का उप-उत्पाद है।
- In retrospect, the committee which introduced the pattern overlooked a dictum that is crucial in policy formulation; that anticipation is the highest form of competence.
  पुनरावलोकन करने पर प्रतीत होता है कि इस परीक्षा पद्धति को लागू करने वाली समिति ने नीति-निर्माण के एक महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत की उपेक्षा की थी, अर्थात् **पूर्वानुमान की क्षमता ही सर्वोच्च दक्षता होती है।**
- It failed to adequately foresee the challenge of balancing the increasing number of aspirants with a relatively static number of vacancies.
  समिति अभ्यर्थियों की बढ़ती संख्या और अपेक्षाकृत स्थिर रिक्तियों के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करने की चुनौती का पर्याप्त रूप से पूर्वानुमान नहीं लगा सकी।

- The UPSC has been collecting information regarding the socio-economic profile of the aspirants.
  संघ लोक सेवा आयोग अभ्यर्थियों की **सामाजिक-आर्थिक पृष्ठभूमि** से संबंधित जानकारी एकत्र कर रहा है।
- They have information about the distribution of applicants based on place of birth, schools and colleges attended, status of parents etc. as they are collecting this information at the preliminary stage itself.
  आयोग के पास अभ्यर्थियों के जन्मस्थान, अध्ययन किए गए विद्यालयों और महाविद्यालयों, माता-पिता की स्थिति आदि से संबंधित जानकारी उपलब्ध है, क्योंकि यह विवरण प्रारम्भिक स्तर पर ही एकत्र किया जाता है।
- The government must undertake reforms both in the examination system and the university framework by introducing **'bridge courses'** along the lines of the recommendations of the **Second Administrative Reforms Commission**.
  सरकार को **द्वितीय प्रशासनिक सुधार आयोग** की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप **सेतु-पाठ्यक्रमों** की शुरुआत करते हुए परीक्षा प्रणाली और विश्वविद्यालय ढाँचे दोनों में सुधार करने चाहिए।
- Such measures would help restore visible alignment between education and assessment.
  ऐसे उपाय शिक्षा और मूल्यांकन के बीच स्पष्ट सामंजस्य को पुनर्स्थापित करने में सहायक होंगे।

PATRIOTICIAS

RBI tweaks process to onboard MSMEs on TReDS platform

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

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

The banking regulator fixed a minimum net worth of ₹25 crore and certification by a statutory auditor to provide discounting services. Entities providing the service have been given a deadline of March 31, 2028 to comply with networth norm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GS Paper III: Economy	24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
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24J6	India's next challenge — from invention to global scale भारत की अगली चुनौती — नवाचार से वैश्विक स्तर तक

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Evident distress

Stress from the West Asia crisis has revealed economic pain

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

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

24J6. Evident distress

स्पष्ट संकट

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

India's next challenge — from invention to global scale

GS III: Economy

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

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

Ahead of its time

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

A similar story can be told about ECIL. Established in 1967, it developed indigenous computers, control systems and strategic electronics when India faced severe technology embargoes. ECIL played a vital role in building technological self-reliance. However, its focus remained on strategic requirements rather than globally competitive commercial products. As a result, scientific excellence stayed within institutions instead of creating large industrial ecosystems. The Simputer followed a similar trajectory. Conceived in 1998 by Indian technologists, it anticipated many features that would later define smartphones and tablets. Yet, despite its innovation, the supporting ecosystem was absent. Venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains and consumer markets were not mature enough to help it achieve global scale. A few years later, Apple transformed personal computing through the iPhone and built one of the world's most valuable technology ecosystems. The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
Executive Chairperson, Biocon Limited

The country must transform innovation into globally dominant technology enterprises

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

Models of success

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stopping too soon

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

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

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

24J6. India's next challenge — from invention to global scale
भारत की अगली चुनौती — नवाचार से वैश्विक स्तर तक

- **India** has never lacked **technological vision**.
  भारत में कभी भी **तकनीकी दृष्टि** की कमी नहीं रही है।
- Time and again, it has anticipated transformative technologies long before they became mainstream.
  बार-बार भारत ने उन परिवर्तनकारी प्रौद्योगिकियों का पूर्वानुमान लगाया है, जो मुख्यधारा में आने से बहुत पहले अस्तित्व में थीं।
- It has built impressive **scientific capabilities**, developed indigenous innovations, and demonstrated remarkable ingenuity.
  भारत ने प्रभावशाली **वैज्ञानिक क्षमताओं** का निर्माण किया है, स्वदेशी नवाचार विकसित किए हैं और उल्लेखनीय प्रतिभा का प्रदर्शन किया है।
- Yet, in several critical sectors, it has struggled to convert early technological leadership into globally dominant industries.
  फिर भी, अनेक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में भारत अपनी प्रारम्भिक तकनीकी अग्रणी स्थिति को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रभुत्वशाली उद्योगों में परिवर्तित करने के लिए संघर्ष करता रहा है।
- As India embarks on ambitious missions in **semiconductors**, **artificial intelligence (AI)**, **quantum computing** and **space technologies**, it is worth reflecting on an important lesson from its past: invention alone is not enough.
  जैसे-जैसे भारत **सेमीकंडक्टर**, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)**, **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग** और **अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी** के क्षेत्रों में महत्वाकांक्षी अभियानों की शुरुआत कर रहा है, उसके अतीत से एक महत्वपूर्ण सीख पर विचार करना आवश्यक है: केवल आविष्कार पर्याप्त नहीं है।

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

Consider **semiconductors**.
सेमीकंडक्टरों पर विचार कीजिए।

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

- The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.
  सीख स्पष्ट है: यदि आप विस्तार नहीं कर सकते, तो सबसे पहले होना बहुत अधिक महत्व नहीं रखता।
- India has seen similar patterns elsewhere.
  भारत ने अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी इसी प्रकार के रुझान देखे हैं।
- It developed early expertise in **computing**, **telecommunications** and **electronics**.
  भारत ने **कंप्यूटिंग**, **दूरसंचार** और **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स** में प्रारम्भिक विशेषज्ञता विकसित की थी।
- Yet, many pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses.
  फिर भी, अनेक अग्रणी पहलें वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रभुत्वशाली व्यवसाय बनने के बजाय केवल प्रोटोटाइप, पायलट परियोजनाएँ या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की उपलब्धियाँ बनकर रह गईं।

- India's **pharmaceutical industry** evolved into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse, making the country the **pharmacy of the world** and a leading **vaccine producer**.
  भारत का **औषधि उद्योग (Pharmaceutical Industry)** एक वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी विनिर्माण शक्ति के रूप में विकसित हुआ, जिसने देश को **विश्व की फार्मेसी** तथा एक अग्रणी **वैक्सीन उत्पादक** बना दिया।
- India also developed indigenous **supercomputing** capabilities through the **PARAM programme**.
  भारत ने **PARAM कार्यक्रम** के माध्यम से स्वदेशी **सुपरकंप्यूटिंग** क्षमताएँ भी विकसित कीं।
- More recently, **Aadhaar** and **UPI** have shown how technology platforms designed for scale can transform a nation.
  हाल के वर्षों में **आधार** और **UPI** ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि बड़े पैमाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए तकनीकी प्लेटफ़ॉर्म किसी राष्ट्र को कैसे परिवर्तित कर सकते हैं।
- Scale creates **ecosystems**, ecosystems create industries, and industries create **global leadership**.
  विस्तार (Scale) **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र (Ecosystems)** का निर्माण करता है, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र उद्योगों का निर्माण करते हैं, और उद्योग **वैश्विक नेतृत्व** का निर्माण करते हैं।
- Today, India stands at another technological **inflection point**.
  आज भारत एक और तकनीकी **निर्णायक मोड़ (Inflection Point)** पर खड़ा है।
- **AI**, **quantum computing** and **space technologies** are likely to shape the next half-century, just as semiconductors and software shaped the last.
  कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), **क्वांटम कंप्यूटिंग** और **अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकियाँ** आने वाली आधी शताब्दी को उसी प्रकार आकार देने की संभावना रखती हैं, जैसे सेमीकंडक्टर और सॉफ्टवेयर ने पिछली अवधि को आकार दिया था।
- India already possesses significant strengths in **software engineering** and **digital infrastructure**.
  भारत के पास पहले से ही **सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरिंग** और **डिजिटल अवसंरचना** के क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण क्षमताएँ मौजूद हैं।
- The challenge now is to build globally scalable **AI products** and platforms.
  अब चुनौती वैश्विक स्तर पर विस्तार योग्य **AI उत्पादों** और प्लेटफ़ॉर्मों का निर्माण करने की है।
- The emergence of **DeepSeek** showed that technological leadership is not only about building the largest models.
  DeepSeek के उदय ने यह दर्शाया कि तकनीकी नेतृत्व केवल सबसे बड़े मॉडलों के निर्माण तक सीमित नहीं है।
- It is also about making intelligence cheaper and more accessible.
  यह बुद्धिमत्ता को अधिक सस्ता और सुलभ बनाने के बारे में भी है।
- The **AI race** may ultimately be won by those who make intelligence affordable, ubiquitous and widely available.
  अंततः **AI की दौड़** वही जीत सकते हैं जो बुद्धिमत्ता को किफायती, सर्वव्यापी और व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध बना सकें।

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

Stopping too soon
बहुत जल्दी रुक जाना

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

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

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	24 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
24J6	India's experience in diabetes care could guide other countries: expert मधुमेह देखभाल में भारत का अनुभव अन्य देशों का मार्गदर्शन कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ
24J6	The strange link between AI hallucination and creativity एआई मतिभ्रम (Hallucination) और रचनात्मकता के बीच का विचित्र संबंध
24J6	Carbon isotopes: clocks of sorts कार्बन समस्थानिक: एक प्रकार की समय-घड़ी

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

GS III: S&T

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

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

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

Dr. Mohan begins with the idea that diabetes in South Asia is not the same as elsewhere. People in this region, he says, develop diabetes at a lower Body Mass Index (BMI), with more visceral fat and greater insulin resistance, indicating the need for region-specific screening and treatment strategies. An important component of these strategies are lifestyle, diet, and environmental factor, particularly the intake of highly refined carbohydrates and low levels of physical activity among the population.

The article advocates local solutions and integrated diabetes care.

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

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

Tech interventions

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

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

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

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

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

Tech interventions

प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित हस्तक्षेप

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

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The strange link between AI hallucination and creativity

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

GS III: S&T

Viraj Kulkarni

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

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

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

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

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

Natural instinct

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is also easier said than done to simply build a better model that does one without the other. In September 2025, researchers at OpenAI and Georgia Tech argued that hallucinations are not bugs to be patched but a statistical inevitability of how these systems are trained and tested. Models are rewarded, like students in an exam hall, for guessing rather than admitting ignorance. A confident wrong answer may score better than an honest "I don't know".

Scrubbed of surprise

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

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

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

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

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

THE GIST

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

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

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

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

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

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

24J6. The strange link between AI hallucination and creativity
एआई मतिभ्रम (Hallucination) और रचनात्मकता के बीच का विचित्र संबंध

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

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- **टेम्परेचर (Temperature)** नामक एक सेटिंग यह निर्धारित करती है कि किसी **एलएलएम (LLM) के आउटपुट** कितने साहसिक या रचनात्मक होंगे: जितना अधिक **टेम्परेचर** होगा, उतनी ही अधिक संभावना होगी कि मॉडल कम संभावित विकल्पों का चयन करे और उपयोगकर्ता को आश्चर्यचकित करे; यही वह नियंत्रण है जिसे **मौसम रिपोर्ट** के बजाय **कविता** प्राप्त करने की इच्छा होने पर बढ़ाया जाता है; समस्या यह है कि यही नियंत्रण **मतिभ्रम (Hallucinations)** को भी नियंत्रित करता है।

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

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

Scrubbed of surprise
आश्चर्य से रहित

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

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

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

Hallucinations (Medical Context)
A **hallucination** is a sensory experience in which a person **sees, hears, smells, tastes, or feels something that is not actually present**.
In simple words:
A person experiences something as real even though there is no external stimulus causing it.
The person is often convinced that the experience is real.

Examples of Hallucinations
Auditory Hallucinations (Hearing Things)
• Hearing voices when nobody is speaking.
• Hearing music, sounds, or conversations that are not present.
Example:
A person may hear someone calling their name repeatedly when nobody is around.
Visual Hallucinations (Seeing Things)
• Seeing people, animals, lights, or objects that are not actually there.
Example:
An elderly person may see a stranger standing in the room when the room is empty.

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Olfactory Hallucinations (Smelling Things)
• Smelling odors that do not exist.
Example:
Smelling smoke or burning rubber when nothing is burning.
Gustatory Hallucinations (Tasting Things)
• Experiencing unusual tastes without any food or drink.
Tactile Hallucinations (Feeling Things)
• Feeling insects crawling on the skin.
• Feeling someone touching the body when nobody is present.

Common Medical Causes
Psychiatric Disorders
• Schizophrenia
• Severe depression with psychotic features.
• Bipolar disorder during severe manic or depressive episodes.
Neurological Disorders
• Parkinson's Disease
• Alzheimer's Disease
• Epilepsy.
• Brain tumors.
• Stroke.
Sleep-Related Causes
• Sleep deprivation.
• Hallucinations while falling asleep (**hypnagogic hallucinations**).
• Hallucinations while waking up (**hypnopompic hallucinations**).
Substance Use
• Alcohol withdrawal.
• Certain recreational drugs.
• Some medications.
Medical Conditions
• High fever.
• Severe infections.
• Delirium.
• Liver failure.
• Kidney failure.
• Electrolyte imbalances.

Hallucination vs Delusion
Many people confuse these two terms.

Hallucination	Delusion
False sensory experience	False belief
Person hears, sees, smells, tastes, or feels something unreal	Person strongly believes something untrue
"I hear voices."	"The government is secretly monitoring me."

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Carbon isotopes: clocks of sorts

GS III: S&T

Reuters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24J6. Carbon isotopes: clocks of sorts

कार्बन समस्थानिक: एक प्रकार की समय-घड़ी

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

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

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

शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार, **3I/ATLAS** की **रासायनिक संरचना** के मूल्यांकन ने, जो सौरमंडल में अब तक देखा गया केवल तीसरा **अंतरतारकीय पिंड** है, उस ग्रह-प्रणाली की भौतिक एवं रासायनिक परिस्थितियों के बारे में जानकारी प्रदान की जहाँ इसका निर्माण हुआ था।

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Its **carbon isotope ratios** offered clues about the composition of the **interstellar gas cloud** that gave rise to **3I/ATLAS** and its home planetary system.
  इसके **कार्बन समस्थानिक अनुपातों** ने उस **अंतरतारकीय गैस बादल** की संरचना के बारे में संकेत दिए, जिससे **3I/ATLAS** और उसकी मूल ग्रह-प्रणाली का जन्म हुआ था।
- The **carbon composition** indicated **3I/ATLAS** formed some **12 billion years ago** during a period of intense **star formation** in its region.
  कार्बन संरचना से संकेत मिला कि **3I/ATLAS** का निर्माण लगभग **12 अरब वर्ष पूर्व** उसके क्षेत्र में तीव्र **तारकीय निर्माण (Star Formation)** की अवधि के दौरान हुआ था।
- The **universe** is thought to have begun with the **Big Bang** event **13.8 billion years ago**, so **3I/ATLAS** would date to a time when the **cosmos** was only around **13%** of its current age.
  माना जाता है कि **ब्रह्मांड** की शुरुआत **13.8 अरब वर्ष पूर्व** हुई **बिग बैंग** घटना से हुई थी, इसलिए **3I/ATLAS** उस समय का है जब **ब्रह्मांड (Cosmos)** अपनी वर्तमान आयु का केवल लगभग **13%** ही था।

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

PATRIOTIC IAS

India's patchy industrial climate strategy

GS III: Environment

Shifali Goyal

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Debashis Chakraborty

Professor, IIFT Kolkata. Views are personal

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

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

Mitigation planning

To mitigate industrial emissions and energy consumption, the government has relied on two major market-based mechanisms. The BTR1 acknowledges the Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme as a primary initiative, which aims to reduce specific energy consumption across 13 energy-intensive industries. PAT is now transitioning to the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), which focuses on reducing the emission intensity of nine industrial sectors, including aluminium, cement, fertilizers, iron and steel, petrochemicals, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, textiles, and chlor-alkali. The other four industries, which include thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings, will continue under the PAT scheme.

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

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

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

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

Need to identify industries

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

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

24J6. India's patchy industrial climate strategy
भारत की खंडित औद्योगिक जलवायु रणनीति

- The recently submitted **First Biennial Transparency Report (BTR1)** by India to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** provides a detailed account of national emissions.
  भारत द्वारा हाल ही में **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन रूपरेखा अभिसमय (UNFCCC)** को प्रस्तुत की गई **प्रथम द्विवार्षिक पारदर्शिता रिपोर्ट (BTR1)** राष्ट्रीय उत्सर्जनों का विस्तृत विवरण प्रस्तुत करती है।
- The report discloses that in **2022**, over **20%** of India's total emissions stemmed directly from the **industrial sector**.

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

- Specifically, it shows that the fuel consumption in manufacturing industries and construction accounts for **13%** of total emissions, while **industrial processes and product use** accounts for another **9%**.
  विशेष रूप से, रिपोर्ट दर्शाती है कि विनिर्माण उद्योगों और निर्माण गतिविधियों में ईंधन की खपत कुल उत्सर्जन का **13%** योगदान देती है, जबकि **औद्योगिक प्रक्रियाएँ एवं उत्पाद उपयोग** अतिरिक्त **9%** उत्सर्जन के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं।
- The **BTR1** acknowledges the **Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT)** scheme as a primary initiative, which aims to reduce specific energy consumption across **13 energy-intensive industries**.
  BTR1 ने **परफॉर्म, अचीव एंड ट्रेड (PAT)** योजना को एक प्रमुख पहल के रूप में मान्यता दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य **13 ऊर्जा-गहन उद्योगों** में विशिष्ट ऊर्जा खपत को कम करना है।
- **PAT** is now transitioning to the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)**, which focuses on reducing the **emission intensity** of nine industrial sectors, including **aluminium, cement, fertilizers, iron and steel, petrochemicals, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, textiles, and chlor-alkali**.
  PAT अब **कार्बन क्रेडिट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम (CCTS)** में परिवर्तित हो रही है, जिसका ध्यान **उत्सर्जन तीव्रता (Emission Intensity)** को कम करने पर है। इसमें **एल्यूमिनियम, सीमेंट, उर्वरक, लौह एवं इस्पात, पेट्रोकेमिकल्स, पेट्रोलियम परिशोधन, पल्प एवं पेपर, वस्त्र तथा क्लोर-अल्कली** सहित नौ औद्योगिक क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।
- The other four industries, which include **thermal power plants, railways, DISCOMs and commercial buildings**, will continue under the **PAT scheme**.
  अन्य चार क्षेत्र, जिनमें **तापीय विद्युत संयंत्र, रेलवे, डिस्कॉम तथा वाणिज्यिक भवन** शामिल हैं, **PAT योजना** के अंतर्गत ही बने रहेंगे।

Need to identify industries
उद्योगों की पहचान की आवश्यकता

- A similar pattern has been seen in **2014, 2016, and 2019** as well, as per the detailed emission inventory available on **NITI Aayog's India Climate and Energy Dashboard**.
  नीति आयोग के इंडिया क्लाइमेट एंड एनर्जी डैशबोर्ड पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत उत्सर्जन सूची के अनुसार, **2014, 2016 और 2019** में भी इसी प्रकार की प्रवृत्ति देखी गई थी।
- For instance, some of the explicitly identified sectors in the emission inventory, such as **power, cement, non-ferrous metals, chemicals, and textiles**, are covered by mitigation measures such as **PAT** and **CCTS**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, उत्सर्जन सूची में स्पष्ट रूप से पहचाने गए कुछ क्षेत्र, जैसे **विद्युत, सीमेंट, अलौह धातुएँ, रसायन तथा वस्त्र उद्योग**, **PAT** और **CCTS** जैसी शमन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत आते हैं।
- They are not subject to the same **energy efficiency mandates** or **emission-reduction targets** as industries such as steel or cement, despite their contributions to the emissions load.
  उत्सर्जन में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देने के बावजूद, इन उद्योगों पर इस्पात या सीमेंट उद्योगों की तरह समान **ऊर्जा दक्षता संबंधी अनिवार्यताएँ** या **उत्सर्जन-न्यूनन लक्ष्य** लागू नहीं होते।
- Transparency in **climate reporting** is often framed as an international obligation, a way to prove to the world that a nation is effectively traversing the path for honouring its pledges.
  जलवायु रिपोर्टिंग में पारदर्शिता को प्रायः एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय दायित्व के रूप में देखा जाता है, जिसके माध्यम से यह प्रदर्शित किया जाता है कि कोई राष्ट्र अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के मार्ग पर प्रभावी रूप से आगे बढ़ रहा है।

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

Manipur govt. may go soft on Arambai Tenggol members

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

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

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

Plea to surrender arms

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

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

Govindas Konthoujam

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

Continuing strife

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2023 में जातीय संघर्ष शुरू होने के बाद से राज्य व्यवहारिक रूप से इन समुदायों के बीच विभाजित हो गया है।

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

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

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

GS III: Internal Security

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

The High Court, in its June 19 order, endorsed the Centre's view that the "blocking power under Section 69A of the IT Act extends beyond individual pieces of content and, having regard to its wide legislative scope, encompasses the software architecture, codebase, databases, and programmatic ecosystem constituting an application".

The ban won the endorsement of the Delhi High Court.

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

Such a sweeping ban had disproportionately affected the very section it deemed to protect. Many of the 150 million Telegram users were students and educators who used the platform to share study material and educational resources for NEET preparation.

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

Access to app restored

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

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

- The **Union government** temporarily blocked **Telegram** to protect the sanctity of the **NEET (UG) re-test** by a single interpretative sleight of hand which compressed an entire intermediary platform into an expression: **"information"**.
  केंद्र सरकार ने **नीट (स्नातक) पुनर्परीक्षा** की निष्पक्षता बनाए रखने के उद्देश्य से **टेलीग्राम** को अस्थायी रूप से अवरुद्ध कर दिया। इसके लिए एक ऐसी व्याख्या अपनाई गई जिसमें पूरे मध्यस्थ मंच को **"सूचना"** की संज्ञा दे दी गई।
- The ban won the endorsement of the **Delhi High Court** by stretching the meaning of **"information"** under the **Information Technology Act, 2000**.
  इस प्रतिबंध को **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** का समर्थन प्राप्त हुआ, क्योंकि **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000** के अंतर्गत **"सूचना"** शब्द की व्याख्या का विस्तार किया गया।

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

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

FAITH
GS IV: Ethics

The ultimate authority

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

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

24J6. The ultimate authority
सर्वोच्च प्राधिकरण

- A family has its rules, one of which is that everyone must be on friendly terms with each other.
  एक परिवार के अपने नियम होते हैं, जिनमें से एक यह है कि सभी सदस्य आपस में सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध बनाए रखें।
- Likewise, a school has its rules.
  इसी प्रकार, एक विद्यालय के भी अपने नियम होते हैं।
- So everywhere there are rules, and not all of them are the same.
  अतः हर स्थान पर नियम होते हैं, और वे सभी समान नहीं होते।
- A student has to wear a uniform when he goes to school, but he does not have to at other times.
  एक विद्यार्थी को विद्यालय जाते समय वर्दी पहननी होती है, परंतु अन्य समय ऐसा करना आवश्यक नहीं होता।
- Two men fighting with each other in a family is wrong.
  एक परिवार में दो व्यक्तियों का आपस में लड़ना अनुचित है।
- But men fighting in an army against an enemy are respected.
  किन्तु सेना में शत्रु के विरुद्ध युद्ध करने वाले सैनिक सम्मानित होते हैं।
- **Dharma**, or what is right, keeps changing depending on the situation.
  धर्म, अर्थात् जो उचित है, परिस्थितियों के अनुसार बदलता रहता है।
- So how do we know what **dharma** is?
  तो फिर हम कैसे जानें कि **धर्म** क्या है?
- **Lord Krishna** says in the **Bhagavad Gita** that **Sastras** are the **pramana**.
  भगवान कृष्ण भगवद्गीता में कहते हैं कि **शास्त्र** ही **प्रमाण** हैं।
- The rules laid down by them must be followed.
  उनके द्वारा निर्धारित नियमों का पालन किया जाना चाहिए।
- "**Tasmaat sastram pramaanam**," says Krishna to Arjuna.
  कृष्ण अर्जुन से कहते हैं, "**तस्मात् शास्त्रं प्रमाणम्**।"

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PCS Special:	23 June 2026
23J6	Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years तुषार मेहता को तीन वर्षों के लिए पुनः सॉलिसिटर जनरल नियुक्त किया गया
23J6	Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100 अमेरिकी फेड के 'माएस्ट्रो' एलन ग्रीनस्पैन का 100 वर्ष की आयु में निधन
23J6	Japanese firm JAMCO launches Centre of Excellence in Pune जापानी कंपनी JAMCO ने पुणे में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस शुरू किया
23J6	Messi sets record, Argentina in knockouts मेसी ने बनाया रिकॉर्ड, अर्जेंटीना नॉकआउट चरण में पहुँचा
23J6	Vondrousova gets ban for refusing anti-doping test एंटी-डोपिंग परीक्षण से इनकार करने पर वोंद्रूशोवा पर प्रतिबंध
23J6	Chiranth becomes the first Indian to win at Motegi racetrack चिरंथ मोटेगी रेसट्रैक पर जीत दर्ज करने वाले पहले भारतीय बने
23J6	Aaruthran owns the Mini under-10 race आरुथ्रन ने मिनी अंडर-10 रेस पर कब्ज़ा जमाया

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Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

The Centre has reappointed Tushar Mehta the Solicitor-General of India for a further term of three years from July 1. An order in this regard was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on June 20, an official source said. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government's legal representation before the Supreme Court and other constitutional courts. The Centre also reappointed five Additional Solicitors-General – Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati – for the Supreme Court for a three-year term.

23J6. Tushar Mehta reappointed Solicitor-General for 3 years

तुषार मेहता को तीन वर्षों के लिए पुनः सॉलिसिटर जनरल नियुक्त किया गया

- The **Centre** has reappointed **Tushar Mehta**, the **Solicitor-General of India**, for a further term of **three years** from **July 1**.

केंद्र सरकार ने **भारत के महाधिवक्ता तुषार मेहता** को **1 जुलाई** से आगे के **तीन वर्षों** के लिए पुनः नियुक्त किया है।

- An order in this regard was issued by the **Department of Personnel and Training** on **June 20**, an official source said.

एक आधिकारिक सूत्र के अनुसार, इस संबंध में **कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग** द्वारा **20 जून** को आदेश जारी किया गया।

- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the reappointment, ensuring continuity in the government's legal representation before the **Supreme Court** and other constitutional courts.

मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति ने इस पुनर्नियुक्ति को स्वीकृति प्रदान की, जिससे **उच्चतम न्यायालय** तथा अन्य संवैधानिक न्यायालयों के समक्ष सरकार के विधिक प्रतिनिधित्व में निरंतरता सुनिश्चित हुई है।

- The Centre also reappointed **five Additional Solicitors-General — Vikramjit Banerjee, K.M. Nataraj, Suryaprakash V. Raju, N. Venkataraman, and Aishwarya Bhati** — for the **Supreme Court** for a **three-year term**.

केंद्र सरकार ने **उच्चतम न्यायालय** के लिए **पाँच अतिरिक्त महाधिवक्ताओं — विक्रमजीत बनर्जी, के. एम. नटराज, सूर्यप्रकाश वी. राजू, एन. वेंकटरमण और ऐश्वर्या भाटी** — को भी **तीन वर्ष** की अवधि के लिए पुनः नियुक्त किया है।

Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100

PCS

Reuters

Alan Greenspan, hailed as the greatest Federal Reserve chairman when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe financial crisis that followed barely 2 years later, died on Monday aged 100, his wife said.

Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the U.S.economy during his tenure at the helm of the Fed from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of Parkinson's Disease, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.

"He was a giant of a man who helped shape the

Alan Greenspan

U.S. economy for decades under presidents of both parties, but was always honest in acknowledging his mistakes," Ms. Mitchell said.

"He will be remembered for his brilliance and his kindness. Being his life partner was the joy of my life," she added.

Mr. Greenspan oversaw the second-longest economic expansion in U.S. history, an uninterrupted decade of growth from March 1991 to March 2001. His decision to let economy run – despite pressure to raise interest rates against an inflation threat that never materialised – helped foster years of U.S. prosperity and earned him rock star status as an economic "maestro." The era was marked by his prescient judgment that a productivity surge in the mid-1990s would keep inflation contained.

23J6. Alan Greenspan, U.S. Fed 'maestro', passes away at 100

अमेरिकी फेड के 'माएस्ट्रो' एलन ग्रीनस्पैन का 100 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- **Alan Greenspan**, hailed as the greatest **Federal Reserve chairman** when he retired in 2006 but derided for a severe **financial crisis** that followed barely 2 years later, died on Monday aged **100**, his wife said.

एलन ग्रीनस्पैन, जिन्हें 2006 में सेवानिवृत्ति के समय सबसे महान **फेडरल रिज़र्व अध्यक्ष** माना गया था, लेकिन लगभग 2 वर्ष बाद आए गंभीर **वित्तीय संकट** के लिए आलोचना का सामना करना पड़ा, उनका सोमवार को **100 वर्ष** की आयु

में निधन हो गया, उनकी पत्नी ने कहा।

- Greenspan, who exerted a powerful influence on the **U.S. economy** during his tenure at the helm of the **Fed** from August 1987 to January 2006, died at his home from complications of **Parkinson's Disease**, Andrea Mitchell said in a statement.
  ग्रीनस्पैन, जिन्होंने अगस्त 1987 से जनवरी 2006 तक **फेड** के प्रमुख के रूप में कार्य करते हुए **अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था** पर गहरा प्रभाव डाला, उनका अपने घर पर **पार्किंसन रोग** से जुड़ी जटिलताओं के कारण निधन हो गया, एंड्रिया मिशेल ने एक बयान में कहा।

PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PD)

• **Parkinson's Disease (PD)** is a **progressive neurodegenerative disorder** that primarily affects movement, balance, coordination, and several non-motor functions of the body.
• It occurs when nerve cells (neurons) in a specific part of the brain called the **Substantia Nigra** gradually degenerate and die.
• These neurons produce **dopamine**, a neurotransmitter that helps control smooth and coordinated muscle movements.
• As dopamine levels decrease, symptoms of Parkinson's disease gradually appear and worsen over time.
• The disease is named after **Dr. James Parkinson**, who first described it in **1817** in his work An Essay on the Shaking Palsy.

Basic Science Behind Parkinson's Disease

Role of Dopamine

• Dopamine is a chemical messenger that allows different parts of the brain to communicate effectively.
• It plays a major role in:
• Movement control.
• Coordination.
• Learning.
• Motivation.
• Reward mechanisms.
• In Parkinson's disease, approximately **60–80% of dopamine-producing neurons** are lost before significant symptoms become noticeable.

Substantia Nigra

• The **Substantia Nigra** is located in the midbrain.
• It forms part of the **Basal Ganglia**, which regulates voluntary movement.
• Degeneration of this region leads to the characteristic movement problems seen in Parkinson's disease.

Causes

• The exact cause remains unknown.
• Most cases are considered **idiopathic**, meaning no single definite cause has been identified.

Genetic Factors

• Certain gene mutations can increase susceptibility.
• Important genes include:
• **LRRK2**
• **SNCA**
• **PARKIN**
• **PINK1**

Environmental Factors

• Exposure to some pesticides and industrial chemicals may increase risk.

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• Repeated head injuries have also been associated with a higher risk.

Ageing

• Age is the most significant risk factor.
• Most cases occur after the age of **60 years**.

Major Symptoms

Motor Symptoms

• Resting tremor (shaking of hands, fingers, legs, or jaw).
• Bradykinesia (slowness of movement).
• Muscle rigidity or stiffness.
• Postural instability and balance problems.
• Difficulty in walking.
• Reduced facial expressions ("masked face").

Non-Motor Symptoms

• Depression and anxiety.
• Sleep disturbances.
• Constipation.
• Loss of smell (Anosmia).
• Cognitive impairment.
• Fatigue.
• Speech difficulties.
• Autonomic dysfunction (blood pressure and bladder control issues).

Stages of Parkinson's Disease

Early Stage

• Mild tremors.
• Slight stiffness.
• Symptoms often affect only one side of the body.

Moderate Stage

• Increasing difficulty with movement.
• Walking and balance problems begin.

Advanced Stage

• Severe mobility limitations.
• Dependence on caregivers for daily activities.
• Cognitive decline may develop in some patients.

Diagnosis

Clinical Diagnosis

• There is currently no single laboratory test that definitively diagnoses Parkinson's disease.
• Diagnosis is mainly based on:
• Medical history.
• Neurological examination.
• Observation of symptoms.

Brain Imaging

• MRI is used mainly to exclude other disorders.
• Specialized imaging such as dopamine transporter scans (DaT scans) may assist diagnosis.

Treatment

Levodopa

• The most effective medication.
• It is converted into dopamine inside the brain.

Dopamine Agonists

• Mimic dopamine action.
• Examples:
• Pramipexole.

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• Ropinirole.

MAO-B Inhibitors

• Help preserve dopamine.

Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS)

• Surgical procedure involving implantation of electrodes in specific brain regions.
• Useful in selected patients with advanced disease.

Supportive Therapies

• Physiotherapy.
• Speech therapy.
• Occupational therapy.
• Nutritional support.

Japanese firm JAMCO launches Centre of Excellence in Pune

PCS

Jagriti Chandra
PUNE

Tokyo-headquartered aircraft interiors company JAMCO Interiors on Monday launched its Centre of Excellence in Pune, committing $150 million to expand its India workforce "six-fold" and build the country into a design engineering hub, while also beginning to source components from Indian suppliers.

"We are looking at design technology being transferred to India so that India becomes a design centre for our laboratory products," said Kate Schaefer, Executive Chair and CEO, JAMCO Interiors.

JAMCO will also see a similar centre being inaugurated in Bengaluru later this week. A design centre in India would mean back-office engineering support which sends out simple packages of independent design work evolving into engineering and product-development base capable of handling "cradle-to-grave" designing work spanning the original request for quotation (RFQ), product design and development, certification support, and entry into service. This growth will be supported by an increase in engineering manpower from 100 to 500 in the next two to five years.

Dignitaries at the inauguration of the Centre. BY ARRANGEMENT

The company supplies approximately 50% of the world's widebody lavatories, including 100% on the Boeing 787 and 777, and approximately 40% of the world's widebody galleys (kitchen section), including 100% on the Boeing 787, along with 100% "Increased Cabin Efficiency" (ICE) galleys on the Airbus A350. Its portfolio also includes business class seating, branding panels, and window shades. The Pune centre has already received technology transfer for the design and development of aircraft galleys, and is expected to acquire similar capabilities for lavatories in the near future. So why India? The CEO says, "it's about access to highly educated engineers that is hard to do in Japan, and hard to do in the U.S. at the moment, as well."

(The author was in Pune on the invitation of JAMCO)

23J6. Japanese firm JAMCO launches Centre of Excellence in Pune
जापानी कंपनी JAMCO ने पुणे में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस शुरू किया

- **Tokyo-headquartered** aircraft interiors company **JAMCO Interiors** on Monday launched its **Centre of Excellence** in Pune, committing **$150 million** to expand its India workforce "**six-fold**" and build the country into a **design engineering hub**, while also beginning to source components from Indian suppliers.

टोक्यो मुख्यालय वाली विमान आंतरिक सज्जा कंपनी **JAMCO Interiors** ने सोमवार को पुणे में अपना **सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस** शुरू किया और भारत में अपने कार्यबल को "**छह गुना**" बढ़ाने तथा देश को **डिज़ाइन इंजीनियरिंग हब** बनाने के लिए **150 मिलियन डॉलर** निवेश करने की प्रतिबद्धता जताई। साथ ही कंपनी भारतीय आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से पुर्जों की खरीद भी शुरू करेगी।

- "We are looking at **design technology** being transferred to India so that India becomes a **design centre** for our laboratory products," said **Kate Schaefer**, Executive Chair and CEO, JAMCO Interiors.

JAMCO Interiors की कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष और CEO **केट शेफर** ने कहा, "हम **डिज़ाइन तकनीक** को भारत में स्थानांतरित करने की दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं ताकि भारत हमारे प्रयोगशाला उत्पादों के लिए एक **डिज़ाइन केंद्र** बन सके।"

- JAMCO will also see a similar centre being inaugurated in **Bengaluru** later this week.

JAMCO इस सप्ताह के अंत में **बेंगलुरु** में भी इसी प्रकार का एक केंद्र शुरू करेगा।

- A **design centre** in India would mean back-office engineering support which sends out simple packages of independent design work evolving into engineering and **product-development** base capable of handling "**cradle-to-grave**" designing work spanning the original request for quotation (**RFQ**), product design and development, certification support, and entry into service.

भारत में एक **डिज़ाइन केंद्र** का अर्थ होगा बैक-ऑफिस

इंजीनियरिंग सहायता, जो स्वतंत्र डिज़ाइन कार्यों के साधारण पैकेज भेजने से आगे बढ़कर इंजीनियरिंग और **उत्पाद-विकास** आधार में विकसित होगी, जो मूल **RFQ (Request for Quotation)**, उत्पाद डिज़ाइन एवं विकास, प्रमाणन सहायता और सेवा में प्रवेश तक के "**क्रैडल-टू-ग्रेव**" डिज़ाइन कार्य को संभाल सकेगी।

- The company supplies approximately **50%** of the world's **widebody lavatories**, including **100%** on the **Boeing 787** and **777**, and approximately **40%** of the world's widebody **galleys** (kitchen section), including **100%** on the Boeing 787, along with **100% Increased Cabin Efficiency (ICE) galleys** on the **Airbus A350**.
  कंपनी दुनिया के लगभग **50% वाइडबॉडी विमान शौचालयों** की आपूर्ति करती है, जिनमें **Boeing 787** और **777** के लिए **100%** आपूर्ति शामिल है। साथ ही यह दुनिया की लगभग **40% वाइडबॉडी गैली (रसोई अनुभाग)** की आपूर्ति करती है, जिसमें **Boeing 787** के लिए **100%** तथा **Airbus A350** के लिए **100% Increased Cabin Efficiency (ICE) गैली** शामिल हैं।
- Its portfolio also includes **business class seating**, **branding panels**, and **window shades**.
  इसके उत्पाद पोर्टफोलियो में **बिज़नेस क्लास सीटिंग**, **ब्रांडिंग पैनल** और **विंडो शेड्स** भी शामिल हैं।
- The Pune centre has already received **technology transfer** for the design and development of aircraft **galleys**, and is expected to acquire similar capabilities for **lavatories** in the near future.
  पुणे केंद्र को विमान **गैली** के डिज़ाइन और विकास के लिए पहले ही **प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण** प्राप्त हो चुका है, और निकट भविष्य में **शौचालयों** के लिए भी ऐसी ही क्षमताएँ प्राप्त होने की उम्मीद है।

Messi sets record, Argentina in knockouts

The talisman goes past Klose for the most number of goals in the showpiece after missing an early penalty; his brace consigns Austria to a 0-2 defeat

FIFA WORLD CUP

Ayo[redacted]
DALLAS

18 and counting... Messi etched his name in the record books with a perfectly placed strike in the first half and followed it up with one in injury time. REUTERS & GETTY IMAGES

The takeover had begun long before kick-off. The previous evening, thousands had gathered at the Klyde Warren Park for the traditional Argentine Banderazo, a fan rally named after the Spanish word for flag, *bandera*. They draped downtown Dallas in blue and white and filled the Texas air with songs carried across generations. For one weekend, it looked like Buenos Aires had travelled north, settling briefly among the glass towers and endless freeways of Dallas.

Twenty-four hours later, Argentina repaid the devotion with a 2-0 victory over Austria, a result that secured its place in the knockouts.

The songs had grown louder as the crowd poured into the AT&T Stadium, and five minutes into the game, the sense of inevitability appeared to be justified.

Argentina won a penalty after a lengthy VAR review determined that Lautaro Martinez was brought down inside the box. But to the disbelief of the Messi faithful congregated here, the Argentina captain dragged his effort wide.

The rare ignominy appeared to cast a brief shadow over the South Americans, and Austria, sensing an opportunity, tried to turn possession into pressure. Perhaps, for the first time in this edition, the world champion looked ill at ease, its rhythm disrupted and composure tested by an opponent unwilling to be overawed.

Messi almost conjured a moment of magic in the 19th minute. Twisting his way into the penalty area, he discovered just enough space for a shot, but Alexander Schlager was alert to the danger and smothered the effort.

The goal that finally soothed the Argentine nerves arrived in the 38th minute. Thiago Almada cleverly stepped over a diagonal pass from Facundo Medina, allowing it to run into Messi's path. Arriving centrally, the captain opened his body and guided a precise finish beyond the goalkeeper. And, just like that, he was the holder of most number of goals in the showpiece, going past German Miroslav Klose.

A free-kick whipped in from the left by Marcel Sabitzer after the break provided Austria with its closest opportunity to claw back. But Emiliano Martinez reacted sharply to block its path.

Argentina had chances to extend its lead, but the finishing remained uncharacteristically wasteful from Lionel Scaloni's side. Yet as the game drifted into stoppage time, *La Albiceleste* found the reward its persistence deserved. As Austria failed to clear its lines inside a crowded penalty box, it was Messi, who reacted quickest, hammering home from close range.

23J6. Messi sets record, Argentina in knockouts
मेसी ने बनाया रिकॉर्ड, अर्जेंटीना नॉकआउट चरण में पहुँचा

- The **talisman** goes past **Klose** for the most number of goals in the showpiece after missing an early penalty; his **brace** consigns **Austria** to a **0-2 defeat**.
  शुरुआती पेनाल्टी चूकने के बावजूद इस **दिग्गज खिलाड़ी** ने **क्लोज़े** को पीछे छोड़ते हुए टूर्नामेंट में सबसे अधिक गोल करने का रिकॉर्ड बनाया; उनके **दो गोलों** ने **ऑस्ट्रिया** को **0-2 की हार** दी।

- And, just like that, he was the holder of most number of goals in the showpiece, going past German **Miroslav Klose**.
  और इसी के साथ उन्होंने जर्मनी के **मिरोस्लाव क्लोज़े** को पीछे छोड़ते हुए टूर्नामेंट में सर्वाधिक गोल करने का रिकॉर्ड अपने नाम कर लिया।

PCS

Vondrousova gets ban for refusing anti-doping test

Former Wimbledon women's champion Marketa Vondrousova has been handed a four-year suspension for refusing an anti-doping test in December, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said on Monday.

23J6. Vondrousova gets ban for refusing anti-doping test

एंटी-डोपिंग परीक्षण से इनकार करने पर वोंद्रूशोवा पर प्रतिबंध

- Former **Wimbledon women's champion Marketa Vondrousova** has been handed a **four-year suspension** for refusing an **anti-doping test** in December, the **International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)** said on Monday.

पूर्व **विंबलडन महिला चैंपियन मार्केटा वोंद्रूशोवा** को दिसंबर में **एंटी-डोपिंग परीक्षण** से इनकार करने के कारण **चार वर्ष के निलंबन** की सज़ा दी गई है, यह जानकारी **इंटरनेशनल टेनिस इंटीग्रिटी एजेंसी (ITIA)** ने सोमवार को दी।

Chiranth becomes the first Indian to win at Motegi racetrack

PCS

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau

Chiranth Vishwanath from Bengaluru became the first Indian to win a race at the iconic Mobility Resort Motegi racetrack in Japan recently.

He finished the third round of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship with a victory and fourth-place finish in the TVS Asia Championship category.

Chiranth.

Having qualified fourth after a series of fastest laps in the official practice session, 18-year-old Chiranth, astride a TVS Apache RR 310, led from the start in Race-1. However, in the fifth lap of the eight-lap race, he fell to P5 after contact with another rider. But he recovered, passing three riders in the last lap to post a win, his first of the championship.

In Race-2, Chiranth was in second until the last lap when a contact with a fellow rider cost him two spots. The win and P4 finish helped Chiranth move up to fourth in the championship as he prepares for the next round in Indonesia in August.

23J6. Chiranth becomes the first Indian to win at Motegi racetrack

चिरंथ मोटेगी रेसट्रैक पर जीत दर्ज करने वाले पहले भारतीय बने

- **Chiranth Vishwanath** from **Bengaluru** became the **first Indian** to win a race at the iconic **Mobility Resort Motegi racetrack** in **Japan** recently.

बेंगलुरु के **चिरंथ विश्वनाथ** हाल ही में **जापान** के प्रतिष्ठित **मोबिलिटी रिज़ॉर्ट मोटेगी रेसट्रैक** पर रेस जीतने वाले **पहले भारतीय** बने।

- He finished the **third round** of the **FIM Asia Road Racing Championship** with a victory and **fourth-place finish** in the **TVS Asia Championship** category.
  उन्होंने **FIM एशिया रोड रेसिंग चैम्पियनशिप** के **तीसरे दौर** का समापन **TVS एशिया चैम्पियनशिप** श्रेणी में एक जीत और **चौथे स्थान** के साथ किया।

Aaruthran owns the Mini under-10 race

The boy comes out on top in the Super Heat and Finals; Shiv Neel, Narain Karthikeyan's son, takes the honours in the Mini category

MOTORSPORTS

[redacted]
Sports Bureau

Aaruthran Prabhu (Kartkrew Motorsports) dominated the mini under-10 category, winning both the Super Heat and Finals, in the second round of the RA Motorsports-promoted IAME National Series India held in Coimbatore on Sunday.

The Mini category also provided thrilling competition. Shiv Neel Narain (NKRA Motorsports), son of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, inherited victory in the Finals following the post-race disqualification of race winner Ridhaan Anil Kumarr for a technical infringement.

Bafna bounces back

Among the older categories, Laksh Bafna (LB Racing) recovered brilliantly from retirement in the Super Heat to claim a commanding victory in the Senior Finals. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) continued his impressive form in the Junior category by dominating both the Super Heat and Finals from pole.

Provisional results (all finals):

Seniors (18 laps): 1. Laksh Bafna (LB Racing) 13mins, 35.740secs, 2. Tanmay Kothari (Red Rabbit Racers) 13:43.070, 3. Mikkel Leib Rajan (Momentum Motorsports) 13:49.059.

Juniors (16 laps): 1. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Momentum Motorsports) 12:25.748, 2. Aditya Prathap (Momentum Motorsports) 12:28.842, 3. Abhishikt Barse (Crest Motorsports) 12:31.390.

Mini (14 laps): 1. Shiv Neel Narain (NKRA with KKM) 11:30.666, 2. Eeshan Swaroop (Kartkrew Motorsports) 11:31.326, 3. Rudra Gokulnath (NKRA with Momentum) 11:34.340.

Mini under-10 (14 laps): 1. Aaruthran Prabhu (Katkrew Motorsports) 11:45.865, 2. Abdur Rehman (Momentum Motorsports) 12:10.884, 3. Parth Singh (NKRA with KKM) 12:20.351.

23J6. Aaruthran owns the Mini under-10 race

आरुथ्रन ने मिनी अंडर-10 रेस पर कब्ज़ा जमाया

- The boy comes out on top in the **Super Heat** and **Finals**; **Shiv Neel**, **Narain Karthikeyan's** son, takes the honours in the **Mini category**.

इस बाल रेसर ने **सुपर हीट** और **फाइनल्स** दोनों में शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया; **नारायण कार्तिकेयन** के पुत्र **शिव नील** ने **मिनी श्रेणी** में सम्मान प्राप्त किया।

- **Aaruthran Prabhu** (**Kartkrew Motorsports**) dominated the **Mini under-10 category**, winning both the **Super Heat** and **Finals**, in the second round of the **RA Motorsports-promoted IAME National Series India** held in **Coimbatore** on Sunday.

आरुथ्रन प्रभु (**कार्टक्रू मोटरस्पोर्ट्स**) ने रविवार को **कोयंबटूर** में आयोजित **RA मोटरस्पोर्ट्स प्रोत्साहित IAME नेशनल सीरीज़ इंडिया** के दूसरे चरण में **मिनी अंडर-10 श्रेणी** में दबदबा बनाते हुए **सुपर हीट** और **फाइनल्स** दोनों जीते।

GS Paper 1: History	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation एएसआई ने वैज्ञानिक जांच के लिए राखीगढ़ी के कंकाल एएनएसआई को हस्तांतरित किए
23J6	QUIZ
23J6	Israeli strikes leave Lebanon's ancient coastal city of Tyre shaken, shattered इज़रायली हमलों ने लेबनान के प्राचीन तटीय शहर टायर को झकझोर दिया, तबाह कर दिया

ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation

GS I: History

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Human skeletal remains excavated from the archaeological site of Rakhigarhi in Haryana have been formally handed over by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI), a national research institute under the Union Culture Ministry, for a detailed scientific investigation.

The transfer, carried out under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, is expected to significantly advance multidisciplinary research into one of the most important urban centres of the Indus-Saraswati Civilisation, B.V. Sharma, Director of AnSI, said.

Rakhigarhi, spread across approximately 550 hectares in Haryana, is widely recognised as the largest known settlement of the Harappan Civilisation. Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation, from the Early Harappan to the Mature Harappan periods.

Ancient remains: The skeleton of a woman, excavated in a trench on Mound 7 at Rakhigarhi in Haryana, in April 2022. FILE PHOTO

Mound 7 at the excavation site has been identified as a burial plot where 56 skeletons were recovered, including that of a woman, roughly 4,600 years old, which created a buzz in the fields of history, anthropology, genomics, and even linguistics.

DNA analysis of the skeleton revealed that the Rakhigarhi woman did not possess the steppe pastoral gene, fanning the debate on Aryan migration to India. The word "Aryan" has been interchangeably used for the steppe pastoralists, though to avoid racial connotations, many scholars now prefer to use the term Indo-Aryan.

Three complete human skeletons among those recovered from Mound 7, along with skeletal fragments recovered from other burials, have now been transferred to the AnSI's ancient human skeletal repository and laboratory in Kolkata for a detailed examination. The remaining skeletal materials obtained at these sites are also expected to be transferred in a few days, the Culture Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Researchers believe the remains present a rare opportunity to apply modern scientific techniques, including ancient DNA (aDNA) analysis, stable isotope studies, osteological assessments, palaeopathological investigations, and environmental reconstruction, the statement added.

The research will be conducted in collaboration with leading scientific institutions, including the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, University College London, and the Banaras Hindu University.

23J6. ASI transfers Rakhigarhi skeletons to AnSI for a scientific investigation
एएसआई ने वैज्ञानिक जांच के लिए राखीगढ़ी के कंकाल एएनएसआई को हस्तांतरित किए

- Human skeletal remains excavated from the **archaeological site of Rakhigarhi** in **Haryana** have been formally handed over by the **Archaeological Survey of India** to the **Anthropological Survey of India**, a national research institute under the **Union Culture Ministry**, for a detailed scientific investigation.
  हरियाणा स्थित **राखीगढ़ी पुरातात्विक स्थल** से उत्खनित मानव कंकाल अवशेषों को **भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण** द्वारा औपचारिक रूप से **भारतीय मानवविज्ञान सर्वेक्षण** को, जो **केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय** के अधीन एक राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान संस्थान है, विस्तृत वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन हेतु सौंप दिया गया है।
- The transfer, carried out under a **memorandum of understanding** between the two institutions, is expected to significantly advance multidisciplinary research into one of the most important urban centres of the **Indus-Saraswati Civilisation**, **B.V. Sharma**, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India, said.
  समझौता ज्ञापन के अंतर्गत दोनों संस्थानों के बीच किए गए इस हस्तांतरण से **सिंधु-सरस्वती सभ्यता** के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण नगरीय केन्द्रों में से एक पर बहुविषयक अनुसंधान को महत्वपूर्ण गति मिलने की अपेक्षा है, ऐसा **भारतीय मानवविज्ञान सर्वेक्षण** के निदेशक **बी. वी. शर्मा** ने कहा।
- **Rakhigarhi**, spread across approximately **550 hectares** in Haryana, is widely recognised as the largest known settlement of the **Harappan Civilisation**.

हरियाणा में लगभग **550 हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र में फैला **राखीगढ़ी**, **हड़प्पा सभ्यता** की अब तक ज्ञात सबसे बड़ी बस्ती के रूप में व्यापक रूप से मान्यता प्राप्त है।

- Archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of continuous habitation, from the **Early Harappan** to the **Mature Harappan** periods.
  पुरातात्त्विक उत्खननों से **प्रारम्भिक हड़प्पा काल** से लेकर **परिपक्व हड़प्पा काल** तक निरंतर मानव निवास के प्रमाण प्राप्त हुए हैं।
- **Mound 7** at the excavation site has been identified as a burial plot where **56 skeletons** were recovered.
  उत्खनन स्थल के **टीला संख्या 7** को एक दफन स्थल के रूप में पहचाना गया है, जहाँ से **56 कंकाल** प्राप्त हुए।
- These included that of a woman, roughly **4,600 years old**, which created a buzz in the fields of **history, anthropology, genomics, and linguistics**.
  इनमें लगभग **4,600 वर्ष पुरानी** एक महिला का कंकाल भी शामिल था, जिसने **इतिहास, मानवविज्ञान, जीनोमिक्स और भाषाविज्ञान** के क्षेत्रों में व्यापक चर्चा उत्पन्न की।
- **DNA analysis** of the skeleton revealed that the **Rakhigarhi woman** did not possess the **steppe pastoral gene**, fuelling the debate on **Aryan migration** to India.
  कंकाल के **डीएनए विश्लेषण** से पता चला कि **राखीगढ़ी की महिला** में **स्टेपी पशुपालक जीन** उपस्थित नहीं था, जिससे भारत में **आर्य प्रवासन** संबंधी बहस को नया बल मिला।
- The word **"Aryan"** has been interchangeably used for the steppe pastoralists, though many scholars now prefer the term **Indo-Aryan** to avoid racial connotations.
  "आर्य" शब्द का उपयोग प्रायः स्टेपी पशुपालकों के लिए किया जाता रहा है, किन्तु नस्लीय अर्थों से बचने के लिए अनेक विद्वान अब **इंडो-आर्य** शब्द को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- Three complete human skeletons among those recovered from **Mound 7**, along with skeletal fragments recovered from other burials, have now been transferred to the Anthropological Survey of India's **ancient human skeletal repository and laboratory** in **Kolkata** for detailed examination.
  टीला संख्या 7 से प्राप्त तीन पूर्ण मानव कंकालों तथा अन्य दफन स्थलों से प्राप्त अस्थि-अवशेषों को विस्तृत परीक्षण हेतु **कोलकाता** स्थित **भारतीय मानवविज्ञान सर्वेक्षण** के **प्राचीन मानव कंकाल भंडार एवं प्रयोगशाला** में स्थानांतरित किया गया है।
- Researchers believe the remains present a rare opportunity to apply modern scientific techniques, including **ancient DNA analysis**, **stable isotope studies**, **osteological assessments**, **palaeopathological investigations**, and **environmental reconstruction**.
  शोधकर्ताओं का मानना है कि ये अवशेष **प्राचीन डीएनए विश्लेषण**, **स्थिर समस्थानिक अध्ययन**, **अस्थि-विज्ञान संबंधी मूल्यांकन**, **प्राचीन रोगविज्ञान संबंधी जांच** तथा **पर्यावरणीय पुनर्निर्माण** जैसी आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक तकनीकों के उपयोग का एक दुर्लभ अवसर प्रदान करते हैं।
- The research will be conducted in collaboration with leading scientific institutions, including the **Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences**, **University College London**, and **Banaras Hindu University**.
  यह अनुसंधान **बीरबल साहनी पुराजीवविज्ञान संस्थान**, **यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज लंदन** तथा **बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय** सहित प्रमुख वैज्ञानिक संस्थानों के सहयोग से किया जाएगा।

RAKHIGARHI

- **Rakhigarhi** is one of the most important archaeological sites of the **Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)** and is widely regarded as the **largest known Harappan site in the Indian subcontinent**.
- It is located in **Hisar District, Haryana**, on the **Ghaggar-Hakra (ancient Saraswati-Drishadvati) plain**.
- Located near the villages of **Rakhi Khas** and **Rakhi Shahpur** in Haryana.

- Approximately **150 km northwest of Delhi**.
- **Discovery and Excavation**
  - The site was identified in **1963**.
  - Systematic excavations were carried out by the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** between **1997–2000** under **Amarendra Nath**.
  - Further excavations were undertaken by **Deccan College, Pune**, under **Prof. Vasant Shinde** between **2011–2016**.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Why did PM Modi, in his speech at the UN in 2014, suggest June 21 be observed as International Day of Yoga? **Ans: It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere**
2. What was the theme for IDY this year? **Ans: Yoga for Healthy Ageing**
3. Of the five broad classifications of Yoga, two are Bhakti and Karma Yoga. Name the other 3. **Ans: Jnana, Dhyana and Kriya**
4. Which sadhana: i) advocates appropriate food and food habits for healthy living; ii). dissociating one's consciousness from the sense organs that connect with the external objects. **Ans: 'Yuktahara' and 'Pratyahara'**
5. From which animals are these asanas inspired: Catur Svanasana, Sasakasana, Ustrasana? **Ans: Dolphin, hare/rabbit and camel**
6. From where does the shloka 'saṃ gacchadhvaṃ saṃ vadadhvaṃ saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām |devā bhāgaṃ yathā pūrve saṃjānānā upāsate' that traditionally starts a yoga session come from? **Ans: Rig Veda.**
7. Visual: Name this eminent yoga exponent. **Ans: B.K.S. Iyengar**

23J6. QUIZ

1. Why did PM Modi suggest June 21 as the International Day of Yoga at the UN in 2014?

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, during his address to the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in September 2014, proposed that **21 June** be observed as the **International Day of Yoga**.
- He highlighted that this date coincides with the **Summer Solstice**, the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere, and holds special significance in many cultures and spiritual traditions.
- In Indian yogic philosophy, it is associated with the transition towards **Dakshinayana** and symbolizes harmony between humans and nature.
- The UN adopted the proposal on 11 December 2014 with support from **177 member states**, one of the highest co-sponsorships for any UN resolution.

2. What was the theme for the International Day of Yoga (IDY) this year?

- The theme for **International Day of Yoga 2026** was **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing."**
- The theme emphasizes yoga's role in promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, flexibility, balance, and emotional resilience throughout life.
- With increasing life expectancy worldwide, healthy ageing has become a major public health priority.

3. Apart from Bhakti Yoga and Karma Yoga, what are the other three broad classifications of Yoga?

- Yoga traditions are often classified into different paths according to the seeker's temperament and spiritual goals. **Jnana Yoga** is the path of knowledge, wisdom, and self-inquiry.
- **Dhyana Yoga** focuses on meditation and concentration to attain higher consciousness.
- **Kriya Yoga** emphasizes disciplined practices, purification techniques, and spiritual exercises aimed at self-realization.
- Along with **Bhakti Yoga** (devotion) and **Karma Yoga** (selfless action), these paths provide complementary approaches for achieving physical, mental, and spiritual development.

4. What are 'Yuktahara' and 'Pratyahara'?

- **Yuktahara** is a concept found in yogic texts that advocates moderation and balance in diet.
- It emphasizes consuming nutritious food in appropriate quantities and maintaining healthy eating habits to support physical and mental well-being.
- **Pratyahara**, the fifth limb of **Ashtanga Yoga** described by **Patanjali**, involves consciously withdrawing the mind from external sensory distractions.

- Through Pratyahara, practitioners gain greater control over their senses and develop inner awareness.

5. From which animals are the following asanas inspired: Catur Svanasana, Sasakasana and Ustrasana?

- Many yoga postures are inspired by observations of nature and animals. **Catur Svanasana**, commonly known as the **Dolphin Pose**, mimics the streamlined posture of a dolphin and helps strengthen the shoulders and spine.
- **Sasakasana**, or **Rabbit Pose**, resembles the crouched posture of a rabbit and promotes spinal flexibility and relaxation.
- **Ustrasana**, known as the **Camel Pose**, imitates the arched stance of a camel and is an important back-bending posture that improves posture, chest expansion, and flexibility.
- These animal-inspired asanas reflect yoga's deep connection with the natural world and bodily awareness.

6. From where does the shloka "Saṃ gacchadhvaṃ saṃ vadadhvaṃ..." originate?

- The shloka **"Saṃ gacchadhvaṃ saṃ vadadhvaṃ saṃ vo manāṃsi jānatām..."** originates from the **Rig Veda (Mandala 10, Sukta 191)**.
- It is a celebrated Vedic hymn promoting unity, cooperation, and collective harmony.
- The verse encourages people to move together, speak together, and share common understanding and purpose.
- Because yoga seeks harmony among individuals, society, and nature, this mantra is often recited at the beginning of yoga sessions.
- It reflects the ancient Indian vision of social cohesion, mutual respect, and spiritual unity, making it highly relevant to the universal message of yoga even today.

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Israeli strikes leave Lebanon's ancient coastal city of Tyre shaken, shattered

A new ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah is in effect; even as the U.S. and Iran meet for talks, uncertainty and fear linger in the 5,000-year-old city that has survived multiple wars; more than 4,000 Lebanese people have been killed in strikes that residents say often came without warning

GS I: History

NEWS ANALYSIS

Associated Press
TYRE

The dust has barely settled in Tyre after weeks of Israeli airstrikes on the ancient city along Lebanon's Mediterranean coast. Despite the relative calm, life remains largely at a standstill.

A new ceasefire between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group is in effect. But previous ceasefires have broken down. Uncertainty and fear linger, even as the U.S. and Iran meet for talks in Switzerland that Lebanese residents hope will bring calm to their troubled country.

Over 4,000 people in Lebanon have been killed in Israeli strikes since the latest Israel-Hezbollah war began in March, two days after the Iran war began, when Hezbollah fired at Israel. The group has also clashed with Israeli troops making their deepest incursion into southern Lebanon in over a quarter century.

Large swaths of southern Lebanon have been left in ruins, including Tyre.

During the summer, Lebanon's fourth largest city is usually filled with tourists lounging on its beaches, walking through its Roman ruins, eating freshly caught seafood at picturesque restaurants or taking boat tours.

A hopeful homecoming: A displaced girl gestures as she returns with her family to their home following an interim deal between the U.S. and Iran, in Tyre, Lebanon, on Sunday. REUTERS

Now, tables at the few restaurants that haven't closed are empty. Parking lots that are usually packed with beachgoers' vehicles are filled with displaced people living in tents. Fishermen and mariners say they can't sail far from port for fear of being targeted.

Continuing anxiety

"Every day they tell us there's a truce or ceasefire. Where is this truce? We can't see it," said Ali Bazzi, 31, who lives alone on a tour boat that belongs to family friends. His home in Toura, several kilometres away, was destroyed by an Israeli strike. Like many who have fled to Tyre from surrounding areas, he doesn't dare return until he sees long-term calm.

For months, Mr. Bazzi has been sleeping on a mattress on the deck, and selling sandwiches at a small stand a few steps away to earn money.

Israel in early June warned the entirety of Tyre to leave before it launched intense airstrikes across the city, saying it was targeting Hezbollah.

But Mr. Bazzi stayed. He recalled the emptied, ghostly city and the cries of women and children as Israeli strikes began. And he said he woke one night to the sound of a drone hovering over the port and worried it had come for him.

Even as the new ceasefire appeared to be largely holding, Tyre residents still pause anxiously when they hear Israeli jets overhead.

It seems at least one building has been reduced to rubble on every street. Others remain standing with several floors blown off. Pictures of those killed, including paramedics, families, and Hezbollah militants, are posted as memorials on the ruins of buildings and dashboards of parked cars.

The city's iconic heritage sites are not unscathed. Several buildings next to the remains of a 2nd century citadel were struck. Debris knocked the crowns off some Roman columns and damaged stones on the Roman road that have existed for thousands of years. Employees hope the damage to the UNESCO World Heritage site can be repaired.

"We're waiting for a committee to come and inspect it," said Adnan Istanbuli, an employee at the Lebanese Directorate General of Antiquities. "The city of Tyre is 5,000 years old, and what happened to it is huge."

Just south of the city, the shoreline in Mansouri, a well-known wildlife preserve for sea turtles and other animals, is now inaccessible after Israeli strikes. Mona Khalil, a well-known environmentalist who lived along that shore, died Friday from her wounds, weeks after a strike hit her home.

Recurring damage

One of Tyre's largest hospitals is repairing some of its units that were destroyed when an Israeli airstrike struck a building across the street.

Doctors at the Jabal Amel Hospital have lived through multiple wars over the past few decades but said this one is different. In the past, they felt relatively safe as long as they were in the hospital. This time, the Israeli strikes occurred nearby and without warning.

Doors and windows were blown off. Staff rushed to treat wounded patients and colleagues. Thick smoke filled the hospital.

"We used to be scared, but we're a lot more scared now," said intensive care unit nurse Khadeeja Yousef, whose unit overlooks the hospital parking lot, now reduced to rubble and charred cars.

Cardiologist Mohammad Nassar's private clinic across the street was hit. Now he rummages through the debris, looking for hundreds of books he had collected for over three decades.

"I don't care about any heart monitoring machines or anything else, but the books are dear to my heart," he said.

People in Tyre are constantly reminded that prospects for long-term stability are unclear as negotiations continue between Israel and Lebanon in Washington, with Hezbollah playing no role and resisting efforts to disarm it. Large swaths of land just south of the city are under Israeli control, stretching to the United Nations-mandated Blue Line that separates the countries.

In recent days, smoke from distant Israeli artillery fire was visible from Tyre's shoreline. And on a distant hilltop, an Israeli flag could be seen.

23J6. Israeli strikes leave Lebanon's ancient coastal city of Tyre shaken, shattered

इज़रायली हमलों ने लेबनान के प्राचीन तटीय शहर टायर को झकझोर दिया, तबाह कर दिया

TYRE: A HISTORIC CITY IN LEBANON

- **Tyre** is an ancient coastal city in **southern Lebanon**.
- It is located on the **Mediterranean coast**, about **83 km south of Beirut**.
- It was one of the most important cities of ancient **Phoenicia**.
- Tyre is famous for its **maritime trade, purple dye, Phoenician colonies, Roman ruins and UNESCO World Heritage status**.
- UNESCO describes Tyre as a great Phoenician city that ruled the seas and founded colonies such as **Carthage** and **Cadiz**.

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- The city became prominent as a **Phoenician city-state** during the **first millennium BCE**.
- Phoenicians were known as skilled sailors, traders and colonizers.
- Tyre became especially famous for its **purple dye**, often called **Tyrian purple.**
- One of the most famous events in Tyre's history was the **Siege of Tyre in 332 BCE**.

Tyre under Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine Rule

• The city contains major archaeological remains from the **Roman period**, including roads, baths, arches, necropolis areas and the famous **Roman Hippodrome**.
• The **Roman Hippodrome of Tyre** is one of the most important ancient chariot-racing sites in the region.
• In the Byzantine period, Tyre remained an important religious and urban centre.
• The **Al-Mina site** contains remains close to the ancient harbour and Roman urban structures.
UNESCO World Heritage Site
• Tyre was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984**.
• UNESCO recognized Tyre because of its outstanding Phoenician and Roman heritage.
• Its cultural memory survives through legends connected with **Europa**, **Dido or Elissa**, and the foundation traditions of **Carthage**.

Phoenician, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine Periods

• The **Phoenician, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods** represent successive historical phases of the **Mediterranean and Near Eastern world**.
• The main geographical focus was the **Mediterranean region**, especially the **Levant, Greece, Anatolia, Egypt, North Africa, Italy, and Constantinople**.

PHOENICIAN PERIOD

• The **Phoenicians** were ancient people of the **eastern Mediterranean coast**, mainly in present-day **Lebanon, Syria, and northern Israel**.
• Their important cities were **Tyre, Sidon, Byblos, and Arwad**. These were not one united empire but independent maritime city-states.
• The Phoenicians were famous for **sea trade, shipbuilding, colonisation, purple dye, glasswork, metalwork, and the alphabet**.
• Their period is broadly placed between **1500 BCE and 300 BCE**, though Phoenician influence continued later through **Carthage** in North Africa.

Important Contributions of Phoenicians
• The **Phoenician alphabet** was one of their greatest contributions.
• It had **22 consonantal letters** and strongly influenced later **Greek, Latin, and modern European scripts**.
• They established trade colonies across the Mediterranean, including **Carthage**, which later became a major power.
• **Carthage**, founded by Phoenicians, became a major commercial empire and later a Roman province. UNESCO identifies Carthage as a major Punic and Roman archaeological site.

Hellenistic Period
• The **Hellenistic Period** began after the death of **Alexander the Great in 323 BCE**.
• It ended with the defeat of **Cleopatra VII** and the Roman annexation of Egypt in **30 BCE**.
• The word **Hellenistic** means the spread of **Greek culture, language, art, science, and political ideas** across non-Greek regions.
• Alexander's empire broke into successor kingdoms ruled by his generals, known as the **Diadochi**.

Major Hellenistic Kingdoms
• **Ptolemaic Kingdom** in Egypt.
• **Seleucid Empire** in Syria, Mesopotamia, Persia, and parts of Central Asia.
• **Antigonid Kingdom** in Macedonia and Greece.

• **Pergamon** in Asia Minor.
• These kingdoms mixed **Greek culture** with **Egyptian, Persian, Mesopotamian, Jewish, and Indian cultural elements**.

Important Features of the Hellenistic Period

• **Alexandria in Egypt** became a great centre of learning.
• The **Library of Alexandria** symbolised the growth of knowledge and scholarship.
• Important developments occurred in **mathematics, astronomy, medicine, sculpture, philosophy, and urban planning**.
• Hellenistic art became more emotional, realistic, dramatic, and expressive compared to classical Greek art.

Roman Period

• The **Roman Period** refers to the rise and expansion of Rome from a city-state into a Mediterranean empire.
• The **Roman Empire** began under **Augustus in 27 BCE** and the Western Roman Empire ended in **476 CE**.
• Augustus ruled from **27 BCE to 14 CE** and established the system known as the **Principate**.

Important Features of the Roman Period

• Rome developed a strong system of **law, administration, army, roads, aqueducts, towns, and citizenship**.
• The Roman Empire connected Europe, North Africa, and West Asia through the **Mediterranean Sea**.
• The period of relative peace and stability under early emperors is called **Pax Romana**.
• Roman engineering produced durable roads, bridges, amphitheatres, public baths, drainage systems, and water supply networks.
• The **Appian Way**, begun in **312 BCE**, is a famous Roman road and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in **2024**.

Roman Cultural Importance

• Latin became a major language of administration, law, literature, and religion.
• Roman law influenced many later legal systems.
• Christianity emerged within the Roman Empire and later became a major religion of the empire.
• Emperor **Constantine** played a major role in the rise of Christianity and shifted imperial focus toward the eastern city of **Constantinople**.

Byzantine Period

• The **Byzantine Empire** was the continuation of the **Eastern Roman Empire**.
• It was centred on **Constantinople**, founded by **Constantine I** as a new imperial capital in **330 CE**.
• The Byzantine Empire lasted until the fall of Constantinople to the **Ottoman Turks** in **1453 CE**.

Important Features of the Byzantine Period

• The Byzantines called themselves **Romans**, though modern historians call them **Byzantines**.
• Their empire preserved **Roman law, Greek learning, Christian theology, and classical traditions**.
• The official culture gradually became more **Greek-speaking**.
• Byzantine society was deeply influenced by **Eastern Orthodox Christianity**.
• The **Hagia Sophia** in Constantinople became one of the greatest examples of Byzantine architecture.

Justinian and the Byzantine Peak

• Emperor **Justinian I** ruled from **527 CE to 565 CE**.
• His reign is famous for the **Justinian Code**, which preserved and organised Roman law.
• He reconquered parts of **North Africa, Italy, and the western Mediterranean**.
• By the **6th century CE**, the eastern Mediterranean remained a major commercial and religious zone of the Byzantine world.

Comparative Understanding

Period	Approximate Time	Main Region	Main Contribution
Phoenician	**1500–300 BCE**	Levant and Mediterranean	Trade, colonies, alphabet
Hellenistic	**323–30 BCE**	Eastern Mediterranean and Near East	Spread of Greek culture
Roman	**27 BCE–476 CE** in the West	Mediterranean Empire	Law, roads, administration, empire
Byzantine	**330–1453 CE**	Eastern Mediterranean	Roman continuity, Greek culture, Christianity

GS Paper 1: Society	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	

A protester dressed in traditional Zulu attire gestures during a protest in Umlazi township south-west of Durban in South Africa on Monday. The country has been on edge following weeks of sometimes violent xenophobic unrest that has left at least two people dead. AFP

A protester dressed in traditional **Zulu** attire gestures during a protest in Umlazi township south-west of Durban in **South Africa** on Monday. The country has been on edge following weeks of sometimes violent xenophobic unrest that has left at least two people dead.

• The **Zulu (AmaZulu)** are the largest ethnic group in **South Africa** and are among the most influential cultural and historical communities in Africa. They primarily inhabit the province of **KwaZulu-Natal** in eastern South Africa.

• The Zulu people belong to the larger **Nguni-speaking Bantu group**, which migrated into southern Africa centuries ago.

GS Paper 1: Geography	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	**No longer temporary hideouts, Sahel forests becoming jihadist strongholds** **अब केवल अस्थायी ठिकाने नहीं, साहेल के जंगल जिहादी गढ़ बनते जा रहे हैं**

No longer temporary hideouts, Sahel forests becoming jihadist strongholds

GS I: Geography

Agence France Presse
DAKAR

Along Mali's National Route 6, a major thoroughfare connecting the capital to the country's centre, the Army has reshaped the landscape: the vegetation from the surrounding forest has been cleared in anticipation of jihadist ambushes.

Armed groups use forest areas both as refuge and a base for launching deadly attacks on roads across Africa's Sahel region.

In Mali, jihadists from JNIM, Al-Qaeda's Sahel branch, operate from the vast 80,000-hectare (200,000-acre) Faya forest, located a quick drive from the capital, Bamako, from which they carry out attacks against toll stations, public transportation and freight trucks.

Since June, Faya has become an "off-limits military zone to civilians", along with 38 other parks and forests that are "likely to serve as refuges for armed terrorist groups", according to an inter-ministerial decree.

The armed forces, it said, would eliminate "all targets located in the specified zones".

Mali's decision is part of a series of security measures taken after large-scale jihadist attacks by JNIM and its ethnic Tuareg separatist allies in late April, which notably killed the country's Defence Minister.

The forests and parks covered by the decree stretch in a wide arc across the southern section of the country from the Senegal and Mauritania border in the west to Guinea and Ivory Coast in the east.

Tough terrain

"These are large natural areas that are sometimes not very well controlled by the state. There are no permanent settlements in many of these zones, no infrastructure, and police stations or military bases are located elsewhere," said Franklin Nossiter, Sahel analyst at the International Crisis Group.

"So it has become easier for jihadist groups to move around and establish themselves there and more difficult to drive them out", he told *AFP*.

Burkina Faso and Niger, which also face violence from JNIM and the Islamic State in the Sahel Province (ISSP), have implemented similar forest security measures in recent years.

Keeping watch: Soldiers from Burkina Faso patrol along a road in the Sahel region. REUTERS/FILE PHOTO

For example, south-western Niger's heavily wooded Torodi region, an epicentre of jihadist violence located on the border with Burkina Faso, was declared a "red zone" by the army.

An official from a Nigerien timber association active in the area told *AFP* that "these areas are hideouts for terrorists".

The jihadists, he said, "believe we are destroying their shelters, but we have avoided doing so on several occasions".

According to the official, 52 trucks were burned by the jihadists, and 24 drivers and apprentices were killed. "We stopped going to that hell," truck driver Hassane Gourouza said.

The forested regions are no longer just "temporary hideouts" for the groups, but have become "permanent operation bases", said Samir Bhattacharya, associate fellow at the Observer Research Foundation think tank.

"This transformation was driven by sustained military pressure in urban areas, and tactical advantages offered by forests like protection from aerial surveillance", he told *AFP*.

The forests also give jihadists a chance to "exploit local informal economies such as mining, grazing, smuggling and poaching," he added.

Conflict monitor ACLED added that "the jihadist groups' continued use of nature reserves and designated forests indicates a deliberate reliance on these areas".

'Drones ineffective'

JNIM initially spread throughout the sub-region through the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) complex of reserves and national parks that straddle Benin, Niger and Burkina Faso, and which are also located near the borders of Nigeria and Togo, ACLED said.

ISSP, meanwhile, has established a network of camps in wooded hills along the border between Niger and Nigeria, an area offering isolated refuge, the NGO added.

JNIM, which first claimed responsibility for attacks in Nigeria in late 2025, knows the parks well, unlike the various Sahel armies.

For the military, "the terrain is inhospitable for armoured vehicles", according to a report by the Geneva-based Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC).

And armed drones are largely ineffective due to "dense vegetation cover", Nossiter added.

Driving jihadists out of the region and torching things down might only "fuel recruitment for jihadist groups, because if innocent people are killed, that's what will create the new jihadists of tomorrow", he warned.

23J6. No longer temporary hideouts, Sahel forests becoming jihadist strongholds

अब केवल अस्थायी ठिकाने नहीं, साहेल के जंगल जिहादी गढ़ बनते जा रहे हैं

- In Mali, jihadists from **JNIM**, **Al-Qaeda's Sahel branch**, operate from the vast **80,000-hectare Faya forest**, located a quick drive from the capital, **Bamako**, from which they carry out attacks against toll stations, public transportation and freight trucks.
  माली में **अल-कायदा की साहेल शाखा JNIM** राजधानी **बमाको** के निकट स्थित विशाल **80,000 हेक्टेयर के फाया वन** से संचालित होती है, जहाँ से वह टोल स्टेशनों, सार्वजनिक परिवहन और मालवाहक ट्रकों पर हमले करती है।

- Mali's decision is part of a series of security measures taken after large-scale jihadist attacks by **JNIM** and its ethnic **Tuareg separatist allies** in late April, which notably killed the country's **Defence Minister**.
  माली का यह निर्णय अप्रैल के अंत में **JNIM** और उसके **तुआरेग अलगाववादी सहयोगियों** द्वारा किए गए बड़े जिहादी हमलों के बाद उठाए गए सुरक्षा उपायों की श्रृंखला का हिस्सा है, जिनमें देश के **रक्षा मंत्री** की भी मृत्यु हुई थी।
- The forests and parks covered by the decree stretch in a wide arc across the southern section of the country from the **Senegal** and **Mauritania** border in the west to **Guinea** and **Ivory Coast** in the east.
  इस आदेश के अंतर्गत आने वाले वन और पार्क देश के दक्षिणी भाग में पश्चिम में **सेनेगल** और **मॉरिटानिया** की सीमा से लेकर पूर्व में **गिनी** और **आइवरी कोस्ट** तक फैले हुए हैं।

- "This transformation was driven by sustained military pressure in urban areas, and tactical advantages offered by forests like protection from aerial surveillance", he told AFP.
  उन्होंने AFP से कहा, "यह परिवर्तन शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगातार सैन्य दबाव और जंगलों द्वारा प्रदान किए गए सामरिक लाभों, जैसे हवाई निगरानी से सुरक्षा, के कारण हुआ है।"
- The forests also give jihadists a chance to "exploit local informal economies such as **mining, grazing, smuggling and poaching**," he added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि जंगल जिहादियों को **खनन, चराई, तस्करी और अवैध शिकार** जैसी स्थानीय अनौपचारिक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं का लाभ उठाने का अवसर भी देते हैं।

Sahel and Sahara Region of Africa
• The **Sahara** is the world's largest **hot desert**, covering a vast part of **North Africa**. It extends roughly **4,800 km from west to east** and covers about **8.6 million sq. km**.
• The **Sahel** is a **semi-arid transition region** located immediately **south of the Sahara**. It extends broadly from **Senegal in the west to Sudan in the east**.

• The Sahel is affected by **Saharan dust storms, drought, desertification, water scarcity, migration, and pastoral movement**.
• In social terms, both regions are connected through **nomadic pastoralism, trans-Saharan trade, migration routes, cultural exchange, and resource conflicts**.

Society in the Sahara Region
• Sahara society has traditionally depended on **nomadic pastoralism, oasis farming, caravan trade, and desert survival skills**.
• Communities such as the **Tuareg, Berbers, Arabs, and other desert groups** have historically used camels for mobility, trade, and pastoral life.
• Oases are important social centres because they provide **water, date palms, settlement space, and trade halts**.
• The Sahara historically connected **North Africa, West Africa, and the Mediterranean world** through trans-Saharan trade routes.

Society in the Sahel Region
• Sahelian society is mainly based on **pastoralism, rain-fed agriculture, livestock rearing, millet cultivation, sorghum cultivation, and seasonal migration**.

• When rainfall fails, society faces **crop loss, livestock death, food insecurity, and forced migration**.
• The Sahel is socially sensitive because land, water, grazing routes, and farming areas are under pressure from **population growth, climate change, and conflict**.

Major Social Problems in the Sahel
• Desertification does not mean that the Sahara moves like a solid wall. It means that productive dryland becomes less fertile and less capable of supporting life.
Great Green Wall Initiative
• The **Great Green Wall Initiative** is an African-led programme to restore degraded land and improve livelihoods across the Sahel.

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• Its major targets are to restore **100 million hectares** of degraded land, sequester **250 million tonnes of carbon**, and create **10 million green jobs by 2030**.
• This initiative is socially important because it aims to improve **food security, rural employment, climate resilience, women's livelihood, and community stability**.

GS Paper II: Governance	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	No one should own the law: why government standards should be public किसी का भी कानून पर स्वामित्व नहीं होना चाहिए: सरकारी मानक सार्वजनिक क्यों होने चाहिए

No one should own the law: why government standards should be public

As part of the implementation of the Jan Vishwas framework, it has been proposed that all edicts of government be centrally published and that any such edict not publicly accessible be treated as null and void — a principle that should extend to public safety standards as well

GS II: Governance

Carl Malamud

The principle that rules governing public life must be widely accessible is not new to India. The first Indian road safety standard dates back to Emperor Ashoka, who commanded that his edicts of government be broadly disseminated throughout the land. The 7th Pillar Edict, now located in Delhi, had an extensive section on road safety.

Today, this work continues under the auspices of the Indian Roads Congress. While ostensibly a non-profit association, it is actually an arm of the government; it is subject to Right to Information Act; its website is maintained by the Network Information Centre, and its governing council is predominantly composed of government officials. It is a law-making enterprise with the force of the state.

The Indian Roads Congress publishes hundreds of standards, guidelines, and specifications relating to road safety and construction. These documents cover a wide range of technical matters, including route signage for national highways, vehicle design dimensions and weights, and the design of prestressed concrete road bridges.

These standards are widely incorporated into government practice, appearing in subordinate legislation as well as in regulations issued by bodies such as the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The standards are also an integral part of the road construction efforts by the States and are frequently referred to in judicial opinions.

For over a decade, I've been systematically purchasing, scanning, and posting these road edicts on my website and on the Internet Archive, a non-profit public library based in the U.S. Many of these standards have been accessed tens of thousands of times, with even government agencies themselves reproducing and hosting copies. This work is entirely non-commercial: no fees are charged for access, no intellectual property rights are asserted, and the source of every document is clearly identified. The underlying principle is straightforward – edicts of government constitute the raw materials of democracy, and a truly informed citizenry is indispensable to ensuring a government not merely for the people, but by the people.

Recently, a "takedown" notice was issued by the Indian Roads Congress – a demand for the immediate removal of its purportedly proprietary works – accompanied by threats of legal consequences for non-compliance. That demand has not been complied with, and it is necessary to explain why.

My nonprofit makes edicts of government available; it is the essence of our mission. In India, this included posting of over 14,000 Indian Standards issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Like the standards of the Indian Roads Congress, BIS standards are an integral part of public safety. It is impossible to meaningfully advance initiatives such as "Make in India" without ensuring "safe in India." These standards cover critical areas including the National Building Code, safety requirements for motorcycle helmets and drinking water, procedures for entering sewer systems, the operation of agricultural and textile machinery, and construction practices in areas prone to typhoons. Like the Indian Roads Congress, an elaborate law-making process is used before an Indian Standard is issued.

When BIS objected to my actions, myself and two Indian co-petitioners raised a Public Interest Litigation in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. Our suit went on for seven years, and then something interesting happened. During those seven years, we continued to post all the BIS standards for open access, yet during that time more and more people became aware of the standards and the sales of standards by BIS went up! But, here's the thing. Government doesn't make money selling these publications, but they are hard to procure.

It turns out BIS was loosing more and more money as their sales went up. Recognising the inefficiency of this model, a senior official in the Ministry directed that the standards be made freely available on the BIS website. This outcome aligned with the very relief that had been sought; accordingly, the matter was brought before the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, and a request was made to withdraw the petition. The court acceded to this request and disposed of the matter.

Parliament has recently passed the Jan Vishwas law, a move to "liberate governance from the steel cage". A recent post by business leaders Manish Sabharwal (co-founder of TeamLease) and Rahul Matthan (co-founder of Trilegal) called for the removal of "shadow instruments" – edicts that are not readily available to read. In addition to judicial decisions and primary legislation, they identify a wide array of non-statutory instruments that nonetheless carry the force of law, including regulations, circulars, master circulars, departmental and ministerial directions, office memoranda, public notices, general orders, guidance notes, advisories, press releases, schemes, consultation papers, standard operating procedures, policies, notifications, guidelines, government orders, departmental orders, and gazettes.

These instruments constitute what may properly be described as "edicts of government." Courts in other jurisdictions have affirmed that such edicts belong to the people. In the United States, the Supreme Court has held that "no man shall own the law," underscoring the principle that legal materials must remain in the public domain. Similarly, in the European Union, a constitutional bench has ruled that mandatory safety standards form an integral part of the law and that ensuring public access to them is of "overriding public importance."

As part of the implementation of Jan Vishwas, Mr. Sabharwal and Mr. Matthan have suggested that all edicts of government in India be posted on a central website, such as India Code, and that any such edict not publicly accessible should be treated as null and void. This proposal is both sound and necessary, and it ought to extend expressly to public safety standards as well.

It is important, however, to distinguish such edicts from other categories of government publications. Not all documents issued by the state carry normative or binding force; many are informational or cultural in nature, including the numerous publications produced by bodies such as the Publications Division, the National Book Trust, and the Archaeological Survey of India.

Edicts of government have a special protected place in constitutional law, but works of government are any documents issued by the state, and these public works have a special importance. I have also purchased and posted thousands of such documents from the Union and State governments, and as with edicts, have over the years received a number of takedown notices. As with the Roads Congress, I have stated my position and respectfully declined to remove the documents.

In the U.S., the "works of government" clause in the copyright act states that documents issued by the federal government are not eligible for copyright. In England, the government maintains "crown copyright" but has an open government data licene permitting reuse. It would be a simple matter for India to adopt a works of government policy.

Edicts of government are the law, and must be available for democracy to function. Works of government are also vital, public knowledge paid for by the people. Making both edicts and works more readily available will enrich our society and make government ever more relevant to the citizenry. These are small steps we can all take as we walk together up that long twisted path towards a better democracy, towards that shining city on the hill.

Carl Malamud is the president and founder of Public Resource, a U.S.-based NGO and author of 9 books.

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23J6. No one should own the law: why government standards should be public
किसी का भी कानून पर स्वामित्व नहीं होना चाहिए: सरकारी मानक सार्वजनिक क्यों होने चाहिए

World is moving on from paying publishers — India should too
प्रकाशकों को भुगतान करने की व्यवस्था से विश्व आगे बढ़ रहा है — भारत को भी ऐसा करना चाहिए

- As part of the implementation of the **Jan Vishwas framework**, it has been proposed that all **edicts of the government** be centrally published and that any such **edict** not publicly accessible be treated as **null and void** — a principle that should extend to **public safety standards** as well.
  जन विश्वास ढाँचे के कार्यान्वयन के अंतर्गत यह प्रस्तावित किया गया है कि सरकार के सभी **आदेशों** को केंद्रीय रूप से प्रकाशित किया जाए तथा ऐसा कोई भी **आदेश** जो सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध न हो, उसे **शून्य और अमान्य** माना जाए — यह सिद्धांत **सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा मानकों** पर भी समान रूप से लागू होना चाहिए।
- The principle that rules governing **public life** must be widely accessible is not new to India.
  यह सिद्धांत कि **सार्वजनिक जीवन** को नियंत्रित करने वाले नियम व्यापक रूप से सुलभ होने चाहिए, भारत के लिए नया नहीं है।
- The first Indian **road safety standard** dates back to **Emperor Ashoka**, who commanded that his edicts of government be broadly disseminated throughout the land.
  भारत का पहला **सड़क सुरक्षा मानक सम्राट अशोक** के काल से संबंधित माना जाता है, जिन्होंने अपने शासकीय आदेशों को पूरे देश में व्यापक रूप से प्रसारित करने का निर्देश दिया था।
- The **Seventh Pillar Edict**, now located in **Delhi**, had an extensive section on road safety.
  वर्तमान में **दिल्ली** में स्थित **सातवें स्तंभ अभिलेख** में सड़क सुरक्षा से संबंधित विस्तृत प्रावधान शामिल थे।
- Today, this work continues under the auspices of the **Indian Roads Congress**.
  आज यह कार्य **भारतीय सड़क कांग्रेस** के संरक्षण में जारी है।
- While ostensibly a **non-profit association**, it is actually an arm of the government.
  यद्यपि यह औपचारिक रूप से एक **गैर-लाभकारी संस्था** प्रतीत होती है, परंतु वास्तव में यह सरकार की एक शाखा के रूप में कार्य करती है।
- It is subject to the **Right to Information Act**.
  यह **सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम** के अंतर्गत आती है।
- Its website is maintained by the **National Informatics Centre**, and its governing council is predominantly composed of government officials.
  इसकी वेबसाइट का संचालन **राष्ट्रीय सूचना विज्ञान केंद्र** द्वारा किया जाता है तथा इसकी संचालन परिषद मुख्यतः सरकारी अधिकारियों से मिलकर बनी है।
- It is a **law-making enterprise** with the force of the state.
  यह राज्य की शक्ति से युक्त एक **नियम-निर्माण संस्था** है।
- The **Indian Roads Congress** publishes hundreds of standards, guidelines, and specifications relating to road safety and construction.
  भारतीय सड़क कांग्रेस सड़क सुरक्षा और निर्माण से संबंधित सैकड़ों मानक, दिशा-निर्देश और विनिर्देश प्रकाशित करती है।
- These documents cover a wide range of technical matters, including route signage for national highways, vehicle design dimensions and weights, and the design of prestressed concrete road bridges.
  इन दस्तावेज़ों में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों के संकेतक, वाहनों के आयाम और भार, तथा पूर्वतनावित कंक्रीट सड़क पुलों के डिज़ाइन जैसे अनेक तकनीकी विषय शामिल हैं।
- These standards are widely incorporated into government practice, appearing in subordinate legislation as well as in regulations issued by various government bodies.
  इन मानकों को व्यापक रूप से सरकारी कार्यप्रणाली में शामिल किया जाता है और वे अधीनस्थ विधानों तथा विभिन्न सरकारी निकायों द्वारा जारी नियमों का हिस्सा बनते हैं।

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- In India, this included posting of over **14,000 Indian Standards** issued by the **Bureau of Indian Standards**.
  भारत में इसके अंतर्गत **भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो** द्वारा जारी **14,000 से अधिक भारतीय मानकों** को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध कराना शामिल था।
- Like the standards of the **Indian Roads Congress**, these standards are an integral part of public safety.
  भारतीय सड़क कांग्रेस के मानकों की तरह ये मानक भी सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा का अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं।
- These standards cover critical areas including the **National Building Code**, safety requirements for motorcycle helmets and drinking water, procedures for entering sewer systems, operation of agricultural and textile machinery, and construction practices in typhoon-prone regions.
  ये मानक **राष्ट्रीय भवन संहिता**, मोटरसाइकिल हेलमेट और पेयजल की सुरक्षा आवश्यकताओं, सीवर प्रणाली में प्रवेश की प्रक्रियाओं, कृषि एवं वस्त्र मशीनों के संचालन तथा चक्रवात-प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में निर्माण पद्धतियों जैसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों को कवर करते हैं।
- Like the **Indian Roads Congress**, an elaborate law-making process is followed before an Indian Standard is issued.
  भारतीय सड़क कांग्रेस की तरह ही किसी भारतीय मानक को जारी करने से पहले विस्तृत नियम-निर्माण प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाती है।
- Recently, Parliament passed the **Jan Vishwas Act**, a move intended to "liberate governance from the steel cage".
  हाल ही में संसद ने **जन विश्वास अधिनियम** पारित किया, जिसका उद्देश्य शासन व्यवस्था को "लोहे के पिंजरे" से मुक्त करना बताया गया।
- These include regulations, circulars, master circulars, departmental directions, ministerial directions, office memoranda, public notices, general orders, guidance notes, advisories, press releases, schemes, consultation papers, standard operating procedures, policies, notifications, guidelines, government orders, departmental orders, and gazettes.
  इनमें विनियम, परिपत्र, मुख्य परिपत्र, विभागीय निर्देश, मंत्रालयी निर्देश, कार्यालय ज्ञापन, सार्वजनिक सूचनाएँ, सामान्य आदेश, मार्गदर्शक टिप्पणियाँ, परामर्श पत्र, प्रेस विज्ञप्तियाँ, योजनाएँ, विचार-विमर्श दस्तावेज़, मानक संचालन प्रक्रियाएँ, नीतियाँ, अधिसूचनाएँ, दिशा-निर्देश, सरकारी आदेश, विभागीय आदेश तथा राजपत्र सम्मिलित हैं।

GS Paper II: International Relations	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	Trump ally defeats leftist rival in Colombian Presidential election कोलंबियाई राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में ट्रंप समर्थक ने वामपंथी प्रतिद्वंद्वी को हराया

Trump ally defeats leftist rival in Colombian Presidential election

AFP

GS II: IR

An U.S.-backed lawyer won Colombia's presidential run-off on Sunday, swinging the country hard right and sparking protests. Abelardo de la Espriella (pictured on the right) held 49.66% vote against leftist Senator Ivan Cepeda's 48.70%. U.S. President Donald Trump cheered the result, exclaiming "He Won, BIG!" AP

23J6. Trump ally defeats leftist rival in Colombian Presidential election

कोलंबियाई राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में ट्रंप समर्थक ने वामपंथी प्रतिद्वंद्वी को हराया

- An **U.S.-backed lawyer** won **Colombia's presidential run-off** on Sunday, swinging the country hard right and sparking **protests**.

एक **अमेरिका समर्थित वकील** ने रविवार को **कोलंबिया के राष्ट्रपति रन-ऑफ चुनाव** में जीत हासिल की, जिससे देश की राजनीति दक्षिणपंथ की ओर झुक गई और **विरोध प्रदर्शन** शुरू हो गए।

- **Abelardo de la Espriella** (pictured on the right) held **49.66% vote** against leftist Senator **Ivan Cepeda's 48.70%**.
  अबेलार्डो डे ला एस्प्रिएला (दाईं ओर चित्रित) को **49.66% वोट** मिले, जबकि वामपंथी सीनेटर **इवान सेपेदा** को **48.70% वोट** प्राप्त हुए।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** cheered the result, exclaiming "He Won, **BIG!**"
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने इस परिणाम का स्वागत करते हुए कहा, "He Won, **BIG!**" अर्थात "उन्होंने बड़ी जीत हासिल की!"।

GS Paper III: Economy	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	Jairam writes to Sonowal, seeks clarity on Nicobar transshipment port project जयराम ने सोनोवाल को पत्र लिखकर निकोबार ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाह परियोजना पर स्पष्टता मांगी
23J6	Reclaiming T.N.'s fiscal autonomy तमिलनाडु की राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता की पुनर्प्राप्ति
23J6	Net FDI jumped to $6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years अप्रैल में शुद्ध FDI बढ़कर 6.6 अरब डॉलर हुआ, लगभग 5 वर्षों में सबसे उच्च स्तर
23J6	Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief क्रेड के संस्थापक कुणाल शाह बने व्हाट्सऐप प्रमुख
23J6	EU courts Brazil as strategic partner in global race for critical minerals महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की वैश्विक दौड़ में यूरोपीय संघ ने ब्राज़ील को रणनीतिक साझेदार के रूप में चुना

Jairam writes to Sonowal, seeks clarity on Nicobar transshipment port project

GS III: Economy

NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh has written to Union Minister Sarbanada Sonowal, seeking clarifications on the proposed International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay on the Great Nicobar Island.

Making his letter public on Monday, Mr. Ramesh reiterated concerns over the ecological impact of the mega infrastructure project and said he was writing "as one among the very large number of people concerned with the ecological devastation that will be caused by the Great Nicobar Island Project".

Referring to discussions of the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) held in March, the Congress leader noted that the Ministry itself had identified two major risks associated with the project

Jairam Ramesh

– "the development of a large-scale greenfield port project" and "the challenge of diverting and establishing transshipment traffic from existing well-established ports".

'Huge risks'

"I take it that these competing well-established ports are Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang. It is extraordinary that even while recognising these huge risks – quite apart from the certainty of ecological devastation that will be caused by its construction – the transshipment port is being pushed through," he said in the letter dated June 21.

Mr. Ramesh sought clarity on the proposed ownership structure of the project. Citing a PPPAC recommendation that at least 55% equity in the special purpose vehicle be held by an Indian-owned and controlled entity, he asked whether this would permit 100% private ownership or if a minimum public sector stake was envisaged.

He also questioned whether ownership would be diversified among multiple operators or whether "the airports-like situation" would be allowed.

He further asked whether the Ministry would provide viability gap funding from its own budget after the PPPAC reportedly declined the Ministry's request for such support.

23J6. Jairam writes to Sonowal, seeks clarity on Nicobar transshipment port project

जयराम ने सोनोवाल को पत्र लिखकर निकोबार ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाह परियोजना पर स्पष्टता मांगी

- "I take it that these competing well-established ports are **Colombo, Singapore and Port Klang**.
  "मेरा मानना है कि ये प्रतिस्पर्धी और स्थापित बंदरगाह **कोलंबो, सिंगापुर और पोर्ट क्लैंग** हैं।

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Reclaiming T.N.'s fiscal autonomy

Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption; the pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself; the real challenge is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiating fiscal space with the Centre

GS III: Economy

ECONOMIC NOTES

Kalaiyarasan A.

The Government of Tamil Nadu's white paper is a comprehensive analysis of the State's financial status and economic conditions. Detailed like the white paper prepared by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 2021, the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's (TVK's) 120-page document begins with an important line: 'it is neither an exercise in retrospective blame nor a political statement'. In that spirit, this is a genuine exercise.

It indeed offers an honest account of what went wrong with tax collection: a shrinking base and leakages embedded in both revenue collection and expenditure patterns. While its diagnosis is rigorous, what is not clear, however, is how the government is going to fix the leakages and manoeuvre the welfare that it has promised during its election campaign.

Unsustainable fiscal deficit

The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense, has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.

Both literally state that "the current levels of fiscal deficit are unsustainable primarily because a substantial portion of the fiscal deficit is simply to fund the revenue deficit". It means the State is simply borrowing to fund current consumption rather than to create assets. To be sure, for every rupee borrowed about 60 paise goes to current consumption. But one has to be cautious in reading too much into this as substantial expenditure for health and education are under the revenue account.

In an economy, the government needs to raise resources to pay for the provision of public goods and services, build social and physical infrastructures needed for growth and protect the vulnerable from the market forces. In that sense, every policy is a political choice with losers and gainers not just within the present generation but also across generations since public debt shifts the burden of payment to future governments.

The white paper says that the State is deep in debt and its fiscal deficit is beyond the prescribed limit. On average, an individual pays about ₹38,000 in taxes to the State and the Union governments and receives about ₹54,500 worth of subsidies and services. The gap is typically funded by borrowing. The consolidated debt of each individual is then around ₹1.29 lakh, and the cumulative debt is about 28% of the State income, which is the cause for concern today.

Collapse of revenue generation

The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt but of the collapse of the revenue generation itself. While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.

Make no mistake, Tamil Nadu was one of the few States that predominantly sustained itself on its own revenue for its expenditure – about 70% of its expenditure from its own tax in sharp contrast to States such as Bihar and Uttar Pradesh which largely rely on the Centre's transfer.

With the introduction of the GST in 2017, States have lost their autonomy on taxation. Tamil Nadu suffered the most. The State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) to Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) ratio, which was 7.92% in 2011-12, has been steadily declining, and was down to 5.93% in 2021-22 and further down to 5.45% in 2025-26. The ratio reflects the State's capacity to mobilise its own tax resources relative to the size of its economy. While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads – GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax, the GST alone accounts for about 53% total tax revenue. Despite having the second largest economy with the size of ₹35.29 lakh crore of GSDP, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka (₹87,256 crore), and Gujarat (₹80,823 crore).

Beside the systemic corruption and inefficiencies in tax collection, the predominance of the service sector also contributed to the decline in GST collection. It appears many units within the sector are beyond the tax net.

Revenue leakages, sectoral debt

Similarly, motor vehicle tax collection has lagged since the number of vehicles registered in the State has not kept pace. Not to mention stamp duties in rent-seeking sectors such as real estate which is known for undervaluation of the property at registration and excessive leakages and corruption.

Even mining revenue is among the most striking examples of stagnation in non-tax income. Besides corruption in valuation, leakage in the assessment of minor mineral extraction also contributed to the decline.

The key sectors that drive the State in this debt trap are the power sector and transport. The power sector alone carries ₹2.47 lakh crore of debt.

The State has historically built progressive power subsidy model - taxing industries and paying for poor and farmers which have become sites of political rent-seeking tied to electoral cycles.

Beside the steady decline in its own tax collection, the State has also been increasingly losing its share in the Union transfer. For instance, Union tax devolution and grants-in-aid together constituted about 34.95% of Total Revenue Receipts in 2021-22 and it declined to 25.5% in 2025-26. Again, this decline precedes a decade. The State's share in total transfer was 5.305% in the 12th Finance Commission period, but it came down to 4.969% in the 13th Finance Commission period and fell down to 4.023% for the 16th Commission.

This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive Finance Commissions. The high weightage given to the per capita income distance, combined with population works to the State's disadvantage. In this sense, the State has become a victim of its own success; since per capita income distance favours poorer States by allocating them a larger share of resources, relatively developed States like Tamil Nadu receive less, effectively penalising their higher levels of economic progress. Even the weight assigned to GDP contribution by the 16th Finance Commission did not help as the formula remains unfavourable. Nor have criteria such as area and forest cover worked in the State's favour.

On the other hand, the shareable divisible pool has been shrinking thanks to the arbitrary cess and surcharges imposed by the Centre that takes away the legitimate resources of the States. In that sense, the State is a victim of both vertical and horizontal distribution.

With declining Union transfers and the erosion of its own revenue base, Tamil Nadu's government size – measured by total expenditure as a share of GSDP – has shrunk, weakening the State's fiscal capacity. Together, these factors, limit the State's ability to intervene in the economy.

As the white paper shows, about 64% of every rupee of revenue receipts in 2025-26 is pre-committed on the account of salaries, pensions and interest. With the inflexible non-discretionary obligations of 23%, the pre-committed expenditure goes up to 87% leaving little room for any additional expenditure or any new schemes. Global uncertainty or any exogenous shock could make the economy paralysed.

Debt, demography and scissors effect

This potential debt trap also comes at a time when the State is witnessing faster demographic change. It's aging faster than any other large State in India. Tamil Nadu's median age is 34.25 years – nearly 9.5 years older than Uttar Pradesh and its old-age dependency ratio is projected to increase from 20.6 in 2021 to 32.7 by 2036. This has two implications. The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking working-age population means a shrinking tax base. It also means the need for higher social expenditure as the share of elderly population goes up. The interaction between a rising debt stock and a shrinking working-age population can create condition for a debt trap which demographers call 'scissors effect' – the widening gap between revenue capacity and expenditure obligations.

The pressing problem

However, Tamil Nadu's problem today is not fiscal profligacy or corruption. The pressing problem is its model of inclusive growth itself. The real challenge thus is getting investment, generating decent jobs, improving wages, while actively renegotiation fiscal space with the Centre. The welfare architecture that the State has built is not enough.

Educated youth who rallied behind the TVK are not seeking more welfare, but decent jobs and wages. Welfare can't be a substitute for jobs and wages. It is time to get the growth fundamentals right, which require investment in education, health, and public infrastructure. Chief Minister Joseph Vijay thus has the enormous responsibility not only to put the inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre.

Kalaiyarasan A. is Associate Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies

A delicate equation: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Mr. Vijay has the enormous responsibility to not only put the State's inclusive growth model back on track, but also to reclaim fiscal autonomy from the Centre. @PMOINDIA X

THE GIST

- The white paper lays bare the structural weaknesses facing Tamil Nadu's economy and outlines a possible course correction which, in that sense has a lot more continuity than the earlier one submitted by the DMK.
- The serious concern that the report flags is not just debt but of the collapse of the revenue generation itself. While the white paper shows the account of revenue generation of the past five years, the collapse precedes this by at least a decade.
- Despite having the second largest economy with the size of ₹35.29 lakh crore of GSDP, its GST collection was ₹72,008 crore lower than that of Karnataka and Gujarat.

23J6. Reclaiming T.N.'s fiscal autonomy
तमिलनाडु की राजकोषीय स्वायत्तता की पुनर्प्राप्ति

- **Tamil Nadu's** problem today is not **fiscal profligacy** or **corruption**; the pressing problem is its model of **inclusive growth** itself; the real challenge is getting **investment**, generating **decent jobs**, improving **wages**, while actively renegotiating **fiscal space** with the **Centre**.
आज **तमिलनाडु** की समस्या **राजकोषीय अपव्यय** या **भ्रष्टाचार** नहीं है; वास्तविक और गंभीर समस्या उसके **समावेशी विकास** के मॉडल से जुड़ी है; असली चुनौती **निवेश** आकर्षित करने, **सम्मानजनक रोजगार** सृजित

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करने, **वेतनों** में सुधार लाने तथा **केंद्र सरकार** के साथ **राजकोषीय संसाधनों के दायरे** पर सक्रिय रूप से पुनर्विचार एवं पुनः वार्ता करने की है।

- It indeed offers an honest account of what went wrong with **tax collection**: a shrinking base and leakages embedded in both **revenue collection** and **expenditure patterns**.
  यह वास्तव में इस बात का ईमानदार विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है कि **कर संग्रहण** में क्या गलत हुआ — कराधान का सिकुड़ता आधार तथा **राजस्व संग्रहण** और **व्यय संरचना** दोनों में अंतर्निहित रिसाव।

Collapse of revenue generation
राजस्व सृजन का पतन

- About **70%** of its expenditure came from its own tax revenue in sharp contrast to States such as **Bihar** and **Uttar Pradesh**, which largely rely on the Centre's transfers.
  इसके कुल व्यय का लगभग **70 प्रतिशत** भाग इसके स्वयं के कर राजस्व से आता था, जबकि **बिहार** और **उत्तर प्रदेश** जैसे राज्य मुख्यतः केंद्र से प्राप्त हस्तांतरणों पर निर्भर रहते हैं।
- With the introduction of the **Goods and Services Tax** in **2017**, States have lost their autonomy on taxation.
  वस्तु एवं सेवा कर की **2017** में शुरुआत के साथ राज्यों ने कराधान संबंधी अपनी स्वायत्तता का एक बड़ा हिस्सा खो दिया।
- **Tamil Nadu** suffered the most.
  इसका सर्वाधिक प्रभाव **तमिलनाडु** पर पड़ा।
- The **State's Own Tax Revenue to Gross State Domestic Product ratio**, which was **7.92%** in **2011-12**, has been steadily declining, and was down to **5.93%** in **2021-22** and further down to **5.45%** in **2025-26**.
  राज्य के स्वयं के कर राजस्व और सकल राज्य घरेलू उत्पाद के अनुपात का स्तर **2011-12** में **7.92 प्रतिशत** था, जो लगातार घटते हुए **2021-22** में **5.93 प्रतिशत** और **2025-26** में **5.45 प्रतिशत** रह गया।
- While the white paper clearly shows that the decline is spread across all major tax heads — **GST, petroleum VAT, State excise, stamp duty and motor vehicle tax** — the **GST** alone accounts for about **53%** of total tax revenue.
  श्वेत पत्र स्पष्ट रूप से दर्शाता है कि गिरावट **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर, पेट्रोलियम मूल्य वर्धित कर, राज्य उत्पाद शुल्क, मुद्रांक शुल्क तथा मोटर वाहन कर** सहित सभी प्रमुख कर स्रोतों में दिखाई देती है, जबकि अकेले **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर** का योगदान कुल कर राजस्व का लगभग **53 प्रतिशत** है।
- Despite having the second largest economy with a size of **₹35.29 lakh crore** of Gross State Domestic Product, its GST collection was **₹72,008 crore** lower than that of **Karnataka** and **₹80,823 crore** lower than that of **Gujarat**.
  ₹35.29 लाख करोड़ के सकल राज्य घरेलू उत्पाद के साथ देश की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था होने के बावजूद, इसका वस्तु एवं सेवा कर संग्रह **कर्नाटक** की तुलना में **₹72,008 करोड़** तथा **गुजरात** की तुलना में **₹80,823 करोड़** कम रहा।

Revenue leakages, sectoral debt
राजस्व रिसाव और क्षेत्रीय ऋण

- Similarly, **motor vehicle tax** collection has lagged since the number of vehicles registered in the State has not kept pace.
  इसी प्रकार **मोटर वाहन कर** संग्रह भी अपेक्षित स्तर तक नहीं पहुँच पाया है क्योंकि राज्य में पंजीकृत वाहनों की संख्या उसी अनुपात में नहीं बढ़ी है।
- Not to mention **stamp duties** in rent-seeking sectors such as **real estate**, which is known for undervaluation of property at registration and excessive leakages and corruption.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **अचल संपत्ति क्षेत्र** जैसे लाभ-उन्मुख क्षेत्रों में **मुद्रांक शुल्क** संग्रह भी प्रभावित हुआ है, जहाँ

संपत्तियों का पंजीकरण के समय कम मूल्यांकन, अत्यधिक रिसाव और भ्रष्टाचार सामान्य समस्या मानी जाती है।

- Even **mining revenue** is among the most striking examples of stagnation in non-tax income.
  यहाँ तक कि **खनन राजस्व** भी गैर-कर आय में ठहराव के सबसे उल्लेखनीय उदाहरणों में से एक है।
- Besides corruption in valuation, leakage in the assessment of **minor mineral extraction** also contributed to the decline.
  मूल्यांकन में भ्रष्टाचार के अतिरिक्त **लघु खनिजों के उत्खनन** के आकलन में होने वाले रिसाव ने भी इस गिरावट में योगदान दिया।
- The key sectors that drive the State into this **debt trap** are the **power sector** and **transport sector**.
  राज्य को इस **ऋण जाल** में धकेलने वाले प्रमुख क्षेत्र **विद्युत क्षेत्र** और **परिवहन क्षेत्र** हैं।
- The **power sector** alone carries **₹2.47 lakh crore** of debt.
  अकेले **विद्युत क्षेत्र** पर **₹2.47 लाख करोड़** का ऋण भार है।

Revenue leakages, sectoral debt
राजस्व रिसाव और क्षेत्रीय ऋण

- For instance, **Union tax devolution** and **grants-in-aid** together constituted about **34.95%** of Total Revenue Receipts in **2021-22** and declined to **25.5%** in **2025-26**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **2021-22** में **केंद्रीय करों में हिस्सेदारी** और **अनुदान सहायता** मिलाकर कुल राजस्व प्राप्तियों का लगभग **34.95 प्रतिशत** थीं, जो **2025-26** में घटकर **25.5 प्रतिशत** रह गईं।
- Again, this decline precedes a decade.
  एक बार फिर, यह गिरावट भी पिछले एक दशक से जारी प्रवृत्ति का परिणाम है।
- The State's share in total transfer was **5.305%** in the **Twelfth Finance Commission** period, but it came down to **4.969%** in the **Thirteenth Finance Commission** period and fell to **4.023%** under the **Sixteenth Finance Commission**.
  कुल केंद्रीय हस्तांतरणों में राज्य की हिस्सेदारी **बारहवें वित्त आयोग** की अवधि में **5.305 प्रतिशत** थी, जो **तेरहवें वित्त आयोग** की अवधि में घटकर **4.969 प्रतिशत** हो गई और **सोलहवें वित्त आयोग** के अंतर्गत **4.023 प्रतिशत** तक पहुँच गई।
- This declining share is due to the formula adopted by the successive **Finance Commissions**.
  इस घटती हिस्सेदारी का प्रमुख कारण विभिन्न **वित्त आयोगों** द्वारा अपनाया गया वितरण सूत्र है।
- The high weightage given to the **per capita income distance**, combined with population, works to the State's disadvantage.
  प्रति व्यक्ति आय अंतर को दिया गया अधिक महत्व तथा जनसंख्या आधारित मानदंड राज्य के प्रतिकूल कार्य करते हैं।
- Even the weight assigned to **Gross Domestic Product contribution** by the **Sixteenth Finance Commission** did not help as the formula remains unfavourable.
  यहाँ तक कि **सोलहवें वित्त आयोग** द्वारा **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में योगदान** को दिया गया महत्व भी राज्य के लिए लाभकारी सिद्ध नहीं हुआ, क्योंकि समग्र वितरण सूत्र अभी भी प्रतिकूल बना हुआ है।
- Nor have criteria such as **area** and **forest cover** worked in the State's favour.
  इसी प्रकार **क्षेत्रफल** और **वन आच्छादन** जैसे मानदंड भी राज्य के पक्ष में नहीं गए हैं।
- In that sense, the State is a victim of both **vertical** and **horizontal distribution**.
  इस प्रकार राज्य **ऊर्ध्वाधर** तथा **क्षैतिज वित्तीय वितरण** दोनों व्यवस्थाओं का प्रभावित पक्ष बन गया है।

Debt, demography and scissors effect
ऋण, जनसांख्यिकी और कैंची प्रभाव

- The ability to repay the debt is limited, the paper argues, because a shrinking **working-age population** means a shrinking **tax base**.

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श्वेत पत्र के अनुसार ऋण चुकाने की क्षमता सीमित होती जाएगी, क्योंकि **कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की जनसंख्या** में कमी का अर्थ है **कराधार** का सिकुड़ना।

- It also means the need for higher **social expenditure** as the share of the elderly population goes up.
  इसका यह भी अर्थ है कि वृद्ध जनसंख्या के बढ़ते अनुपात के साथ **सामाजिक व्यय** की आवश्यकता भी बढ़ेगी।
- The interaction between a rising **debt stock** and a shrinking working-age population can create conditions for a debt trap which demographers call the **'scissors effect'**.
  बढ़ते हुए **ऋण भार** और घटती कार्यशील आयु जनसंख्या का परस्पर प्रभाव ऐसी स्थिति उत्पन्न कर सकता है जिसे जनसांख्यिकी विशेषज्ञ **'कैंची प्रभाव'** कहते हैं।
- It refers to the widening gap between **revenue capacity** and **expenditure obligations**.
  यह **राजस्व जुटाने की क्षमता** और **व्यय दायित्वों** के बीच बढ़ते अंतर को दर्शाता है।

Net FDI jumped to $6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Net FDI rose to $6.6 billion in April 2026, its highest level in nearly five years, driven by a 65% surge in gross inflows, an analysis of official data shows.

In other words, the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Monday shows that the total amount of direct investment that entered the country in April 2026 exceeded the amount leaving it by $6.6 billion. The corresponding figure in March 2026 was $917 million. April's net FDI figure was the highest since May 2021.

The surge in gross inflows even overshadowed the fact that outward FDI by Indian companies also rose to a historic high in April 2026.

Nevertheless, the data for April marks a significant turnaround from just a few months ago, since net FDI had been negative for six consecutive months up to February 2026.

Gross FDI in April 2026, or the total amount of direct investment that entered the country that month, surged to $15.3 billion – the highest since at least March 2021, the earliest month for which data is easily available.

This figure was 65% higher than in April last year, and 131% higher than in March 2026.

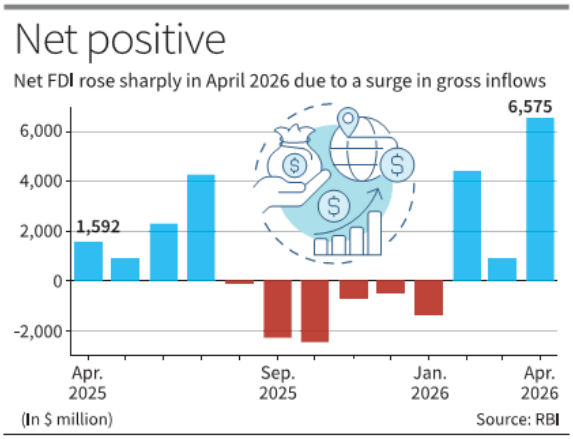
To further put this figure into context, the gross FDI inflows in the single month of April 2026 was more than 16% of the amount that came in the entire financial year 2025-26.

"Source wise, more than 75% of the FDI flows came from Japan, Singapore and Mauritius," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin report.

Slower outflow growth

Gross outflows rose, too, but at a significantly slower pace, to $8.7 billion in April 2026 from $7.7 billion in April last year – a growth of 13.7%. Within this, outward FDI by Indian companies rose nearly 42% in April 2026 to $4.8 billion, the highest level since at least March 2021.

"As regards outward FDI, around 80% of the flows were directed to the U.S. and the Cayman Islands," the RBI said.



23J6. Net FDI jumped to $6.6 bn in April, highest in nearly 5 years

अप्रैल में शुद्ध FDI बढ़कर 6.6 अरब डॉलर हुआ, लगभग 5 वर्षों में सबसे उच्च स्तर

- **Net FDI** rose to **$6.6 billion** in April 2026, its highest level in nearly **five years**, driven by a **65% surge** in **gross inflows**, an analysis of official data shows.
  आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि **सकल प्रवाह** में **65% की वृद्धि** के कारण अप्रैल 2026 में **शुद्ध FDI** बढ़कर **6.6 अरब डॉलर** हो गया, जो लगभग **पांच वर्षों** में इसका सबसे ऊँचा स्तर है।
- In other words, the data released by the **Reserve Bank of India** on Monday shows that the total amount of **direct investment** that entered the country in April 2026 exceeded the amount leaving it by **$6.6 billion**.
  दूसरे शब्दों में, सोमवार को **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक** द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों से पता चलता है कि अप्रैल 2026 में देश में आने वाला कुल **प्रत्यक्ष निवेश** देश से बाहर जाने वाली राशि से **6.6 अरब डॉलर** अधिक था।
- The corresponding figure in March 2026 was **$917 million**.
  मार्च 2026 में यह संबंधित आंकड़ा **917 मिलियन डॉलर** था।

- April's **net FDI** figure was the highest since **May 2021**.
  अप्रैल का **शुद्ध FDI** आंकड़ा **मई 2021** के बाद सबसे अधिक था।
- The surge in **gross inflows** even overshadowed the fact that **outward FDI** by Indian companies also rose to a **historic high** in April 2026.
  सकल निवेश प्रवाह में वृद्धि इतनी अधिक थी कि इसने इस तथ्य को भी पीछे छोड़ दिया कि भारतीय कंपनियों का **बाहरी FDI** भी अप्रैल 2026 में **ऐतिहासिक उच्च स्तर** पर पहुँच गया।
- "Source wise, more than **75%** of the **FDI flows** came from **Japan, Singapore and Mauritius**," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin report.
  RBI ने अपनी मासिक बुलेटिन रिपोर्ट में कहा, "स्रोत के आधार पर **FDI प्रवाह** का **75% से अधिक** हिस्सा **जापान, सिंगापुर और मॉरीशस** से आया।"

Slower outflow growth
निवेश बहिर्वाह की धीमी वृद्धि

- **Gross outflows** rose, too, but at a significantly slower pace, to **$8.7 billion** in April 2026 from **$7.7 billion** in April last year — a growth of **13.7%**.
  सकल बहिर्वाह भी बढ़ा, लेकिन अपेक्षाकृत धीमी गति से। यह अप्रैल 2025 के **7.7 अरब डॉलर** से बढ़कर अप्रैल 2026 में **8.7 अरब डॉलर** हो गया, जो **13.7% वृद्धि** दर्शाता है।
- "As regards **outward FDI**, around **80%** of the flows were directed to the **U.S.** and the **Cayman Islands**," the RBI said.
  RBI ने कहा, "**बाहरी FDI** के संदर्भ में, लगभग **80%** निवेश प्रवाह **अमेरिका** और **केमैन द्वीप समूह** की ओर निर्देशित था।"

Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief

GS III: Economy

.Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Kunal Shah

WhatsApp will be headed by Cred founder Kunal Shah, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking elevation of the serial fintech entrepreneur to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.

WhatsApp parent Meta, which also owns Instagram and Facebook, will invest $900 million (about ₹8,550 crore) in Cred as a part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with ESOP buybacks. As Cred's CEO, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive Miten Sampat, Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base that covered over a third of India's credit card bill payments, targeting the most affluent Indians. "Meta's $900M minority investment is a booster in our plans to build an enduring institution with an eventual public listing," Mr. Sampat said on X.

"Meta will be a passive financial investor with no access to customer data." While WhatsApp has more than three billion users globally, a plurality in India, the firm is yet to seriously monetise access. That's where Mr. Shah comes in. In a statement, he indicated his role would be to move the platform to that stage."While [the app has] come very far, the delta between WhatsApp today and its full potential is massive," he said. Will Cathcart, who led WhatsApp for seven years and taken vocal positions on app's commitment to end-to-end encryption and held spyware makers who target the application accountable, will stay at Meta in other roles, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said.

Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as PaisaBack, focused on cashbacks in 2009 and FreeCharge, a mobile wallet acquired by Snapdeal in 2015. He was an angel investor on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had taken stakes in firms across the fintech ecosystem.

23J6. Cred founder Kunal Shah named WhatsApp chief
क्रेड के संस्थापक कुणाल शाह बने व्हाट्सऐप प्रमुख

- **WhatsApp** will be headed by **Cred founder Kunal Shah**, starting as early as this week, the messaging platform announced, marking the elevation of the serial **fintech entrepreneur** to the leadership of the world's largest messaging platform.
  व्हाट्सऐप का नेतृत्व अब **क्रेड के संस्थापक कुणाल शाह** करेंगे, और यह जिम्मेदारी इसी सप्ताह से शुरू हो सकती है। मैसेजिंग प्लेटफ़ॉर्म ने इसकी घोषणा करते हुए कहा कि इससे इस प्रसिद्ध **फिनटेक उद्यमी** को दुनिया के सबसे बड़े मैसेजिंग प्लेटफ़ॉर्म का नेतृत्व सौंपा गया है।
- **WhatsApp parent Meta**, which also owns **Instagram** and **Facebook**, will invest **$900 million** (about **₹8,550 crore**) in Cred as a part of this hire, enabling Cred to move forward with **ESOP buybacks**.
  व्हाट्सऐप की मूल कंपनी मेटा, जो **इंस्टाग्राम** और **फेसबुक** की भी मालिक है, इस नियुक्ति के हिस्से के रूप में क्रेड में **900 मिलियन डॉलर** (लगभग **8,550 करोड़ रुपये**) का निवेश करेगी, जिससे क्रेड को **ESOP बायबैक** आगे बढ़ाने में मदद मिलेगी।

- As Cred's **CEO**, a post to be held on an interim basis by senior executive **Miten Sampat**, Mr. Shah oversaw the service's growth to a user base that covered over a third of India's **credit card bill payments**, targeting the most affluent Indians.
  क्रेड के **CEO** के रूप में, जिसका पद फिलहाल वरिष्ठ अधिकारी **मितेन संपत** अंतरिम आधार पर संभालेंगे, श्री शाह ने इस सेवा को ऐसे उपयोगकर्ता आधार तक पहुँचाया जो भारत के **क्रेडिट कार्ड बिल भुगतान** का एक-तिहाई से अधिक हिस्सा कवर करता था और सबसे समृद्ध भारतीयों को लक्षित करता था।
- Before founding Cred, Mr. Shah founded startups such as **PaisaBack**, focused on **cashbacks** in 2009 and **FreeCharge**, a mobile wallet acquired by **Snapdeal** in 2015.
  क्रेड की स्थापना से पहले, श्री शाह ने **PaisaBack** जैसे स्टार्टअप की स्थापना की थी, जो 2009 में **कैशबैक** पर केंद्रित था, और **FreeCharge**, एक मोबाइल वॉलेट, जिसे **स्नैपडील** ने 2015 में अधिग्रहित कर लिया था।
- He was an **angel investor** on the back of the ballooning valuations of his past ventures and had taken stakes in firms across the **fintech ecosystem**.
  वह अपने पूर्व उपक्रमों के बढ़ते मूल्यांकन के आधार पर एक **एंजेल निवेशक** भी बने और उन्होंने **फिनटेक इकोसिस्टम** की अनेक कंपनियों में हिस्सेदारी ली।

EU courts Brazil as strategic partner in global race for critical minerals

GS III: Economy

Reuters
RIO DE JANEIRO

The European Union is turning to Brazil as a strategic partner in its push to diversify its critical mineral supplies, offering a deal that it says will be beneficial to Brazil's development goals, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Sikela told *Reuters* on Saturday.

The commissioner visited the rare earth research and processing centre of Australian mining company Viridis Mining and Minerals, in Poços de Caldas, in Minas Gerais, one of four priority projects selected to accelerate collaboration between the EU and Brazil. Mr. Sikela said the European approach emphasises sustainable business and local rare earth processing, aligning with Brazil's push to export higher-value processed minerals instead of raw materials from a sector in which it holds the world's second-largest critical mineral reserves.

Jozef Sikela, left, and Viridis CEO Rafael Moreno look at samples at the Viridis rare earth research centre in Brazil. REUTERS

"What is extremely important is that also Brazil moves from the like a low-margin business so basically that the value is created here in the country," he said, highlighting that Brazil is currently the EU's most strategic partner in Latin America and a growing economy.

Mr. Sikela said the partnership would allow the EU to secure supplies through purchase agreements while helping Brazil build refining capacity, access new tech and move up the supply chain into higher-margin production.

Viridis' pilot mining project in Minas Gerais, inaugurated in May, can process 100 kilograms of ore per hour and produce upto 2.92 kg of mixed rare earth carbonate (MREC) annually.

Viridis' progress in Brazil comes amid a global race for rare earths and critical minerals, as Europe and the U.S. seek to reduce their dependence on China – the largest producer – for materials vital to electric vehicles and defence systems.

23J6. EU courts Brazil as strategic partner in global race for critical minerals
महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की वैश्विक दौड़ में यूरोपीय संघ ने ब्राज़ील को रणनीतिक साझेदार के रूप में चुना

- Mr. Sikela said the **European approach** emphasises **sustainable business** and local **rare earth processing**, aligning with Brazil's push to export higher-value processed minerals instead of raw materials from a sector in which it holds the world's **second-largest critical mineral reserves**.
  श्री सिकेला ने कहा कि **यूरोपीय दृष्टिकोण सतत व्यवसाय** और स्थानीय **दुर्लभ मृदा प्रसंस्करण** पर बल देता है,

जो ब्राज़ील की उस नीति के अनुरूप है जिसके तहत वह कच्चे माल के बजाय अधिक मूल्य वाले प्रसंस्कृत खनिजों का निर्यात करना चाहता है। ब्राज़ील के पास दुनिया का **दूसरा सबसे बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण खनिज भंडार** है।

- Viridis' pilot mining project in **Minas Gerais**, inaugurated in **May**, can process **100 kilograms of ore per hour** and produce up to **2.92 kg of mixed rare earth carbonate (MREC)** annually.
  मई में उद्घाटित **मिनास गैरैस** स्थित Viridis की पायलट खनन परियोजना प्रति घंटे **100 किलोग्राम अयस्क** का प्रसंस्करण कर सकती है और प्रतिवर्ष **2.92 किलोग्राम मिश्रित दुर्लभ मृदा कार्बोनेट (MREC)** का उत्पादन कर सकती है।

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PATRIOTIC IAS

World is moving on from paying publishers – India should too

The geopolitics of scholarly publishing has shifted more in the past 18 months than in the past two decades; China is building sovereignty, the U.S. is scrutinising costs, Australia is prioritising immediate access, Europe and Africa are building public infrastructure, but where is India?

Moumita Koley

A number of activities are underway in the global scholarly publishing policy space. Within a span of 18 months, from late 2024 to mid-2026, the United States has placed the economics of academic publishing under Congressional scrutiny, Australia has mandated immediate open access to all publicly funded peer-reviewed research, Europe has launched a publicly owned publishing platform called Open Research Europe, and China has begun building an integrated domestic scholarly publishing ecosystem explicitly designed to redirect research prestige and publishing revenue away from foreign publishers.

India, meanwhile, committed ₹6,000 crore over three years to pay those same publishers for access to knowledge – a considerable part of which was generated by its own researchers.

The contrast is not incidental. It reflects an essential divergence in how the world's major research-producing nations are thinking about knowledge sovereignty. And it raises a question India's science policy community has not yet answered with sufficient seriousness: what comes after 'One Nation One Subscription' – and are we really building towards it?

The European Commission has concluded that the long-term solution is to create publicly owned publishing infrastructure and remove commercial publishers from the equation entirely. A view of the Maughan Library round reading room at King's College London. COLIN (CC BY-SA)

Building sovereignty

As Ashutosh Ghildiyal, Ning Zhang, Gareth Dyke, and Yanli Wang wrote in *The Scholarly Kitchen*, China's strategy is elaborate. In its vision, the country is no longer simply a major contributor to global research output but is increasingly a central actor shaping the future of scholarly publishing.

To that end, China is changing research evaluation practices by discouraging metrics like the 'impact factor', investing in journal infrastructure, instituting a credible peer-review system, and increasing international visibility. (A journal's impact factor is meant to show its impact on the field based on how much the papers it publishes are cited.) As a result, China wishes to position its domestic journals to compete globally.

The country has also made policy choices to encourage Chinese researchers to publish in domestic journals. They include evaluating research by its quality rather than by the journal it appeared in and paying attention to whether research is addressing national needs.

As part of this upgrade, the second phase of its Journal Excellence Action Plan, China is building an integrated scholarly publishing ecosystem in which funding, publication venues, evaluation systems, editorial networks, and policy incentives reinforce one another. As a result, it plans to create more than 400 world-class Chinese-owned journals, capture publishing revenues currently flowing to foreign publishers, and establish Chinese platforms as credible alternatives to the likes of *Nature*, *Science*, and *Cell*.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences, which has more than 50,000 researchers across 100 institutes, also announced in early 2026 that it would stop paying article processing charges (APCs) for more than 30 high-cost international journals, explicitly including *Nature Communications*, *Science Advances*, and *Cell Reports*. The APC is a fee levied by journals to publish open-access papers; the fee is supposed to 'compensate' the revenue the journal will lose since others won't have to buy the paper to read it. Each of these three journals charges over $5,000 per paper in APCs.

The message to publishers is clear: China will not subsidise the prestige economy of foreign publishers while building its own. The message to its researchers is equally clear: publishing in domestic journals will count for career progression and should not be treated as a second-class choice.

Checking expenses

The situation in the U.S. is more volatile and ideologically complex. A congressional hearing in April brought together lawmakers, researchers, and publishing industry representatives to examine the rise of paper mills and the costs of open-access publishing. The questions included whether the U.S. government is getting enough value for the billions it spends annually on journal subscriptions and APCs, and whether the current system serves the public interest.

The Office of Management and Budget proposed curtailing the subscription and journal publication costs, including APCs and other fees, and suggested disallowing them under federal awards. While policy has yet to be changed, the fact remains that the U.S. government is viewing journal publishers' profits – and whose margins rival those of Big Tech – as a fiscal and transparency concern rather than solely as an open-access one.

This scrutiny offers both a policy opportunity and a cautionary tale for India. If the world's two most powerful research-funders are reconsidering what they are paying for scholarly publishing, the negotiating environment that has kept publisher pricing confidential and non-negotiable is beginning to shift.

A clear new mandate

As it happens, Australia has moved with the least ambiguity of any major research system. The Australian Research Council (ARC) Open Access Policy, especially the v2026.1 update, takes effect on July 1, 2026, and requires journal articles and conference papers arising from ARC-funded research to be made openly accessible immediately upon publication, with no exceptions.

Crucially, the compliance burden falls on the organisations administering the grants – i.e. the universities and research institutions. The policy is aligned with large international funding bodies such as the U.S. National Institutes of Health and the Wellcome Trust in the U.K. This matters because it means that when Australian researchers co-author with U.S. or U.K. colleagues, a single rights-retention approach serves all funder requirements simultaneously, reducing the transaction costs that have previously allowed publishers to exploit policy fragmentation across borders.

The ARC first introduced its policy in 2013, and the 2026 version represents the culmination of a decade-long trajectory from encouragement to hard mandate. It is also careful to mention green open access: once ready, a copy of the paper will be archived in an openly accessible repository. Aside from guaranteeing access, doing so will also allow the paper's authors to retain the rights to it.

Publicly owned infrastructure

Europe's approach is also ambitious and relevant to what India should be building towards. Instead of negotiating with existing publishers – including the 'One Nation One Subscription' scheme – or requiring researchers to publish their papers to be open access by paying an APC, the European Commission has concluded that the long-term solution is to create publicly owned publishing infrastructure that removes commercial publishers from the equation entirely.

Open Research Europe, which is the European Commission's own publishing platform, is entering a new phase backed by a nearly €17 million budget for 2026-2031, co-funded by the European Commission by up to €10 million. The operating platform will be provided by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (better known as CERN). The platform is expected to begin operating as a collectively supported publishing service later this year. Once it is live, researchers from 11 participating national research systems – Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland – will be able to publish without paying.

India's stated ambition to become more self-sufficient is inconsistent with indefinitely subsidising a small group of foreign commercial publishers to access knowledge produced by Indian researchers with Indian public funds

This is open access but it is also the European research ecosystem taking back the publishing function that it had outsourced to commercial publishers over the last four decades.

In parallel with Open Research Europe, Europe has operationalised the diamond open access model at scale. In this paradigm, a journal publishes open access papers without levying an APC; the costs are instead borne by the funders and the research institutions. With some support from the French National Research Agency, the European Diamond Capacity Hub needs to strengthen diamond open-access publishing infrastructure across Europe.

What ONOS does and does not do

India's 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme, which has been operational since January 2025, was a genuine step forward in addressing a real and urgent problem. ONOS provides access to more than 13,000 journals from 30 publishers to approximately 6,300 government, academic, and research institutions at a total committed budget of ₹6,000 crore over three years (2025-2027). For researchers at tier-2 and tier-3 institutions who have never had access to the journals their fields require, this is transformative.

However, while ONOS solves the reading problem, it does not address the publishing problem. ONOS comes with an APC fund of ₹150 crore per year, replenished from what India allocates for research, which is already dwindling. Further, with more than half of research worldwide already being freely accessible, a significant proportion of what ONOS is paying to access is already available at zero cost. That is, India is partly paying ₹6,000 crore to access content that is already free and partly to subsidise a subscription model whose foundations are being dismantled everywhere else in the world.

The structural problem runs deeper. ONOS is opaque on publisher pricing, protection against future cost inflation, investment in Indian journals, and a post-2027 strategy. Every future negotiation is to be conducted from a position of demonstrated dependence, with journal publishers aware that India has no credible alternative – and that the political cost of losing ONOS access is too high for any government to bear.

In this sense, ONOS should be seen as a bridge, not a destination.

India's stated ambition to become more self-sufficient is inconsistent with indefinitely subsidising a small group of foreign commercial publishers to access knowledge produced by Indian researchers with Indian public funds. A better strategy would be to combine immediate green open-access mandates for publicly funded research, rights retention policies for researchers, more investments in Indian journals and publishing platforms, transparent APC expenses, and participating in international efforts to develop community-governed publishing infrastructure.

Window is now

The geopolitics of scholarly publishing has shifted more in the last 18 months than in the last two decades. China is building sovereignty. The U.S. is scrutinising costs. Australia is prioritising immediate access. Europe is building public infrastructure. Africa is also moving forward with local infrastructure, and Latin America was and still is the leader in self-reliant, community-governed local publishing infrastructure.

The direction of change across every major research system is the same: away from commercial dependencies and towards public ownership, public access, and public benefits.

In this context, India has both an opportunity and a time constraint. ONOS has established that the Government of India recognises knowledge access as a public good worth funding at scale. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation also has a mandate to reform the conditions in which Indian science reports its findings. Thus, India has the political legitimacy to push back against publishers' pricing in ways that would have seemed radical five years ago.

(Moumita Koley is a senior research analyst at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. moumita.chem@gmail.com)

23J6. World is moving on from paying publishers — India should too

प्रकाशकों को भुगतान करने की व्यवस्था से विश्व आगे बढ़ रहा है — भारत को भी ऐसा करना चाहिए

- Within a span of **18 months**, from late **2024** to mid-**2026**, the **United States** has placed the economics of academic publishing under Congressional scrutiny, **Australia** has mandated immediate open access to all publicly funded peer-reviewed research, **Europe** has launched a publicly owned publishing platform called **Open Research Europe**, and **China** has begun building an integrated domestic scholarly publishing ecosystem explicitly designed to redirect research prestige and publishing revenue away from foreign publishers.

देर **2024** से मध्य-**2026** तक के **18 महीनों** की अवधि में, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने शैक्षणिक प्रकाशन के अर्थशास्त्र को कांग्रेस की समीक्षा के अधीन रखा है, **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** ने सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्तपोषित सभी सहकर्मी-समीक्षित अनुसंधानों के लिए तत्काल मुक्त पहुँच अनिवार्य कर दी है, **यूरोप** ने **Open Research Europe** नामक एक सार्वजनिक स्वामित्व वाला प्रकाशन मंच प्रारम्भ किया है, और **चीन** ने एक एकीकृत घरेलू विद्वतापूर्ण प्रकाशन पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का निर्माण आरम्भ किया है, जिसका स्पष्ट उद्देश्य अनुसंधान प्रतिष्ठा और प्रकाशन राजस्व को विदेशी प्रकाशकों से हटाना है।

- **India**, meanwhile, committed **₹6,000 crore** over three years to pay those same publishers for access to knowledge — a considerable part of which was generated by its own researchers.

इस बीच, **भारत** ने तीन वर्षों में **₹6,000 करोड़** उन ही प्रकाशकों को ज्ञान तक पहुँच के लिए भुगतान करने हेतु आवंटित किए — जबकि उस ज्ञान का एक बड़ा भाग उसके अपने शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा उत्पन्न किया गया था।

- The contrast is not incidental.
  यह अंतर आकस्मिक नहीं है।
- It reflects an essential divergence in how the world's major research-producing nations are thinking about **knowledge sovereignty**.

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यह इस बात में एक मूलभूत भिन्नता को दर्शाता है कि विश्व के प्रमुख अनुसंधान-उत्पादक राष्ट्र **ज्ञान संप्रभुता** के विषय में किस प्रकार विचार कर रहे हैं।

- To that end, **China** is changing research evaluation practices by discouraging metrics like the **'impact factor'**, investing in journal infrastructure, instituting a credible peer-review system, and increasing international visibility.
  इस उद्देश्य की प्राप्ति हेतु **चीन 'इम्पैक्ट फैक्टर'** जैसे मानकों को हतोत्साहित करके, जर्नल अवसंरचना में निवेश करके, एक विश्वसनीय सहकर्मी-समीक्षा प्रणाली स्थापित करके तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय दृश्यता बढ़ाकर अनुसंधान मूल्यांकन पद्धतियों में परिवर्तन कर रहा है।
- (A journal's **impact factor** is meant to show its impact on the field based on how much the papers it publishes are cited.)
  (किसी जर्नल का **इम्पैक्ट फैक्टर** यह दर्शाने के लिए होता है कि उसके द्वारा प्रकाशित शोधपत्रों को कितनी बार उद्धृत किया गया है और उसके आधार पर उस क्षेत्र में उसका कितना प्रभाव है।)
- The country has also made policy choices to encourage Chinese researchers to publish in domestic journals.
  देश ने चीनी शोधकर्ताओं को घरेलू जर्नलों में प्रकाशन हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए नीतिगत निर्णय भी लिए हैं।
- As a result, it plans to create more than **400 world-class Chinese-owned journals**, capture publishing revenues currently flowing to foreign publishers, and establish Chinese platforms as credible alternatives to the likes of **Nature, Science, and Cell**.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, वह **400 से अधिक विश्वस्तरीय चीनी-स्वामित्व वाले जर्नलों** का निर्माण करने, वर्तमान में विदेशी प्रकाशकों को प्राप्त हो रहे प्रकाशन राजस्व को अपने नियंत्रण में लेने तथा चीनी मंचों को **Nature, Science, और Cell** जैसे प्रतिष्ठित प्रकाशनों के विश्वसनीय विकल्प के रूप में स्थापित करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- **The Chinese Academy of Sciences**, which has more than **50,000 researchers** across **100 institutes**, also announced in early **2026** that it would stop paying **article processing charges (APCs)** for more than **30 high-cost international journals**, explicitly including **Nature Communications, Science Advances, and Cell Reports**.
  चीनी विज्ञान अकादमी, जिसके **100 संस्थानों** में **50,000 से अधिक शोधकर्ता** कार्यरत हैं, ने **2026** की शुरुआत में यह भी घोषणा की कि वह **30 से अधिक उच्च-लागत वाली अंतरराष्ट्रीय पत्रिकाओं** के लिए **आर्टिकल प्रोसेसिंग चार्ज (APCs)** का भुगतान बंद कर देगी, जिनमें विशेष रूप से **Nature Communications, Science Advances, और Cell Reports** शामिल हैं।
- The **APC** is a fee levied by journals to publish **open-access papers**; the fee is supposed to 'compensate' the revenue the journal will lose since others won't have to buy the paper to read it.
  APC वह शुल्क है जो पत्रिकाएँ **ओपन-एक्सेस शोधपत्रों** को प्रकाशित करने के लिए लेती हैं; यह शुल्क उस संभावित आय की 'भरपाई' करने के लिए माना जाता है जो पत्रिका को इसलिए नहीं मिलेगी क्योंकि अन्य लोगों को शोधपत्र पढ़ने के लिए उसे खरीदना नहीं पड़ेगा।

A clear new mandate
एक स्पष्ट नया अधिदेश

- As it happens, **Australia** has moved with the least ambiguity of any major research system.
  वास्तव में, प्रमुख अनुसंधान व्यवस्थाओं में **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** ने सबसे कम अस्पष्टता के साथ कदम उठाया है।
- The **Australian Research Council (ARC) Open Access Policy**, especially the **v2026.1 update**, takes effect on **July 1, 2026**, and requires journal articles and conference papers arising from **ARC-funded research** to be made openly accessible immediately upon publication, with no exceptions.
  ऑस्ट्रेलियन रिसर्च काउंसिल (ARC) ओपन एक्सेस नीति, विशेषकर इसका **v2026.1 अद्यतन**, **1 जुलाई 2026** से प्रभावी होगा और यह अनिवार्य करता है कि **ARC-वित्तपोषित अनुसंधान** से उत्पन्न पत्रिका लेख तथा सम्मेलन शोधपत्र प्रकाशन के तुरंत बाद बिना किसी अपवाद के सार्वजनिक रूप से सुलभ बनाए जाएँ।

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- It is also careful to mention **green open access**: once ready, a copy of the paper will be archived in an openly accessible repository.
  इसमें **ग्रीन ओपन एक्सेस** का भी सावधानीपूर्वक उल्लेख किया गया है: शोधपत्र तैयार होने के बाद उसकी एक प्रति एक सार्वजनिक रूप से सुलभ भंडार (repository) में संग्रहीत की जाएगी।

Publicly owned infrastructure
सार्वजनिक स्वामित्व वाला अवसंरचना तंत्र

- **Europe's** approach is also ambitious and relevant to what **India** should be building towards.
  यूरोप का दृष्टिकोण भी महत्वाकांक्षी है और उस दिशा से संबंधित है जिसकी ओर **भारत** को आगे बढ़ना चाहिए।
- Instead of negotiating with existing publishers — including the **'One Nation One Subscription'** scheme — or requiring researchers to publish their papers to be open access by paying an **APC**, the **European Commission** has concluded that the long-term solution is to create publicly owned publishing infrastructure that removes commercial publishers from the equation entirely.
  मौजूदा प्रकाशकों के साथ वार्ता करने — जिसमें **'One Nation One Subscription'** योजना भी शामिल है — अथवा शोधकर्ताओं को **APC** का भुगतान करके अपने शोधपत्रों को ओपन एक्सेस बनाने के लिए बाध्य करने के बजाय, **यूरोपीय आयोग** इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुँचा है कि दीर्घकालिक समाधान ऐसा सार्वजनिक स्वामित्व वाला प्रकाशन अवसंरचना तंत्र विकसित करना है जो वाणिज्यिक प्रकाशकों को पूरी तरह इस व्यवस्था से बाहर कर दे।
- **Open Research Europe**, which is the **European Commission's** own publishing platform, is entering a new phase backed by a nearly **€17 million budget** for **2026–2031**, co-funded by the **European Commission** by up to **€10 million**.
  Open Research Europe, जो **यूरोपीय आयोग** का स्वयं का प्रकाशन मंच है, **2026–2031** के लिए लगभग **17 मिलियन यूरो के बजट** द्वारा समर्थित एक नए चरण में प्रवेश कर रहा है, जिसमें **यूरोपीय आयोग** द्वारा **10 मिलियन यूरो** तक का सह-वित्तपोषण किया जाएगा।
- The operating platform will be provided by the **European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN)**.
  इस मंच का संचालन **यूरोपीय परमाणु अनुसंधान संगठन (CERN)** द्वारा किया जाएगा।
- The platform is expected to begin operating as a collectively supported publishing service later this year.
  यह मंच इस वर्ष के अंत तक सामूहिक रूप से समर्थित प्रकाशन सेवा के रूप में कार्य करना प्रारम्भ कर सकता है।
- Once it is live, researchers from **11 participating national research systems — Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland** — will be able to publish without paying.
  एक बार इसके सक्रिय हो जाने पर, **11 सहभागी राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान प्रणालियों — ऑस्ट्रिया, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, इटली, नीदरलैंड्स, नॉर्वे, पुर्तगाल, स्लोवेनिया, स्पेन, स्वीडन और स्विट्ज़रलैंड** — के शोधकर्ता बिना किसी शुल्क के प्रकाशन कर सकेंगे।
- In parallel with **Open Research Europe**, Europe has operationalised the **diamond open access model** at scale.
  Open Research Europe के समानांतर, यूरोप ने बड़े पैमाने पर **डायमंड ओपन एक्सेस मॉडल** को क्रियान्वित किया है।
- In this paradigm, a journal publishes open access papers without levying an **APC**; the costs are instead borne by the funders and the research institutions.
  इस मॉडल में कोई पत्रिका **APC** लगाए बिना ओपन एक्सेस शोधपत्र प्रकाशित करती है; इसके व्यय का वहन वित्तपोषकों और अनुसंधान संस्थानों द्वारा किया जाता है।

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What ONOS does and does not do
ONOS क्या करता है और क्या नहीं करता

- India's **'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS)** scheme, which has been operational since **January 2025**, was a genuine step forward in addressing a real and urgent problem.
  भारत की **'वन नेशन वन सब्सक्रिप्शन' (ONOS)** योजना, जो **जनवरी 2025** से क्रियाशील है, एक वास्तविक और अत्यावश्यक समस्या के समाधान की दिशा में उठाया गया एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम था।
- **ONOS** provides access to more than **13,000 journals** from **30 publishers** to approximately **6,300 government, academic, and research institutions** at a total committed budget of **₹6,000 crore** over three years (**2025–2027**).
  ONOS के अंतर्गत **30 प्रकाशकों** की **13,000 से अधिक पत्रिकाओं** तक पहुँच लगभग **6,300 सरकारी, शैक्षणिक तथा अनुसंधान संस्थानों** को उपलब्ध कराई जाती है, जिसके लिए **2025–2027** की तीन वर्षीय अवधि में **₹6,000 करोड़** का कुल बजट निर्धारित किया गया है।
- For researchers at **tier-2 and tier-3 institutions** who have never had access to the journals their fields require, this is transformative.
  टियर-2 और टियर-3 संस्थानों के उन शोधकर्ताओं के लिए, जिन्हें पहले अपने अध्ययन क्षेत्र की आवश्यक पत्रिकाओं तक पहुँच कभी प्राप्त नहीं हुई थी, यह व्यवस्था परिवर्तनकारी सिद्ध हुई है।
- However, while **ONOS** solves the reading problem, it does not address the publishing problem.
  हालाँकि **ONOS** पढ़ने की समस्या का समाधान करता है, लेकिन यह प्रकाशन संबंधी समस्या का समाधान नहीं करता।
- **ONOS** comes with an **APC fund of ₹150 crore per year**, replenished from what **India** allocates for research, which is already dwindling.
  ONOS के साथ **प्रति वर्ष ₹150 करोड़ का APC कोष** भी जुड़ा हुआ है, जिसकी पूर्ति भारत द्वारा अनुसंधान के लिए आवंटित निधि से की जाती है, जो पहले से ही घट रही है।
- Further, with more than half of research worldwide already being freely accessible, a significant proportion of what **ONOS** is paying to access is already available at zero cost.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, विश्वभर के आधे से अधिक अनुसंधान पहले से ही निःशुल्क उपलब्ध हैं, इसलिए **ONOS** जिन सामग्रियों तक पहुँच के लिए भुगतान कर रहा है, उनका एक बड़ा हिस्सा पहले से ही बिना किसी लागत के उपलब्ध है।
- That is, **India** is partly paying **₹6,000 crore** to access content that is already free and partly to subsidise a subscription model whose foundations are being dismantled everywhere else in the world.
  अर्थात् **भारत** आंशिक रूप से ऐसे विषय-वस्तु तक पहुँच के लिए **₹6,000 करोड़** का भुगतान कर रहा है जो पहले से ही निःशुल्क उपलब्ध है, और आंशिक रूप से ऐसी सदस्यता-आधारित व्यवस्था को अनुदान दे रहा है जिसकी नींव विश्व के अन्य भागों में समाप्त की जा रही है।
- **ONOS** is opaque on **publisher pricing**, protection against future cost inflation, investment in Indian journals, and a **post-2027 strategy**.
  ONOS में **प्रकाशकों के मूल्य निर्धारण**, भविष्य में लागत वृद्धि से सुरक्षा, भारतीय पत्रिकाओं में निवेश तथा **2027 के बाद की रणनीति** के संबंध में पर्याप्त पारदर्शिता नहीं है।
- **India's** stated ambition to become more self-sufficient is inconsistent with indefinitely subsidising a small group of foreign commercial publishers to access knowledge produced by Indian researchers with Indian public funds.
  अधिक आत्मनिर्भर बनने की **भारत** की घोषित महत्वाकांक्षा इस बात से मेल नहीं खाती कि भारतीय सार्वजनिक धन से भारतीय शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा उत्पन्न ज्ञान तक पहुँच प्राप्त करने के लिए विदेशी वाणिज्यिक प्रकाशकों के एक छोटे समूह को अनिश्चित काल तक अनुदान दिया जाता रहे।
- A better strategy would be to combine immediate **green open-access mandates** for publicly funded research, **rights retention policies** for researchers, more investments in Indian journals and publishing platforms, transparent **APC expenses**, and participating in

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international efforts to develop **community-governed publishing infrastructure**.
एक बेहतर रणनीति यह होगी कि सार्वजनिक रूप से वित्तपोषित अनुसंधान के लिए तत्काल **ग्रीन ओपन एक्सेस अनिवार्यता**, शोधकर्ताओं के लिए **अधिकार-संरक्षण नीतियाँ**, भारतीय पत्रिकाओं एवं प्रकाशन मंचों में अधिक निवेश, **APC व्ययों में पारदर्शिता**, तथा **समुदाय-शासित प्रकाशन अवसंरचना** विकसित करने के अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रयासों में सहभागिता को संयुक्त रूप से अपनाया जाए।

Window is now
अवसर की खिड़की अभी खुली है

- The direction of change across every major research system is the same: away from **commercial dependencies** and towards **public ownership, public access, and public benefits**.
  सभी प्रमुख अनुसंधान प्रणालियों में परिवर्तन की दिशा समान है: **वाणिज्यिक निर्भरताओं** से दूर और **सार्वजनिक स्वामित्व, सार्वजनिक पहुँच तथा सार्वजनिक लाभ** की ओर।
- **ONOS** has established that the **Government of India** recognises knowledge access as a **public good** worth funding at scale.
  ONOS ने यह स्थापित किया है कि **भारत सरकार** ज्ञान तक पहुँच को एक ऐसे **सार्वजनिक हितकारी संसाधन** के रूप में मान्यता देती है, जिस पर बड़े पैमाने पर निवेश किया जाना उचित है।
- The **Anusandhan National Research Foundation** also has a mandate to reform the conditions in which Indian science reports its findings.
  अनुसंधान नेशनल रिसर्च फाउंडेशन को भी उन परिस्थितियों में सुधार करने का दायित्व सौंपा गया है जिनके अंतर्गत भारतीय विज्ञान अपने निष्कर्षों को प्रस्तुत करता है।

23J6. Laser strums atoms in quest for better computers
बेहतर कंप्यूटरों की खोज में लेज़र परमाणुओं को नियंत्रित कर रहा है

Laser strums atoms in quest for better computers

GS III: S&T
Vasudevan Mukunth

The world is constantly looking for faster and more efficient computers. Since the technologies of today have nearly maximised the use of electric currents for this purpose, scientists are looking beyond.

One critical area that may fit our needs is called strain engineering: it uses mechanical pressure at the atomic level to alter a material's properties. That is, by physically squeezing or stretching the grid of atoms – called the lattice – scientists can change how a material conducts electricity or stores magnetic information.

To reach the speeds required for next-generation technology, however, these mechanical changes must happen trillions of times per second, or at terahertz (THz) frequencies.

The main challenge to high-frequency strain engineering in metals is the behaviour of free electrons. When a metal is struck by a fast laser pulse, the electrons absorb the energy. In most metals, these electrons move so quickly that they spread the energy across the material before the pulse can exert a localised mechanical force. This delocalisation prevents the formation of high-frequency strain waves.

In particular, THz-frequency vibrations are needed for advanced applications like spintronics – a field that uses the magnetic spin of electrons rather than their charge to store and move data.

'That surprised us'

A new study by researchers from France, Germany, and Sweden, published in *Nature Communications*, has reported a way to use laser pulses to induce THz waves. The researchers used a superlattice: atoms of platinum and copper atoms arranged in alternating layers, each just a few nanometres thick. They chose these metals because of their contrasting electronic properties: platinum can hold a large amount of electronic energy while copper allows electrons to move quickly.

Using ultrafast X-ray diffraction, the team observed the atoms moving in real-time following a laser pulse. And they found that they could set the atoms vibrating in a coherent way at a frequency of 1 THz with a strain amplitude of 1%. That is, the atoms were displaced by 1% on average from their original positions. This is considered large.

Crucially, the team found that electron pressure, rather than heat, to be the driving force. When the laser hit the platinum layers, the electrons gained energy and immediately exerted a physical pressure against the atomic lattice. "That surprised us. The oscillation is not caused by the pressure of the heated lattice, but by electron pressure, particularly in the platinum layers," Jan-Etienne Pudell of European XFEL, the facility that provided the ultrafast X-ray diffraction, said in a press note.

The study showed that electron pressure is a dominant and engineerable mechanism that can be used to rapidly 'kick' atoms into motion.

Nanostructured materials

The discovery is an advance in the broader field of thermoacoustic metamaterials. These are nanostructured materials designed to manipulate sound and heat in ways that do not occur in nature.

The study also demonstrated that these effects can be achieved in materials created by sputtering. Sputtering is a standard industrial process used to coat everything from microchips to glass. That thermoacoustic metamaterials can be produced using cost-effective, scalable manufacturing suggests the technology could move from the laboratory to the factory floor relatively quickly.

- The world is constantly looking for **faster** and more **efficient computers**.
  विश्व निरंतर अधिक **तेज़** और अधिक **कुशल संगणकों** की खोज में लगा हुआ है।
- Since the technologies of today have nearly maximised the use of **electric currents** for this purpose, scientists are looking beyond.
  चूँकि वर्तमान प्रौद्योगिकियाँ इस उद्देश्य के लिए **विद्युत धाराओं** के उपयोग को लगभग अधिकतम सीमा तक पहुँचा चुकी हैं, इसलिए वैज्ञानिक अब नए विकल्पों की तलाश कर रहे हैं।
- One critical area that may fit our needs is called **strain engineering**.

ऐसा ही एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र **स्ट्रेन अभियांत्रिकी** कहलाता है।

- It uses **mechanical pressure** at the atomic level to alter a material's properties.
  यह किसी पदार्थ के गुणों को बदलने के लिए परमाणु स्तर पर **यांत्रिक दबाव** का उपयोग करता है।
- That is, by physically squeezing or stretching the grid of atoms — called the **lattice** — scientists can change how a material conducts electricity or stores magnetic information.
  अर्थात् परमाणुओं के जाल, जिसे **जालिका** कहा जाता है, को भौतिक रूप से संपीड़ित या विस्तारित करके वैज्ञानिक यह बदल सकते हैं कि कोई पदार्थ विद्युत का संचालन कैसे करता है या चुंबकीय सूचना को कैसे संग्रहीत करता है।
- To reach the speeds required for **next-generation technology**, however, these mechanical changes must happen trillions of times per second, or at **terahertz frequencies**.
  हालाँकि **अगली पीढ़ी की प्रौद्योगिकी** के लिए आवश्यक गति प्राप्त करने हेतु ये यांत्रिक परिवर्तन प्रति सेकंड खरबों बार, अर्थात् **टेराहर्ट्ज आवृत्तियों** पर होने चाहिए।
- The main challenge to high-frequency strain engineering in metals is the behaviour of **free electrons**.
  धातुओं में उच्च आवृत्ति वाली स्ट्रेन अभियांत्रिकी के समक्ष मुख्य चुनौती **मुक्त इलेक्ट्रॉनों** का व्यवहार है।
- When a metal is struck by a fast **laser pulse**, the electrons absorb the energy.
  जब किसी धातु पर तीव्र **लेज़र स्पंद** डाला जाता है, तब इलेक्ट्रॉन उस ऊर्जा को अवशोषित कर लेते हैं।
- In most metals, these electrons move so quickly that they spread the energy across the material before the pulse can exert a localised mechanical force.
  अधिकांश धातुओं में ये इलेक्ट्रॉन इतनी तेजी से गति करते हैं कि लेज़र स्पंद स्थानीय यांत्रिक बल उत्पन्न करने से पहले ही ऊर्जा पूरे पदार्थ में फैल जाती है।
- This **delocalisation** prevents the formation of high-frequency strain waves.
  यह **विस्थानीकरण** उच्च आवृत्ति वाली स्ट्रेन तरंगों के निर्माण को रोक देता है।
- In particular, **terahertz-frequency vibrations** are needed for advanced applications like **spintronics**.
  विशेष रूप से **टेराहर्ट्ज आवृत्ति वाले कंपन स्पिन्ट्रॉनिक्स** जैसे उन्नत अनुप्रयोगों के लिए आवश्यक हैं।
- Spintronics is a field that uses the **magnetic spin of electrons** rather than their charge to store and move data.
  स्पिन्ट्रॉनिक्स वह क्षेत्र है जिसमें आँकड़ों के भंडारण और संचरण के लिए इलेक्ट्रॉनों के आवेश के बजाय उनके **चुंबकीय स्पिन** का उपयोग किया जाता है।

'That surprised us'
'इसने हमें आश्चर्यचकित कर दिया'

- The researchers used a **superlattice**: atoms of **platinum** and **copper** arranged in alternating layers, each just a few nanometres thick.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने एक **सुपरलैटिस** का उपयोग किया, जिसमें **प्लैटिनम** और **ताँबे** के परमाणुओं को वैकल्पिक परतों में व्यवस्थित किया गया था और प्रत्येक परत केवल कुछ नैनोमीटर मोटी थी।
- They chose these metals because of their contrasting **electronic properties**.
  इन धातुओं का चयन उनके भिन्न **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गुणों** के कारण किया गया।
- Platinum can hold a large amount of electronic energy while copper allows electrons to move quickly.
  प्लैटिनम बड़ी मात्रा में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक ऊर्जा को धारण कर सकता है, जबकि **ताँबा** इलेक्ट्रॉनों को तीव्र गति से संचालित होने देता है।
- Using **ultrafast X-ray diffraction**, the team observed the atoms moving in real time following a laser pulse.
  अतितीव्र एक्स-किरण विवर्तन तकनीक का उपयोग करके शोध दल ने लेज़र स्पंद के बाद परमाणुओं की वास्तविक समय में गति का अवलोकन किया।

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- Crucially, the team found **electron pressure**, rather than heat, to be the driving force.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से शोध दल ने पाया कि प्रेरक शक्ति ऊष्मा नहीं बल्कि **इलेक्ट्रॉन दाब** था।
- When the laser hit the platinum layers, the electrons gained energy and immediately exerted a physical pressure against the atomic lattice.
  जब लेज़र ने प्लैटिनम की परतों पर प्रहार किया, तब इलेक्ट्रॉनों ने ऊर्जा प्राप्त की और तुरंत परमाणु जालिका पर भौतिक दाब उत्पन्न किया।
- The study showed that **electron pressure** is a dominant and engineerable mechanism that can be used to rapidly 'kick' atoms into motion.
  अध्ययन से स्पष्ट हुआ कि **इलेक्ट्रॉन दाब** एक प्रमुख और अभियांत्रिकीय रूप से नियंत्रित किया जा सकने वाला तंत्र है, जिसका उपयोग परमाणुओं को तीव्रता से गति प्रदान करने के लिए किया जा सकता है।

Nanostructured materials
नैनो-संरचित पदार्थ

- The discovery is an advance in the broader field of **thermoacoustic metamaterials**.
  यह खोज **ताप-ध्वनिक मेटामटेरियल्स** के व्यापक क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति है।
- These are nanostructured materials designed to manipulate **sound** and **heat** in ways that do not occur in nature.
  ये ऐसे नैनो-संरचित पदार्थ हैं जिन्हें **ध्वनि** और **ऊष्मा** को उन तरीकों से नियंत्रित करने के लिए बनाया जाता है जो प्राकृतिक रूप से संभव नहीं होते।
- The study also demonstrated that these effects can be achieved in materials created by **sputtering**.
  अध्ययन ने यह भी प्रदर्शित किया कि ये प्रभाव **स्पटरिंग** द्वारा निर्मित पदार्थों में भी प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- Sputtering is a standard industrial process used to coat everything from **microchips** to **glass**.
  स्पटरिंग एक मानक औद्योगिक प्रक्रिया है जिसका उपयोग **सूक्ष्म चिपों** से लेकर **काँच** तक विभिन्न वस्तुओं पर परत चढ़ाने के लिए किया जाता है।
- That thermoacoustic metamaterials can be produced using **cost-effective** and **scalable manufacturing** suggests the technology could move from the laboratory to the factory floor relatively quickly.
  यह तथ्य कि ताप-ध्वनिक मेटामटेरियल्स का उत्पादन **लागत-प्रभावी** और **विस्तार योग्य विनिर्माण** प्रक्रियाओं द्वारा किया जा सकता है, संकेत देता है कि यह प्रौद्योगिकी अपेक्षाकृत शीघ्र ही प्रयोगशाला से औद्योगिक उत्पादन तक पहुँच सकती है।

Strain Engineering

- **Strain engineering** means changing the properties of a material by **stretching, compressing, bending, or twisting its atomic lattice**.
- A **lattice** is the regular arrangement of atoms inside a solid material.
- When this lattice is slightly squeezed or stretched, the distance between atoms changes.
- This can change how the material conducts electricity, carries heat, stores magnetic information, or reacts chemically.
- In simple words, strain engineering is like tuning a guitar string.
- When the string is stretched, its sound changes.
- Similarly, when the atomic lattice is stretched or compressed, the material's behaviour changes.

Why Strain Engineering is Important

• Modern technologies such as **semiconductors, memory devices, sensors, quantum materials, and nanoelectronics** need materials whose properties can be controlled very precisely.
• Strain engineering is useful because it can alter material properties without changing the chemical composition of the material.

• It is important for **next-generation computing**, where devices may need to work at extremely high speeds.

Terahertz Frequency and Laser Pulse

- **Terahertz frequency** means vibrations occurring around **one trillion times per second**.
- For future high-speed electronics, scientists want to control atomic motion at such ultrafast speeds.
- A **laser pulse** is a very short burst of light energy.
- In recent experiments, ultrashort laser pulses were used to make layered metals vibrate at terahertz speed.
- The platinum-copper lattice was excited by laser pulses of about **10^{-15} second**, and then examined using ultrafast X-ray pulses.

Superlattice

- A **superlattice** is an artificial structure made by arranging very thin layers of different materials one above another.
- Atoms of **platinum and copper** were arranged in alternating layers, each only a few nanometres thick.

Ultrafast X-ray Diffraction

- **X-ray diffraction** is a technique used to study the arrangement of atoms in crystals.
- **Ultrafast X-ray diffraction** uses extremely short X-ray pulses to observe how atoms move after being disturbed by light, heat, or pressure.
- It is useful because atomic motion happens very quickly, often within femtoseconds or picoseconds.
- Research shows that ultrafast X-ray diffraction can directly track lattice responses and structural changes in materials at very short timescales.

Thermoacoustic Metamaterials

- **Thermoacoustic metamaterials** are specially designed materials that control sound and heat-related waves in unusual ways.
- A **metamaterial** is not special mainly because of its chemical composition, but because of its designed internal structure.
- Acoustic metamaterials can control, guide, reflect, or absorb sound waves in ways that normal materials cannot.
- In simple words, these materials act like “traffic controllers” for sound and heat waves.

Sputtering

- **Sputtering** is a common industrial process used to deposit a thin film of material on another surface.
- In this process, energetic ions strike a target material and knock atoms out of it.
- These atoms then settle on another surface and form a thin coating.
- It is widely used in **microchips, solar cells, glass coatings, optical devices, and electronic components**.
- Thin-film deposition is an important part of semiconductor manufacturing, where very thin layers are deposited on wafers.

PATRIOTIC IAS

GS III: S&T

Stay with the evidence

Better monitoring of sale of banned drugs is essential

The character of science leans to openness: to new evidence and emerging facts. Its ability to be agile to pivot and shift to newer guidelines is therefore absolutely crucial. The Health Ministry's recent ban on 16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs comes on the evidence that these drug combinations lack therapeutic justification, are 'deemed irrational or unsafe' and might pose risks to patients. The drugs include dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations. An FDC is a drug containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients, combined in a fixed ratio in a single dosage. These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as Tuberculosis) by reducing the pill burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic effectiveness. However, irrational combinations, besides being ineffective, can also be counter-productive and harmful. As per the latest order, all State Drug Controllers, regulatory authorities, and enforcement agencies are to ensure strict implementation and compliance with the recent notification. Instructions must also be sent to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies, to stop stocking and selling the banned FDCs.

This is not the first time that the Health Ministry is cracking down on FDCs. A detailed scientific review is undertaken before these decisions to ban FDCs are taken. In March 2016, the government banned a whopping number of over 330 FDC drugs, on the ground that they were irrational, with immediate effect. While FDCs offer the advantage of a reduction in the number of pills, of certain benefit to certain categories of patients, there are some innate issues as well: patients might need different titrations of doses, impossible with FDCs; patients might develop allergies, but it will not be clear what particular pharmaceutical ingredient they are reacting to. It is also clear that all patients may not actually need all the drugs in the combination, exposing them to unnecessary side effects. A further potential harm exists with FDCs of antibiotics: In 2016, 19% of the 330 FDCs banned were antibiotics; There is enough evidence to show that irrational antibiotic FDC drug usage leads to or exacerbates the growing antimicrobial resistance problem in the country. While the government has taken a positive step with banning these FDCs, its work has just begun. In many instances in the past, stocks of banned drugs were still being sold in pharmacies, because the message had not percolated down. While staying solidly on the side of evidence-based medicine, the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm in order to ensure that the benefits from the ban reach the last mile.

23J6. Stay with the evidence
साक्ष्यों पर आधारित रहें

- The **Health Ministry's** recent ban on **16 Fixed Dose Combination (FDC) drugs** comes on the evidence that these drug combinations lack therapeutic justification, are **'deemed irrational or unsafe'** and might pose risks to patients.

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा हाल ही में **16 फिक्स्ड डोज़ कॉम्बिनेशन (FDC) दवाओं** पर लगाया गया प्रतिबंध इस साक्ष्य पर आधारित है कि इन दवा-संयोजनों का कोई उचित चिकित्सीय औचित्य नहीं है, इन्हें **'अतार्किक या असुरक्षित'** माना गया है तथा ये रोगियों के लिए जोखिम उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं।

- The drugs include **dermatological drugs, analgesics and antispasmodics, and antibiotic-based formulations**.

इन दवाओं में **त्वचा रोग संबंधी दवाएँ, दर्दनाशक एवं ऐंठन-रोधी दवाएँ तथा एंटीबायोटिक आधारित संयोजन** शामिल हैं।

- An **FDC** is a drug containing two or more active pharmacological ingredients, combined in a fixed ratio in a single dosage.

FDC ऐसी दवा होती है जिसमें दो या दो से अधिक सक्रिय औषधीय घटक एक निश्चित अनुपात में एक ही खुराक के रूप में सम्मिलित किए जाते हैं।

- These were meant to improve treatment compliance in chronic conditions (such as **Tuberculosis**) by reducing the pill burden and, sometimes, by improved therapeutic effectiveness.

इनका उद्देश्य **क्षय रोग (Tuberculosis)** जैसी दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों में दवाओं की संख्या कम करके तथा कभी-कभी उपचार की प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाकर उपचार अनुपालन को बेहतर बनाना था।

- Instructions must also be sent to **manufacturers, importers, distributors, and even individual pharmacies**, to stop stocking and selling the banned FDCs.

प्रतिबंधित FDC दवाओं का भंडारण और विक्रय रोकने के लिए **निर्माताओं, आयातकों, वितरकों तथा व्यक्तिगत औषधि विक्रेताओं** को भी निर्देश जारी किए जाने चाहिए।

- There is enough evidence to show that irrational **antibiotic FDC drug usage** leads to or exacerbates the growing **antimicrobial resistance** problem in the country.

पर्याप्त साक्ष्य उपलब्ध हैं जो दर्शाते हैं कि अतार्किक **एंटीबायोटिक FDC दवाओं** का उपयोग देश में बढ़ती हुई **रोगाणुरोधी प्रतिरोधकता (Antimicrobial Resistance - AMR)** की समस्या को जन्म देता है या उसे और गंभीर बनाता है।

- While staying solidly on the side of **evidence-based medicine**, the government must also activate its monitoring and supervision arm in order to ensure that the benefits from the ban reach the last mile.

साक्ष्य-आधारित चिकित्सा (Evidence-Based Medicine) के पक्ष में दृढ़ता से खड़े रहते हुए सरकार को अपनी निगरानी एवं पर्यवेक्षण प्रणाली को भी सक्रिय करना होगा, ताकि इस प्रतिबंध के लाभ समाज के अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुँच सकें।

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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A Trojan horse has breached the IITs

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

For a few decades now, a project called the 'Indian Knowledge System' (IKS) has sought to integrate traditional Indian wisdom into modern educational curricula. There is a legitimate quest to reclaim India's indigenous intellectual history and to elevate an informal cultural aspiration into a part of education – but the IKS of today is not it.

The real IKS might focus on the linguistics of Panini, the Nyaya school of logic, the Kerala school of mathematics, the development of Wootz steel, and so on. But the IKS being institutionalised, including under IIT-Mandi director Laxmidhar Behera, is concerned with "Puranic science", mythology as history, ritual as technology, and an open contempt for verifiability.

The more aggressive avatar of IKS was formalised by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. It began by documenting breakthroughs in metallurgy and ancient mathematics before increasingly blurring the lines between historical scholarship and theological revivalism. There are now IKS hubs at IIT-Kharagpur, IIT-Gandhinagar, IIT-Bombay, and IIT-Kanpur. Those at Kanpur and Mandi in particular have emerged as 'leaders' in the "research" of "consciousness", reincarnation, and "Vedic" biology. These words are within quote marks because, as with the IKS, what they claim to stand for in name is not what they stand for in substance.

Proponents of pseudoscience

The IKS centres' proponents say they endeavour to "decolonise" the Indian mind. This is farcical. The Bengal renaissance of the 19th century, including figures such as Jagadish Chandra Bose and Prafulla Chandra Ray, synthesised Indian identity with rigorous scientific study and proved that decolonisation does not have to open the door to pseudoscience. The IKS centres intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the IITs, leveraging the institutes' prestige to acquire for their politico-religious dogma a veneer of scientific legitimacy.

The Indian Knowledge System centres intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the IITs

Recently, IIT-Mandi and IIT-Kanpur hosted a "special session" dedicated to the "science" of reincarnation. The programme proposed using EEG data and astrological birth charts to track "past life memories" in children. The event was attended by speakers from the University of Virginia's Department of Perceptual Studies (DOPS), itself a controversial entity.

The event was a crisis in higher education. Pseudoscience is now well and truly institutionalised, and the participating IITs have signalled their willingness to trade their academic credentials for theological dogma. The 'researchers' at the event discussed building a "systematic methodology" for a universal metaphysical claim based on one six-year-old in north India. This is normally called an anecdote.

To suggest one child's neural response could 'validate' the concept of reincarnation does a disservice to the best traditions of Indian philosophy. They remain excellent not as peculiar products of their times but because their exponents thought sincerely and carefully about what facts they had. To have the facts we do today and still believe a 'study' with a cohort size of one or using a physicalist entity (EEG) to prove a dualist theory (reincarnation) to be credible is silly.

The 'researchers' proposed to show the child their "past-life-related stimuli", such as photos of a spouse from a 'previous life', and record the brain's reaction. Given that the group's own protocol involved "developing familiarity" with the child and collecting photos from the "claimed previous-life family" before the test, the 'researchers' are fundamentally creating the very stimuli they claim to be 'discovering'. This is called confirmation bias. Including astrology in this mix is nonsense.

The IKS centres partnered with DOPS for "Western" credibility but the work at DOPS has been notorious for its methodological looseness. Critics have pointed out that in the interval between a death and a supposed rebirth, the 'previous family' and the 'current family' seem to have ample opportunity to meet, communicate, and line up their stories to fit a cultural narrative of reincarnation. The 'researchers' also did not examine the fact that "past life memories" are almost exclusively reported in cultures that already believe in reincarnation.

Forceful approach

After years of trying to change academia from the outside-in using student violence and by revising textbooks, it seems the Hindutva programme has finished shifting its strategy to an inside-out approach with top-down force. Doctoral students were required to attend the "special session". The centres have used IIT funds and research fellows to 'hunt' ghosts as fieldwork. The University Grants Commission's 2023 guidelines require all students of higher education to take IKS courses for credit. The IITs' administrators know they are compromising the institutions' reputation, but they are willing to risk that because their goal is not scientific leadership. It is domestic ideological consolidation.

The spreading rot of pseudoscience at the IITs will encourage top-tier Indian talent to move to universities abroad that still see the line between decolonising and science. Good international scientists beginning to look down on IIT degrees because of these "special sessions" will also serve the "atmanirbhar" narrative by separating an elite Indian education from global standards of rationalism. Ultimately, the loop will be closed to leave Indian scholars to be judged only by their loyalty to a specific civilisational project.

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23J6. A Trojan horse has breached the IITs

एक ट्रोजन हॉर्स ने आईआईटी संस्थानों में प्रवेश कर लिया है

- For a few decades now, a project called the **'Indian Knowledge System' (IKS)** has sought to integrate traditional Indian wisdom into modern educational curricula.

पिछले कुछ दशकों से **'भारतीय ज्ञान प्रणाली' (आईकेएस)** नामक एक परियोजना पारंपरिक भारतीय ज्ञान को आधुनिक शैक्षिक पाठ्यक्रमों में समाहित करने का प्रयास कर रही है।

- There is a legitimate quest to reclaim **India's indigenous intellectual history** and to elevate an informal cultural aspiration into a part of education — but the **IKS** of today is not it.

भारत की स्वदेशी बौद्धिक विरासत को पुनः प्राप्त करने और एक अनौपचारिक सांस्कृतिक आकांक्षा को शिक्षा का हिस्सा बनाने की एक वैध खोज अवश्य है — किन्तु वर्तमान **आईकेएस** उस उद्देश्य का प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं करता।

- The real **IKS** might focus on the linguistics of **Panini**, the **Nyaya school of logic**, the **Kerala school of mathematics**, the development of **Wootz steel**, and so on.

वास्तविक **आईकेएस** का केंद्र **पाणिनि** के भाषाविज्ञान, **न्याय दर्शन की तर्कशास्त्रीय परंपरा**, **केरल गणित परंपरा**, **वूट्ज़ इस्पात** के विकास तथा अन्य ऐतिहासिक बौद्धिक उपलब्धियों पर हो सकता है।

- But the **IKS** being institutionalised, including under **IIT-Mandi Director Laxmidhar Behera**, is concerned with **"Puranic science"**, mythology as history, ritual as technology, and an open contempt for **verifiability**.

किन्तु जिस **आईकेएस** का संस्थानीकरण किया जा रहा है, जिसमें **आईआईटी मंडी के निदेशक लक्ष्मीधर बेहरा**

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की भूमिका भी शामिल है, वह **"पुराणिक विज्ञान"**, मिथकों को इतिहास के रूप में प्रस्तुत करने, अनुष्ठानों को प्रौद्योगिकी के रूप में स्थापित करने तथा **सत्यापनयोग्यता** के प्रति खुले उपेक्षाभाव से संबंधित है।

- The more aggressive avatar of **IKS** was formalised by the **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**.
  आईकेएस के अधिक आक्रामक स्वरूप को **राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति, 2020** के माध्यम से औपचारिक रूप दिया गया।
- It began by documenting breakthroughs in **metallurgy** and **ancient mathematics** before increasingly blurring the lines between historical scholarship and theological revivalism.
  इसकी शुरुआत **धातुकर्म** और **प्राचीन गणित** की उपलब्धियों के दस्तावेजीकरण से हुई, लेकिन बाद में इसने ऐतिहासिक शोध और धार्मिक पुनरुत्थानवाद के बीच की सीमाओं को धुंधला करना शुरू कर दिया।
- The **Bengal Renaissance** of the **19th century**, including figures such as **Jagadish Chandra Bose** and **Prafulla Chandra Ray**, synthesised Indian identity with rigorous scientific study and proved that decolonisation does not have to open the door to pseudoscience.
  उन्नीसवीं शताब्दी के बंगाल पुनर्जागरण में **जगदीश चन्द्र बोस** और **प्रफुल्ल चन्द्र राय** जैसे व्यक्तित्वों ने भारतीय पहचान को कठोर वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन के साथ जोड़ा तथा यह सिद्ध किया कि औपनिवेशिक प्रभाव से मुक्ति का अर्थ छद्मविज्ञान को बढ़ावा देना नहीं है।
- The **IKS centres** intend to embed myth-based inquiries in the framework of the **IITs**, leveraging the institutes' prestige to acquire for their politico-religious dogma a veneer of scientific legitimacy.
  आईकेएस केंद्र मिथकों पर आधारित अवधारणाओं को **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों** की संस्थागत संरचना में समाहित करना चाहते हैं और इन प्रतिष्ठित संस्थानों की साख का उपयोग अपने राजनीतिक-धार्मिक मतों को वैज्ञानिक वैधता का आवरण प्रदान करने के लिए करना चाहते हैं।
- Recently, **IIT-Mandi** and **IIT-Kanpur** hosted a **"special session"** dedicated to the **"science" of reincarnation**.
  हाल ही में **आईआईटी मंडी** और **आईआईटी कानपुर** ने **पुनर्जन्म के "विज्ञान"** पर केंद्रित एक **"विशेष सत्र"** आयोजित किया।
- The programme proposed using **EEG data** and **astrological birth charts** to track **"past life memories"** in children.
  इस कार्यक्रम में बच्चों की **"पूर्व जन्म की स्मृतियों"** का अध्ययन करने के लिए **मस्तिष्कीय विद्युत संकेतों से प्राप्त आँकड़ों** तथा **ज्योतिषीय जन्म कुंडलियों** के उपयोग का प्रस्ताव रखा गया।
- The **'researchers'** proposed to show the child their **"past-life-related stimuli"**, such as photos of a spouse from a **'previous life'**, and record the brain's reaction.
  'शोधकर्ताओं' ने प्रस्ताव रखा कि बच्चे को **"पूर्व जन्म से संबंधित उद्दीपक"** दिखाए जाएँ, जैसे किसी **'पिछले जन्म'** के जीवनसाथी के चित्र, और उसके मस्तिष्क की प्रतिक्रिया दर्ज की जाए।
- The **University Grants Commission's 2023 guidelines** require all students of higher education to take **IKS courses** for credit.
  विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग के 2023 के दिशा-निर्देशों के अनुसार उच्च शिक्षा के सभी विद्यार्थियों के लिए **आईकेएस पाठ्यक्रमों** का अध्ययन क्रेडिट अर्जित करने हेतु आवश्यक है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Explained: Reliance Communications and Telegram's 'global' blocking

What is Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)? How did it lead to an accidental blocking of Telegram in other countries? Why did this not happen everywhere?; How did Reliance Communications handle and fix the problem? What was the impact of this issue on the social media platform/users?

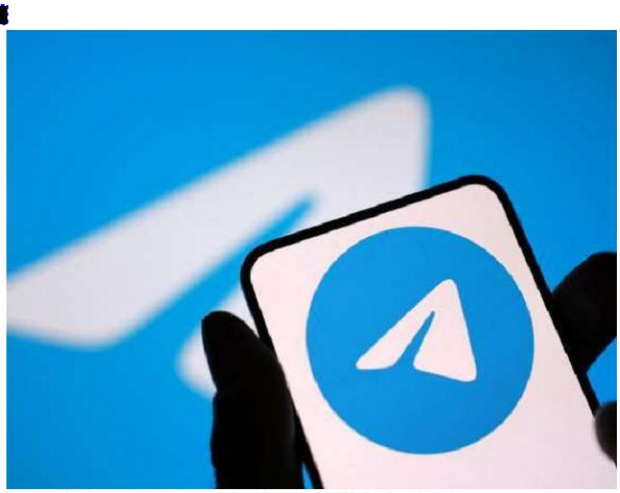
GS III: S&T

NEWS ANALYSIS

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Late June 16, Telegram CEO Pavel Durov alleged on X, formerly Twitter, that "Indian telecom Reliance is sabotaging access to Telegram for millions of users OUTSIDE India (including the UAE) via a rogue method called BGP hijacking," and that this "sabotage seems intentional, as Reliance has ignored multiple reports".

What had happened was in fact a result of an accidental misconfiguration by Reliance Communications, the once-large telecom operator under the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group. That misconfiguration briefly caused Telegram outages in different countries, following an India-only ban ordered by the government to stop the spread of exam-related misinformation. While Telegram had challenged the ban in the Delhi High Court, the court upheld the Centre's ban as legal.



Centre of controversy: Telegram app logo is seen in this illustration. REUTERS

BGP mishap

Reliance Communications largely does not exist anymore, and is under an insolvency process, as a part of which some of its assets were acquired by Reliance Jio. However, it continues to hold on to a few assets, including datacentres in Mumbai, and some Internet traffic routes. As such, it is required to continue to comply with blocking orders for websites, so that networks that rely on its bandwidth are in turn compliant.

Jio categorically denied being involved with this incident; Mr. Durov appeared to mistakenly refer to the Reliance Industries subsidiary in his post. "Recent posts on X have led to speculation regarding Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (AS55836) and a BGP route misconfiguration," Jio said, using the acronym for autonomous systems, a networking term that distinguishes large networks by assigning a number to them. "We categorically clarify that Jio has not been involved in any such incident. Jio continues to operate its network in accordance with global Internet routing best practices and the highest standards of reliability, security, and transparency."

> Jio categorically denied being involved with this incident; Telegram CEO Durov appeared to mistakenly refer to the Reliance Industries subsidiary in his post

But instead of applying this blocking order locally, Reliance Communications "hijacked" Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routes globally that corresponded with Telegram. BGP is a protocol used by networks to map out efficient routes to other networks, and propagating incorrect information through BGP to external networks can disrupt access to services whose routing information is contained within such information.

Flag, a subsea cable network that was once owned by Reliance Communications and was later spun out as a separate company, likely maintains "open filters," with the latter, Anurag Bhatia, an Internet networking expert said. "It's common for networks to open filters completely for large customers with the hope and assumption that those customers will not hijack random prefixes," Mr. Bhatia said. "There is technology available for filtering, but it's not widely deployed."

BGP prefixes are, roughly speaking, IP address blocks that assist in routing. Essentially, Reliance Communications' announcement was trusted by the next network in line, and led to a situation where any network that trusted Reliance Communications' BGP announcements carried by Flag would lead people trying to reach Telegram's servers into Reliance Communication servers, where the connection would end with no result.

Impact, mitigation

The event was resolved in the early hours of June 17, as Reliance Communications appeared to have fixed its configuration. However, by then, Mr. Durov complained that Du, a telecom operator in the United Arab Emirates, where Telegram is headquartered, had ingested the incorrect BGP information, and led to disruptions to the service.

Doug Madory, director of Internet analysis at Kentik, a network intelligence firm, said on X that a similar incident took place when an Iraqi international Internet gateway similarly hijacked Telegram routes.

The workaround to that incident, Mr. Madory said, also prevented even wider damage to Telegram access in other countries this time around. Resource Public Key Infrastructure Route Origin Validation (RPKI ROV), a technology used by large networks to ensure that BGP announcements they receive are legitimate, was able to prevent Reliance's misconfiguration in time. That is the technology Mr. Bhatia was referring to.

Mr. Madory said that further IP addresses announced by Telegram were also hijacked throughout the night, worsening the issue. Overall, Mr. Madory said, "Only a small share of traffic to Telegram was misdirected but it came from all over the world."

BGP hijacks have been seen occasionally before. In 2008, Pakistan's state-owned telecom operator, PTCL, hijacked routes belonging to YouTube, leading to worldwide disruptions, due to this announcement being carried to an international transit provider based in Hong Kong.

23J6. Explained: Reliance Communications and Telegram's 'global' blocking
व्याख्या: रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस और टेलीग्राम की 'वैश्विक' ब्लॉकिंग

- What is the **Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)**?
  बॉर्डर गेटवे प्रोटोकॉल (BGP) क्या है?
- How did it lead to an accidental blocking of **Telegram** in other countries?
  इसने अन्य देशों में **टेलीग्राम** के आकस्मिक अवरोधन का कारण कैसे बनाया?
- Late June 16, **Telegram CEO Pavel Durov** alleged on X, formerly Twitter, that "Indian telecom Reliance is sabotaging access to Telegram for millions of users OUTSIDE India (including the **UAE**) via a rogue method called **BGP hijacking**," and that this "sabotage seems intentional, as Reliance has ignored multiple reports".
  16 जून की देर रात, **टेलीग्राम के CEO पावेल दुरोव** ने X (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर आरोप लगाया कि "भारतीय टेलीकॉम रिलायंस **BGP हाइजैकिंग** नामक एक गलत तरीके से भारत के बाहर (जिसमें **UAE** भी शामिल है) लाखों उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए टेलीग्राम की पहुँच को बाधित कर रहा है," और यह "जानबूझकर किया गया प्रतीत होता है क्योंकि रिलायंस ने कई रिपोर्टों को अनदेखा किया है।"

BGP mishap
BGP की गड़बड़ी

- **Reliance Communications** largely does not exist anymore, and is under an **insolvency process**, as a part of which some of its assets were acquired by **Reliance Jio**.
  रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस अब लगभग अस्तित्व में नहीं है और **दिवालियापन प्रक्रिया** के अधीन है, जिसके तहत उसकी कुछ परिसंपत्तियाँ **रिलायंस जियो** ने अधिग्रहित की हैं।
- **BGP** is a protocol used by networks to map out efficient routes to other networks, and propagating incorrect information through BGP to external networks can disrupt access to services whose routing information is contained within such information.
  BGP एक ऐसा प्रोटोकॉल है जिसका उपयोग नेटवर्क अन्य नेटवर्कों तक पहुँचने के लिए कुशल मार्ग निर्धारित करने हेतु करते हैं, और इसके माध्यम से गलत जानकारी प्रसारित होने पर संबंधित सेवाओं की पहुँच बाधित हो सकती है।
- **Flag**, a subsea cable network that was once owned by Reliance Communications and was later spun out as a separate company, likely maintains "**open filters**," with the latter, **Anurag Bhatia**, an Internet networking expert said.
  Flag, जो एक समय रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस के स्वामित्व वाला समुद्री केबल नेटवर्क था और बाद में अलग कंपनी बन गया, संभवतः "**ओपन फ़िल्टर**" बनाए रखता है, ऐसा इंटरनेट नेटवर्किंग विशेषज्ञ **अनुराग भाटिया** ने कहा।
- "It's common for networks to open filters completely for large customers with the hope and assumption that those customers will not hijack random prefixes," Mr. Bhatia said.
  श्री भाटिया ने कहा, "बड़े ग्राहकों के लिए फ़िल्टर पूरी तरह खोल देना सामान्य बात है, इस उम्मीद में कि वे मनमाने प्रीफिक्स को हाइजैक नहीं करेंगे।"
- **BGP prefixes** are, roughly speaking, **IP address blocks** that assist in routing.
  BGP प्रीफिक्स मोटे तौर पर **IP एड्रेस ब्लॉक** होते हैं जो रूटिंग में सहायता करते हैं।
- Essentially, Reliance Communications' announcement was trusted by the next network in line, and led to a situation where any network that trusted Reliance Communications' BGP announcements carried by Flag would lead people trying to reach Telegram's servers into Reliance Communication servers, where the connection would end with no result.
  मूल रूप से, रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस की घोषणा पर अगले नेटवर्क ने भरोसा कर लिया, जिससे ऐसी स्थिति बनी कि जो भी नेटवर्क फ्लैग द्वारा प्रसारित BGP घोषणाओं पर विश्वास करता था, वह टेलीग्राम सर्वर तक पहुँचने वाले उपयोगकर्ताओं को रिलायंस कम्युनिकेशंस के सर्वरों की ओर भेज देता था, जहाँ कनेक्शन बिना किसी परिणाम के समाप्त हो जाता था।

Impact, mitigation
प्रभाव और समाधान

- However, by then, Mr. Durov complained that **Du**, a telecom operator in the **United Arab Emirates**, where Telegram is headquartered, had ingested the incorrect BGP information, and led to disruptions to the service.
  हालाँकि तब तक श्री दुरोव ने शिकायत की कि **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात** की टेलीकॉम कंपनी **Du**, जहाँ टेलीग्राम का मुख्यालय है, ने गलत BGP जानकारी स्वीकार कर ली थी, जिससे सेवा बाधित हुई।
- **Resource Public Key Infrastructure Route Origin Validation (RPKI ROV)**, a technology used by large networks to ensure that BGP announcements they receive are legitimate, was able to prevent Reliance's misconfiguration in time.
  Resource Public Key Infrastructure Route Origin Validation (RPKI ROV), जिसका उपयोग बड़े नेटवर्क BGP घोषणाओं की वैधता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए करते हैं, समय रहते रिलायंस की गलत कॉन्फ़िगरेशन को रोकने में सक्षम रहा।

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- Mr. Madory said that further **IP addresses** announced by Telegram were also hijacked throughout the night, worsening the issue.
  श्री मैडोरी ने कहा कि रात भर टेलीग्राम द्वारा घोषित अतिरिक्त **IP एड्रेस** भी हाइजैक किए गए, जिससे समस्या और बढ़ गई।

GS Paper III: Environment	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	Citizens interests and conservation नागरिकों के हित और संरक्षण

Citizens interests and conservation

Efforts to preserve the Pallikaranai wetland should not overlook legal landowners

GS III: Environment

STATE OF PLAY

Kalaiselvan Periyasamy

Environmental protection has rightly become a major public policy priority. The Pallikaranai Marshland in Chennai, one of south India's last surviving natural wetlands and a designated Ramsar Site, deserves protection for its role in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity conservation. However, restrictions associated with the marshland and its proposed 'Influence Zone' have raised concerns among thousands of lawful landowners, creating a broader public policy challenge involving environmental governance, property rights, and public confidence in regulatory institutions.

The proceedings before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the restrictions of the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) on the new one-kilometre 'Influence Zone' of the marshland raise important concerns. For instance, approximately 85% to 90% of the 8,537-acre 'Influence Zone' had already been designated as a "development area" under CMDA's Second Master Plan (2008) for the promotion of residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial activities. Multiple government agencies informed the NGT that key aspects of the wetland boundary, 'Influence Zone', and long-term regulatory framework remained under study.

The consequences of these restrictions are already visible. Across Pallikaranai, Perumbakkam, Sholinganallur, Karapakkam, Perungudi, Semmancheri, and adjoining neighbourhoods, thousands

of families have invested their life savings in residential plots and housing projects. Many are salaried employees, retirees, first-generation homeowners, small entrepreneurs, and middle-class families who purchased property legally after years of financial sacrifice. For such families, land is more than a financial asset, and uncertainty affects not only financial planning but also their emotional well-being.

Consider the case of a citizen who purchased a modest residential plot 20 years ago after complying with every legal requirement. Registration charges were paid, property taxes were regularly remitted, and bank loans were serviced diligently. Today, that individual is unsure whether future development permissions will be available because his land falls within a yet-to-be-understood "Influence Zone" whose regulatory contours are still being formulated.

The need for balance

Though real and significant, social costs associated with deferred home ownership seldom enter technical reports or planning documents. Delayed housing decisions affect retirement planning, educational investments, family security, and long-term financial stability. Moreover, regulatory uncertainty erodes confidence across the business chain. The resulting disruption can have ripple effects that may take a toll on construction, engineering, architecture, transportation, material supply, and numerous small business sectors that depend on housing and infrastructure development.

The OMR Information Technology (IT) Corridor, stretching from Kottivakkam to Semmenchery, covers approximately 4,800 acres. As per preliminary estimates, about 60% (2,850 acres) of this overlaps with the 'Influence Zone'. Thanks to the present restrictions, a substantial portion of one of Chennai's most important and employment-generating corridors now faces uncertainty in obtaining new development approvals. Yet another dimension of the Pallikaranai debate remains largely unexplored. There are claims of lawfully acquired private lands existing within the Ramsar Site boundary delineated by the CMDA. If verified, such claims could raise questions about historical land administration, registrations, and approvals. The answers may reveal a governance challenge far more complex than the current debate on the buffer zone.

Environmental protection should not become an exclusionary or punitive process. The protection of the Pallikaranai Marsh is unquestionably important. Equally important are the legitimate expectations of citizens who acquired property lawfully. A mature democracy must be capable of protecting both. As the Integrated Management Plan for the Pallikaranai wetland moves toward completion, regulations, public consultation, and fair transitional measures can help balance conservation with citizen welfare.

The writer is an environmental and social expert.

23J6. Citizens interests and conservation
नागरिकों के हित और संरक्षण

- The **Pallikaranai Marshland** in Chennai, one of south India's last surviving natural wetlands and a designated **Ramsar Site**, deserves protection for its role in flood mitigation, groundwater recharge, and biodiversity conservation.

चेन्नई स्थित **पल्लीकरणई दलदली क्षेत्र**, जो दक्षिण भारत के अंतिम शेष प्राकृतिक आर्द्रभूमि क्षेत्रों में से एक है तथा एक अधिसूचित **रामसर स्थल** है, बाढ़ नियंत्रण, भूजल पुनर्भरण और जैव विविधता संरक्षण में अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका के के कारण संरक्षण का पात्र है।

- Environmental protection should not become an exclusionary or punitive process.

पर्यावरण संरक्षण को बहिष्करणकारी अथवा दंडात्मक प्रक्रिया का रूप नहीं लेना चाहिए।

- The protection of the **Pallikaranai Marsh** is unquestionably important.

पल्लीकरणई आर्द्रभूमि का संरक्षण निस्संदेह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।

- Equally important are the legitimate expectations of citizens who acquired property lawfully.

उतने ही महत्वपूर्ण उन नागरिकों की वैध अपेक्षाएँ भी हैं जिन्होंने विधिसम्मत रूप से संपत्ति अर्जित की है।

- A mature democracy must be capable of protecting both.

एक परिपक्व लोकतंत्र को इन दोनों हितों की रक्षा करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए।

- As the **Integrated Management Plan** for the **Pallikaranai Wetland** moves toward completion, regulations, public consultation, and fair transitional measures can help balance conservation with citizen welfare.
जैसे-जैसे **पल्लीकरणई आर्द्रभूमि** के लिए **एकीकृत प्रबंधन योजना** पूर्णता की ओर बढ़ रही है, वैसे-वैसे उपयुक्त विनियम, जनपरामर्श और न्यायसंगत संक्रमणकालीन उपाय संरक्षण तथा नागरिक कल्याण के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करने में सहायक हो सकते हैं।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management		01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
23J6	Deadly fumes घातक धुएँ	

GS III: Disaster Management

Deadly fumes

Strict enforcement of safety norms is absent in many industrial units

Tamil Nadu has witnessed its deadliest industrial ammonia gas leak tragedy, which has so far claimed the lives of eight migrant women workers at a private seafood processing unit in Tiruvallur district. Some of the 68 hospitalised workers are in intensive care on oxygen support. Since the 1980s, the State has battled ammonia leaks in factories every few years, mostly in and around Chennai. Other than in Thoothukudi in 2024, where one worker died, such accidents have at worst led to the hospitalisation of large numbers of people with eye irritation and breathing difficulties. There were no casualties even when an estimated 67.638 tonnes of ammonia leaked from the undersea pipeline of a private company in Ennore during Cyclone Michaung in 2023. The scale of the tragedy at St. Peter & Paul Seafood Exports Pvt. Ltd., Tiruvallur, indicates that the colourless pungent gas may have accumulated in the atmosphere at fatal concentrations. The leak occurred when workers were resting in factory accommodation, on Sunday. Had the incident occurred on a working day, the number of people exposed to the leak from the ammonia pipeline to the ice-flake machinery could have been significantly higher.

While a committee comprising the Director of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH), the Member Secretary of the TN Pollution Control Board, and the Additional Director of Public Health is conducting an inquiry, disturbing facts have emerged. The factory reportedly failed to rectify serious deficiencies, pointed out during an earlier DISH inspection, including the absence of a suitable alarm system and fire hydrant. It had also not obtained a revised plan approval for installing an ice-flaking machine. That matter is sub judice. Investigations will reveal whether these shortcomings had any bearing in this tragedy. What is clear, however, is that had the recommendations made by DISH in the Ennore case been universally enforced in factories using ammonia, the scale of the current tragedy could have been contained. DISH had recommended the provision of adequate ammonia sensors in the plant and surrounding areas for early warning, along with water-curtain systems linked to ammonia alarms and fire-water nozzles for ammonia feed pumps to reduce the impact of leaks. The government has now decided to form a committee to inspect all 6,669 hazardous industries. However, numerous checks and balances exist under the Tamil Nadu Control of Industrial Major Accident Hazards Rules, 1994. What is required is strict enforcement through a coordinated approach, stronger penalties for violators, and the political will to act decisively against them.

23J6. Deadly fumes
घातक धुएँ

- **Tamil Nadu** has witnessed its deadliest industrial **ammonia gas leak** tragedy, which has so far claimed the lives of **eight migrant women workers** at a private seafood processing unit in **Tiruvallur district**.

तमिलनाडु ने अपने इतिहास की सबसे घातक औद्योगिक **अमोनिया गैस रिसाव** त्रासदी देखी है, जिसमें अब तक **आठ प्रवासी महिला श्रमिकों** की मृत्यु **तिरुवल्लुर जिले** स्थित एक निजी समुद्री खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाई में हो चुकी है।

- Had the incident occurred on a working day, the number of people exposed to the leak from the ammonia pipeline to the **ice-flake machinery** could have been significantly higher.

यदि यह घटना कार्य दिवस पर हुई होती, तो अमोनिया पाइपलाइन से **आइस-फ्लेक मशीनरी** तक के रिसाव से प्रभावित लोगों की संख्या कहीं अधिक हो सकती थी।

- While a committee comprising the **Director of Industrial Safety and Health (DISH)**, the **Member Secretary of the TN Pollution Control Board**, and the **Additional Director of Public Health** is conducting an inquiry, disturbing facts have emerged.

यद्यपि **औद्योगिक सुरक्षा एवं स्वास्थ्य निदेशक (DISH)**, **तमिलनाडु प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के सदस्य सचिव**, तथा **लोक स्वास्थ्य के अतिरिक्त निदेशक** की समिति जांच कर रही है, फिर भी कुछ चिंताजनक तथ्य सामने आए हैं।

- The factory reportedly failed to rectify serious deficiencies, pointed out during an earlier **DISH inspection**, including the absence of a suitable **alarm system** and **fire hydrant**.

रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, कारखाना पूर्व **DISH निरीक्षण** के दौरान इंगित की गई गंभीर कमियों को दूर करने में विफल रहा, जिनमें उपयुक्त **अलार्म प्रणाली** और **फायर हाइड्रेंट** का अभाव शामिल था।

- **DISH** had recommended the provision of adequate **ammonia sensors** in the plant and surrounding areas for early warning, along with **water-curtain systems** linked to ammonia alarms and **fire-water nozzles** for ammonia feed pumps to reduce the impact of leaks.

DISH ने शीघ्र चेतावनी के लिए संयंत्र एवं उसके आसपास पर्याप्त **अमोनिया सेंसर** लगाने, अमोनिया अलार्म से जुड़े **जल-पर्दा (Water-Curtain) सिस्टम** स्थापित करने तथा रिसाव के प्रभाव को कम करने हेतु अमोनिया फीड पंपों पर **फायर-वॉटर नोज़ल** लगाने की सिफारिश की थी।

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GS Paper III: Internal Security	23 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
23J6	UAE in talks with India to purchase BrahMos missiles, Akashteer air-defence units यूएई भारत से ब्रह्मोस मिसाइलों और आकाशतीर वायु-रक्षा प्रणालियों की खरीद के लिए वार्ता कर रहा है

UAE in talks with India to purchase BrahMos missiles, Akashteer air-defence units

GS III: Internal Security

Reuters
NEW DELHI

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles. FILE PHOTO

The Indian government is in talks with the United Arab Emirates to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the supersonic cruise missile BrahMos, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in West Asia.

The discussions include the potential sale of India's air defence system Akashteer, sources told *Reuters*. "The UAE has shown interest for a number of our weapon systems, including BrahMos and Akashteer. The talks between India and UAE are at initial stages and are progressing fast," said another source.

BrahMos, jointly developed by India and Russia, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles while Akashteer is a fully automated air-defence system developed by the state-run Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the Indian Army.

The UAE is considering buying defence equipment from India and other sources after the Gulf nation was heavily attacked by Iran during the conflict in West Asia, and as it enhances its ability to respond to emerging threats. It also needs to protect the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial conduit for its energy exports.

"A diversified supplier base gives the UAE more strategic autonomy, and closer ties with India have the added benefit of not antagonising the U.S. as the countries remain allies," said Pearl Pandya, South Asia senior analyst at *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data*, a conflict monitoring group.

Before clinching any BrahMos sale to the UAE, India would require Russia's approval, as the 290-km-range missile is jointly developed. One source said this is unlikely to pose a hurdle given Moscow's close ties with Abu Dhabi.

23J6. UAE in talks with India to purchase BrahMos missiles, Akashteer air-defence units

यूएई भारत से ब्रह्मोस मिसाइलों और आकाशतीर वायु-रक्षा प्रणालियों की खरीद के लिए वार्ता कर रहा है

- The **Indian government** is in talks with the **United Arab Emirates** to sell some of its flagship defence systems, including the **supersonic cruise missile BrahMos**, four Indian sources said, as the Gulf nation steps up arms procurement following the war in **West Asia**.

चार भारतीय सूत्रों के अनुसार, **भारतीय सरकार** अपने प्रमुख रक्षा प्रणालियों, जिनमें **सुपरसोनिक क्रूज़ मिसाइल ब्रह्मोस** भी शामिल है, की बिक्री के लिए **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात** के साथ वार्ता कर रही है, क्योंकि **पश्चिम एशिया** में युद्ध के बाद खाड़ी देश ने हथियारों की खरीद बढ़ा दी है।

- The discussions include the potential sale of India's **air defence system Akashteer**, sources told Reuters.

सूत्रों ने बताया कि इन चर्चाओं में भारत की **वायु रक्षा प्रणाली आकाशतीर** की संभावित बिक्री भी शामिल है।

- **BrahMos**, jointly developed by **India** and **Russia**, is among the world's fastest cruise missiles while **Akashteer** is a fully automated air-defence system developed by the state-run **Bharat Electronics Limited** and the **Indian Army**.

ब्रह्मोस, जिसे **भारत** और **रूस** ने संयुक्त रूप से विकसित किया है, विश्व की सबसे तेज़ क्रूज़ मिसाइलों में से एक है, जबकि **आकाशतीर** एक पूर्णतः स्वचालित वायु रक्षा प्रणाली है जिसे सरकारी उपक्रम **भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड** और **भारतीय सेना** ने विकसित किया है।

- Before clinching any **BrahMos** sale to the **UAE**, **India** would require **Russia's approval**, as the **290-km-range missile** is jointly developed.

संयुक्त अरब अमीरात को किसी भी **ब्रह्मोस** बिक्री को अंतिम रूप देने से पहले **भारत** को **रूस की स्वीकृति** प्राप्त करनी होगी, क्योंकि यह **290 किलोमीटर मारक क्षमता वाली मिसाइल** संयुक्त रूप से विकसित की गई है।

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- One source said this is unlikely to pose a hurdle given **Moscow's** close ties with **Abu Dhabi**.
  एक सूत्र ने कहा कि **मॉस्को** और **अबू धाबी** के घनिष्ठ संबंधों को देखते हुए यह कोई बड़ी बाधा बनने की संभावना नहीं है।

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PCS Special:	22 June 2026
22J6	All eyes on Messi and Argentina सभी की निगाहें मेसी और अर्जेंटीना पर
22J6	India regains Nations Cup, back in women's Pro League भारत ने नेशंस कप फिर जीता, महिला प्रो लीग में की वापसी

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All eyes on Messi and Argentina

PCS

Ayon Sengupta

Milestone beckons: Messi needs just one more goal to become the all-time leading scorer in the World Cup. GETTY IMAGES

Lionel Messi has spent the better part of two decades bending football's sense of time. Records that once looked permanent have become milestones in his journey through the game. Defenders have changed, managers have changed, even the shape of Argentina around him has changed, but the central question has remained stubbornly familiar – how do you stop Messi when a match begins to orbit around him?

Austria will be the next team asked to find an answer to that question.

After scoring the 61st hat-trick of his career, 50 for clubs and 11 for Argentina, in the 3-0 win over Algeria, Messi stands one goal away from moving past Miroslav Klose as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer. If he strikes against Austria, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner will also become only the third player in the tournament history to net in six consecutive World Cup matches.

Just Fontaine did it for France in 1958 and Jairzinho followed for Brazil in 1970, both across single tournaments. Messi's run began with Argentina's win over Australia in the round of 16 during its long-awaited triumph in Qatar four years ago and continues into what is expected to be his final World Cup.

Nearing 39, his influence shows little sign of fading. Against Algeria, he had a direct hand in eight of Argentina's 10 shots, taking six himself while creating two chances. Yet while Messi stole the headlines, Argentina's defensive authority was just as important. Lionel Scaloni's midfield, led by Alexis Mac Allister and Enzo Fernandez, expertly shielded its defence and did not allow Algeria a single shot on target.

Austria arrives in Dallas after a 3-1 win over Jordan and will look to extend its four-game winning run in all competitions.

"We know how good Argentina are," young midfielder Paul Wanner said. "We respect them, but we are confident in our strengths. If we bring our qualities to the pitch, we will pose problems for any team."

Austria's pressing game will try to disrupt Argentina's rhythm, but coach Ralf Rangnick has injury concerns. Captain David Alaba, Stefan Posch, who wore a specially designed protective mask after breaking his jaw against Jordan, and Alessandro Schopf have all trained separately and are racing against time to be fit for the all-important game. Argentina, too, is worried about the fitness of defender Gonzalo Montiel, who is still recovering from a hamstring injury.

If the South Americans beat Austria and Jordan fails to defeat Algeria, Scaloni's side will be guaranteed a place in the knockout rounds as the winner of Group J.

For Argentina, this is another step towards the ultimate goal of another World title. For Messi, it is another opportunity to claim yet another record that once seemed untouchable.

22J6. All eyes on Messi and Argentina
सभी की निगाहें मेसी और अर्जेंटीना पर

- After scoring the **61st hat-trick** of his career, 50 for clubs and 11 for **Argentina**, in the 3-0 win over **Algeria**, Messi stands one goal away from moving past **Miroslav Klose** as the **World Cup's all-time leading scorer**.

  अल्जीरिया पर 3-0 की जीत में अपने करियर की **61वीं हैट्रिक** लगाने के बाद, जिसमें क्लबों के लिए 50 और **अर्जेंटीना** के लिए 11 हैट्रिक शामिल हैं, मेसी **विश्व कप इतिहास के सर्वाधिक गोल करने वाले खिलाड़ी** के रूप में **मिरोस्लाव क्लोज़े** को पीछे छोड़ने से केवल एक गोल दूर हैं।

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India regains Nations Cup, back in women's Pro League

PCS

Press Trust of India
AUCKLAND

Cock-a-hoop: An ecstatic Salima celebrates the triumph with her teammates. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India defeated host New Zealand 2-0 in the final to win its second FIH Women's Nations Cup title and secure a promotion to the FIH Women's Pro League here on Sunday.

Navneet Kaur gave India an early lead in the fourth minute before Sunelita Toppo doubled the advantage in the 15th.

The team then produced a stellar defensive display to protect the lead and emerge triumphant. India had won the inaugural edition in 2022.

Lalremsiami won the Player-of-the-Match award, while Deepika with six goals finished as the joint-top scorer in the tournament along with USA's Ashley Sessa.

India remained unbeaten throughout the campaign, defeating USA 3-2, Japan 2-1, and Uruguay 3-2 in pool matches before routing Chile 6-0 in the semifinal.

To recognise the team's achievements, Hockey India has announced a cash award of ₹ three lakh for each player and ₹1.5 lakh for each member of the support staff.

The result (final): India 2 (Navneet 4, Sunelita 15) bt New Zealand 0.

22J6. India regains Nations Cup, back in women's Pro League
भारत ने नेशंस कप फिर जीता, महिला प्रो लीग में की वापसी

- **India** defeated host **New Zealand** 2-0 in the **final** to win its second **FIH Women's Nations Cup** title and secure a promotion to the **FIH Women's Pro League** here on Sunday.
  भारत ने रविवार को मेज़बान **न्यूज़ीलैंड** को **फाइनल** में 2-0 से हराकर अपना दूसरा **एफआईएच महिला नेशंस कप** खिताब जीता और **एफआईएच महिला प्रो लीग** में पदोन्नति सुनिश्चित की।
- **Lalremsiami** won the **Player-of-the-Match** award, while **Deepika** with six goals finished as the **joint-top scorer** in the tournament along with USA's **Ashley Sessa**.
  लालरेमसियामी को **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** पुरस्कार मिला, जबकि **दीपिका** छह गोल के साथ अमेरिका की **एशले सेसा** के साथ टूर्नामेंट की **संयुक्त शीर्ष गोल स्कोरर** रहीं।
- India remained **unbeaten** throughout the campaign, defeating **USA** 3-2, **Japan** 2-1, and **Uruguay** 3-2 in pool matches before routing **Chile** 6-0 in the **semifinal**.
  भारत पूरे अभियान में **अपराजित** रहा, उसने पूल मैचों में **अमेरिका** को 3-2, **जापान** को 2-1 और **उरुग्वे** को 3-2 से हराया, जबकि **सेमीफाइनल** में **चिली** को 6-0 से पराजित किया।

- To recognise the team's achievements, **Hockey India** has announced a **cash award** of **₹ three lakh** for each player and **₹1.5 lakh** for each member of the **support staff**.
  टीम की उपलब्धियों को सम्मानित करने के लिए **हॉकी इंडिया** ने प्रत्येक खिलाड़ी के लिए **₹3 लाख** और **सहायक स्टाफ** के प्रत्येक सदस्य के लिए **₹1.5 लाख** के **नकद पुरस्कार** की घोषणा की है।

GS Paper 1: History	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	U.P. govt. must avoid targeting heritage structures, say MPs सांसदों ने कहा, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को विरासत संरचनाओं को निशाना बनाने से बचना चाहिए
22J6	All convey the same truth सभी एक ही सत्य को अभिव्यक्त करते हैं

U.P. govt. must avoid targeting heritage structures, say MPs

GS I: History

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Muslim MPs from Uttar Pradesh on Sunday said State authorities should refrain from discriminatory demolitions of historical and heritage structures as they not only violate religious and cultural rights, but also give external adversaries opportunities to speak about India's internal matters.

The MPs were questioning Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari's comments on the alleged threat to the 1,000-year-old Masjid Ganj Shaheeda in Varanasi. They said that the Muslim community in Uttar Pradesh need not take lessons from the leader of Pakistan.

Statement condemned

Ghazipur MP Afzal Ansari said that in Uttar Pradesh, the government at times took one-sided action on heritage structures related to Muslims over encroachment claims. It was an attempt to infringe on religious and cultural rights and gave opportunities to external enemies to give lectures on minority rights to India and raise issues internationally, he said.

"I, in strongest words, condemn the statement of Pakistan's President. Muslims of India need no lessons from the Pakistan President. We are living peacefully, enjoying constitutional rights in our homeland India. The Muslim community in the State of Uttar Pradesh is capable enough to raise its concern over protection of historic sites within the robust democratic framework of India through an independent judiciary and system of governance," he said. Muslims in India were living in a far better condition than people of Pakistan, Mr. Ansari added.

Zardari's comments

On Saturday, a post on X by the official account of the President of Pakistan read: "President Asif Ali Zardari expressed deep concern over the demolitions and threats to historic Muslim religious sites in India, including the 1,000-year-old Masjid Ganj Shaheeda in Varanasi. He asked India to immediately stop such actions, warning that they risk leading to the disintegration and perennial chaos of India. He called for an immediate halt to such actions and urged the protection of minority rights and shared cultural heritage."

Javed Ali Khan, Rajya Sabha member from the Samajwadi Party, and Congress leader Shahnawaz Alam also condemned the comments by the Pakistan leader. "Foreign countries or heads of state have no rights to comment on internal affairs of India," Mr. Khan said.

22J6. U.P. govt. must avoid targeting heritage structures, say MPs

सांसदों ने कहा, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को विरासत संरचनाओं को निशाना बनाने से बचना चाहिए

- The MPs were questioning **Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari's** comments on the alleged threat to the **1,000-year-old Masjid Ganj Shaheeda** in Varanasi.

सांसद **पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्रपति आसिफ अली जरदारी** द्वारा वाराणसी स्थित कथित रूप से खतरे में पड़ी **1,000 वर्ष पुरानी मस्जिद गंज शहीदा** के संबंध में की गई टिप्पणी पर सवाल उठा रहे थे।

Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud (Ghazi Miyan)

Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud (also known as **Ghazi Miyan**) is a medieval figure who occupies a unique place in the history and folklore of North India. He is revered by many devotees as a warrior-saint, while historians generally view him in the context of the early Turkic military expeditions into northern India.

Historical Background

• He is believed to have lived during the early **11th century CE**.

• According to traditional accounts, he was the son of **Salar Sahu** and a relative (often described as a nephew) of Mahmud of Ghazni.

• Medieval Persian texts, particularly the **Mirat-i-Masudi** written in the **17th century** by Abdur Rahman Chishti, describe his military campaigns in northern India.

• Tradition states that he entered northern India with forces associated with the Ghaznavids and was killed in a battle near Bahraich around **1034 CE**.

Shrine at Bahraich

• His most famous shrine is the Dargah of Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud.

• The shrine attracts devotees from different communities, including both Muslims and Hindus.

• An annual fair known as the **Jeth Mela** is organized there and has historically been one of the major religious gatherings of eastern Uttar

Pradesh.

Historical Debate

- Historians debate the extent to which the traditional narratives are historically accurate.
- Contemporary evidence from the **11th century** regarding Salar Masud is limited.
- Much of the popular narrative comes from later literary and devotional traditions, especially the **Mirat-i-Masudi**, written several centuries after his death.
- As a result, historians distinguish between:
- **The historical figure**, about whom limited evidence exists.
- **The legendary Ghazi Miyan**, whose life story became enriched through folklore and popular religious traditions.

FAITH

GS I: History: A&C

All convey the same truth

Sri Kesava Vajapeya Swamy said in a discourse that the Vedas contain the *Karma Kanda* (rituals and duties) and the *Jnana Kanda* (spiritual knowledge). However, Bhakti (devotion) is hidden within them. Just as the river Sarasvathī flows invisibly beneath the confluence at Prayag, devotion remains concealed within the Vedas. Karma and knowledge without devotion are incomplete and do not yield their highest benefit.

The Bhagavad Gita teaches that spiritual knowledge and devotion do not bear fruit unless one engages in righteous action. Following the scriptural duties prescribed by the Vedas removes sins and purifies the individual.

The Vedas describe many *samskaras* (sacraments). Since elaborate Vedic sacrifices are beyond the capability of most people in this yuga, ordinary devotees are encouraged to engage in nama sankirtana – the chanting of the divine names of God. Daily disciplines and rituals help control the senses and keep a person on the righteous path. Such practices contribute not only to personal spiritual growth but also to *loka kshema* – the welfare of the entire world. Ramanuja taught that for ordinary people, simply walking to a temple and worshipping the Lord with devotion is equivalent to performing a yajna. Sage Vyasa taught through the Bhagavata Purana that listening to the glories of the Lord (sravanam) itself is a form of yajna. Andal emphasised devotion through singing the Lord's names and contemplating Him with the mind: "Sing with the mouth and meditate with the mind." The Vedas, the Bhagavad Gita, the Bhagavata Purana, the Ramayana, the Azhwars and the great Acharyas all convey the same truth.

22J6. All convey the same truth
सभी एक ही सत्य को अभिव्यक्त करते हैं

- The Vedas describe many **samskaras (sacraments)**.

वेदों में अनेक **संस्कारों** का वर्णन किया गया है।

- Since elaborate **Vedic sacrifices** are beyond the capability of most people in this yuga, ordinary devotees are encouraged to engage in **nama sankirtana** — the chanting of the divine names of God.

चूँकि इस युग में अधिकांश लोगों के लिए विस्तृत **वैदिक यज्ञों** का संपादन कठिन है, इसलिए सामान्य भक्तों को **नाम-संकीर्तन** अर्थात् भगवान के दिव्य नामों के जप एवं कीर्तन का अभ्यास करने के लिए प्रेरित किया जाता है।

- Such practices contribute not only to personal spiritual growth but also to **loka kshema** — the welfare of the entire world.

ऐसी साधनाएँ न केवल व्यक्तिगत आध्यात्मिक उन्नति में सहायक होती हैं, बल्कि **लोकक्षेम** अर्थात् सम्पूर्ण विश्व के कल्याण में भी योगदान देती हैं।

- **Ramanuja** taught that for ordinary people, simply walking to a temple and worshipping the Lord with devotion is equivalent to performing a **yajna**.

रामानुजाचार्य ने सिखाया कि सामान्य जनों के लिए केवल मंदिर तक जाकर श्रद्धा एवं भक्ति के साथ भगवान की उपासना करना भी एक **यज्ञ** के समान है।

- **Sage Vyasa** taught through the **Bhagavata Purana** that listening to the glories of the Lord (**sravanam**) itself is a form of yajna.

महर्षि व्यास ने **भागवत पुराण** के माध्यम से सिखाया कि भगवान की महिमा का श्रवण (**श्रवणम्**) स्वयं एक प्रकार का यज्ञ है।

- **Andal** emphasised devotion through singing the Lord's names and contemplating Him with the mind.

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आंडाल ने भगवान के नामों का गान करने और मन में उनका चिंतन करने के माध्यम से भक्ति पर विशेष बल दिया।

- "**Sing with the mouth and meditate with the mind**."
  "**मुख से भगवान का नाम गाओ और मन से उनका ध्यान करो।**"
- The **Vedas**, the **Bhagavad Gita**, the **Bhagavata Purana**, the **Ramayana**, the **Azhwars** and the great **Acharyas** all convey the same truth.
  वेद, **भगवद्गीता**, **भागवत पुराण**, **रामायण**, **आळवार संत** तथा महान **आचार्य** सभी एक ही सत्य का प्रतिपादन करते हैं।

Sage Vyasa

• **Sage Vyasa**, also known as **Veda Vyasa** or **Krishna Dvaipayana**, is one of the most revered sages in Indian tradition.
• The word **Vyasa** means **compiler, arranger or divider**, which reflects his traditional role in arranging sacred knowledge.
• He is traditionally credited with compiling or arranging the **Vedas**, composing or arranging the **Mahabharata**, and contributing to the **Puranic tradition**.

Historical and Cultural Significance

• Vyasa is traditionally linked with the division of Vedic knowledge into **Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda**.
• He is also connected with the **Mahabharata**, one of the greatest epics of India.
• The **Bhagavad Gita**, which is part of the Mahabharata, became one of the most influential texts of Indian philosophy.
• Vyasa is also remembered on **Guru Purnima**, which is observed on the full moon day of **Ashadha month**, generally falling in **June or July**.

Andal

• **Andal** was a major woman saint of the Tamil **Vaishnava Bhakti tradition**.
• She is regarded as the only female saint among the **twelve Alvars**, who were early Tamil poet-saints devoted to **Lord Vishnu**.
• Andal is closely associated with **Srivilliputhur** in present-day **Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu**.
• The official Tamil Nadu HRCE page identifies **Srivilliputhur Andal Temple** as one of the **108 Divya Desams** dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Literary Contribution

• Andal is famous for composing **Tiruppavai**, a collection of **30 devotional hymns**.
• She is also associated with **Nachiyar Tirumoli**, another important devotional composition.
• Her poetry expresses intense devotion, surrender and spiritual longing for Lord Vishnu.
• Her compositions are especially important during the Tamil month of **Margazhi**, when **Tiruppavai** is recited widely.

Historical Importance

• Andal gave a powerful voice to **women's participation in Bhakti**.
• Her devotional poetry shows that Bhakti was not limited to Sanskritic learning or elite groups.
• She used **Tamil language**, making devotion more accessible to ordinary people.
• The **Srivilliputhur temple gopuram** is widely recognized as an important symbol of Tamil cultural heritage.

Simple Example

• Andal's Bhakti can be understood as personal and emotional devotion.
• Instead of treating religion only as ritual, Andal expressed devotion as love, surrender and

direct connection with the divine.

Ramanuja

• **Ramanuja**, also known as **Ramanujacharya**, was a major philosopher, theologian and social-religious reformer of South India.
• He was born around **1017 CE** at **Sriperumbudur** and died in **1137 CE** at **Srirangam**.
• He is one of the most important teachers of **Sri Vaishnavism**.
• His philosophy is known as **Vishishtadvaita Vedanta**, meaning **qualified non-dualism**.

Philosophy of Vishishtadvaita

• Ramanuja accepted that **Brahman** is the ultimate reality.
• He identified Brahman with **Vishnu-Narayana**, along with **Lakshmi**.
• Unlike absolute non-dualism, he argued that the soul and the world are real, but they depend on God.
• In simple words, Ramanuja taught that God, soul and world are connected, but not completely identical.

Contribution to Bhakti Movement

• Ramanuja gave a strong philosophical foundation to **devotion or Bhakti**.
• He emphasized **surrender to God**, known as **prapatti**.
• He organized temple worship at **Srirangam** and helped spread Sri Vaishnava teachings.
• He connected Sanskritic Vedanta with the Tamil devotional tradition of the **Alvars**.

Social Significance

• Ramanuja is remembered for promoting the idea of wider access to devotion.
• The **216-feet Statue of Equality** in Hyderabad commemorates his teachings on equality in matters of faith, caste and creed. It was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister on **5 February 2022**.

Simple Example

• If Shankara emphasized the ultimate unity of reality, Ramanuja emphasized a devotional relationship between the soul and God.
• His teaching made philosophy more connected with worship, temple tradition and public devotion.

RIGVEDA (VEDA OF HYMNS)

• The **oldest Veda**, composed around **1500–1200 BCE**.
• Contains **1,028 hymns (Suktas)** dedicated to various deities such as **Agni (Fire)**, **Indra (Rain and War)**, **Varuna**, and **Soma**.
• Provides valuable information about the early Vedic society, religion, economy, and polity.
• Often called the **"Book of Prayers"**.

Yajurveda (Veda of Sacrificial Formulas)

• Contains prayers, chants, and procedures used during **sacrifices (Yajnas)**.
• Acts as a guidebook for priests conducting rituals.
• Divided into:
• **Krishna (Black) Yajurveda**
• **Shukla (White) Yajurveda**
• Focuses more on **rituals and ceremonies** than philosophy.

Samaveda (Veda of Melodies)

• Consists mainly of hymns borrowed from the **Rigveda** but arranged for singing.
• Contains musical notations and chants used during religious ceremonies.
• Considered the **foundation of Indian classical music**.
• Often called the **"Veda of Music."**

Atharvaveda (Veda of Everyday Life)

• Contains hymns, prayers, charms, spells, and incantations.
• Deals with everyday concerns such as health, protection, family welfare, agriculture, and

healing.
• Provides insights into the social life and beliefs of common people.
• Sometimes called the **"Veda of Folk Traditions."**

Quick Comparison Table

Veda	Main Focus	Popular Name
Rigveda	Hymns to gods	Veda of Hymns
Yajurveda	Sacrificial rituals	Veda of Rituals
Samaveda	Musical chants	Veda of Music
Atharvaveda	Daily life, healing, spells	Veda of Everyday Life

Difference Between Advaita and Dvaita (For a Layperson)

The simplest way to understand **Advaita** and **Dvaita** is through the relationship between **God and the individual soul (you and me)**.

Aspect	Advaita Vedanta	Dvaita Vedanta
Meaning	**Non-dualism** (Only One Ultimate Reality)	**Dualism** (God and soul are separate)
Main Philosopher	Adi Shankaracharya	Madhvacharya
Relationship between God and Soul	Soul and God are ultimately the same	Soul and God are eternally different
Nature of the World	The world is temporary and not the ultimate reality	The world is real and created by God
Goal of Life	Realize "I am one with Brahman"	Attain God's grace and remain devoted to Him
Path	Knowledge (Jnana)	Devotion (Bhakti)

Advaita (Adi Shankaracharya)
• The drop of water and the ocean are essentially made of the same substance.
• The drop appears separate, but once it merges into the ocean, it realizes it was never truly different.
• Similarly, your soul (**Atman**) and the ultimate reality (**Brahman**) are actually one.
Formula:
Atman = Brahman

Dvaita (Madhvacharya)
• The drop of water and the ocean are always different.
• The drop can be close to the ocean, depend on it, and love it, but it never becomes the ocean.
• Similarly, the soul can worship God and attain salvation, but it never becomes God.
Formula:
Atman ≠ God

Advaita
Suppose you dream at night.
• In the dream, you see many people, animals, and places.
• When you wake up, you realize everything was created by your own mind.
Advaita says:
Just as the dream ultimately comes from one mind, the entire universe ultimately comes from one reality, Brahman.

Dvaita

Think of a king and his subjects.
• The subjects depend on the king.
• They can love and serve the king.
• But they never become the king.
Dvaita says:
God is the supreme ruler, and souls are His servants forever.

Where Does Ramanuja Fit?
There is also a middle path called **Vishishtadvaita** proposed by Ramanuja.
Ramanuja said:
• The soul is not completely identical to God (unlike Advaita).
• The soul is not completely separate from God (unlike Dvaita).
• Souls and the universe are parts of God's body and depend on Him.
Simple Analogy
• God = Tree
• Souls = Leaves
Leaves are different from the tree, yet they cannot exist independently of it.

GS Paper 1: Geography	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	Over 200 teak trees illegally axed in Chalakudy चालाकुडी में 200 से अधिक सागौन के वृक्षों की अवैध कटाई

BIG SHOT

People gather at the ancient stone circle Stonehenge at sunrise to celebrate the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, near Salisbury, England on Sunday. AP

People gather at the ancient stone circle Stonehenge at sunrise to celebrate the **Summer Solstice**, the longest day of the year, near Salisbury, England on Sunday

A new dawn: Aymara Indigenous people raise their hands to receive the first rays of sunlight during celebrations of the Andean New Year, which marks the Southern Hemisphere's winter solstice, in El Alto, Bolivia, on Sunday. AP

A new dawn: Aymara Indigenous people raise their hands to receive the first rays of sunlight during celebrations of the Andean New Year, which marks the Southern Hemisphere's **winter solstice**, in El Alto, Bolivia, on Sunday.

Over 200 teak trees illegally axed in Chalakudy

GS I: Geography

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Huge teak trees, numbering 273, were illegally sold in the territorial limits of the Chalakudy forest division, according to a preliminary investigation carried out by the Divisional Forest Officer of Flying Squad (Ernakulam). The trees were felled along an 18-km stretch from Vellikulangara junction to Vettilapala bridge. Trees on private holdings and assigned land were felled and sold cheaply, as per the report.

The trees that were felled for reportedly clearing the pathway for the State hill highway were sold to a Thiruvananthapuram-based wood industries firm for ₹8.52 lakh against its assessed value of ₹41.55 lakh, fixed by the Assistant Conservator of Forest (Social Forestry), Thrissur. The land along the road stretch was acquired by the Kerala Road Fund Board for the highway project, according to sources.

Illicit trade: Trees were felled reportedly to clear a path for a State hill highway and then sold to a private firm. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE.

The Forest Range Officer (Pariyaram) also issued a No Objection Certificate for the firm to transport the felled trees under the provisions of the Kerala Promotion of Tree Growth in Non-Forest Areas Act 2005, according to the report. However, the Act specifies that a transport pass shall be issued to transport only those trees which are legally felled by the owner of the holding on which they are located.

The circumstances under which the officials permitted the timber firm that purchased the trees to axe and transport them should be probed, the report suggested.

Lack of documentation

No files on the holdings acquired for the road project – their survey numbers and status – and the details of the trees sold and to be axed were maintained at the Forest range office, Pariyaram, or the Social Forestry, Thrissur Division.

The report also pointed out that the firm, which purchased the trees, has also started cutting trees from the holdings.

No trees located on assigned land shall be illegally cut down, sold and transported, as their ownership is vested with the State government, pointed out another report by the Additional Principal Chief Forest Conservator (Vigilance and Forest Intelligence). In the event of cutting down such trees, they shall be transported to the timber depot of the department and sold outright. The revenue generated from such sales shall be credited to the government, said the report.

The report recommended initiating recovery proceedings for the lost funds and directed authorities to strictly prevent the illegal felling of trees on forest and revenue lands.

22J6. Over 200 teak trees illegally axed in Chalakudy
चालाकुडी में 200 से अधिक सागौन के वृक्षों की अवैध कटाई

Teak Trees (Tectona grandis)
• Teak is a characteristic tree of **Tropical Deciduous Forests (Monsoon Forests)**.
• More specifically, it is commonly found in **Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests**, though it can also occur in some dry deciduous areas.
• These forests shed their leaves during the dry season to conserve water.

Climatic Conditions Required
• Rainfall: **75–200 cm annually**.
• Temperature: **20°C–35°C**.
• Well-drained fertile soils, especially **black cotton soil**, red soils, and alluvial soils.
• Distinct wet and dry seasons.

Distribution in India
Teak is mainly found in:
• **Madhya Pradesh** (largest teak-producing state).
• **Maharashtra**.
• **Chhattisgarh**.
• **Odisha**.
• **Telangana**.
• **Andhra Pradesh**.
• **Karnataka**.
• **Tamil Nadu**.
• **Kerala**.
• Parts of **Gujarat** and **Uttar Pradesh**.

Tree Forest Type

Teak	Tropical Deciduous Forest

Sal Tropical Moist Deciduous Forest

Sundari Mangrove Forest

Deodar Himalayan Coniferous Forest

GS Paper II: Polity	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	Voting should be recognised as a fundamental right, says Ramesh रमेश ने कहा, मतदान को एक मौलिक अधिकार के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए
22J6	Just truths केवल सत्य
22J6	Can police re-open probe without court approval? क्या पुलिस न्यायालय की अनुमति के बिना पुनः जाँच (री-इन्वेस्टिगेशन) शुरू कर सकती है?

Voting should be recognised as a fundamental right, says Ramesh

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The right to vote should be recognised as a fundamental right to ensure the highest level of judicial review and protection, along with safeguards against voter suppression or arbitrary exclusions during exercises such as the special intensive revision (SIR), senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on Sunday.

Mr. Ramesh made the remarks in the context of the recent Supreme Court judgment declaring the right to walk on a footpath a fundamental right. Providing historical context on the evolution of fundamental rights and electoral provisions, he argued that while the top court has already in the past recognised voters' right to know candidates' criminal records, funding sources, and has protected ballot secrecy and enabled NOTA, but voting itself continues to remain a statutory right. "All related rights are fundamental, but not the core right they depend on," he said.

Jairam Ramesh

He said elevating the right to vote has become essential in the present context. "With the blatantly partisan functioning of the Election Commission of India working at the behest of the Prime Minister and the Union Home Minister having been brutally exposed, it is now time to elevate the right to vote as a fundamental right that would offer it the highest level of judicial review and protection," he said.

"It would be a powerful step in putting in place safeguards against voter suppressions or arbitrary disqualifications that have taken place in different states in astronomical numbers under the SIR process. It would also mean greater Supreme Court vigilance over the functioning of the Election Commission," he added.

Referring to the Constituent Assembly debates, Mr. Ramesh said an Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas was set up under Sardar Patel. At its meeting on April 21-22, 1947, there was discussion on making the right to vote a fundamental right. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Babu Jagjivan Ram supported the proposal, he said, while Sardar Patel, C. Rajagopalachari and others opposed it.

"Sardar Patel himself took the position that universal adult franchise was, in itself, an implicit fundamental right. This is the background to Article 326 which provides for elections based on universal adult suffrage," he said.

He also cited Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissenting opinion in the *Anoop Baranwal vs. Union of India* judgment of March 2023, which held that the right to vote is a fundamental right.

22J6. Voting should be recognised as a fundamental right, says Ramesh
रमेश ने कहा, मतदान को एक मौलिक अधिकार के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए

- The right to vote should be recognised as a **Fundamental Right** to ensure the highest level of **judicial review** and protection, along with safeguards against **voter suppression** or arbitrary exclusions during exercises such as the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**, senior

Congress leader **Jairam Ramesh** said on Sunday.
कांग्रेस के वरिष्ठ नेता **जयराम रमेश** ने रविवार को कहा कि मतदान के अधिकार को **मौलिक अधिकार** के रूप में मान्यता दी जानी चाहिए, ताकि उसे सर्वोच्च स्तर की **न्यायिक समीक्षा** और संरक्षण प्राप्त हो सके तथा **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR)** जैसी प्रक्रियाओं के दौरान **मतदाता दमन** अथवा मनमाने बहिष्कार के विरुद्ध सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित की जा सके।

- Mr. Ramesh made the remarks in the context of the recent **Supreme Court judgment** declaring the **right to walk on a footpath** a fundamental right.
श्री रमेश ने यह टिप्पणी हाल ही में आए **उच्चतम न्यायालय के निर्णय** के संदर्भ में की, जिसमें **फुटपाथ पर चलने के अधिकार** को मौलिक अधिकार घोषित किया गया था।
- Providing historical context on the evolution of **Fundamental Rights** and electoral provisions, he argued that while the top court has already recognised voters' **right to know candidates' criminal records**, **funding sources**, protected **ballot secrecy**, and enabled **NOTA**, voting itself continues to remain a **statutory right**.
मौलिक अधिकारों और निर्वाचन संबंधी प्रावधानों के विकास का ऐतिहासिक संदर्भ देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि यद्यपि उच्चतम न्यायालय पहले ही मतदाताओं के **उम्मीदवारों के आपराधिक रिकॉर्ड जानने के अधिकार**, **वित्तपोषण के स्रोतों की जानकारी**, **मतपत्र की गोपनीयता** तथा **NOTA** के अधिकार को मान्यता दे चुका है, फिर भी मतदान स्वयं अब भी एक **वैधानिक अधिकार** बना हुआ है।
- It would also mean greater **Supreme Court vigilance** over the functioning of the **Election Commission**," he added.
इसका अर्थ **निर्वाचन आयोग** के कार्यकलापों पर **उच्चतम न्यायालय की अधिक सतर्क निगरानी** भी होगा।"
- Referring to the **Constituent Assembly debates**, Mr. Ramesh said an **Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas** was set up under **Sardar Patel**.
संविधान सभा की बहसों का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री रमेश ने कहा कि **सरदार पटेल** की अध्यक्षता में **मौलिक अधिकार, अल्पसंख्यक तथा जनजातीय एवं बहिष्कृत क्षेत्रों संबंधी परामर्श समिति** का गठन किया गया था।
- At its meeting on April 21-22, 1947, there was discussion on making the **right to vote** a fundamental right.
21-22 अप्रैल 1947 को हुई समिति की बैठक में **मतदान के अधिकार** को मौलिक अधिकार बनाने पर चर्चा हुई थी।
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** and **Babu Jagjivan Ram** supported the proposal, he said, while **Sardar Patel**, **C. Rajagopalachari** and others opposed it.
उन्होंने कहा कि **डॉ. बी.आर. आंबेडकर** और **बाबू जगजीवन राम** ने इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन किया था, जबकि **सरदार पटेल**, **सी. राजगोपालाचारी** तथा अन्य सदस्यों ने इसका विरोध किया था।
- "**Sardar Patel** himself took the position that **universal adult franchise** was, in itself, an implicit fundamental right.
उन्होंने कहा, "**सरदार पटेल** का स्वयं यह मत था कि **सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार** अपने आप में एक निहित मौलिक अधिकार है।
- This is the background to **Article 326** which provides for elections based on universal adult suffrage," he said.
यही **अनुच्छेद 326** की पृष्ठभूमि है, जो सार्वभौमिक वयस्क मताधिकार के आधार पर चुनावों का प्रावधान करता है।"
- He also cited **Justice Ajay Rastogi's dissenting opinion** in the **Anoop Baranwal vs. Union of India** judgment of March 2023, which held that the **right to vote** is a fundamental right.
उन्होंने मार्च 2023 के **अनूप बरनवाल बनाम भारत संघ** मामले में **न्यायमूर्ति अजय रस्तोगी के असहमति मत** का भी उल्लेख किया, जिसमें कहा गया था कि **मतदान का अधिकार** एक मौलिक अधिकार है।

GS II: Polity

Just truths

DNA test for paternity, allowed as a last resort, must not violate other rights

To protect children from the stigma of illegitimacy, the erstwhile Indian Evidence Act 1872 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 place the burden of proof on the party denying paternity rather than the party seeking confirmation. The Supreme Court of India first considered the challenges posed by DNA evidence in this regard, in *Goutam Kundu* (1993), where it held that DNA tests could not be ordered as a matter of routine and that courts must first assess whether a strong *prima facie* case had been made out. It reiterated this position in *Shri Banarsi Dass* (2005); both cases also reinforced the protection of legitimacy over any interest in forensic curiosity. Then, in the litigation mooted by Rohit Shekhar alleging that veteran politician N.D. Tiwari was his father, the Delhi High Court and the top court called for the test despite Mr. Tiwari insisting that his right to privacy was being violated. In *Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik* (2014), the Court said that when reliable scientific proof confronts legal fiction, the former may prevail in the interest of justice; in *Dipanwita Roy* (2014), it acknowledged that refusing testing can lead to adverse inference. Both orders also confirmed the legitimacy of DNA tests based on need.

Then, in *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017), as it encoded the right to privacy – including of genetic data – as a fundamental right under Article 21, the Court introduced a constraint that prior paternity jurisprudence did not have to reckon with. The threefold test it set up, of legality, legitimate aims, and proportionality, was brought to bear in *Aparna Ajinkya Firodia* (2023), which concluded that DNA tests should be ordered only where they are necessary and proportionate, and not if a dispute could be resolved based on other evidence. In *Ivan Rathinam* (2025), the Court said neither privacy nor knowledge were absolute and that the judiciary also has to negotiate stigma and necessity. Its order in *CP vs AP* (2026) tied all these contentions together as it upheld a trial court's direction for a DNA test on the grounds that the disputed question of paternity could not be resolved by the existing material record and required a scientific determination, by applying necessity and proportionality considerations. In the post-*Puttaswamy* era, then, the Constitution protects bodily autonomy and restricts compelled genetic disclosure – but courts could order a DNA test if paternity is directly in issue, there is no other evidence on record capable of resolving the question, and the test would serve the interest of justice. Thus, by positioning DNA testing as a last resort, the courts have to ensure that while science may be infallible, the pursuit of truth is only just when it respects a person's rights.

22J6. Just truths
केवल सत्य

- To protect children from the stigma of **illegitimacy**, the **erstwhile Indian Evidence Act 1872** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023** place the burden of proof on the party denying **paternity** rather than the party seeking confirmation.

बच्चों को **अवैध संतति** होने के सामाजिक कलंक से बचाने के लिए **भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 1872** तथा **भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 2023** में **पितृत्व** से इनकार करने वाले पक्ष पर प्रमाण का भार डाला गया है, न कि पितृत्व की पुष्टि चाहने वाले पक्ष पर।

- The **Supreme Court of India** first considered the challenges posed by **DNA evidence** in this regard, in **Goutam Kundu (1993)**, where it held that **DNA tests** could not be ordered as a matter of routine and that courts must first assess whether a strong **prima facie case** had been made out.

इस संदर्भ में **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने पहली बार **Goutam Kundu (1993)** मामले में **डीएनए साक्ष्य** से उत्पन्न चुनौतियों पर विचार किया, जहाँ उसने कहा कि **डीएनए परीक्षण** नियमित रूप से आदेशित नहीं किए जा सकते तथा न्यायालयों को पहले यह देखना होगा कि क्या एक सशक्त **प्रथमदृष्टया मामला** स्थापित हुआ है।

- It reiterated this position in **Shri Banarsi Dass (2005)**; both cases also reinforced the protection of **legitimacy** over any interest in **forensic curiosity**.

न्यायालय ने **Shri Banarsi Dass (2005)** में भी इसी दृष्टिकोण को दोहराया; दोनों मामलों ने **फोरेंसिक जिज्ञासा** की अपेक्षा **वैधता की धारणा** के संरक्षण को अधिक महत्व दिया।

- Then, in **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)**, as it encoded the **right to privacy** — including of **genetic data** — as a **fundamental right** under **Article 21**, the Court introduced a constraint that prior paternity jurisprudence did not have to reckon with.

इसके बाद **K.S. Puttaswamy (2017)** मामले में, जब न्यायालय ने **अनुच्छेद 21** के अंतर्गत **आनुवंशिक डेटा** सहित **निजता के अधिकार** को **मौलिक अधिकार** घोषित किया, तब उसने एक ऐसी सीमा निर्धारित की जिसका पूर्ववर्ती पितृत्व संबंधी न्यायशास्त्र में विचार नहीं किया गया था।

- The **threefold test** it set up, of **legality**, **legitimate aims**, and **proportionality**, was brought to bear in **Aparna Ajinkya Firodia (2023)**.

न्यायालय द्वारा निर्धारित **त्रिस्तरीय परीक्षण**, जिसमें **वैधता**, **वैध उद्देश्य** और **अनुपातिकता** शामिल हैं, को **Aparna Ajinkya Firodia (2023)** मामले में लागू किया गया।

- It concluded that **DNA tests** should be ordered only where they are **necessary** and **proportionate**, and not if a dispute could be resolved based on other evidence.

इसमें निष्कर्ष निकाला गया कि **डीएनए परीक्षण** केवल तभी आदेशित किए जाने चाहिए जब वे **आवश्यक** और **अनुपातिक** हों तथा विवाद का समाधान अन्य साक्ष्यों के आधार पर संभव न हो।

- Its order in **CP vs AP (2026)** tied all these contentions together as it upheld a trial court's direction for a **DNA test** on the grounds that the disputed question of **paternity** could not be resolved by the existing material record and required a **scientific determination**, by applying **necessity** and **proportionality** considerations.

CP vs AP (2026) मामले में न्यायालय ने इन सभी सिद्धांतों को एक साथ समाहित करते हुए निचली अदालत द्वारा दिए गए **डीएनए परीक्षण** के आदेश को बरकरार रखा, क्योंकि **पितृत्व** से जुड़ा विवाद उपलब्ध अभिलेखों के आधार पर हल नहीं हो सकता था और उसके लिए **वैज्ञानिक निर्धारण** आवश्यक था; यह निर्णय **आवश्यकता** और **अनुपातिकता** के सिद्धांतों पर आधारित था।

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- In the **post-Puttaswamy era**, then, the **Constitution** protects **bodily autonomy** and restricts compelled **genetic disclosure** — but courts could order a **DNA test** if **paternity** is directly in issue, there is no other evidence on record capable of resolving the question, and the test would serve the **interest of justice**.

  इस प्रकार **पुट्टास्वामी-उपरांत युग** में **संविधान शारीरिक स्वायत्तता** की रक्षा करता है और बाध्यकारी **आनुवंशिक जानकारी के प्रकटीकरण** को सीमित करता है; फिर भी न्यायालय **डीएनए परीक्षण** का आदेश दे सकते हैं यदि **पितृत्व** प्रत्यक्ष रूप से विवादित हो, प्रश्न के समाधान हेतु अन्य कोई पर्याप्त साक्ष्य उपलब्ध न हो तथा परीक्षण **न्याय के हित** में हो।

Can police re-open probe without court approval?

Does Section 173(8) of CrPC permit filing of a supplementary report without Magistrate's permission?

GS II: Polity, Judiciary

EXPLAINER

R.K. Vij

The story so far:

The Supreme Court recently in *Paliniswamy Veeraraja & Ors. versus The State of Karnataka & Anr.* reiterated that the investigating authorities were required to obtain permission from the Magistrate to initiate further investigation after filing the closure report. In this case, the court quashed the First Information Report (FIR) and subsequent chargesheet noting that such permission had not been obtained.

Although an application seeking further investigation had been filed before the concerned Magistrate for a third time, no order granting permission was placed on record, the court said.

The investigating agency had earlier filed closure reports twice, stating that the dispute appeared to be entirely civil in nature. The court also relied on the principles laid down in *State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal (1992)*, holding that the civil nature of the dispute was an additional ground for quashing the FIR and subsequent proceedings.

Can supplementary report be filed without Magistrate's approval?

The sub-section (2) of Section 173 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) provides for forwarding a report to the Magistrate after completing investigation in the prescribed form. The Section 173(8) CrPC says that in case the in-charge of a police station finds additional evidence after sending final report to the Magistrate, he may send supplementary report to the Magistrate. It is silent on obtaining permission from a Magistrate for filing supplementary report under sub-section (8). Section 193(9) of the BNSS is *pari materia* (dealing with the same subject matter) to Section 173(8) of the CrPC.

What has been held by the Supreme Court with regard to further investigation after filing a final report?

The Supreme Court in *Vinay Tyagi versus Irshad Ali (2013)* held that "though there is no specific requirement in the provisions of Section 173(8) of the code to conduct further investigation or file supplementary report with the leave of the court, the investigating agencies have not only understood but also adopted it as a legal practice to seek permission of the courts to conduct further investigation and file supplementary report with the leave of the court".

The court held that the requirement of seeking prior leave of the court to conduct further probe will have to read into, and is necessary implication of the provisions of Section 173(8) of the code. The court held that the doctrine of *contemporanea expositio* supports such an interpretation, as a practice that has been consistently understood and implemented over time, and is backed by law, should be recognised as an integral part of the interpretative process. This proposition has been approved by the Supreme Court in subsequent cases also.

While the newly added proviso to Section 193(9) of the BNSS (which is *pari materia* to Section 173(8) of the CrPC) mandates that the permission of the court is necessary if the trial has begun, the top court, in *Rama Chaudhary versus State of Bihar (2024)* reiterated that even though the statute does not require express permission, the law has developed and seeking permission from the concerned magistrate is essential. The Supreme Court, in *Robert Lalchungnunga Chongthu v. State of Bihar (2025)*, reaffirmed the ratio in Vinay Tyagi (supra), holding that obtaining the court's leave to file a supplementary chargesheet forms an integral part of the law.

Therefore, despite the new provision of the BNSS, once a chargesheet or closure report has been filed, further probe based on new evidence may be undertaken only with the permission of the court.

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THE GIST

The Section 173(8) CrPC says that in case the in-charge of a police station finds additional evidence after sending final report to the Magistrate, he may send supplementary report to the Magistrate.

The court held that the doctrine of *contemporanea expositio* supports such an interpretation, as a practice that has been consistently understood and implemented over time, and is backed by law, should be recognised as an integral part of the interpretative process.

22J6. Can police re-open probe without court approval?
क्या पुलिस न्यायालय की अनुमति के बिना पुनः जाँच (री-इन्वेस्टिगेशन) शुरू कर सकती है?

- **Does Section 173(8) of CrPC permit filing of a supplementary report without the Magistrate's permission?**

  क्या दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (CrPC) की धारा 173(8) मजिस्ट्रेट की अनुमति के बिना अनुपूरक (सप्लीमेंट्री) रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने की अनुमति देती है?

- **The Supreme Court recently in Paliniswamy Veeraraja & Ors. versus The State of Karnataka & Anr. reiterated that the investigating authorities were required to obtain permission from the Magistrate to initiate further investigation after filing the closure report.**

  सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में Palaniswamy Veerarajan एवं अन्य बनाम कर्नाटक राज्य एवं अन्य मामले में पुनः स्पष्ट किया कि समापन रिपोर्ट (Closure Report) दाखिल करने के बाद आगे की जांच प्रारंभ करने के लिए जांच एजेंसियों को मजिस्ट्रेट की अनुमति प्राप्त करना आवश्यक है।

- The investigating agency had earlier filed **closure reports** twice, stating that the dispute appeared to be entirely **civil in nature**.

  जांच एजेंसी ने इससे पहले दो बार **समापन रिपोर्ट** दाखिल करते हुए कहा था कि विवाद पूर्णतः **दीवानी प्रकृति** का प्रतीत होता है।

- The court also relied on the principles laid down in **State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal (1992)**, holding that the **civil nature of the dispute** was an additional ground for quashing the **FIR** and subsequent proceedings.

  न्यायालय ने **State of Haryana v. Bhajan Lal (1992)** में प्रतिपादित सिद्धांतों पर भी भरोसा किया और

कहा कि विवाद का **दीवानी स्वरूप** भी **एफआईआर** तथा बाद की कार्यवाहियों को निरस्त करने का एक अतिरिक्त आधार था।

Can supplementary report be filed without Magistrate's approval?
क्या मजिस्ट्रेट की अनुमति के बिना अनुपूरक रिपोर्ट दाखिल की जा सकती है?

- The **sub-section (2) of Section 173** of the **Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC)** provides for forwarding a report to the **Magistrate** after completing investigation in the prescribed form.
  दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता (CrPC) की **धारा 173(2)** में जांच पूर्ण होने के बाद निर्धारित प्रारूप में रिपोर्ट **मजिस्ट्रेट** को भेजने का प्रावधान है।
- The **Section 173(8) CrPC** says that in case the in-charge of a police station finds additional evidence after sending the **final report** to the Magistrate, he may send a **supplementary report** to the Magistrate.
  धारा 173(8) CrPC के अनुसार यदि पुलिस थाने का प्रभारी **अंतिम रिपोर्ट** भेजने के बाद कोई अतिरिक्त साक्ष्य प्राप्त करता है, तो वह **अनुपूरक रिपोर्ट** मजिस्ट्रेट को भेज सकता है।
- It is silent on obtaining permission from a **Magistrate** for filing a supplementary report under sub-section (8).
  यह उपधारा (8) के अंतर्गत अनुपूरक रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने के लिए **मजिस्ट्रेट** की अनुमति प्राप्त करने के विषय में मौन है।
- **Section 193(9) of the BNSS** is **pari materia** (dealing with the same subject matter) to **Section 173(8) of the CrPC**.
  भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS) की **धारा 193(9)**, **CrPC की धारा 173(8)** के समान विषय-वस्तु (**pari materia**) से संबंधित है।

What has been held by the Supreme Court with regard to further investigation after filing a final report?
अंतिम रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने के बाद आगे की जांच के संबंध में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्या कहा है?

- The **Supreme Court** in **Vinay Tyagi versus Irshad Ali (2013)** held that "though there is no specific requirement in the provisions of **Section 173(8)** of the code to conduct further investigation or file supplementary report with the leave of the court, the investigating agencies have not only understood but also adopted it as a legal practice to seek permission of the courts to conduct further investigation and file supplementary report with the leave of the court".
  सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **Vinay Tyagi बनाम Irshad Ali (2013)** में कहा कि यद्यपि **धारा 173(8)** में आगे की जांच करने अथवा अनुपूरक रिपोर्ट दाखिल करने हेतु न्यायालय की अनुमति का कोई स्पष्ट प्रावधान नहीं है, फिर भी जांच एजेंसियों ने इसे एक स्थापित कानूनी प्रथा के रूप में स्वीकार किया है और आगे की जांच के लिए न्यायालय की अनुमति प्राप्त करती रही हैं।
- The court held that the requirement of seeking prior leave of the court to conduct **further probe** will have to be read into, and is a necessary implication of, the provisions of **Section 173(8)** of the code.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि **आगे की जांच** के लिए पूर्व अनुमति प्राप्त करने की आवश्यकता को **धारा 173(8)** के प्रावधानों में निहित माना जाना चाहिए और यह उसका आवश्यक निहितार्थ है।
- While the newly added **proviso to Section 193(9) of the BNSS** (which is pari materia to **Section 173(8) of the CrPC**) mandates that the permission of the court is necessary if the **trial** has begun, the top court, in **Rama Chaudhary versus State of Bihar (2024)** reiterated that even though the statute does not require express permission, the law has developed and seeking permission from the concerned **Magistrate** is essential.
  यद्यपि **BNSS की धारा 193(9)** में जोड़े गए नए **परंतुक (Proviso)** में यह कहा गया है कि यदि **विचारण (Trial)** प्रारंभ हो चुका है तो न्यायालय की अनुमति आवश्यक होगी, फिर भी **Rama Chaudhary बनाम**

बिहार राज्य (2024) में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने दोहराया कि भले ही विधि में स्पष्ट अनुमति का प्रावधान न हो, परंतु विधिक विकास के परिणामस्वरूप संबंधित **मजिस्ट्रेट** से अनुमति प्राप्त करना अनिवार्य है।

- The **Supreme Court**, in **Robert Lalchungnunga Chongthu v. State of Bihar (2025)**, reaffirmed the ratio in **Vinay Tyagi (supra)**, holding that obtaining the court's leave to file a **supplementary chargesheet** forms an integral part of the law.
  सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **Robert Lalchungnunga Chongthu बनाम बिहार राज्य (2025)** में **Vinay Tyagi** के सिद्धांत की पुनः पुष्टि करते हुए कहा कि **अनुपूरक आरोपपत्र** दाखिल करने के लिए न्यायालय की अनुमति प्राप्त करना विधि का अभिन्न अंग है।
- Therefore, despite the new provision of the **BNSS**, once a **chargesheet** or **closure report** has been filed, further probe based on new evidence may be undertaken only with the permission of the court.
  अतः **BNSS** के नए प्रावधान के बावजूद, एक बार **आरोपपत्र** अथवा **समापन रिपोर्ट** दाखिल हो जाने के बाद, नए साक्ष्यों के आधार पर **आगे की जांच** केवल न्यायालय की अनुमति से ही की जा सकती है।

GS Paper II: Governance	**22 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	**The lack of accountability within the NTA** **राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एजेंसी (NTA) के भीतर जवाबदेही का अभाव**
22J6	**Are footpaths more than safe spaces?** **क्या फुटपाथ केवल सुरक्षित स्थानों से कहीं अधिक हैं?**

PATRIOTIC IAS

The lack of accountability within the NTA

GS II: Governance

On June 21, more than 22.8 lakh candidates sat once again for NEET-UG after a paper leak led to the nationwide cancellation of the earlier exam. The response has followed two tracks. The first was prosecutorial, with the government handing the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024. The second was administrative, with a re-examination conducted yesterday and the examination fees refunded. However, neither response engages with the question of why one compromised paper can interrupt medical admissions for an entire national cohort, and what that design choice reveals about how the state looks at the costs of its own institutional failures.

The NTA's responsibility

The National Testing Agency (NTA) was created in 2017 as a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and not through an Act of Parliament, which means it operates without a codified liability standard toward the candidates it examines. When the NTA cancelled NEET-UG 2026, its formal obligation to candidates extended to just carrying forward registrations and refunding the examination fee, which is ₹1,700 for general category candidates. The institutional cost of failure beyond that narrow zone remains unaccounted for.

The design of NEET-UG amplifies that accountability gap directly. The examination is conducted nationwide in a single sitting on one day, with one paper and its score is used for admission across every government and private medical college in the country. And when that sitting is compromised, the state has only one instrument available, which is to cancel the test and convene a fresh sitting without any distributed fallback that would allow a limited breach to produce only a limited effect. Moreover, the interval between application, examination, and result has become a prolonged administrative cycle and every disruption stretches that cycle further while shifting uncertainty onto the candidates. In a system built around a single annual test, even a short advancement can alter an entire admission year.

Rahul Verma

Sociologist and independent researcher who writes on education, labour and social inequality in India

While the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 prescribes penalties and fines, it establishes no compensation mechanism for candidates when an exam is cancelled

The National Medical Commission's (NMC) seat matrix for October 2025 lists roughly 1.26 lakh MBBS seats against more than 22 lakh candidates, a ratio that structurally ensures that a substantial cohort of aspirants are always in their second or third attempt, having already committed resources with no guarantee of admission. For those candidates, the cancellation returns a ₹1,700 fee against a preparation year that costs several lakhs in coaching and accommodation, a gap the state has never formally measured because no government survey tracks what households spend on NEET preparation. The ASER 2024 report documents persistent learning gaps between government and private school students, which means candidates who entered the race with fewer academic and financial resources are also those least able to absorb a cancelled cycle and begin again.

While the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 prescribes penalties of up to 10 years imprisonment and fines up to one crore rupees for organised leak networks, it establishes no compensation mechanism for candidates when an exam is cancelled; creates no automatic re-examination right; and introduces no liability standard for the examining body. The legislature responded to a candidate-facing catastrophe with an entirely prosecutorial instrument, leaving the structural consequences borne by those who played by the rules entirely outside the law's concern.

The announced shift of NEET to Computer-Based Testing (CBT) does not resolve this structural problem. For in June 2024, the UGC-NET was cancelled after the question paper appeared on the darknet; the UGC-NET was already a CBT examination administered by the same agency. The leak arose not from printed papers but from a single session with no distributed architecture capable of containing the impact of a breach, which means that moving NEET to CBT changes only the delivery mechanism without changing the single point of failure.

The way ahead

Article 14 guarantees everyone equal protection before the law and prohibits state action that is arbitrary in design and disproportionate in effect, while Articles 41 and 46 of the Directive Principles place a positive obligation on the state to secure equal opportunity in education and protect weaker sections from structural disadvantage. A national entrance architecture that formally treats all candidates alike but transfers all costs of institutional failure onto those least equipped to bear them is precisely the kind of design those provisions are meant to prevent.

Three corrections must follow directly. First, the NTA should be given statutory basis with codified obligations to candidates and enforceable consequences for institutional failure. Second, a mandatory compensation mechanism funded from examination fee revenue should activate automatically when cancellation results from institutional failure. Third, multiple examination windows per year would distribute risk so that a compromised sitting does not collapse the prospects of every candidate in the pool.

The re-examination has, for now, closed this episode administratively, but as long as one compromised paper can force 22 lakh candidates to begin again, the problem is not only who leaked the paper, but why the exam was designed to break so completely when they did.

22J6. The lack of accountability within the NTA
राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एजेंसी (NTA) के भीतर जवाबदेही का अभाव

- On **June 21**, more than **22.8 lakh candidates** sat once again for **NEET-UG** after a **paper leak** led to the nationwide cancellation of the earlier exam.

21 जून को **22.8 लाख से अधिक अभ्यर्थी** प्रश्नपत्र **लीक** होने के कारण पूर्व परीक्षा के देशव्यापी निरस्तीकरण के बाद पुनः **NEET-UG** परीक्षा में सम्मिलित हुए।

- The response has followed two tracks.
  इस घटना के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया दो स्तरों पर हुई है।
- The first was **prosecutorial**, with the government handing the case to the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** under the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**.
  पहला स्तर **अभियोजनात्मक** था, जिसमें सरकार ने मामले को **लोक परीक्षा (अनुचित साधनों की रोकथाम) अधिनियम, 2024** के अंतर्गत **केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI)** को सौंप दिया।

The NTA's responsibility
एनटीए की जिम्मेदारी

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** was created in **2017** as a registered society under the **Societies Registration Act, 1860** and not through an **Act of Parliament**, which means it operates without a codified **liability standard** toward the candidates it examines.
  राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एजेंसी (NTA) की स्थापना **2017** में **सोसायटी पंजीकरण अधिनियम, 1860** के अंतर्गत एक पंजीकृत संस्था के रूप में की गई थी, न कि किसी **संसदीय अधिनियम** द्वारा; इसका अर्थ है कि परीक्षार्थियों के प्रति इसकी कोई स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित **दायित्व व्यवस्था** नहीं है।
- While the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024** prescribes penalties of up to **10 years imprisonment** and fines up to **one crore rupees** for organised **leak networks**, it establishes no **compensation mechanism** for candidates when an exam is cancelled.
  यद्यपि **लोक परीक्षा (अनुचित साधनों की रोकथाम) अधिनियम, 2024** संगठित **प्रश्नपत्र लीक नेटवर्कों** के लिए **10 वर्ष तक के कारावास** तथा **एक करोड़ रुपये तक के जुर्माने** का प्रावधान करता है, फिर भी परीक्षा रद्द होने पर अभ्यर्थियों के लिए कोई **क्षतिपूर्ति तंत्र** स्थापित नहीं करता।

The way ahead
आगे की राह

- **Article 14** guarantees everyone **equal protection before the law** and prohibits state action that is **arbitrary in design** and **disproportionate in effect**.
  अनुच्छेद 14 प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को **कानून के समक्ष समान संरक्षण** की गारंटी देता है तथा ऐसी राज्य कार्रवाई को निषिद्ध करता है जो **संरचना में मनमानी** और **प्रभाव में असंगत** हो।
- While **Articles 41 and 46** of the **Directive Principles of State Policy** place a positive obligation on the state to secure **equal opportunity in education** and protect **weaker sections** from structural disadvantage.
  वहीं **राज्य के नीति-निर्देशक सिद्धांतों** के **अनुच्छेद 41 और 46** राज्य पर **शिक्षा में समान अवसर** सुनिश्चित करने तथा **कमजोर वर्गों** को संरचनात्मक वंचना से बचाने का सकारात्मक दायित्व डालते हैं।

22J6. Are footpaths more than safe spaces?
क्या फुटपाथ केवल सुरक्षित स्थानों से कहीं अधिक हैं?

- A Bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha** and **Atul S. Chandurkar** has, in its judgment (**Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz versus P. Ayyappan**), said a **footpath's relevance** is more than that of a narrow strip of land where the 'less-fortunate' ones take cover from being knocked down by vehicles speeding on **multi-lane motorways**.
  न्यायमूर्ति **पी.एस. नरसिम्हा** और **अतुल एस. चंदुरकर** की पीठ ने अपने निर्णय (**Maniyar Iliyaz @ Shaik Riyaz बनाम P. Ayyappan**) में कहा है कि **फुटपाथ का महत्व** केवल भूमि की उस संकरी पट्टी तक सीमित

नहीं है जहाँ कम भाग्यशाली लोग **बहु-लेन राजमार्गों** पर तेज़ गति से चलने वाले वाहनों से बचने के लिए आश्रय लेते हैं।

- **Does the ruling deconnect the footpath from the theme of accidents?**
  क्या यह निर्णय फुटपाथ को दुर्घटनाओं के विषय से अलग करता है?
- Justice **Narasimha's judgment** divorces the **footpath** from the theme of **motor accidents**.
  न्यायमूर्ति **नरसिम्हा** का निर्णय **फुटपाथ** को **सड़क दुर्घटनाओं** के विषय से अलग करता है।
- The sole aim of a **footpath** is not to avoid accidents.
  फुटपाथ का एकमात्र उद्देश्य दुर्घटनाओं से बचाव नहीं है।
- The pathways have an **identity** and a **purpose** of their own.
  इन मार्गों की अपनी एक **पहचान** और **उद्देश्य** है।
- The footpath caters to the most essential, the most fundamental of rights — the **pleasure of walking**.
  फुटपाथ सबसे मूलभूत अधिकारों में से एक — **पैदल चलने के आनंद** — की पूर्ति करता है।
- The court said the presence of a broad **footpath** is a reflection of **civilisational advancement** and respect for the **freedom to walk**.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि एक विस्तृत **फुटपाथ** की उपस्थिति **सभ्यतागत प्रगति** तथा **पैदल चलने की स्वतंत्रता** के प्रति सम्मान को दर्शाती है।
- The tracks offer the public access to **urban spaces** through movement by walking.
  ये मार्ग जनता को पैदल चलकर **शहरी स्थानों** तक पहुँच प्रदान करते हैं।
- The judgment declared that the right to walk on a comfortable and safe **footpath** held "priority over movement by **motor vehicles**".
  निर्णय में कहा गया कि सुरक्षित और सुविधाजनक **फुटपाथ** पर चलने का अधिकार **मोटर वाहनों की आवाजाही** पर प्राथमिकता रखता है।
- In a way, reasoning of the judgment suggests that **footpaths** suffer from a situation described in **environmental law** as the **'tragedy of the commons'** or the degradation of a precious resource when many individuals use it.
  एक प्रकार से यह निर्णय संकेत देता है कि **फुटपाथ** उस स्थिति से ग्रस्त हैं जिसे **पर्यावरण विधि** में **'कॉमन्स की त्रासदी'** कहा जाता है, अर्थात जब अनेक लोग किसी साझा संसाधन का उपयोग करते हैं तो उसका क्षरण होने लगता है।
- Safe and broad **footpaths** have become a scarce resource, riddled by **encroachments**, **garbage** and **pavement trade**.
  सुरक्षित और चौड़े **फुटपाथ** अब दुर्लभ संसाधन बन गए हैं, जो **अतिक्रमण**, **कचरे** और **फुटपाथ व्यापार** से प्रभावित हैं।
- Secondly, the court has reasoned that broad **footpaths**, besides amplifying the beauty of cities, must also enable **equitable access** to all.
  दूसरे, न्यायालय ने कहा कि चौड़े **फुटपाथ** शहरों की सुंदरता बढ़ाने के साथ-साथ सभी के लिए **समान पहुँच** सुनिश्चित करें।
- Nothing should be done to thwart the public's free access to **common spaces**.
  ऐसा कुछ भी नहीं किया जाना चाहिए जो जनता की **सार्वजनिक स्थलों** तक स्वतंत्र पहुँच को बाधित करे।
- Justice **Narasimha** has observed that access to **common spaces**, in both urban areas and rural areas, should be distributed in such a way that it was "not a monopoly of the **motorised class** alone".
  न्यायमूर्ति **नरसिम्हा** ने कहा कि शहरी और ग्रामीण दोनों क्षेत्रों में **सार्वजनिक स्थानों** तक पहुँच इस प्रकार वितरित होनी चाहिए कि वह केवल **मोटर चालित वर्ग** का एकाधिकार न बन जाए।
- **Article 39(b)** of the Constitution mandates that **material resources** of a community must be distributed so as to sub-serve the **common good**.
  संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 39(b)** यह निर्देश देता है कि समुदाय के **भौतिक संसाधनों** का वितरण **सार्वजनिक हित** की पूर्ति के लिए किया जाना चाहिए।

- Authorities must consider the **common good** of both **pedestrians** and **motor vehicle owners** while designing a material resource like land to build roadways.
  सड़क निर्माण हेतु भूमि जैसे संसाधनों की योजना बनाते समय अधिकारियों को **पैदल यात्रियों** और **वाहन मालिकों** दोनों के **सार्वजनिक हित** का ध्यान रखना चाहिए।
- A wide, well-demarcated and uninterrupted **footpath** could "change the beauty of and equitable access to our cities and towns".
  एक चौड़ा, स्पष्ट रूप से चिह्नित और अवरोध-मुक्त **फुटपाथ** हमारे शहरों और कस्बों की सुंदरता तथा **समान पहुँच** को बदल सकता है।
- **Does walking still hold significance in the Indian imagination?**
  क्या भारतीय मानस में पैदल चलना आज भी महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है?
- The court said that the act of **walking** has had diverse roles in the **Indian imagination**.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि **पैदल चलने** की क्रिया का **भारतीय मानस** में विविध महत्व रहा है।
- Walking was a **struggle** for the not-so-unfortunate, a **meditation in motion** for many, **resistance** for others, **discovery** for the inquisitive, a cohesive strategy for sharp **socio-political minds**.
  पैदल चलना कुछ लोगों के लिए **संघर्ष**, अनेक लोगों के लिए **गतिशील ध्यान**, दूसरों के लिए **प्रतिरोध**, जिज्ञासुओं के लिए **खोज**, तथा प्रखर **सामाजिक-राजनीतिक चिंतकों** के लिए एक संगठित रणनीति रहा है।
- From the first sparks which ignited the **national struggle for freedom** to the complexities of modern politics, the idea of **walking** as a means of expressing an opinion or drawing public attention remains a constant.
  स्वतंत्रता संग्राम की प्रारंभिक चिंगारियों से लेकर आधुनिक राजनीति की जटिलताओं तक, **पैदल चलना** विचार व्यक्त करने और जनध्यान आकर्षित करने के माध्यम के रूप में निरंतर बना रहा है।
- Walking was not just motion, but embodied the fundamental freedoms of **speech and expression**, of **peaceful protest** and the right to form **associations and unions** for gaining the just rights of workers.
  पैदल चलना केवल एक गतिविधि नहीं था, बल्कि यह **वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता**, **शांतिपूर्ण विरोध**, तथा श्रमिकों के न्यायोचित अधिकारों की प्राप्ति हेतु **संघों एवं संगठनों के गठन के अधिकार** का भी प्रतीक था।

Have the 'duty-bearers' neglected their duty to protect footpaths?
क्या 'कर्तव्य-निर्वाहकों' ने फुटपाथों की सुरक्षा के अपने दायित्व की उपेक्षा की है?

- However, laws like the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988** paid homage to movement by wheels.
  हालाँकि **मोटर वाहन अधिनियम, 1988** जैसे कानूनों ने पहियों द्वारा होने वाली आवाजाही को प्राथमिकता दी।
- They even "undermined the precious rights of **walkers**".
  उन्होंने तो **पैदल यात्रियों** के बहुमूल्य अधिकारों को भी कमजोर किया।
- Justice **Narasimha** said the tendency to subjugate safe and comfortable **footpaths** to **motor transport** was a **civilisational problem**.
  न्यायमूर्ति **नरसिम्हा** ने कहा कि सुरक्षित और सुविधाजनक **फुटपाथों** को **मोटर परिवहन** के अधीन कर देने की प्रवृत्ति एक **सभ्यतागत समस्या** है।
- The primary **"duty-bearers"** responsible for effectively managing **footpaths** are **urban development authorities**, **municipal corporations**, **municipalities**, and **panchayats**.
  फुटपाथों के प्रभावी प्रबंधन के लिए उत्तरदायी प्रमुख **"कर्तव्य-निर्वाहक" शहरी विकास प्राधिकरण**, **नगर निगम**, **नगरपालिकाएँ** और **पंचायतें** हैं।
- Footpaths are held in **trust** by these bodies for the public's benefit.
  ये संस्थाएँ जनता के हित में **फुटपाथों** को एक **न्यासीय दायित्व** के रूप में संरक्षित रखती हैं।
- They are the **material resources of the community**.
  ये **समुदाय के भौतिक संसाधन** हैं।

Is there a need for statutory law and regulator?
क्या वैधानिक कानून और नियामक की आवश्यकता है?

- The judgment is not satisfied by merely declaring the right to walk safely on a wide and clearly demarcated **footpath** as a **basic right**, but recommends to the government to implement the **fundamental right** through a **statutory law**, and moreover, establish a **regulator** to hear aggrieved pedestrians.
  यह निर्णय केवल चौड़े और स्पष्ट रूप से चिह्नित **फुटपाथ** पर सुरक्षित रूप से चलने के अधिकार को **मौलिक अधिकार** घोषित करने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि सरकार को इसे **वैधानिक कानून** के माध्यम से लागू करने तथा पीड़ित पैदल यात्रियों की शिकायतें सुनने के लिए एक **नियामक संस्था** स्थापित करने की भी सिफारिश करता है।
- The court recalled the positive role played by **Parliament** and **State legislatures** in the past in enabling the effective exercise and enjoyment of **fundamental rights** on the ground.
  न्यायालय ने अतीत में **संसद** और **राज्य विधानसभाओं** द्वारा **मौलिक अधिकारों** के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन और उपयोग को सुनिश्चित करने में निभाई गई सकारात्मक भूमिका को स्मरण किया।
- It also noted that modern **statutes** have shaped a new framework of **institutional governance** by creating **regulatory bodies**.
  न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि आधुनिक **कानूनों** ने **नियामक संस्थाओं** की स्थापना के माध्यम से **संस्थागत शासन** की एक नई संरचना विकसित की है।
- These bodies institutionalise continuity through **perpetual succession** and seal, embed expertise through **specialisation**, promote diversity through their composition, and ensure integrity through mechanisms of **accountability**.
  ये संस्थाएँ **स्थायी उत्तराधिकार** और विधिक पहचान के माध्यम से निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करती हैं, **विशेषज्ञता** के माध्यम से दक्षता विकसित करती हैं, अपनी संरचना के माध्यम से विविधता को बढ़ावा देती हैं तथा **उत्तरदायित्व** की व्यवस्थाओं द्वारा पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करती हैं।
- One of the examples the court drew in this context was the **Right to Education Act**, which had declared the **fundamental right** to free and compulsory elementary education under **Article 21A** in **Sections 3 to 5**.
  इस संदर्भ में न्यायालय ने **शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम** का उदाहरण दिया, जिसने **अनुच्छेद 21A** के अंतर्गत निःशुल्क और अनिवार्य प्राथमिक शिक्षा के **मौलिक अधिकार** को **धारा 3 से 5** के माध्यम से लागू किया।
- The **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** was recognised as the **regulator**.
  राष्ट्रीय बाल अधिकार संरक्षण आयोग को इस व्यवस्था का **नियामक** माना गया।
- Justice **Narasimha** said a similar **Act** and a **regulatory body** must be devised by the legislature to protect the **fundamental right to walk** on demarcated footpaths.
  न्यायमूर्ति **नरसिम्हा** ने कहा कि चिह्नित फुटपाथों पर **पैदल चलने के मौलिक अधिकार** की रक्षा के लिए विधायिका को इसी प्रकार का एक **अधिनियम** और **नियामक निकाय** स्थापित करना चाहिए।
- The **statutory framework** would not only ensure the working of the **fundamental right** on the ground but also identify the **duty-bearers**.
  यह **वैधानिक ढाँचा** न केवल **मौलिक अधिकार** के वास्तविक क्रियान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करेगा, बल्कि संबंधित **कर्तव्य-निर्वाहकों** की पहचान भी करेगा।
- The court said such an **Act** must also establish a full-time **regulator** to plan, enforce, and implement this precious right.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि ऐसा **अधिनियम** इस महत्वपूर्ण अधिकार की योजना बनाने, उसे लागू कराने और उसके क्रियान्वयन की निगरानी के लिए एक पूर्णकालिक **नियामक** भी स्थापित करे।

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अल्बानिया की 'फ्लेमिंगो क्रांति' ट्रम्प परिवार से जुड़ी परियोजना के खिलाफ़ तेज़ी पकड़ रही है

Albania's 'flamingo revolution' gathers steam over Trump family-linked project

GS II IR

Associated Press

TIRANA

A coastal development project in Albania linked to Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is facing growing opposition from environmental advocates and has triggered daily protests in the capital, Tirana. To the deafening sound of drums, horns and whistles, thousands of demonstrators late Saturday chanted "Rama Leave!" – referring to longtime Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama.

The rally drew participation from Albanian migrant communities abroad as the protests dubbed the "flamingo revolution" continue to gain momentum. The government says the development on the Adriatic coast would be transformational for the former communist nation as it seeks to enter the high-end tourism market and pushes for European Union membership.

But the venture, spanning an abandoned island and a nearby stretch of seafront on Albania's southern coast, has drawn opposition from environmental campaigners and critics of Mr. Rama's government.

Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in recent weeks, blowing whistles and holding up cardboard cut-outs of flamingos – one of the protected migratory bird species that could see their habitats threatened by the proposed luxury resort.

Mr. Rama has vowed not to "step back" from the development and defended his administration's environmental record. He says the protests were being encouraged by malicious cyber activists overseas and accuses Iran of targeting his government.

"..There are a lot of half-truths that become bigger and bigger lies by the hour," Mr. Rama told *AP* in an interview.

Despite Mr. Rama's defence of the development, the protests have gathered pace, with supporters in Albanian communities in neighboring Greece and other European countries also holding rallies.

Protesters demonstrate against Kushner's luxury resort plan in an environmentally sensitive part of Albania, on Saturday. REUTERS

Protests turn political

European Union officials say they are monitoring to ensure that it complies with the terms of Albania's bid to join the EU.

The protests are also becoming increasingly political. Calls to halt the development project have been gradually replaced by overtly political demands, centered on calls for Mr. Rama's resignation and early elections. The luxury project has two components: a coastal development in the Narta Lagoon area, which is a wildlife reserve, and a smaller resort on the nearby uninhabited island of Sazan, a communist-era military base.

The planned development is linked to Mr. Kushner and Mr. Trump's daughter, Ivanka. An investment firm linked to Mr. Kushner has been granted special investor status by Albanian authorities.

Albania has 450 kilometres of coast that remained largely underdeveloped during decades of harsh communist rule. Protest groups fear sections of that pristine coastline could be snapped up by investors. And public anger grew after video showed an activist being dragged away by a private security guard while demonstrating at the site.

The development is planned within a reserve and one of the country's most valuable biodiversity areas, a key stopover for migratory birds along the Adriatic coast.

Since May, excavators and other heavy machinery have entered the area, opening access routes, digging into the sand, clearing land among pine trees and installing fencing.

Environmental groups from Albania and elsewhere in Europe condemned the work, with one prominent local group charging that long-protected habitats are being "irreversibly destroyed."

Albania's Special Prosecution Office Against Corruption and Organized Crime has confirmed it opened an investigation related to the project but has disclosed few details.

It recently ordered the seizure of assets worth 128.3 million euros from the Albanian Land Development LLC company concerning land sale contracts in the area where the project is planned.

The government says the land earmarked for the project is privately owned. But competing claims have emerged questioning the privatisation.

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अल्बानिया की 'फ्लेमिंगो क्रांति' ट्रम्प परिवार से जुड़ी परियोजना के खिलाफ़ तेज़ी पकड़ रही है

- **Albania's 'flamingo revolution' gathers steam over Trump family-linked project**
  अल्बानिया की 'फ्लेमिंगो क्रांति' ट्रम्प परिवार से जुड़ी परियोजना के खिलाफ़ तेज़ी पकड़ रही है
- A **coastal development project** in **Albania** linked to **Donald Trump's** son-in-law **Jared Kushner** is facing growing opposition from **environmental advocates** and has triggered daily protests in the capital, **Tirana**.
  अल्बानिया में **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** के दामाद **जैरेड कुशनर** से जुड़ी एक **तटीय विकास परियोजना** को **पर्यावरण समर्थकों** के बढ़ते विरोध का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और इसने राजधानी **तिराना** में रोज़ाना विरोध प्रदर्शनों को जन्म दिया है।
- To the deafening sound of **drums, horns and whistles**, thousands of demonstrators late Saturday chanted "**Rama Leave!**" — referring to longtime Socialist Prime Minister **Edi Rama**.
  ढोल, हॉर्न और सीटियों की कानफोड़ू आवाज़ों के बीच, शनिवार देर रात हजारों प्रदर्शनकारियों ने "**रामा छोड़ो!**" के नारे लगाए — जो लंबे समय से समाजवादी प्रधानमंत्री **एदी रामा** की ओर संकेत था।
- The rally drew participation from **Albanian migrant communities abroad** as the protests dubbed the **"flamingo revolution"** continue to gain momentum.
  इस रैली में विदेशों में रहने वाले **अल्बानियाई प्रवासी समुदायों** ने भी भाग लिया, क्योंकि **"फ्लेमिंगो क्रांति"** नामक विरोध प्रदर्शन लगातार गति पकड़ रहे हैं।
- The government says the development on the **Adriatic coast** would be transformational for the former communist nation as it seeks to enter the **high-end tourism market** and pushes for **European Union membership**.
  सरकार का कहना है कि **एड्रियाटिक तट** पर यह विकास परियोजना पूर्व साम्यवादी राष्ट्र के लिए परिवर्तनकारी साबित होगी, क्योंकि वह **उच्च स्तरीय पर्यटन बाज़ार** में प्रवेश करने और **यूरोपीय संघ की सदस्यता** हासिल करने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- But the venture, spanning an **abandoned island** and a nearby stretch of **seafront** on Albania's southern coast, has drawn opposition from **environmental campaigners** and critics of **Mr. Rama's government**.
  लेकिन यह परियोजना, जो एक **परित्यक्त द्वीप** और अल्बानिया के दक्षिणी तट पर स्थित निकटवर्ती **समुद्री तट क्षेत्र** में फैली हुई है, **पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ताओं** और **रामा सरकार** के आलोचकों के विरोध का सामना कर रही है।

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- Thousands of protesters have taken to the streets in recent weeks, blowing whistles and holding up cardboard cut-outs of **flamingos** — one of the **protected migratory bird species** that could see their habitats threatened by the proposed **luxury resort**.
  हाल के सप्ताहों में हजारों प्रदर्शनकारी सड़कों पर उतर आए हैं, सीटियाँ बजा रहे हैं और **फ्लेमिंगो** के गत्ते से बने कट-आउट उठा रहे हैं — जो उन **संरक्षित प्रवासी पक्षी प्रजातियों** में से एक हैं जिनके आवास प्रस्तावित **लक्ज़री रिसॉर्ट** से खतरे में पड़ सकते हैं।
- Mr. Rama has vowed not to "**step back**" from the development and defended his administration's **environmental record**.
  श्री रामा ने इस विकास परियोजना से "**पीछे न हटने**" की कसम खाई है और अपने प्रशासन के **पर्यावरणीय रिकॉर्ड** का बचाव किया है।
- He says the protests were being encouraged by **malicious cyber activists** overseas and accuses **Iran** of targeting his government.
  उनका कहना है कि इन विरोध प्रदर्शनों को विदेशों में मौजूद **दुर्भावनापूर्ण साइबर कार्यकर्ताओं** द्वारा बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है और उन्होंने **ईरान** पर उनकी सरकार को निशाना बनाने का आरोप लगाया है।
- "..There are a lot of **half-truths** that become bigger and bigger **lies** by the hour," Mr. Rama told AP in an interview.
  "..बहुत सारे **आधे-सच** हैं जो हर घंटे और बड़े **झूठ** में बदलते जा रहे हैं," श्री रामा ने एपी को एक साक्षात्कार में बताया।
- Despite Mr. Rama's defence of the development, the protests have gathered pace, with supporters in **Albanian communities** in neighboring **Greece** and other **European countries** also holding rallies.
  विकास परियोजना के पक्ष में श्री रामा के बचाव के बावजूद, विरोध प्रदर्शनों ने रफ्तार पकड़ ली है, और पड़ोसी **ग्रीस** तथा अन्य **यूरोपीय देशों** में रहने वाले **अल्बानियाई समुदायों** के समर्थक भी रैलियाँ आयोजित कर रहे हैं।
- **Protests turn political**
  विरोध प्रदर्शन राजनीतिक रूप ले रहे हैं
- **European Union officials** say they are monitoring to ensure that it complies with the terms of **Albania's bid** to join the **EU**.
  यूरोपीय संघ के अधिकारी कहते हैं कि वे यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए निगरानी कर रहे हैं कि यह परियोजना **अल्बानिया की यूरोपीय संघ में शामिल होने की बोली** की शर्तों का पालन करे।
- The protests are also becoming increasingly **political**.
  विरोध प्रदर्शन भी लगातार अधिक **राजनीतिक** होते जा रहे हैं।
- Calls to halt the **development project** have been gradually replaced by overtly political demands, centered on calls for **Mr. Rama's resignation** and **early elections**.
  विकास परियोजना को रोकने की मांगों की जगह धीरे-धीरे खुली **राजनीतिक मांगों** ने ले ली है, जिनका केंद्र **श्री रामा के इस्तीफे** और **शीघ्र चुनावों** की मांग है।
- The **luxury project** has two components: a coastal development in the **Narta Lagoon** area, which is a **wildlife reserve**, and a smaller resort on the nearby uninhabited island of **Sazan**, a communist-era military base.
  इस **लक्ज़री परियोजना** के दो हिस्से हैं: **नार्टा लैगून** क्षेत्र में एक तटीय विकास, जो एक **वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** है, और पास के निर्जन द्वीप **साज़ान** पर एक छोटा रिसॉर्ट, जो साम्यवादी युग का सैन्य अड्डा था।
- The planned development is linked to **Mr. Kushner** and **Mr. Trump's daughter, Ivanka**.
  प्रस्तावित विकास परियोजना **श्री कुशनर** और **श्री ट्रम्प की बेटी इवांका** से जुड़ी हुई है।
- An **investment firm** linked to Mr. Kushner has been granted **special investor status** by Albanian authorities.
  श्री कुशनर से जुड़ी एक **निवेश फर्म** को अल्बानियाई अधिकारियों द्वारा **विशेष निवेशक दर्जा** प्रदान किया गया है।
- Albania has **450 kilometres of coast** that remained largely underdeveloped during decades of harsh **communist rule**.

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अल्बानिया के पास **450 किलोमीटर लंबा तट** है, जो कठोर **साम्यवादी शासन** के दशकों के दौरान काफी हद तक अविकसित रहा।

- Protest groups fear sections of that **pristine coastline** could be snapped up by investors.
  विरोध समूहों को डर है कि उस **अछूते तटीय क्षेत्र** के हिस्से निवेशकों द्वारा खरीद लिए जा सकते हैं।
- And public anger that long-protected habitats are being "**irreversibly destroyed**."
  और जनता में इस बात को लेकर आक्रोश है कि लंबे समय से संरक्षित आवासों को "**अपरिवर्तनीय रूप से नष्ट**" किया जा रहा है।
- Albania's **Special Prosecution Office Against Corruption and Organized Crime** has confirmed it opened an investigation related to the project but has disclosed few details.
  अल्बानिया के **भ्रष्टाचार और संगठित अपराध के विरुद्ध विशेष अभियोजन कार्यालय** ने पुष्टि की है कि उसने इस परियोजना से संबंधित जांच शुरू की है, लेकिन बहुत कम विवरण सार्वजनिक किए हैं।
- It recently ordered the seizure of assets worth **128.3 million euros** from the **Albanian Land Development LLC** company concerning land sale contracts in the area where the project is planned.
  हाल ही में इसने परियोजना क्षेत्र में भूमि बिक्री अनुबंधों के संबंध में **अल्बानियन लैंड डेवलपमेंट एलएलसी** कंपनी की **128.3 मिलियन यूरो** मूल्य की संपत्तियों को जब्त करने का आदेश दिया।
- The government says the land earmarked for the project is **privately owned**.
  सरकार का कहना है कि परियोजना के लिए चिन्हित भूमि **निजी स्वामित्व** में है।
- But competing claims have emerged questioning the **privatisation**.
  लेकिन **निजीकरण** पर सवाल उठाने वाले विरोधी दावे भी सामने आए हैं।
- Public **anger** grew after video showed an activist being dragged away by a **private security guard** while demonstrating at the site.
  एक वीडियो में प्रदर्शन स्थल पर एक कार्यकर्ता को **निजी सुरक्षा गार्ड** द्वारा घसीटकर ले जाते हुए दिखाए जाने के बाद सार्वजनिक **गुस्सा** बढ़ गया।
- The development is planned within a **reserve** and one of the country's most valuable **biodiversity areas**, a key stopover for **migratory birds** along the Adriatic coast.
  यह विकास परियोजना एक **संरक्षित क्षेत्र** और देश के सबसे मूल्यवान **जैव विविधता क्षेत्रों** में से एक के भीतर प्रस्तावित है, जो एड्रियाटिक तट के साथ **प्रवासी पक्षियों** का एक प्रमुख पड़ाव है।
- Since **May**, excavators and other **heavy machinery** have entered the area, opening access routes, digging into the sand, clearing land among pine trees and installing fencing.
  मई से खुदाई मशीनें और अन्य **भारी मशीनरी** क्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर चुकी हैं, पहुंच मार्ग बना रही हैं, रेत की खुदाई कर रही हैं, चीड़ के पेड़ों के बीच भूमि साफ कर रही हैं और बाड़ लगा रही हैं।
- **Environmental groups** from Albania and elsewhere in Europe condemned the work, with one prominent local group charging.
  अल्बानिया और यूरोप के अन्य हिस्सों के **पर्यावरण समूहों** ने इस कार्य की निंदा की, जिसमें एक प्रमुख स्थानीय समूह ने आरोप लगाया।

GS Paper III: Economy	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	India-EU trade pact to be signed by December: Goyal गोयल ने कहा, भारत-यूरोपीय संघ व्यापार समझौते पर दिसंबर तक हस्ताक्षर किए जाएंगे
22J6	The curious case of Kerala's committed expenditure केरल के प्रतिबद्ध व्यय का जिज्ञासापूर्ण मामला
22J6	Basis of your investment decisions, product choice आपके निवेश निर्णयों और उत्पाद चयन का आधार
22J6	Credit Guarantee Fund of Microfinance Units

	माइक्रोफाइनेंस इकाइयों के लिए ऋण गारंटी कोष

India-EU trade pact to be signed by December: Goyal

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India and the 27-nation European Union will sign the free trade agreement (FTA) by December and are likely to implement the pact by February-March next year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday.

On January 27 this year, India and the EU announced the conclusion of negotiations for the "mother of all deals".

"Now, with almost zero duty, almost the entire European market will be open for us. The EU's FTA (free trade agreement) will be signed by December and will be effective by February-March," Mr. Goyal said at an interaction with chartered accountants in Mumbai.

Piyush Goyal

He also said that U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer is coming to India this week to hold trade pact talks with him. "The whole world is looking towards India," he added. Under the India-EU FTA, about 93% of Indian shipments will enjoy duty-free access to the 27-nation bloc, while imports of luxury cars and wines from the EU will become less expensive.

Taken together, India and the EU account for 25% of the global GDP and one-third (about $11 trillion) of international trade (about $33 trillion).

22J6. India-EU trade pact to be signed by December: Goyal

गोयल ने कहा, भारत-यूरोपीय संघ व्यापार समझौते पर दिसंबर तक हस्ताक्षर किए जाएंगे

- **India** and the **27-nation European Union (EU)** will sign the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** by December and are likely to implement the pact by February-March next year, **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal** said on Sunday.
  भारत और **27 देशों वाले यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** के बीच **मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA)** पर दिसंबर तक हस्ताक्षर होंगे तथा इसके अगले वर्ष फरवरी-मार्च तक लागू होने की संभावना है। यह बात **वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल** ने रविवार को कही।
- On January 27 this year, India and the EU announced the conclusion of negotiations for the **"mother of all deals"**.
  इस वर्ष 27 जनवरी को भारत और यूरोपीय संघ ने **"सभी समझौतों की जननी"** कहे जाने वाले इस समझौते पर वार्ताओं के सफल समापन की घोषणा की थी।
- "Now, with almost **zero duty**, almost the entire European market will be open for us.
  "अब लगभग **शून्य शुल्क** के साथ लगभग पूरा यूरोपीय बाजार हमारे लिए खुल जाएगा।
- The EU's **FTA (Free Trade Agreement)** will be signed by December and will be effective by February-March," Mr. Goyal said at an interaction with **chartered accountants** in Mumbai.
  मुंबई में **चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स** के साथ एक संवाद कार्यक्रम में श्री गोयल ने कहा कि यूरोपीय संघ के साथ **FTA (मुक्त व्यापार समझौता)** दिसंबर तक हस्ताक्षरित हो जाएगा और फरवरी-मार्च तक प्रभावी हो जाएगा।
- He also said that **U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer** is coming to India this week to hold trade pact talks with him.
  उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि जैमीसन ग्रीयर** इस सप्ताह व्यापार समझौते पर चर्चा करने के लिए भारत आ रहे हैं।
- "The whole world is looking towards India," he added.
  उन्होंने कहा, "पूरा विश्व भारत की ओर देख रहा है।"
- Under the **India-EU FTA**, about **93% of Indian shipments** will enjoy **duty-free access** to the 27-nation bloc, while imports of **luxury cars** and **wines** from the EU will become less expensive.
  भारत-यूरोपीय संघ FTA के अंतर्गत भारत के लगभग **93% निर्यात माल** को 27 देशों वाले समूह में **शुल्क-मुक्त प्रवेश** मिलेगा, जबकि यूरोपीय संघ से आयातित **लक्ज़री कारें** और **वाइन** अपेक्षाकृत सस्ती हो जाएंगी।

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- Taken together, India and the EU account for **25% of the global GDP** and **one-third of international trade**, valued at about **$11 trillion** and **$33 trillion** respectively.
  संयुक्त रूप से भारत और यूरोपीय संघ **वैश्विक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) के 25%** तथा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के लगभग एक-तिहाई हिस्से** का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, जिनका मूल्य क्रमशः लगभग **11 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** और **33 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** है।

The curious case of Kerala's committed expenditure

Despite grave concerns raised in the white paper, Kerala's budget was silent on measures to bring down the committed expenditure

GS III: Economy

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

The white paper, 'Kerala's Fiscal Health – A Status Report', released by the new United Democratic Front (UDF) government ahead of its maiden budget, raised serious concerns over the State's rising debt burden. The report in particular underscored the huge share of the State's "committed expenditure" – which includes salaries, pensions and interest payments.

It emphasised that nearly 78% share of committed expenditure in the total revenue receipts left little to no room for capital expenditure and contributed to mounting revenue deficits. Kerala's spending on salaries and pensions, as a share of its revenue receipts, is the highest among all States and its share of committed expenditure the second-highest **(Chart 1)**. The trend has more or less remained the same over the years **(Chart 2)**.

Noting that the State spends "almost 80%" of its revenue on committed expenditure, the white paper said, "The most direct structural explanation for Kerala's treasury stress is the share of its revenue that is pre-empted before any discretionary decision." "Now is the time for hard political decisions," it said, adding that measures such as increasing the retirement age and making pay commission revisions decennial should be considered.

Yet, the budget was conspicuously silent on any such measures, barring the exception that the National Pension System would be revamped. The silence is perhaps an acknowledgement of not just the difficulty in tackling this "structural problem," but the importance of high spending on salaries and pensions in achieving the progress the State has made on human development indicators.

Economist R. Ramakumar said retaining the idea of a welfare state requires welfare workers and pointed out that Kerala employs significantly more teachers, healthcare professionals and other public-sector workers **(Chart 4)**. "Kerala's achievements are due to this particular kind of salaries that you end up paying," he added. Moreover, he said that while the figure of over 75% highlighted prominently in the white paper has "shock value", a better parameter would be the committed expenditure's share in the total revenue expenditure and not revenue receipts, which would bring the share down to about 58-60%.

Economist Lekha Chakraborty, meanwhile, said the trend reflected public expenditure rigidity. "All that we can do is an episodic expenditure (sectoral) compression, given the committed nature of spending. While the state has shown revenue buoyancy, without meaningful public expenditure reforms, this pattern risks perpetuating revenue deficits and constraining Kerala's ability to sustain its social model," she said.

Kerala's State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) and overall revenue receipts have shown notable growth, but the tax buoyancy has dropped in recent years. Moreover, their respective Compound Annual Growth Rates (CAGRs) between 2015-16 and 2026-27 (budget estimates) show that the committed expenditure has grown faster **(Chart 3)**. The budget, presented on Thursday, estimates the debt-to-GSDP ratio to come down marginally to 33.5% in 2026-27, compared with 34.87% (2024-25) or 34.26% (2025-26), even though it projects the total outstanding debt to rise by 11.6% **(Chart 5)**.

These optimistic projections show that the new government is relying on a swift turnaround in tax buoyancy and GSDP growth – it estimates the GSDP to grow nominally by 14.15% and revenue receipts by 23.8% – while recognising that expenditure on salaries and pensions cannot be brought down, at least in the near future.

Challenges ahead: Kerala CM V.D. Satheesan presented the revised budget for 2026-2027 on Thursday, amid concerns over growing debt.

Structural hurdles

Data were sourced from Kerala's Revised Budget 2026-27, Kerala's Fiscal Health: A Status Report, the Reserve Bank of India, the CAG and Central Bureau of Health Intelligence

Chart 1: This shows the share of committed expenditure in the revenue receipts of each State. The data shown is for the year 2024-25, taken from RBI

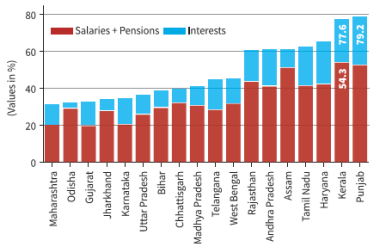


Chart 2: This shows year-wise committed expenditure (left axis) and its share in total revenue receipts (right axis) of Kerala

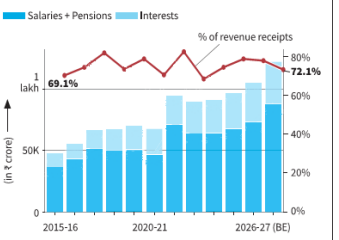


Chart 3: This shows the growth in overall revenue(●), State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) (●), and the committed expenditure (●), along with their respective CAGR between 2015-16 and 2026-27

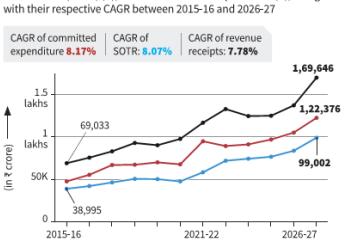


Chart 4: This shows the number of healthcare professionals per 10,000 people at national level and in the top five major States

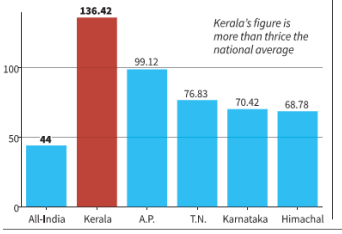
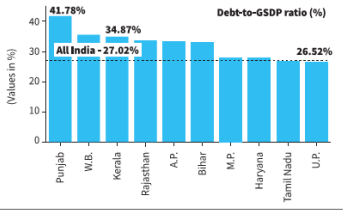


Chart 5: The debt-to-GSDP ratio of select States for 2024-25. Kerala has estimated its debt-to-GSDP ratio to come down to 33.5% despite the debt expected to grow by 11.6% to ₹ 5.46 lakh crore



22J6. The curious case of Kerala's committed expenditure
केरल के प्रतिबद्ध व्यय का जिज्ञासापूर्ण मामला

- **Despite grave concerns raised in the white paper, Kerala's budget was silent on measures to bring down the committed expenditure**
  श्वेत पत्र में गंभीर चिंताएँ व्यक्त किए जाने के बावजूद, केरल के बजट में प्रतिबद्ध व्यय को कम करने के उपायों पर कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया।
- The white paper, **'Kerala's Fiscal Health — A Status Report'**, released by the new **United Democratic Front (UDF)** government ahead of its maiden budget, raised serious concerns

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over the State's rising **debt burden**.
नवगठित **यूनाइटेड डेमोक्रेटिक फ्रंट (UDF)** सरकार द्वारा अपने प्रथम बजट से पूर्व जारी श्वेत पत्र **'केरल की राजकोषीय स्थिति — एक स्थिति रिपोर्ट'** ने राज्य के बढ़ते **ऋण भार** को लेकर गंभीर चिंताएँ व्यक्त की हैं।

- The report in particular underscored the huge share of the State's **committed expenditure** — which includes **salaries**, **pensions** and **interest payments**.
  रिपोर्ट ने विशेष रूप से राज्य के **प्रतिबद्ध व्यय** के बड़े हिस्से को रेखांकित किया, जिसमें **वेतन**, **पेंशन** और **ब्याज भुगतान** शामिल हैं।
- It emphasised that nearly **78% share** of committed expenditure in the total **revenue receipts** left little to no room for **capital expenditure** and contributed to mounting **revenue deficits**.
  इसमें कहा गया कि कुल **राजस्व प्राप्तियों** का लगभग **78% हिस्सा** प्रतिबद्ध व्यय में खर्च हो जाता है, जिससे **पूंजीगत व्यय** के लिए बहुत कम गुंजाइश बचती है और **राजस्व घाटा** बढ़ता है।
- Kerala's spending on **salaries and pensions**, as a share of its revenue receipts, is the highest among all States and its share of **committed expenditure** the second-highest.
  राजस्व प्राप्तियों के अनुपात में **वेतन और पेंशन** पर केरल का व्यय सभी राज्यों में सर्वाधिक है तथा **प्रतिबद्ध व्यय** का हिस्सा दूसरा सबसे अधिक है।
- The trend has more or less remained the same over the years.
  यह प्रवृत्ति वर्षों से लगभग समान बनी हुई है।
- Noting that the State spends "almost **80%**" of its revenue on committed expenditure, the white paper said, "The most direct structural explanation for Kerala's **treasury stress** is the share of its revenue that is pre-empted before any discretionary decision."
  यह उल्लेख करते हुए कि राज्य अपने राजस्व का लगभग **80% प्रतिबद्ध व्यय** पर खर्च करता है, श्वेत पत्र में कहा गया कि केरल के **कोषीय दबाव** का सबसे प्रत्यक्ष संरचनात्मक कारण वह राजस्व है जो किसी भी विवेकाधीन निर्णय से पहले ही व्यय के लिए निर्धारित हो जाता है।
- "Now is the time for **hard political decisions**," it said, adding that measures such as increasing the **retirement age** and making **pay commission revisions** decennial should be considered.
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि अब **कठिन राजनीतिक निर्णयों** का समय है और **सेवानिवृत्ति आयु** बढ़ाने तथा **वेतन आयोग संशोधनों** को दस वर्षीय बनाने जैसे उपायों पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए।
- Yet, the budget was conspicuously silent on any such measures, barring the exception that the **National Pension System (NPS)** would be revamped.
  फिर भी बजट में ऐसे किसी उपाय का उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, केवल यह कहा गया कि **राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली (NPS)** में सुधार किया जाएगा।
- The silence is perhaps an acknowledgement of not just the difficulty in tackling this **structural problem**, but the importance of high spending on salaries and pensions in achieving the progress the State has made on **human development indicators**.
  यह मौन केवल इस **संरचनात्मक समस्या** से निपटने की कठिनाई को ही नहीं, बल्कि **मानव विकास संकेतकों** में राज्य द्वारा प्राप्त उपलब्धियों में वेतन और पेंशन पर उच्च व्यय की भूमिका को भी स्वीकार करता है।
- Economist **R. Ramakumar** said retaining the idea of a **welfare state** requires welfare workers and pointed out that Kerala employs significantly more **teachers**, **healthcare professionals** and other **public-sector workers**.
  अर्थशास्त्री R. Ramakumar ने कहा कि **कल्याणकारी राज्य** की अवधारणा को बनाए रखने के लिए कल्याणकारी कर्मियों की आवश्यकता होती है तथा केरल में अपेक्षाकृत अधिक संख्या में **शिक्षक**, **स्वास्थ्यकर्मी** और अन्य **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के कर्मचारी** कार्यरत हैं।
- "Kerala's achievements are due to this particular kind of salaries that you end up paying," he added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि केरल की उपलब्धियाँ काफी हद तक उन वेतन व्ययों का परिणाम हैं जो इन कर्मचारियों को दिए जाते हैं।
- Moreover, he said that while the figure of over **75%** highlighted prominently in the white paper has "**shock value**", a better parameter would be the committed expenditure's share in the

total **revenue expenditure** and not **revenue receipts**, which would bring the share down to about **58-60%**.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि श्वेत पत्र में प्रमुखता से दर्शाया गया **75% से अधिक** का आँकड़ा भले ही "**चौंकाने वाला प्रभाव**" उत्पन्न करता हो, किन्तु बेहतर मानक **राजस्व प्राप्तियों** के बजाय कुल **राजस्व व्यय** में प्रतिबद्ध व्यय का हिस्सा होगा, जिससे यह अनुपात लगभग **58-60%** रह जाएगा।

- Economist **Lekha Chakraborty**, meanwhile, said the trend reflected **public expenditure rigidity**.
वहीं अर्थशास्त्री Lekha Chakraborty ने कहा कि यह प्रवृत्ति **सार्वजनिक व्यय की कठोरता** को दर्शाती है।
- "All that we can do is an episodic expenditure (**sectoral**) compression, given the committed nature of spending. While the state has shown **revenue buoyancy**, without meaningful **public expenditure reforms**, this pattern risks perpetuating **revenue deficits** and constraining Kerala's ability to sustain its **social model**," she said.
उन्होंने कहा कि व्यय की प्रतिबद्ध प्रकृति को देखते हुए केवल सीमित अवधि के लिए **क्षेत्रीय व्यय संकुचन** ही संभव है। यद्यपि राज्य ने **राजस्व उछाल (Revenue Buoyancy)** प्रदर्शित किया है, परन्तु सार्थक **सार्वजनिक व्यय सुधारों** के बिना यह प्रवृत्ति **राजस्व घाटे** को बनाए रख सकती है और केरल की **सामाजिक मॉडल** को टिकाऊ बनाए रखने की क्षमता को सीमित कर सकती है।
- Kerala's **State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR)** and overall **revenue receipts** have shown notable growth, but the **tax buoyancy** has dropped in recent years.
केरल के **राज्य के स्वयं के कर राजस्व (SOTR)** तथा कुल **राजस्व प्राप्तियों** में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है, किन्तु हाल के वर्षों में **कर उछाल (Tax Buoyancy)** में गिरावट आई है।
- Moreover, their respective **Compound Annual Growth Rates (CAGRs)** between **2015-16** and **2026-27** (budget estimates) show that the **committed expenditure** has grown faster.
इसके अतिरिक्त **2015-16** से **2026-27** (बजट अनुमान) के बीच उनके **चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR)** के आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि **प्रतिबद्ध व्यय** की वृद्धि दर अधिक रही है।
- The budget, presented on Thursday, estimates the **debt-to-GSDP ratio** to come down marginally to **33.5%** in **2026-27**, compared with **34.87% (2024-25)** or **34.26% (2025-26)**, even though it projects the total **outstanding debt** to rise by **11.6%**.
गुरुवार को प्रस्तुत बजट में अनुमान लगाया गया है कि **ऋण-से-GSDP अनुपात 2026-27** में घटकर **33.5%** हो जाएगा, जबकि यह **2024-25** में **34.87%** तथा **2025-26** में **34.26%** था; इसके बावजूद कुल **बकाया ऋण** में **11.6%** वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया गया है।
- These optimistic projections show that the new government is relying on a swift turnaround in **tax buoyancy** and **GSDP growth**.
ये आशावादी अनुमान दर्शाते हैं कि नई सरकार **कर उछाल** और **GSDP वृद्धि** में तीव्र सुधार की अपेक्षा कर रही है।
- It estimates the **GSDP** to grow nominally by **14.15%** and **revenue receipts** by **23.8%**, while recognising that expenditure on **salaries** and **pensions** cannot be brought down, at least in the near future.
सरकार ने **GSDP** में **14.15%** की नाममात्र वृद्धि तथा **राजस्व प्राप्तियों** में **23.8%** की वृद्धि का अनुमान लगाया है, साथ ही यह भी स्वीकार किया है कि निकट भविष्य में **वेतन** और **पेंशन** पर होने वाले व्यय को कम करना संभव नहीं है।

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Basis of your investment decisions, product choice

You have to cut through the hype and understand how the product is suitable so as to achieve your desired financial goal within the investment horizon set by you

GS III: Economy

THE RIGHT ONE

Joydeep Sen

The basis of portfolio allocation decision is financial goals, risk tolerance, investment horizon, etc. Here, we will scratch the surface on the multiple investment products crying for attention.

Underlying for product

Any investment product invests in the underlying market. Conventionally, underlying markets are equity stocks, bonds, and gold. There are also new concepts such as real estate where you can invest via Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and infrastructure via Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs). Potentially, there could be other investment assets like commodities (other than gold or silver), but these are yet to emerge as popular ones via investment vehicles. For HNIs, there are things like art but these are not available in the retail space.

The staple investment base is equity stocks and bonds, also known as fixed income or debt. Equity represents part ownership of the firm whose stock you are buying. As the firm grows, and new investors come in, the value improves and price increases. This leads to returns from investments in equity. Bonds represent 'I owe you' or loans given by the investor to the issuing entity. There is a defined interest payable on a defined date and maturity of bond or debenture is defined as well. The typical aspect is equity has given relatively higher returns than debt but has been relatively more volatile as prices fluctuate more. Gold is known as a 'portfolio diversifier;' with some allocation to gold, the volatility-adjusted return of a portfolio is better.

> At bottom of pyramid are bank term deposits where there is a defined rate of interest and maturity and the rate is not market dependent

At the bottom of the pyramid, there are bank term deposits where there is a defined rate of interest and maturity. The interest rate is not dependent on any market condition. Bank FDs are not transferable. At the higher end of the pyramid, there are derivatives where the base is equity/government bonds/commodities, which are more risky.

Investment vehicles

You can invest directly. You can buy equity stocks from the exchange via stock broker. These days there are multiple apps where you can do KYC online and start buying/selling stocks. For buying bonds online, there is Reserve Bank of India's platform called Direct Gilt, where you can buy government instruments. For buying corporate bonds, there are Online Bond Provider platforms (OBPPs). You can invest in gold via Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) or Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs).

> Every investment product will have an investment objective, portfolio disclosure and track record unless it is a newly launched product.

However, to manage a fund of equities and/or bonds, you need a professional. Therein comes the concept of investment vehicle: a fund management entity which will run a fund and will charge a fee.

The most popular investment vehicle is a mutual fund (MF), where you can buy units of a professionally-managed fund and liquidity is high. There are portfolio management services (PMS) with a minimum ticket size of ₹50 lakh and alternative investment funds (AIF) with a minimum ticket of ₹1 crore. Insurers offer Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs).

Choosing a product

The investment vehicles mentioned earlier, known as product manufacturers, offer a plethora of products, which are a combination of the base mentioned earlier with packaging.

You have to look at:

1. The risk in the underlying base: equity is more volatile than debt; within equity small cap or sectoral/thematic funds are relatively more volatile. In debt, higher rated bonds carry less credit risk.

2. Required investment horizon: historic performance of any asset i.e. equity or debt, gives an idea how volatile it has been, hence how long you should be in the product at the minimum.

Every investment product will have an investment objective, portfolio disclosure and track record unless it is a newly launched product. There is a concept called drawdown, which shows in the worst phase of performance, what was the return from that product. You need a horizon longer than the drawdown and recovery phase.

3. Liquidity: you may need cash flow at any time for an eventuality. You need to be aware upfront on product liquidity. Some products are not liquid by definition e.g. RBI Floating Rate Bonds. Equity is liquid but it is a function of the market level at that point of time. If the market is correcting you may redeem the fund subject to exit load but you would be taking home less.

While liquidity is desirable, it is not compulsory everything in portfolio should be liquid. There would be a certain liquid component, say 10% and a major 'saleable' or 'if required' component.

(Joydeep Sen is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

22J6. Basis of your investment decisions, product choice
आपके निवेश निर्णयों और उत्पाद चयन का आधार

- **You have to cut through the hype and understand how the product is suitable so as to achieve your desired financial goal within the investment horizon set by you.**

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- **आपको बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर किए गए दावों (हाइप) से अलग होकर यह समझना होगा कि उत्पाद (प्रोडक्ट) आपके लिए कितना उपयुक्त है, ताकि आप अपने द्वारा निर्धारित वित्तीय लक्ष्य को अपनी तय की गई निवेश अवधि (इन्वेस्टमेंट होराइजन) के भीतर प्राप्त कर सकें।**
- **The basis of portfolio allocation decision**
  पोर्टफोलियो आवंटन निर्णय का आधार
- The basis of **portfolio allocation** decisions is **financial goals**, **risk tolerance**, **investment horizon**, etc.
- **पोर्टफोलियो आवंटन** का निर्णय **वित्तीय लक्ष्यों**, **जोखिम सहनशीलता**, **निवेश अवधि**, आदि पर आधारित होता है।
- Here, we will scratch the surface on the multiple **investment products** crying for attention.
- यहाँ, हम ध्यान आकर्षित करने वाले विभिन्न **निवेश उत्पादों** की केवल सतही चर्चा करेंगे।
- **Underlying for product**
  उत्पाद का आधारभूत परिसंपत्ति (अंडरलाइंग)
- Any **investment product** invests in the **underlying market**.
- कोई भी **निवेश उत्पाद** किसी **आधारभूत बाजार (अंडरलाइंग मार्केट)** में निवेश करता है।
- Conventionally, underlying markets are **equity stocks**, **bonds**, and **gold**.
- परंपरागत रूप से, आधारभूत बाजार **इक्विटी शेयर**, **बॉण्ड**, और **सोना** होते हैं।
- There are also new concepts such as **real estate** where you can invest via **Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)** and **infrastructure** via **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**.
- इसके अतिरिक्त **रियल एस्टेट** जैसे नए विकल्प भी हैं, जहाँ आप **रियल एस्टेट इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट्स (REITs)** के माध्यम से निवेश कर सकते हैं, तथा **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर** में **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट्स (InvITs)** के माध्यम से निवेश किया जा सकता है।
- Potentially, there could be other investment assets like **commodities** (other than **gold** or **silver**), but these are yet to emerge as popular ones via investment vehicles.
- संभावित रूप से, **कमोडिटीज़** (**सोना** या **चाँदी** के अतिरिक्त) जैसी अन्य निवेश परिसंपत्तियाँ भी हो सकती हैं, लेकिन वे अभी तक निवेश साधनों के माध्यम से लोकप्रिय नहीं हुई हैं।
- For **HNIs**, there are things like **art** but these are not available in the **retail space**.
- **उच्च निवल मूल्य वाले व्यक्तियों (HNIs)** के लिए **कला (आर्ट)** जैसी परिसंपत्तियाँ भी होती हैं, लेकिन ये **खुदरा निवेशकों** के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।
- The staple investment base is **equity stocks** and **bonds**, also known as **fixed income** or **debt**.
- निवेश का मुख्य आधार **इक्विटी शेयर** और **बॉण्ड** हैं, जिन्हें **निश्चित आय (फिक्स्ड इनकम)** या **ऋण (डेट)** भी कहा जाता है।
- **Equity** represents part ownership of the firm whose stock you are buying.
- **इक्विटी** उस कंपनी में आंशिक स्वामित्व का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है, जिसके शेयर आप खरीद रहे हैं।
- As the firm grows, and new investors come in, the value improves and price increases.
- जैसे-जैसे कंपनी बढ़ती है और नए निवेशक जुड़ते हैं, उसका मूल्य बढ़ता है तथा कीमत में वृद्धि होती है।
- This leads to returns from investments in **equity**.
- इससे **इक्विटी निवेश** पर प्रतिफल प्राप्त होता है।
- **Bonds** represent 'I owe you' or loans given by the investor to the issuing entity.
- **बॉण्ड** 'मैं आपका ऋणी हूँ' या निवेशक द्वारा जारीकर्ता संस्था को दिए गए ऋण का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
- There is a defined **interest** payable on a defined date and **maturity** of bond or debenture is defined as well.
- इन पर एक निश्चित तिथि को देय **ब्याज** निर्धारित होता है तथा बॉण्ड या डिबेंचर की **परिपक्वता अवधि (मैच्योरिटी)** भी पूर्वनिर्धारित होती है।
- The typical aspect is **equity** has given relatively higher returns than **debt** but has been relatively more **volatile** as prices fluctuate more.

- सामान्यतः **इक्विटी** ने **ऋण (डेट)** की तुलना में अधिक प्रतिफल दिया है, लेकिन कीमतों में अधिक उतार-चढ़ाव के कारण यह अपेक्षाकृत अधिक **अस्थिर (वोलाटाइल)** रही है।
- **Gold** is known as a **portfolio diversifier**; with some allocation to gold, the volatility-adjusted return of a portfolio is better.
- **सोना** एक **पोर्टफोलियो विविधीकरण साधन** माना जाता है; पोर्टफोलियो में कुछ निवेश सोने में रखने से जोखिम-समायोजित प्रतिफल बेहतर हो सकता है।
- At the bottom of the pyramid, there are **bank term deposits** where there is a defined rate of **interest** and **maturity**.
- पिरामिड के निचले स्तर पर **बैंक सावधि जमा (टर्म डिपॉजिट)** होते हैं, जिनमें **ब्याज दर** और **परिपक्वता अवधि** पूर्वनिर्धारित होती है।
- The interest rate is not dependent on any market condition.
- ब्याज दर किसी भी बाजार परिस्थिति पर निर्भर नहीं होती।
- **Bank FDs** are not transferable.
- **बैंक एफडी** हस्तांतरणीय नहीं होती हैं।
- At the higher end of the pyramid, there are **derivatives** where the base is **equity**, **government bonds**, or **commodities**, which are more risky.
- पिरामिड के ऊपरी स्तर पर **डेरिवेटिव्स** होते हैं, जिनका आधार **इक्विटी**, **सरकारी बॉण्ड**, या **कमोडिटीज़** होती हैं, और ये अपेक्षाकृत अधिक **जोखिमपूर्ण** होते हैं।

Investment vehicles
निवेश साधन

- You can invest directly.
- आप सीधे निवेश कर सकते हैं।
- You can buy **equity stocks** from the exchange via a stock **broker**.
- आप **स्टॉक ब्रोकर** के माध्यम से एक्सचेंज से **इक्विटी शेयर** खरीद सकते हैं।
- These days there are multiple apps where you can do **KYC** online and start buying/selling stocks.
- आजकल कई ऐसे ऐप उपलब्ध हैं जहाँ आप ऑनलाइन **KYC** कर सकते हैं और शेयरों की खरीद-बिक्री शुरू कर सकते हैं।
- For buying **bonds** online, there is **Reserve Bank of India's** platform called **Direct Gilt**, where you can buy **government instruments**.
- ऑनलाइन **बॉण्ड** खरीदने के लिए **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक** का **डायरेक्ट गिल्ट** नामक प्लेटफॉर्म है, जहाँ आप **सरकारी प्रतिभूतियाँ** खरीद सकते हैं।
- For buying **corporate bonds**, there are **Online Bond Provider Platforms (OBPPs)**.
- **कॉर्पोरेट बॉण्ड** खरीदने के लिए **ऑनलाइन बॉण्ड प्रोवाइडर प्लेटफॉर्म (OBPPs)** उपलब्ध हैं।
- You can invest in **gold** via **Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)** or **Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs)**.
- आप **एक्सचेंज ट्रेडेड फंड्स (ETFs)** या **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक गोल्ड रिसीट्स (EGRs)** के माध्यम से **सोने** में निवेश कर सकते हैं।
- However, to manage a fund of **equities** and/or **bonds**, you need a professional.
- हालाँकि, **इक्विटी** और/या **बॉण्ड** के फंड का प्रबंधन करने के लिए आपको एक पेशेवर की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Therein comes the concept of **investment vehicle**: a **fund management entity** which will run a fund and will charge a fee.
- यहीं **निवेश साधन (इन्वेस्टमेंट व्हीकल)** की अवधारणा आती है: एक **फंड प्रबंधन संस्था** जो फंड का संचालन करती है और इसके लिए शुल्क लेती है।
- The most popular investment vehicle is a **mutual fund (MF)**, where you can buy units of a professionally-managed fund and liquidity is high.

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- सबसे लोकप्रिय निवेश साधन **म्यूचुअल फंड (MF)** है, जहाँ आप पेशेवर रूप से प्रबंधित फंड की यूनिटें खरीद सकते हैं और इसकी **तरलता (लिक्विडिटी)** अधिक होती है।
- There are **portfolio management services (PMS)** with a minimum ticket size of **₹50 lakh** and **alternative investment funds (AIF)** with a minimum ticket of **₹1 crore**.
- **पोर्टफोलियो मैनेजमेंट सर्विसेज (PMS)** में न्यूनतम निवेश राशि **₹50 लाख** होती है और **ऑल्टरनेटिव इन्वेस्टमेंट फंड्स (AIF)** में न्यूनतम निवेश **₹1 करोड़** होता है।
- Insurers offer **Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs)**.
- बीमा कंपनियाँ **यूनिट लिंक्ड इंश्योरेंस प्लान्स (ULIPs)** प्रदान करती हैं।
- **Choosing a product**

  उत्पाद का चयन
- The investment vehicles mentioned earlier, known as **product manufacturers**, offer a plethora of products, which are a combination of the base mentioned earlier with packaging.
- पहले उल्लिखित **उत्पाद निर्माता** कहलाने वाले निवेश साधन अनेक प्रकार के उत्पाद प्रदान करते हैं, जो पहले बताए गए आधारभूत परिसंपत्तियों और उनकी प्रस्तुति (पैकेजिंग) का संयोजन होते हैं।
- You have to look at:
- आपको निम्नलिखित बातों पर ध्यान देना होगा:
- The risk in the **underlying base**: **equity** is more volatile than **debt**; within equity **small cap** or **sectoral/thematic funds** are relatively more volatile.
- **आधारभूत परिसंपत्ति** में जोखिम: **इक्विटी**, **ऋण (डेट)** की तुलना में अधिक अस्थिर होती है; और इक्विटी के भीतर **स्मॉल कैप** या **सेक्टोरल/थीमैटिक फंड्स** अपेक्षाकृत अधिक अस्थिर होते हैं।
- In debt, higher rated bonds carry less **credit risk**.
- ऋण निवेश में, उच्च रेटिंग वाले बॉण्ड में **क्रेडिट जोखिम** कम होता है।
- Required **investment horizon**: historic performance of any asset i.e. equity or debt, gives an idea how volatile it has been, hence how long you should be in the product at the minimum.
- आवश्यक **निवेश अवधि**: किसी भी परिसंपत्ति जैसे **इक्विटी** या **डेट** का ऐतिहासिक प्रदर्शन यह संकेत देता है कि वह कितनी अस्थिर रही है, और इसलिए उसमें न्यूनतम कितने समय तक निवेश बनाए रखना चाहिए।
- Every investment product will have an **investment objective**, **portfolio disclosure** and **track record** unless it is a newly launched product.
- प्रत्येक निवेश उत्पाद का एक **निवेश उद्देश्य**, **पोर्टफोलियो प्रकटीकरण** और **ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड** होता है, जब तक कि वह नया लॉन्च किया गया उत्पाद न हो।
- There is a concept called **drawdown**, which shows in the worst phase of performance, what was the return from that product.
- **ड्रॉडाउन** नामक एक अवधारणा होती है, जो यह दर्शाती है कि प्रदर्शन के सबसे खराब दौर में उस उत्पाद का प्रतिफल कितना था।
- You need a horizon longer than the **drawdown** and **recovery phase**.
- आपकी **निवेश अवधि ड्रॉडाउन** और **रिकवरी चरण** से अधिक लंबी होनी चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Credit guarantee fund of microfinance units

GS III: Economy

OPINION

Jiji Mammen

The credit guarantee fund of microfinance institutions (CGSMFI 2.0) has come as a boon to a sector reeling under liquidity deficit for more than a year. Many lenders kept away from MFIs or enhanced underwriting norms in the past two years. Some institutions that supported the microfinance sector even during worst times in the past have stepped back at the moment, miring the sector in uncertainty. At this juncture, the announcement of the CGSMFI 2.0 scheme for guaranteeing funders' money has come as a great relief.

Similar to a fund created during the Covid-19 pandemic, the CGSMFI 2.0 has almost three times the allocation at ₹20,000 crore. It has been designed to ensure every institution can benefit equitably. Additionally, 15% has been earmarked for small and mid-segment MFIs.

The scheme also prescribed a cap of 20% of assets under management (AUM) for individual borrowers to ensure the money was better distributed. The maximum amount eligible for each institution was also capped at ₹100 crore, ₹200 crore or ₹1,000 crore, depending on institution's size.

The limit for the larger MFIs was increased subsequently. Similarly, the scheme has been extended up to August 31.

Looking up: The funding under the guarantee scheme would speed up the revival. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Signs of revival

Thankfully, the scheme comes at a time when the sector is showing signs of revival. The past few months have seen a positive trajectory of disbursements and outstanding. There are indications that disbursements in May may have been much higher. The funding under the guarantee scheme would speed up the revival.

Self-regulation

The microfinance sector – which enables easy access to credit without collateral for low-income individuals, marginalised groups, and small entrepreneurs – was hit badly by the Covid-19 pandemic. The borrowers are among the most vulnerable in such calamities. The sector catered to the post-pandemic surge in demand for credit. But the higher credit flow without commensurate revival of the economy saw some households ending up in an over-leveraged position, leading to higher indebtedness and sector-wide stress.

As a corrective measure, self-regulatory organisations came up with a set of guardrails, first in July 2024 and again in April 2025. They were finalised jointly with the CEOs of MFIs and their diligent implementation has put the sector back in order.

There has been an improvement in several parameters in the last few quarters. The portfolio size declined from ₹4.4 lakh crore in March 2024 to ₹3.71 lakh crore in March 2025 and ₹3.34 lakh crore in March 2026. It had dipped below ₹3.2lakh crore during the year, but showed growth in the last two months of the financial year to close at ₹3.34 trillion, below the previous year's close. However, the numbers for May would be more encouraging, given the higher lending. When it comes to the portfolio at risk (PAR) value, the PAR 30-179 days has improved from 6.65% in March 2025 to 2.31% in March 2026. Similar, the PAR 90-plus improved from 3.93% to 1.49%. The PAR 179-plus, has stabilised in last six months.

(The writer is ED and CEO of Sa-Dhan. The views expressed are personal)

22J6. Credit Guarantee Fund of Microfinance Units
माइक्रोफाइनेंस इकाइयों के लिए ऋण गारंटी कोष

- **Credit Guarantee Fund of Microfinance Institutions (CGSMFI 2.0)**
  माइक्रोफाइनेंस संस्थानों के लिए ऋण गारंटी कोष (CGS MFI 2.0)
- The **credit guarantee fund** of **microfinance institutions (CGSMFI 2.0)** has come as a boon to a sector reeling under **liquidity deficit** for more than a year.
- **माइक्रोफाइनेंस संस्थानों के ऋण गारंटी कोष (CGS MFI 2.0)** ने एक वर्ष से अधिक समय से **तरलता संकट** से जूझ रहे क्षेत्र के लिए वरदान का कार्य किया है।
- Many lenders kept away from **MFIs** or enhanced **underwriting norms** in the past two years.
- पिछले दो वर्षों में अनेक ऋणदाताओं ने **एमएफआई (MFIs)** से दूरी बनाए रखी या **अंडरराइटिंग मानदंडों** को और सख्त कर दिया।
- Some institutions that supported the microfinance sector even during the worst times in the past have stepped back at the moment, miring the sector in uncertainty.
- कुछ संस्थान, जिन्होंने अतीत के सबसे कठिन समय में भी माइक्रोफाइनेंस क्षेत्र का समर्थन किया था, वर्तमान में पीछे हट गए हैं, जिससे यह क्षेत्र अनिश्चितता में फँस गया है।
- At this juncture, the announcement of the **CGSMFI 2.0 scheme** for guaranteeing funders' money has come as a great relief.
- ऐसे समय में, निवेशकों के धन की गारंटी देने हेतु **CGSMFI 2.0 योजना** की घोषणा एक बड़ी राहत के रूप में सामने आई है।
- Similar to a fund created during the **Covid-19 pandemic**, the **CGSMFI 2.0** has almost three times the allocation at **₹20,000 crore**.
- **कोविड-19 महामारी** के दौरान बनाए गए कोष की तरह, **CGSMFI 2.0** में लगभग तीन गुना अधिक **₹20,000 करोड़** का आवंटन किया गया है।
- It has been designed to ensure every institution can benefit equitably.
- इसे इस प्रकार तैयार किया गया है कि प्रत्येक संस्था को समान रूप से लाभ मिल सके।
- Additionally, **15%** has been earmarked for **small and mid-segment MFIs**.
- इसके अतिरिक्त, **15%** राशि **छोटे और मध्यम श्रेणी के एमएफआई** के लिए आरक्षित की गई है।
- The scheme also prescribed a cap of **20% of assets under management (AUM)** for individual borrowers to ensure the money was better distributed.

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- योजना में व्यक्तिगत उधारकर्ताओं के लिए **प्रबंधनाधीन परिसंपत्तियों (AUM)** का **20%** सीमा निर्धारित की गई है ताकि धन का बेहतर वितरण सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।
- The maximum amount eligible for each institution was also capped at **₹100 crore**, **₹200 crore** or **₹1,000 crore**, depending on institution's size.
- प्रत्येक संस्था के लिए पात्र अधिकतम राशि भी संस्था के आकार के अनुसार **₹100 करोड़**, **₹200 करोड़** या **₹1,000 करोड़** तक सीमित की गई थी।
- The limit for the larger MFIs was increased subsequently.
- बाद में बड़े **एमएफआई** के लिए यह सीमा बढ़ा दी गई।
- Similarly, the scheme has been extended up to **August 31**.
- इसी प्रकार, इस योजना को **31 अगस्त** तक बढ़ा दिया गया है।
- **Signs of revival**
  पुनरुद्धार के संकेत
- Thankfully, the scheme comes at a time when the sector is showing signs of **revival**.
- सौभाग्य से, यह योजना ऐसे समय में आई है जब यह क्षेत्र **पुनरुद्धार** के संकेत दिखा रहा है।
- The past few months have seen a positive trajectory of **disbursements** and **outstanding**.
- पिछले कुछ महीनों में **ऋण वितरण (डिस्बर्समेंट)** और **बकाया ऋण (आउटस्टैंडिंग)** में सकारात्मक रुझान देखा गया है।
- There are indications that disbursements in **May** may have been much higher.
- संकेत मिल रहे हैं कि **मई** में ऋण वितरण काफी अधिक रहा होगा।
- The funding under the **guarantee scheme** would speed up the revival.
- **गारंटी योजना** के अंतर्गत मिलने वाला वित्तपोषण इस पुनरुद्धार की गति को और तेज करेगा।

Self-regulation
स्व-नियमन

- The **microfinance sector** — which enables easy access to **credit without collateral** for **low-income individuals**, **marginalised groups**, and **small entrepreneurs** — was hit badly by the **Covid-19 pandemic**.
- **माइक्रोफाइनेंस क्षेत्र** — जो **कम आय वाले व्यक्तियों**, **वंचित समूहों** और **छोटे उद्यमियों** को **बिना संपार्श्विक (कोलेटरल) के ऋण** तक आसान पहुँच प्रदान करता है — **कोविड-19 महामारी** से बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ।
- The borrowers are among the most **vulnerable** in such calamities.
- ऐसी आपदाओं में उधारकर्ता सबसे अधिक **संवेदनशील** वर्गों में शामिल होते हैं।
- The sector catered to the post-pandemic surge in demand for **credit**.
- इस क्षेत्र ने महामारी के बाद **ऋण** की मांग में आई तेज वृद्धि को पूरा किया।
- But the higher **credit flow** without commensurate revival of the economy saw some households ending up in an **over-leveraged position**, leading to higher **indebtedness** and sector-wide stress.
- लेकिन अर्थव्यवस्था में समानुपाती सुधार के बिना बढ़े हुए **ऋण प्रवाह** के कारण कुछ परिवार **अत्यधिक ऋणग्रस्त स्थिति** में पहुँच गए, जिससे **कर्ज़दारी** बढ़ी और पूरे क्षेत्र में दबाव उत्पन्न हुआ।
- As a corrective measure, **self-regulatory organisations** came up with a set of **guardrails**, first in **July 2024** and again in **April 2025**.
- सुधारात्मक उपाय के रूप में, **स्व-नियामक संगठनों** ने **दिशानिर्देशों (गार्डरेल्स)** का एक समूह तैयार किया, पहले **जुलाई 2024** में और फिर **अप्रैल 2025** में।
- They were finalised jointly with the **CEOs of MFIs** and their diligent implementation has put the sector back in order.
- इन्हें **एमएफआई के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारियों (CEO)** के साथ मिलकर अंतिम रूप दिया गया और इनके सावधानीपूर्वक क्रियान्वयन ने क्षेत्र को पुनः व्यवस्थित कर दिया।
- There has been an improvement in several parameters in the last few quarters.

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- पिछली कुछ तिमाहियों में कई मानकों में सुधार देखा गया है।
- The **portfolio size** declined from **₹4.4 lakh crore** in **March 2024** to **₹3.71 lakh crore** in **March 2025** and **₹3.34 lakh crore** in **March 2026**.
- **पोर्टफोलियो का आकार मार्च 2024** में **₹4.4 लाख करोड़** से घटकर **मार्च 2025** में **₹3.71 लाख करोड़** और **मार्च 2026** में **₹3.34 लाख करोड़** रह गया।
- It had dipped below **₹3.2 lakh crore** during the year, but showed growth in the last two months of the financial year to close at **₹3.34 trillion**, below the previous year's close.
- वर्ष के दौरान यह **₹3.2 लाख करोड़** से नीचे चला गया था, लेकिन वित्तीय वर्ष के अंतिम दो महीनों में वृद्धि दर्ज करते हुए **₹3.34 ट्रिलियन** पर बंद हुआ, जो पिछले वर्ष के स्तर से कम था।
- However, the numbers for **May** would be more encouraging, given the higher lending.
- हालाँकि, अधिक ऋण वितरण को देखते हुए **मई** के आँकड़े अधिक उत्साहजनक हो सकते हैं।
- When it comes to the **portfolio at risk (PAR)** value, the **PAR 30–179 days** has improved from **6.65%** in **March 2025** to **2.31%** in **March 2026**.
- **जोखिमग्रस्त पोर्टफोलियो (PAR)** के संदर्भ में, **PAR 30–179 दिन मार्च 2025** के **6.65%** से सुधरकर **मार्च 2026** में **2.31%** हो गया है।
- Similarly, the **PAR 90-plus** improved from **3.93%** to **1.49%**.
- इसी प्रकार, **PAR 90-प्लस 3.93%** से सुधरकर **1.49%** हो गया है।
- The **PAR 179-plus** has stabilised in last six months.
- **PAR 179-प्लस** पिछले छह महीनों में स्थिर हो गया है।
- (The writer is **ED and CEO of Sa-Dhan**. The views expressed are personal)
- (लेखक **सा-धन के कार्यकारी निदेशक (ED) और मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (CEO)** हैं। व्यक्त विचार उनके निजी हैं।)

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	**Biochar offers a way to turn India's farm smoke into 'black gold'** **बायोचार भारत के कृषि धुएँ को 'काले सोने' में बदलने का एक मार्ग प्रदान करता है।**
22J6	**No alcohol when it's hot** **गर्मी के मौसम में शराब का सेवन नहीं करना चाहिए।**
22J6	**Kerala's battle with water-borne diseases** **जलजनित रोगों के विरुद्ध केरल की लड़ाई**
22J6	**What is Google's Project Nimbus, and why are students protesting against it?** **गूगल का प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस क्या है, और छात्र इसके विरुद्ध प्रदर्शन क्यों कर रहे हैं?**
22J6	**Tales TDS tells** **टीडीएस जो कहानी कहता है**

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Biochar offers a way to turn India's farm smoke into 'black gold'

When added to poor, degraded soils, biochar can increase their ability to store water and stimulate the growth of beneficial microbes; studies have indicated that it ca improve crop productivity by 10% to 30% and water-holding capacity by 10% to 25%, particularly in soils low in nutrients

GS III: S&T

Vinaya Kumar H.M.
Vikram Patil

India's agriculture faces a serious paradox: a large amount of biomass that could improve soil health is instead being burned. This threatens soil health and food security. Punjab and Haryana burn more than 20 million tonnes of paddy straw in their open fields every year. This is due to the short post-harvest periods and a lack of practical alternatives.

Burning these residues releases large quantities of greenhouse gases and fine particles into the air and soil, causing serious air pollution in the region as well as a major loss of organic matter that could otherwise be returned to the increasingly depleted soils.

At the same time, large tracts of agricultural land, from the black soils of Maharashtra to the red soils of Kerala, suffer from very low soil organic carbon, poor water-holding capacity, and rapid loss of nutrients, reducing crop productivity even with better seeds and irrigation.

Both these problems are symptoms of the same larger failure to recycle natural resources efficiently.

A biochar mixture ready to be applied to soil. Biochar is made by heating agricultural waste in low-oxygen conditions. What remains is a carbon-rich material that breaks down very slowly in the soil. NAMIBIABCBU (CC BY)

THE GIST

Biochar is made by he agricultural waste in low-oxygen conditions

Integrating biochar into existing initiatives on na farming, soil health management, and carb farming can deliver environmental and eco benefits at scale

As droughts, heatwaves erratic rainfall become frequent and more inte improving soil health w crucial to sustaining agricultural productivity

In India, however, bioch remains largely confine research trials and pilot projects, and is very mu to many farmers

Value to agriculture

This is where biochar emerges as a carbon negative solution. Biochar is made by heating agricultural waste in low-oxygen conditions. What remains is a carbon-rich material that breaks down very slowly in the soil, helping to keep carbon locked away for long periods of time. The benefits extend well beyond carbon capture. Biochar is highly porous and contributes to aggregating soil particles, holding water, and creating a suitable environment for microorganisms.

Given these properties, the value of biochar to agriculture should be obvious. When added to poor, degraded soils, it can increase their ability to store water and stimulate the growth of beneficial microbes.

Studies have indicated that it can improve crop productivity by 10% to 30% and water-holding capacity by 10% to 25%, particularly in soils low in nutrients.

Biochar derived from maize stalks and applied to black soils in Akola district of Maharashtra has improved soil organic carbon content and overall soil fertility in field trials. Research from Kerala has shown that biochar made from coconut leaf stalks increased soil quality in different cropping systems, emphasising the need to use local resources effectively. Perhaps most significantly, long-term studies have shown that biochar has the benefit of enhancing soil health and maintaining higher crop output over time.

Wider vision

This approach also supports India's wider vision of sustainable agriculture and climate resilience. As droughts, heatwaves, and erratic rainfall become more frequent and more intense, improving soil health will be crucial to sustaining agricultural productivity.

By increasing the water-holding capacity and the ability to use nutrients efficiently, thus, biochar can help crops withstand moisture stress while reducing dependency on external inputs. This is particularly important for small and marginal farmers who are often the most exposed to the climate's vagaries.

Integrating biochar into the existing initiatives on natural farming, soil health management, and carbon farming can deliver environmental and economic benefits at scale. Yet in India, biochar remains largely confined to research trials and pilot projects, and is very much alien to many farmers.

In fact, agricultural residues are generally seen only as a problem of disposal. But they are an important resource that can generate additional income, create jobs, can deliver environmental benefits, and could even support payments for ecosystem services.

Carbon credits

As one way forward, the government could package the activities of turning agricultural waste into biochar and putting it on soil into carbon credit markets, creating a strong economic incentive for mass adoption.

Biochar carbon already passes rigorous stability criteria for long-term sequestration, and it can be classified as a persistent carbon dioxide removal technology under internationally accepted accounting standards. For

Biochar is highly porous and contributes to aggregating soil particles, holding water, and creating a suitable environment for microorganisms

instance, VM0042 agricultural land management methodology quantifies both avoided emissions from residue burning and long-term carbon sequestration in soils. In this protocol, each tonne of certified biochar can generate 2-2.8 t carbon dioxide-equivalent in carbon credits. Depending on carbon market prices, certified biochar can thus provide an additional source of income for project developers, farmers, and cooperatives.

This approach is already being tested in projects such as those using the KISAN kiln from IIT-Kharagpur, which allows smallholders to monetise farm waste.

Several international examples also illustrate the scalability of biochar systems. In Kenya, turning rice husks into biochar has produced thousands of certified carbon credits and improved soil pH and phosphorus content. Thailand has pushed biochar use through national initiatives on soil rehabilitation and carbon management, and tied certification to access to the national carbon registry system, providing a policy-to-market pipeline. High carbon retention and large yield gains have also been reported from Brazil's Embrapa Institute after using on-farm biochar generated from sugarcane bagasse.

These examples also show that success depends on integrated strategies that combine decentralised, appropriately scaled pyrolysis technology with strong measurement, reporting, and verification systems.

Urban organic waste

The feedstock for biochar is also not limited to agricultural waste and can encompass urban organic waste as well. India generates around 62 million tonnes of municipal solid garbage per year and more than 50% of that is biodegradable. Sewage sludge and crop residues can also be converted into biochar.

This is in keeping with the precepts of the circular economy, as organic waste is diverted from landfills that produce methane and is converted to a useful product for agriculture. By systematically implementing these measures, India can turn its large waste streams into 'black gold', thus ensuring a more resilient agricultural future while making a meaningful contribution to global climate mitigation efforts.

Overall, the value of biomass can only be realised through an integrated ecosystem that catalyses innovation, entrepreneurship, market linkages, investment, and cost-effective access to biochar for farmers.

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22J6. Biochar offers a way to turn India's farm smoke into 'black gold'
बायोचार भारत के कृषि धुएँ को 'काले सोने' में बदलने का एक मार्ग प्रदान करता है।

- When added to poor, degraded soils, **biochar** can increase their ability to store **water** and stimulate the growth of **beneficial microbes**.
  जब **बायोचार** को गरीब एवं क्षीणित मिट्टियों में मिलाया जाता है, तो यह उनकी **जल** संचित करने की क्षमता को बढ़ा सकता है तथा **लाभकारी सूक्ष्मजीवों** की वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है।
- Studies have indicated that it can improve **crop productivity** by **10% to 30%** and **water-holding capacity** by **10% to 25%**, particularly in soils low in **nutrients**.
  अध्ययनों से संकेत मिला है कि यह **फसल उत्पादकता** में **10% से 30%** तक तथा **जल धारण क्षमता** में **10% से 25%** तक वृद्धि कर सकता है, विशेष रूप से उन मिट्टियों में जिनमें **पोषक तत्त्वों** की कमी होती है।

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- India's agriculture faces a serious **paradox**: a large amount of **biomass** that could improve **soil health** is instead being burned.
  भारत की कृषि एक गंभीर **विरोधाभास** का सामना कर रही है: **मृदा स्वास्थ्य** में सुधार करने वाली बड़ी मात्रा में **जैविक अवशेष (बायोमास)** का उपयोग करने के बजाय उसे जला दिया जाता है।
- This threatens **soil health** and **food security**.
  यह **मृदा स्वास्थ्य** और **खाद्य सुरक्षा** के लिए खतरा उत्पन्न करता है।
- Punjab and Haryana burn more than **20 million tonnes** of **paddy straw** in their open fields every year.
  पंजाब और हरियाणा में प्रत्येक वर्ष खुले खेतों में **धान के पुआल** की **20 मिलियन टन** से अधिक मात्रा जलाई जाती है।
- At the same time, large tracts of agricultural land, from the **black soils of Maharashtra** to the **red soils of Kerala**, suffer from very low **soil organic carbon**, poor **water-holding capacity**, and rapid loss of **nutrients**, reducing **crop productivity** even with better seeds and irrigation.
  साथ ही, **महाराष्ट्र की काली मिट्टी** से लेकर **केरल की लाल मिट्टी** तक कृषि भूमि के विशाल क्षेत्र अत्यंत कम **मृदा कार्बनिक कार्बन**, कमजोर **जल धारण क्षमता**, तथा **पोषक तत्त्वों** की तीव्र हानि से ग्रस्त हैं, जिससे बेहतर बीजों और सिंचाई के बावजूद **फसल उत्पादकता** कम हो जाती है।
- Biochar is made by heating **agricultural waste** in **low-oxygen conditions**.
  बायोचार का निर्माण **कृषि अपशिष्ट** को **कम ऑक्सीजन वाली परिस्थितियों** में गर्म करके किया जाता है।
- What remains is a **carbon-rich material** that breaks down very slowly in the soil, helping to keep **carbon locked away** for long periods of time.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप एक **कार्बन-समृद्ध पदार्थ** प्राप्त होता है जो मृदा में बहुत धीरे-धीरे विघटित होता है और लंबे समय तक **कार्बन को सुरक्षित रूप से संचित** रखने में सहायता करता है।
- The benefits extend well beyond **carbon capture**.
  इसके लाभ केवल **कार्बन अवशोषण** तक सीमित नहीं हैं।
- Biochar is highly **porous** and contributes to aggregating **soil particles**, holding **water**, and creating a suitable environment for **microorganisms**.
  बायोचार अत्यधिक **छिद्रयुक्त** होता है तथा **मृदा कणों** के एकीकरण, **जल** धारण करने और **सूक्ष्मजीवों** के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने में योगदान देता है।
- When added to poor, degraded soils, it can increase their ability to store **water** and stimulate the growth of beneficial **microbes**.
  जब इसे कमजोर एवं अवनत मृदाओं में मिलाया जाता है, तो यह उनकी **जल संग्रहण क्षमता** को बढ़ाता है तथा लाभकारी **सूक्ष्मजीवों** की वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- Studies have indicated that it can improve **crop productivity** by **10% to 30%** and **water-holding capacity** by **10% to 25%**, particularly in soils low in nutrients.
  अध्ययनों से संकेत मिला है कि यह **फसल उत्पादकता** में **10% से 30%** तथा **जल धारण क्षमता** में **10% से 25%** तक वृद्धि कर सकता है, विशेषकर उन मृदाओं में जहाँ पोषक तत्त्वों की कमी होती है।
- Biochar derived from **maize stalks** and applied to **black soils** in **Akola district of Maharashtra** has improved **soil organic carbon content** and overall **soil fertility** in field trials.
  मक्का के डंठलों से निर्मित बायोचार को **महाराष्ट्र के अकोला जिले** की **काली मिट्टियों** में प्रयोग करने पर क्षेत्रीय परीक्षणों में **मृदा कार्बनिक कार्बन की मात्रा** तथा समग्र **मृदा उर्वरता** में सुधार देखा गया है।
- Research from **Kerala** has shown that biochar made from **coconut leaf stalks** increased **soil quality** in different cropping systems, emphasising the need to use local resources effectively.
  केरल में किए गए अनुसंधान से पता चला है कि **नारियल की पत्ती के डंठलों** से निर्मित बायोचार ने विभिन्न फसल प्रणालियों में **मृदा गुणवत्ता** को बढ़ाया है, जिससे स्थानीय संसाधनों के प्रभावी उपयोग की आवश्यकता पर बल मिलता है।
- By increasing the **water-holding capacity** and the ability to use **nutrients** efficiently, thus, **biochar** can help crops withstand **moisture stress** while reducing dependency on external

inputs.
जल धारण क्षमता तथा **पोषक तत्वों** के कुशल उपयोग की क्षमता को बढ़ाकर, **बायोचार** फसलों को **नमी तनाव** का सामना करने में सहायता कर सकता है तथा बाहरी संसाधनों पर निर्भरता को कम कर सकता है।

- This is particularly important for **small and marginal farmers** who are often the most exposed to the climate's vagaries.
यह विशेष रूप से **लघु एवं सीमांत किसानों** के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, जो प्रायः जलवायु की अनिश्चितताओं से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं।
- Integrating **biochar** into the existing initiatives on **natural farming**, **soil health management**, and **carbon farming** can deliver environmental and economic benefits at scale.
बायोचार को **प्राकृतिक खेती**, **मृदा स्वास्थ्य प्रबंधन** तथा **कार्बन खेती** से संबंधित वर्तमान पहलों में सम्मिलित करने से बड़े स्तर पर पर्यावरणीय एवं आर्थिक लाभ प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं।
- But they are an important **resource** that can generate additional **income**, create **jobs**, can deliver **environmental benefits**, and could even support **payments for ecosystem services**.
किन्तु वे एक महत्वपूर्ण **संसाधन** हैं, जो अतिरिक्त **आय** उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं, **रोजगार** सृजित कर सकते हैं, **पर्यावरणीय लाभ** प्रदान कर सकते हैं तथा **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाओं के लिए भुगतान** का आधार भी बन सकते हैं।

Carbon credits

कार्बन क्रेडिट

- As one way forward, the government could package the activities of turning **agricultural waste** into **biochar** and putting it on soil into **carbon credit markets**, creating a strong economic incentive for mass adoption.
आगे बढ़ने के एक उपाय के रूप में सरकार **कृषि अपशिष्ट** को **बायोचार** में परिवर्तित करने और उसे मृदा में उपयोग करने की गतिविधियों को **कार्बन क्रेडिट बाजारों** से जोड़ सकती है, जिससे इसके व्यापक अपनाने हेतु एक सशक्त आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन उत्पन्न होगा।
- **Biochar carbon** already passes rigorous **stability criteria** for long-term **sequestration**, and it can be classified as a **persistent carbon dioxide removal technology** under internationally accepted accounting standards.
बायोचार कार्बन पहले से ही दीर्घकालिक **कार्बन पृथक्करण** के लिए कठोर **स्थिरता मानदंडों** को पूरा करता है और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर स्वीकृत लेखांकन मानकों के अंतर्गत इसे **स्थायी कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड निष्कासन प्रौद्योगिकी** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया जा सकता है।
- For instance, **VM0042 agricultural land management methodology** quantifies both **avoided emissions** from residue burning and long-term **carbon sequestration** in soils.
उदाहरण के लिए, **VM0042 कृषि भूमि प्रबंधन पद्धति** अवशेष जलाने से बचाई गई **उत्सर्जन मात्रा** तथा मृदा में दीर्घकालिक **कार्बन पृथक्करण** दोनों का आकलन करती है।
- In this protocol, each tonne of **certified biochar** can generate **2-2.8 t carbon dioxide-equivalent** in **carbon credits**.
इस प्रोटोकॉल के अंतर्गत प्रत्येक टन **प्रमाणित बायोचार** से **कार्बन क्रेडिट** के रूप में **2-2.8 टन कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड-समतुल्य** प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
- Depending on **carbon market prices**, certified **biochar** can thus provide an additional source of **income** for **project developers**, **farmers**, and **cooperatives**.
इस प्रकार **कार्बन बाजार मूल्यों** के आधार पर प्रमाणित **बायोचार**, **परियोजना विकासकर्ताओं**, **किसानों** तथा **सहकारी समितियों** के लिए अतिरिक्त **आय** का स्रोत प्रदान कर सकता है।
- This approach is already being tested in projects such as those using the **KISAN kiln** from **IIT-Kharagpur**, which allows **smallholders** to monetise **farm waste**.

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इस दृष्टिकोण का परीक्षण पहले से ही ऐसी परियोजनाओं में किया जा रहा है, जिनमें **IIT-खड़गपुर** द्वारा विकसित **KISAN भट्ठी** का उपयोग किया जा रहा है, जो **लघु किसानों** को **कृषि अपशिष्ट** का आर्थिक मूल्य प्राप्त करने में सक्षम बनाती है।

- In **Kenya**, turning **rice husks** into **biochar** has produced thousands of **certified carbon credits** and improved **soil pH** and **phosphorus content**.
  केन्या में **धान की भूसी** को **बायोचार** में परिवर्तित करने से हजारों **प्रमाणित कार्बन क्रेडिट** प्राप्त हुए हैं तथा **मृदा pH** और **फॉस्फोरस की मात्रा** में सुधार हुआ है।
- **Thailand** has pushed **biochar use** through national initiatives on **soil rehabilitation** and **carbon management**, and tied certification to access to the national **carbon registry system**, providing a **policy-to-market pipeline**.
  थाईलैंड ने **मृदा पुनर्वास** और **कार्बन प्रबंधन** से संबंधित राष्ट्रीय पहलों के माध्यम से **बायोचार के उपयोग** को बढ़ावा दिया है तथा प्रमाणन को राष्ट्रीय **कार्बन रजिस्ट्री प्रणाली** तक पहुँच से जोड़कर **नीति से बाजार तक की प्रक्रिया** विकसित की है।
- These examples also show that success depends on integrated strategies that combine decentralised, appropriately scaled **pyrolysis technology** with strong **measurement, reporting, and verification systems**.
  ये उदाहरण यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि सफलता ऐसी समेकित रणनीतियों पर निर्भर करती है, जो विकेन्द्रीकृत एवं उपयुक्त स्तर की **पायरोलिसिस प्रौद्योगिकी** को सुदृढ़ **मापन, प्रतिवेदन एवं सत्यापन प्रणालियों** के साथ जोड़ती हैं।

Urban organic waste

शहरी जैविक अपशिष्ट

- The **feedstock** for **biochar** is also not limited to **agricultural waste** and can encompass **urban organic waste** as well.
  बायोचार के लिए उपयोग किया जाने वाला **कच्चा पदार्थ (फीडस्टॉक)** केवल **कृषि अपशिष्ट** तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें **शहरी जैविक अपशिष्ट** भी सम्मिलित किया जा सकता है।
- India generates around **62 million tonnes** of **municipal solid garbage** per year and more than **50%** of that is **biodegradable**.
  भारत प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **62 मिलियन टन नगर ठोस कचरा** उत्पन्न करता है, जिसमें से **50 प्रतिशत** से अधिक **जैव-अपघटनीय** होता है।
- **Sewage sludge** and **crop residues** can also be converted into **biochar**.
  सीवेज कीचड़ तथा **फसल अवशेषों** को भी **बायोचार** में परिवर्तित किया जा सकता है।
- This is in keeping with the precepts of the **circular economy**, as **organic waste** is diverted from **landfills** that produce **methane** and is converted to a useful product for agriculture.
  यह **परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था (सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी)** के सिद्धांतों के अनुरूप है, क्योंकि **जैविक अपशिष्ट** को **लैंडफिल स्थलों** से हटाकर, जहाँ से **मीथेन** उत्पन्न होती है, कृषि के लिए उपयोगी उत्पाद में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

No alcohol when it's hot

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

A person cools off from a public fountain near the Colosseum during a heatwave in Rome. REUTERS

In response to a new heatwave alert across Europe, France has partially banned the consumption of alcohol. The restriction is a public health measure as part of reducing heat-related illnesses.

Alcohol affects the body in many ways that become more dangerous if the person is also exposed to extreme heat. It causes the body to produce more urine, and thus increases the risk of dehydration. It impairs the body's ability to regulate temperature by dilating blood vessels in the skin and suppressing the hormone vasopressin. And it lowers their awareness of early warning signs such as dizziness and nausea and makes them less likely to seek shade or drink water.

These risks are compounded at large outdoor events like the annual Fête de la Musique, where people may spend hours standing in crowded spaces under direct sunlight.

As *Reuters* reported, "After a crisis meeting, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu pre-emptively banned alcohol consumption on Sunday at the annual Fete de la Musique festivals and other public events" scheduled in the 35 regions with heat alerts. It added that Paris authorities had "ordered parks to remain open around the clock". Since the city is a concrete jungle, parks could keep people cool at night.

Since the deadly 2003 heatwave in Europe, which killed nearly 15,000 people in France alone, French authorities have adopted more interventionist responses to heat, including opening cooling centres, checking on vulnerable residents, and restricting activities that could increase health risks.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Science'

22J6. No alcohol when it's hot
गर्मी के मौसम में शराब का सेवन नहीं करना चाहिए।

- It causes the body to produce more **urine**, and thus increases the risk of **dehydration**.

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यह शरीर में अधिक **मूत्र** उत्पादन कराती है और इस प्रकार **निर्जलीकरण** के जोखिम को बढ़ाती है।

- It impairs the body's ability to regulate **temperature** by dilating **blood vessels** in the skin and suppressing the hormone **vasopressin**.

यह त्वचा की **रक्त वाहिकाओं** को फैलाकर तथा **वासोप्रेसिन हार्मोन** को दबाकर शरीर की **तापमान नियंत्रण** क्षमता को प्रभावित करती है।

Kerala's battle with water-borne diseases

The State's under-investment in proper sewerage networks is costing it dearly

STATE OF PLAY

GS III: S&T [redacted]

C. Maya

A State renowned for being the model of public health in the country and one which has consistently recorded some of the best health indicators nationwide, is now battling recurrent outbreaks of various water-borne diseases such as shigellosis. The irony is stark, for Kerala has demonstrated the responsiveness and resilience of its health system by having a firm grip on a disease as unpredictable and complex as Nipah.

Now, rapid urbanisation and social development on the one side and inadequate attention paid to environmental health, water quality measures, poor sewage and sanitation infrastructure on the other, is threatening to undo the State's reputation as a beacon of good public health. The explosion of water-borne diseases and zoonotic diseases in the State points to the system's failure to pay attention to the social and environmental determinants of health.

Scale of contamination

A look at the outbreaks of Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (ADD), Hepatitis A, shigellosis and norovirus in recent years gives an indication of the impact of groundwater contamination on people's health.

Between four to five lakh cases of ADD are reported every year in the State. Since the past two decades, Kerala has also been experiencing several large and small Hepatitis A outbreaks. In 2025, the State reported 31,536 cases and 82 deaths due to Hep A. This year too, as of June 15, close to 9,000 cases and 25 confirmed deaths have been reported.

Amoebic meningoencephalitis, which has also emerged as a significant public health problem in Kerala, is being linked to the faecal contamination in domestic wells, in which free-living amoeba thrive. This infection has claimed the highest number of lives in the State, with 134 cases and 34 deaths reported as of June 15 this year.

Various studies have reported that groundwater resources in the State have been under increasing stress, with 62% of the population depending on ground water from close to 7 million wells.

Lack of sewage system

As of 2025, Kerala has less than 6% proper sewerage network coverage, with most major cities having virtually no household sewage collection systems. The CAG's 2025 report stated that at the closure of the AMRUT Mission, a Central initiative aimed at ensuring universal access to safe water and reliable sewerage connections across urban areas, Kerala's overall achievement was just 11.25% and only 0.13% households got sewerage connections.

While Kerala does have high sanitation coverage with a significant proportion of households relying on septic tanks or on-site sanitation systems, these septic tanks are poorly designed and located close to domestic wells which lead to groundwater contamination. The fact that Kerala is one of the most densely populated States with small landholdings and houses situated close to each other aggravates the issue. High levels of faecal contamination have been reported in over 70% of the open wells in the State by agencies such as the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management. A study in the urban areas of Thiruvananthapuram in 2018 had reported that coliform contamination was prevalent in 73% of wells and that well chlorination and cleaning practices were inadequate.

Recurring outbreaks of Hepatitis A and shigellosis in the State showed that almost all outbreaks had been in rural areas and were linked to the local source of drinking water. Epidemiological investigations have revealed that water for regional supply systems is often pumped into supply lines without adequate chlorination or filtration, and that these lines often run close to sewage drains – any breaks in the pipeline can lead to major contamination.

It is also true that most of the interventions to provide safe drinking water to people lie outside the health sector, demanding coordinated intersectoral efforts. Thus, rather than a failure of public health, the current problem of water-borne diseases seems to be the result of the State's under-investment in establishing proper sewerage networks.

Prevention of water-borne diseases requires long-term investments in urban planning, establishing safe water distribution systems, sewer networks, wastewater treatment plants as well as measures for environmental and water quality surveillance.

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- And it lowers their awareness of early **warning signs** such as **dizziness** and **nausea** and makes them less likely to seek shade or drink water.

साथ ही यह **चक्कर आना** और **मतली** जैसे प्रारंभिक **चेतावनी संकेतों** के प्रति व्यक्ति की जागरूकता को कम कर देती है तथा उन्हें छाया में जाने या पानी पीने के प्रति कम प्रेरित करती है।

- As **Reuters** reported, "After a crisis meeting, Prime Minister **Sebastien Lecornu** pre-emptively banned alcohol consumption on Sunday at the annual **Fete de la Musique** festivals and other public events" scheduled in the **35 regions** with heat alerts.

जैसा कि **रॉयटर्स** ने रिपोर्ट किया, "संकट बैठक के बाद प्रधानमंत्री **सेबास्टियन लेकोर्नू** ने हीट अलर्ट वाले **35 क्षेत्रों** में आयोजित वार्षिक **Fete de la Musique** उत्सवों तथा अन्य सार्वजनिक आयोजनों में रविवार को एहतियातन शराब सेवन पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।"

- Since the city is a **concrete jungle**, parks could keep people cool at night.

चूँकि यह शहर एक **कंक्रीट जंगल** है, इसलिए उद्यान रात के समय लोगों को ठंडक प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

22J6. Kerala's battle with water-borne diseases
जलजनित रोगों के विरुद्ध केरल की लड़ाई

- A look at the outbreaks of **Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (ADD)**, **Hepatitis A**, **shigellosis** and **norovirus** in recent years gives an indication of the impact of **groundwater contamination** on people's health.

हाल के वर्षों में **तीव्र अतिसार रोग (ADD)**, **हेपेटाइटिस-ए**, **शिगेलोसिस** और **नोरोवायरस** के प्रकोपों का अध्ययन लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर **भूजल प्रदूषण** के प्रभाव का संकेत देता है।

- Since the past two decades, **Kerala** has also been experiencing several large and small **Hepatitis A outbreaks**.
  पिछले दो दशकों से **केरल** में बड़े और छोटे स्तर पर कई **हेपेटाइटिस-ए प्रकोप** देखे जा रहे हैं।
- **Amoebic meningoencephalitis**, which has also emerged as a significant **public health problem** in **Kerala**, is being linked to the **faecal contamination** in domestic wells, in which **free-living amoeba** thrive.
  अमीबिक मेनिंगोएन्सेफेलाइटिस, जो **केरल** में एक महत्वपूर्ण **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य समस्या** के रूप में उभरा है, घरेलू कुओं में होने वाले **मलजनित प्रदूषण** से जुड़ा माना जा रहा है, जहाँ **स्वतंत्र रूप से रहने वाले अमीबा** पनपते हैं।
- The **CAG's 2025 report** stated that at the closure of the **AMRUT Mission**, a Central initiative aimed at ensuring universal access to **safe water** and reliable **sewerage connections** across urban areas, Kerala's overall achievement was just **11.25%** and only **0.13% households** got sewerage connections.
  CAG की 2025 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, शहरी क्षेत्रों में **सुरक्षित पेयजल** और विश्वसनीय **सीवेज कनेक्शन** सुनिश्चित करने के उद्देश्य से संचालित **अमृत मिशन (AMRUT Mission)** की समाप्ति तक केरल की कुल उपलब्धि केवल **11.25%** रही और मात्र **0.13% परिवारों** को सीवेज कनेक्शन प्राप्त हुए।
- While Kerala does have high **sanitation coverage** with a significant proportion of households relying on **septic tanks** or **on-site sanitation systems**, these septic tanks are poorly designed and located close to **domestic wells** which lead to **groundwater contamination**.
  यद्यपि केरल में **स्वच्छता कवरेज** अपेक्षाकृत उच्च है और बड़ी संख्या में परिवार **सेप्टिक टैंकों** अथवा **स्थानीय स्वच्छता प्रणालियों** पर निर्भर हैं, किन्तु ये सेप्टिक टैंक अक्सर खराब डिज़ाइन वाले होते हैं तथा **घरेलू कुओं** के निकट स्थित होते हैं, जिससे **भूजल प्रदूषण** की समस्या उत्पन्न होती है।
- **Epidemiological investigations** have revealed that water for regional supply systems is often pumped into supply lines without adequate **chlorination** or **filtration**, and that these lines often run close to **sewage drains** — any breaks in the pipeline can lead to major contamination.
  महामारी विज्ञान संबंधी जांचों से पता चला है कि क्षेत्रीय जलापूर्ति प्रणालियों में पानी को पर्याप्त **क्लोरीनीकरण** या **निस्पंदन (फिल्ट्रेशन)** के बिना आपूर्ति लाइनों में प्रवाहित किया जाता है तथा ये लाइनें अक्सर **सीवेज नालों** के निकट से गुजरती हैं; पाइपलाइन में किसी भी प्रकार की क्षति व्यापक प्रदूषण का कारण बन सकती है।

PATRIOTICIAS

What is Google's Project Nimbus, and why are students protesting against it?

Amazon and Google's Project Nimbus cloud contract with Israel has sparked protests over U.S. Big Tech enabling the Israeli military's violence against Palestinians; the row has intensified internal unrest within companies, with employees raising ethical concerns over how their work is being used

GS III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

On June 14, Google CEO Sundar Pichai's speech at Stanford was disrupted as more than 100 students walked out in protest. Some carried Palestinian flags, others draped black-and-white patterned *keffiyeh* as scarves, and they shouted, "Free, free Palestine!"

The students were protesting against Google's Project Nimbus, a tech contract between the search giant and the Israeli government that is linked with violence against Palestinian civilians.

What is Project Nimbus?

Project Nimbus is a technology contract between the Israeli government and Google and Amazon. It is worth over $1 billion. In May 2021, Google said the agreement would deliver cloud services to Israeli government entities, including ministries, authorities, and government-owned companies. The project was scheduled to run for an initial period of seven years, and the Israeli government could extend it for up to 23 years. A month later, Amazon said the Israeli government had selected Amazon Web Services (AWS) as its primary cloud provider, under the Nimbus contract for government ministries and its subsidiaries.

In 2024, an investigation by Israeli media outlets *+972 Magazine* and *Local Call* found that the country's army stored information on servers managed by AWS. That data came from the surveillance of Palestinians, as per the investigation. Sources quoted by the media outlets alleged such information could be used to help plan airstrikes.

Furthermore, the outlets reported an increase in Israeli service demands from Google Cloud, AWS, and Microsoft Azure since October 2023, as army units sought data storage and AI services.

Why are protesters against Project Nimbus?

Project Nimbus has been facing backlash since it was first announced. In 2021, an anonymous letter signed internally by 90 Google workers and over 300 Amazon workers criticised the partnership, per *The Guardian*. They condemned Project Nimbus and the Israeli military's killings of Palestinian civilians, claiming that their employers would be "selling dangerous technology to the Israeli military and government."

The workers claimed that cloud service technology would help expand the surveillance of Palestinians, as well as illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

Opposition to Project Nimbus has grown since the Hamas attacks against Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, followed by Israel's airstrikes and blockades in Gaza. In 2024, protesting Google employees even carried out sit-ins at Google locations in the U.S. Later, 28 employees were fired.

Pro-Palestinian protests by employees have also taken place at Big Tech company events, such as during Microsoft's 50th anniversary celebrations in 2025.

Last year, *The Guardian*, *+972 Magazine*, and *Local Call* cited leaked documents revealing that under the Project Nimbus contract, Israel mandated that Google and Amazon would not restrict how its governmental units used the tech companies' cloud services – even if Israel violated their terms of service.

However, Google has in the past stressed that Project Nimbus workloads are not related to the military, weapons, or classified intelligence. Amazon too highlighted its privacy commitments to its customers.

Which other tech companies have links to Israel?

A Palestinian-led movement, called Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), has identified large technology companies that have formal contracts with Israel and its military sector.

The BDS website alleges these companies "technologically equip the Israeli military with computing systems as well as surveillance and communications technologies to accelerate the genocide in Gaza and automate apartheid in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem."

In September, Microsoft Vice-Chair & President Brad Smith said the company had "ceased and disabled a set of services to a unit within the Israel Ministry of Defense (IMOD)." This announcement came after media outlets *The Guardian*, *+972 Magazine*, and *Local Call* reported that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was using Microsoft's Azure to store Palestinians' recorded phone calls data that could be leveraged for mass surveillance or even military action.

Did Microsoft truly sever its ties with Israel's defense surveillance systems?

While Mr. Smith said that Microsoft does not provide technology to facilitate the mass surveillance of civilians, he affirmed the company's "important work" to protect the cybersecurity of Israel and other West Asian countries.

In a conclusion to the external investigation that Microsoft commissioned after the Azure surveillance allegations, the tech giant said it would implement better review processes, provide more guidance to employees, and let employees anonymously report potential policy violations.

The No Azure for Apartheid group, which is made up of Microsoft workers, claimed on June 6 that Microsoft still allowed the Israeli military and government to host other surveillance projects on Azure. "Nothing short of cutting all ties with the genocidal Israeli military and government will be enough. We will show up to escalate, confront, and disrupt in every place, at every moment, announced and unannounced," said the group.

22J6. What is Google's Project Nimbus, and why are students protesting against it?

गूगल का प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस क्या है, और छात्र इसके विरुद्ध प्रदर्शन क्यों कर रहे हैं?

- The students were protesting against **Google's Project Nimbus**, a tech contract between the search giant and the **Israeli government** that is linked with violence against **Palestinian civilians**.
  छात्र **गूगल के प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस** का विरोध कर रहे थे, जो गूगल और **इज़राइली सरकार** के बीच एक तकनीकी अनुबंध है और जिसे **फिलिस्तीनी नागरिकों** के विरुद्ध हिंसा से जोड़ा जाता है।

What is Project Nimbus?
प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस क्या है?

- **Project Nimbus** is a technology contract between the **Israeli government** and **Google** and **Amazon**.
  प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस इज़राइली सरकार, **गूगल** और **अमेज़न** के बीच एक प्रौद्योगिकी अनुबंध है।
- It is worth over **$1 billion**.
  इसका मूल्य **1 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक है।
- In May 2021, **Google** said the agreement would deliver **cloud services** to Israeli government entities, including ministries, authorities, and government-owned companies.
  मई 2021 में **गूगल** ने कहा था कि यह समझौता मंत्रालयों, प्राधिकरणों और सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली कंपनियों सहित इज़राइली सरकारी संस्थाओं को **क्लाउड सेवाएँ** प्रदान करेगा।

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- The project was scheduled to run for an initial period of **seven years**, and the Israeli government could extend it for up to **23 years**.
  यह परियोजना प्रारंभिक रूप से **सात वर्षों** तक चलने वाली थी और इज़राइली सरकार इसे **23 वर्षों** तक बढ़ा सकती थी।
- A month later, **Amazon** said the Israeli government had selected **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** as its primary cloud provider, under the Nimbus contract for government ministries and its subsidiaries.
  एक महीने बाद **अमेज़न** ने कहा कि इज़राइली सरकार ने सरकारी मंत्रालयों और उनकी सहायक संस्थाओं के लिए निम्बस अनुबंध के अंतर्गत **अमेज़न वेब सर्विसेज (AWS)** को अपना प्रमुख क्लाउड सेवा प्रदाता चुना है।
- In 2024, an investigation by Israeli media outlets **+972 Magazine** and **Local Call** found that the country's army stored information on servers managed by **AWS**.
  2024 में इज़राइली मीडिया संस्थानों **+972 मैगज़ीन** और **लोकल कॉल** की एक जांच में पाया गया कि देश की सेना **AWS** द्वारा प्रबंधित सर्वरों पर सूचनाएँ संग्रहीत कर रही थी।
- That data came from the **surveillance of Palestinians**, as per the investigation.
  जांच के अनुसार यह डेटा **फिलिस्तीनियों की निगरानी** से प्राप्त किया गया था।

Why are protesters against Project Nimbus?
प्रदर्शनकारी प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस का विरोध क्यों कर रहे हैं?

- However, **Google** has in the past stressed that **Project Nimbus workloads** are not related to the **military**, **weapons**, or **classified intelligence**.
  हालाँकि, **गूगल** ने पूर्व में स्पष्ट किया है कि **प्रोजेक्ट निम्बस** के अंतर्गत किए जाने वाले कार्य **सैन्य गतिविधियों**, **हथियारों** अथवा **गोपनीय खुफिया सूचनाओं** से संबंधित नहीं हैं।
- **Amazon** too highlighted its **privacy commitments** to its customers.
  अमेज़न ने भी अपने ग्राहकों के प्रति **गोपनीयता संबंधी प्रतिबद्धताओं** पर बल दिया।

Which other tech companies have links to Israel?
इज़राइल से किन अन्य प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनियों के संबंध हैं?

- In a conclusion to the **external investigation** that **Microsoft** commissioned after the **Azure surveillance allegations**, the tech giant said it would implement better **review processes**, provide more guidance to employees, and let employees anonymously report potential **policy violations**.
  एज़्योर निगरानी आरोपों के बाद **माइक्रोसॉफ्ट** द्वारा कराई गई **बाह्य जांच** के निष्कर्ष में कंपनी ने कहा कि वह बेहतर **समीक्षा प्रक्रियाएँ** लागू करेगी, कर्मचारियों को अधिक मार्गदर्शन प्रदान करेगी तथा संभावित **नीति उल्लंघनों** की गुमनाम रिपोर्टिंग की सुविधा देगी।
- The **No Azure for Apartheid** group, which is made up of **Microsoft workers**, claimed on **June 6** that Microsoft still allowed the **Israeli military** and **government** to host other **surveillance projects** on Azure.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट कर्मचारियों से बने **No Azure for Apartheid** समूह ने **6 जून** को दावा किया कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट अभी भी **इज़राइली सेना** और **सरकार** को एज़्योर पर अन्य **निगरानी परियोजनाएँ** संचालित करने की अनुमति देता है।

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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Serious charges: In May, farmlands at Ullukurukkai were flooded by the water that had overflowed from the percolation ponds of the Tata Electronics plant. The company said only rainwater was let out of the ponds. But farmers alleged that it was "chemical water". B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Tales TDS tells

Farmers in Hosur have accused the Tata Electronics plant of discharging effluents into farmlands and contaminating the groundwater. **P.V. Srividya** takes a deep dive to study the situation on the ground

THE HINDU SATURDAY MAGAZINE

The farm wells of Ullukurukkai village in Thimjepalli panchayat of Krishnagiri district are filled to the brim in summer. It is time for paddy crop. Elsewhere in the district, nurseries are being raised and fields prepared to raise the crop. But the *punjai* lands (dry agricultural lands) of the village, close to the iPhone manufacturing plant of Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL), have fallen disquietingly silent. A hundred metres away, this jarring silence is interrupted by the sounds of construction activity. Workers are busy building a wall to demarcate the boundary of the TEPL plant from the adjoining farmlands. A steady flow of water discharges from under the plinth of the new boundary wall of the plant and into an exit channel running through the farmlands.

A few metres inside the boundary wall, there are large embankments of sprawling rain-water-harvesting structures or percolation ponds of the plant. In the last week of May, acres of Ullukurukkai's farmlands were flooded by the water that had reportedly overflowed from the plant's percolation ponds. The company told officials then that it was only rainwater from the ponds. Collector C. Dinesh Kumar said, "There were two instances of breach [in the last few months] from the plant and both times, the rainfall recorded was 5 cm and 6.75 cm." But the farmers insist it was not just rainwater, but "chemical water" that entered their fields from these ponds that overflowed.

The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) issued a show-cause notice to TEPL in May 2026. It flagged the TDS (total dissolved solids) range of 1,916 milligrams per litre (mg/L) to 2,450 mg/L (against the norm of under 500 ppm or not above 1,000 ppm for percolation ponds) in the water sample collected from the rainwater pond. It also flagged BOD, or Biological Oxygen Demand (dissolved oxygen needed for breakdown of organic matter), in the range of 12 mg/L to 78 mg/L and COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand indicating contamination) in the range of 48 mg/L to 160 mg/L – both values significantly exceeding permissible limits of under 30 mg/L. The TDS range was ascertained from samples collected on three occasions at three different points between December and May.

> The water in our wells used to taste like 'tender coconut' water. Until a year and a half ago, people working in the fields drank from these wells. but workers now carry their own water because the water now stinks
> **KRISHNAN,** Village head

Off to a promising start

It was in 2021 that TEPL chose Nagamangalam, near Hosur, to set up its iPhone component manufacturing unit. The move was seen as a big win for Tamil Nadu's industrial portfolio and Hosur's manufacturing ecosystem that was diversifying into electronics. The facility expanded with operations beginning at the Phase II plant last November. Farmers had rejoiced at the arrival of a "good corporate company" in their midst. "They say Tata is a good company. If they are giving jobs to so many people, they will only do good, we thought," says Pushparaj, who now leads the farmers' protests against the alleged effluent discharge. "Don't we know what rainwater is? This is not rainwater," Mr. Pushparaj says repeatedly. "We grew up on this soil and in this water."

One night in December 2025, the pumping system of the sewage treatment plant (STP) on the TEPL premises malfunctioned, two sources in the district administration told *The Hindu*. "The untreated water was discharged into the rainwater-harvesting pond. There were complaints from farmers then. When the water was collected, the stench was bad. But, if it was trade effluent, the TDS would be much higher. It cannot be said that it was completely untreated trade discharge, but definitely partially treated effluent," said one of them.

> There were two instances of breach [in the last few months] from the plant and both times, the rainfall recorded was 5 cm and 6.75 cm
> **C. DINESH KUMAR,** Krishnagiri Collector

Trade effluents

Trade effluent is any liquid waste discharged from business, trade, or industrial premises. Conventional trade effluent treatment systems do not fix high TDS levels. TEPL is a Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) unit that uses Multiple Effect Evaporator (MEE) for its effluent treatment. Raw trade effluent is treated through the Reverse Osmosis (RO) process that returns low TDS water, which can be reused for gardening. The discharge from the RO process (RO reject) will, however, have a greater TDS concentrate. This RO reject then passes through a series of evaporators (MEE) and the water is condensed for reuse. The MEE reject, which again will have high TDS values, is finally passed through an Agitated Thin Film Dryer (ATFD) that turns the high-TDS reject into a powder. This makes TEPL a zero discharge plant, where no water or waste technically exits the plant.

However, accounts of two witnesses at the plant echo the charges farmers make. They indicate that the ZLD environmental mandate may exist only on paper. According to them, trade effluents routinely bypass the ETP and enter collection ponds along with the STP discharge. When the production is high and effluent output outstrips the ETP capacity, the trade effluent from the anodizing process will be stored in tanks and discharged at night and during rain, claim two persons from the plant. "The incoming production effluent [trade effluent] will be highly acidic, with pH levels of 0-1. The pH value must be chemically boosted to reach neutral before the effluent is fed into the treatment line. But that is chemical intensive for high volumes, expensive, and time-consuming. The capacity of the ETP initially was only 60 kilolitres [60,000 litres], but the plant may sometimes generate up to 100 kilolitres of trade effluent, and the excess will reach the drain," said a source, who had worked in the ETP. How often is sometimes? "Two or three times a week, but depending on production output," said the other source. "The trade effluent will have very high TDS – 6,000 or even 10,000. But when linked with the STP line, which will have a higher volume but far less TDS, the final TDS numbers fall and are offset to permissible limits. The valves will be opened in the rain, with TDS diluted."

"We use caustic soda to boost the pH value. The production team will send a mail informing of the incoming effluent the next day. Either we receive it by dumping the effluent already filled up in tanks (pending treatment) into the drain or ask them to stop production. Production cannot be stopped or can be stopped only for a day or two. So the effluent would be sent into the drain and STP water poured over it." But what of the metal residue? "There will be no metal residue, that will settle, but the TDS of the trade effluent will show up as high, and this is fixed when mixed with the STP water," the source said.

Consent to Operate

On November 24, 2025, the TNPCB issued a Consent to Operate approval for expansion of Phase I of TEPL. The order mentions the manufacture of 3.74 crore metal cases for iPhones per annum. The order also mentions points of disposal of sewage discharge (for gardening, toilet flushing, and cooling tower) and trade effluent discharge (recycling process and conversion into salts), none of which is to be let out to percolation ponds, which are for groundwater recharge. On December 8, 2025, Mr. Pushparaj, on behalf of the farmers, petitioned TEPL "about inaction on their earlier complaints of stench and dumping of 'chemical waste' in the percolation ponds". The petition stated that this had been going "on for three months" (before December) but no action was taken on their complaint.

This February, his coriander fields, among others, faced another such flooding from the plant's ponds, he said, showing colour printouts of the inundated crop to the district administration. "I was asked to be patient, as the treatment plant will be ready soon," says Mr. Pushparaj. "Production began a year ago in Phase II, but the ETP was commissioned only four months ago," said the source.

The Hindu sent questions to TEPL to comment on these witness accounts from inside the plant, but no official communication was received in response. However, TEPL released a statement last week saying its TDS numbers were within permissible limits and the TNPCB had dropped its scrutiny. The TNPCB did not respond to calls to confirm the development.

Adequate treatment facilities

Collector Mr. Kumar dismissed testimonies of residents and said the plant was a ZLD facility and adequacy of the treatment facilities was ensured before the grant of consent. Based on inspections, verification of records and analysis of samples, no evidence was found to establish that industrial effluents were bypassed from the treatment system or mixed with sewage for dilution and discharged into percolation ponds. "Further, samples collected from the ponds and nearby wells were analysed and the results did not indicate contamination attributable to discharge of industrial effluents from the unit," he said. Another official also claimed Mr. Pushparaj was working with the agenda of seeking material compensation from the company.

However, the fields tell a different story, and Mr. Pushparaj is not the only one affected. Nagalakshmi, who holds a mere three-fourths of an acre of land, had harvested 300 sacks of cucumber last summer and 500 sacks the year before. This week, she stood beside the cucumber crop that was only ankle high on day 25, when it should have reached her waist. Ms. Nagalakshmi had set up a bund so that the "dirty water" does not enter her field. "Till yesterday, that 'dirty water' was here, it had just drained. That is why the soil is wet." The story of low yield echoes throughout the area. Horticultural crops are grown here round the year, except the small window for paddy this time of the year. The farmers cultivate cauliflower, beans, cucumber, ragi, and flowers through drip irrigation. They suspect that since the plant channels effluents into the rainwater percolation ponds, which are designed to facilitate percolation in the soil, the effluents seep into their wells. "In other villages, water levels are low. Here, our wells are brimming, showing seepage from their effluent ponds," says Ramesh. "The water in our wells used to taste like 'tender coconut' water," says Krishnan, the village head. "Until a year and a half, people working in the fields drank out of these wells, but farmworkers now carry their own water because well water has gone bad and stinks".

The Hindu collected two water samples: one from the exit channel, which is also the first point of the discharged water that was steadily flowing under the plinth of the newly constructed boundary wall of the plant, and the other from an adjoining farm well. The TDS values were 1,789 and 1,539 respectively (safe limit 1,000 ppm), while the pH was 7.88 and 6.81 respectively (acceptable range 5.5 to 6.5). Mr. Pushparaj's water sample from April has a TDS of 1,721 and pH of 8.09. "This is not at all conducive for agriculture. Farmers will also get skin irritation," says a former Joint Director of Horticulure in Hosur, adding that the high TDS will affect the drip lines and borewells. "They can shift to oil seeds, but eventually they will have to leave their lands because it will suck out all the nutrients."

Asked about reparations for the damage suffered by farmers, the Collector said the company was asked to conduct continuous TDS monitoring. It would also have to ensure that there was no waterlogging in times of excess rain. "If necessary, we will tell them to use HTPE [high-density polyethylene] lining in rainwater-harvesting ponds to prevent further mixing with the groundwater, as the farmers have demanded," he added.

Dipping harvest: Farmers in the area complain of low yield because of the polluted water entering their fields. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

22J 6. Tales TDS tells

टीडी एस जो कहा नी कहता है

- It flagged the **TDS (Total Dissolved Solids)** range of **1,916 mg/L to 2,450 mg/L** against the norm of under **500 ppm** or not above **1,000 ppm** for percolation ponds.

  इसने **TDS (कुल घुलित ठोस पदार्थ)** की मात्रा **1,916 mg/L से 2,450 mg/L** पाई, जबकि मानक **500 ppm** से कम या अधिकतम **1,000 ppm** है।

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- It also flagged **BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand)** in the range of **12 mg/L to 78 mg/L**.
  इसने **BOD (जैविक ऑक्सीजन मांग)** को **12 mg/L से 78 mg/L** के बीच पाया।
- And **COD (Chemical Oxygen Demand)** in the range of **48 mg/L to 160 mg/L**.
  साथ ही **COD (रासायनिक ऑक्सीजन मांग)** को **48 mg/L से 160 mg/L** के बीच पाया गया।
- Both values significantly exceeded permissible limits of under **30 mg/L**.
  दोनों मान अनुमेय सीमा **30 mg/L** से काफी अधिक थे।
- Conventional trade effluent treatment systems do not fix high **TDS** levels.
  सामान्य अपशिष्ट जल उपचार प्रणालियां उच्च **TDS** स्तरों को नियंत्रित नहीं कर पातीं।
- TEPL is a **Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)** unit.
  TEPL एक **जीरो लिक्विड डिस्चार्ज (ZLD)** इकाई है।
- It uses a **Multiple Effect Evaporator (MEE)** for effluent treatment.
  यह अपशिष्ट जल उपचार के लिए **मल्टीपल इफेक्ट इवैपोरेटर (MEE)** का उपयोग करती है।
- This makes TEPL a **zero discharge plant**, where no water or waste technically exits the plant.
  इससे TEPL एक **शून्य-निर्गमन संयंत्र** बन जाता है, जहां तकनीकी रूप से कोई पानी या अपशिष्ट बाहर नहीं निकलता।

GS Paper III: Environment	**22 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
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Similipal's black tigers are getting help

Zeenat, a tigress translocated from Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve two years ago, has given birth to four cubs. Satyasundar Barik speaks to the people behind the high-stakes conservation effort to rescue Similipal's tigers from a genetic mutation that has fuelled the rise of pseudo-melanism, or dense, thick, merging stripes

A pseudo-melanistic tiger captured by a camera trap inside Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IUCN 3.1 Environment & S.A.V.E

Prakash Chand Gogineni, Field Director of the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Odisha, is still coming to terms with the thrill of a moment he witnessed on May 28. A camera trap had captured a rare sight of a tigress named Zeenat, gently carrying her four cubs one by one in her mouth. Gogineni saw the images in his modest office in Baripada, the district headquarters of Mayurbhanj, where Similipal is located. He knew immediately that he was experiencing a key moment in India's wildlife history.

Zeenat is one of the two tigers introduced into Similipal from Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve through translocation in 2024. "Similipal was heading towards a genetic collapse, largely due to inbreeding among big cats. While the tiger population was stagnating, the rising number of pseudo-melanistic tigers in the reserve had become a matter of concern," recalls Odisha's former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Susanta Nanda.

Pseudo-melanistic tigers (often called black tigers) are a rare variant of the Bengal tiger, distinguished by a genetic mutation that causes their black stripes to widen and merge, giving them a dramatically dark coat where slivers of golden yellow barely peek through.

It was during Nanda's tenure that the two tigresses were introduced to Similipal. He says Zeenat's translocation to Similipal was a necessity, not an experiment. "Maharashtra agreed to part with nine tigers (seven females and two males) in three phases over five years," he says.

Similipal, which derives its name from *simul* or the silk cotton tree, is a 2,750-square-kilometre UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. In 1973, the Indian government declared it a tiger reserve.

Currently, Gogineni says his priority is the safety of the tigress and her cubs. "This can be seen as India's first successful inter-State tiger translocation from a reserve with a surplus population to one with low density," says the 48-year-old Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, who has been tracking Zeenat for 20 months.

"The tigers were brought to Similipal, where breeding females already existed, a scenario that had not occurred earlier," Gogineni points out. He believes the development could serve as a compelling case study for future efforts to revive tiger population.

> From day one, we sensed that Zeenat was both headstrong and intelligent. She would do exactly what she chose to. We simply couldn't force a response from her
>
> **SWARUP FULLONTON**
> Wildlife biologist and member of the tracking team, Similipal Tiger Reserve, Odisha

Genetic decoding

This is Odisha's second attempt at translocation – a process of bringing tigers into a new habitat. In 2018, the State brought in two tigers from Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve and Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve to its Satkosia Tiger Reserve. Central India tigers were believed to adapt to the terrain and ecosystem of Odisha faster than those of States further away. The operation went haywire. One of the tigers was poached; the second was returned to its home State due to resistance by locals.

Earlier, translocations in India were aimed at reviving tiger population within States. Spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan saw India's first successful tiger reintroduction in 2008. In Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve, NTCA and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) conducted a similar programme in 2009. In both cases, the tigers came from within the States.

After giving birth to four cubs, Zeenat carries one in her mouth, inside Odisha's largest biosphere, the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district, where she was translocated to in 2024, from Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In 2021, molecular ecologist Uma Ramakrishnan, who is also a professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, and her co-researchers found that Similipal's tiger population remained small and isolated with minimal genetic exchange with other landscapes.

In her tiger population genetic analysis, presented in PNAS, a multidisciplinary scientific journal established in 1914, she and her team found that "Similipal has a small and isolated population." In the paper 'high frequency of an otherwise rare phenotype in a small and isolated tiger population,' the team found that approximately 37% of Similipal's tigers were pseudo-melanistic. "Small and isolated populations have low genetic variation...making them prone to extinction," the paper said. It also makes the population more vulnerable to diseases.

"These factors might also lead to greater genetic load (harmful genes) in the population. The translocation aimed to reverse all of these. For the long-term survival of a species such as the tiger, genetic diversity becomes the bedrock," Gogineni emphasises.

The 2014 All India Tiger Estimation (AITE), a four-yearly survey led by NTCA and WII, recorded a drastic decline in the tiger population in Similipal to just five individuals (one male and four females). Only one of them exhibited the pseudo-melanistic coat pattern, placing its prevalence at 20%. Subsequent AITEs in 2018 and 2022 indicated a recovery in numbers from five to eight and then 16 tigers. However, the rise was accompanied by the worrying genetic drift: pseudo-melanistic tigers increased to 37.5% in 2018 and 43.75% in 2022. The 2023 All Odisha Tiger Estimation, a State-level survey and census conducted by the Odisha Forest Department, found that nearly half of Similipal's tiger population displayed pseudo-melanism. The 2024 AITE further raised concern putting the figure at 59.37%.

Nanda says it was not easy to get tigers from other States. "With a comprehensive report detailing pseudo-melanism in tigers, a strong prey base, and an increased patrolling system in Similipal, we approached the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. After much persuasion, the Ministry agreed and the approval of the NTCA followed in May 2024," he recalls.

From Maharashtra to Odisha

The approval paved the way for the translocation. Jamuna, 2.5 years, was released in October 2024 into a specially designed soft enclosure at a meadow in southern Similipal's Jenabil.

Two weeks later, on November 15, Zeenat, the second tigress from Tadoba-Andhari, then three years old, was released in the early hours into an enclosure at Tiger meadow in Chahala, in northern Similipal.

Learning from the setbacks in Satkosia, the Similipal authorities made extensive preparations. A team comprising two Deputy Directors (IFS officers), 15 tracking personnel, along with a veterinarian and a biologist, led by Gogineni was sent to Tadoba for specialised training. The tracking teams were trained in very high frequency (VHF) telemetry and other monitoring systems.

Jamuna made her way to the Kuldiha forest, which lies outside Similipal's core area. She has since remained there. Zeenat, however, traversed three States: Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. This is now regarded as one of India's most intense pursuits of a single tiger, says Nanda.

Zeenat was kept in the soft enclosure for 10 days. Just three days after she was released into the wild, she began moving in the north-west direction. Ten days later, she was sighted in the Musabani range near Jamshedpur in Jharkhand. By then, Odisha had already deployed a special team to tranquilise her and bring her back to Similipal.

The operation to track and recapture Zeenat lasted over a month and involved nearly 200 personnel, including senior IFS officers, biologists, veterinarians, and tracking teams. The teams pursued Zeenat over nearly 300 kilometres.

"From day one we sensed that Zeenat was both headstrong and intelligent. She would do exactly what she chose to. We simply couldn't force a response from her," says Swarup Fullonton, a wildlife biologist with the Similipal Tiger Reserve and a key member of the tracking team.

"We had never experienced such a chase in our lives," Fullonton recalls.

"On a couple of occasions Zeenat was right behind us. The tracking antenna showed zero gain, meaning there was virtually no distance between her and us. At times, it registered three to six gains, indicating she was within 12 feet," he describes.

As Zeenat moved across States, the operation demanded close inter-State coordination. Biologists and veterinarians from3 all three States endured long hours inside camouflaged vehicles, often in sub-zero night temperatures. At times, they climbed onto elephants or were hoisted by earth-moving machines to gain a clear line of sight.

Finally on December 29, the tigress was tranquilised near a dam area in the Ranibandh Range of West Bengal's Bankura district. Gogineni says the West Bengal government was reluctant to hand Zeenat over to Odisha, but he and the NTCA teams persuaded the authorities and the tigress was brought to Similipal through a green corridor, with wildlife veterinarians and biologists keeping a close watch on her health while administering the sedative.

Once Zeenat reached Similipal, authorities placed her inside a soft enclosure spread over 7 hectares under 24-hour surveillance. Gogineni says, "As the days passed, the local resident male T12 visited the enclosure and we could record their interactions through a bispectral thermal camera (capturing both images and heat)."

In April 2025, Zeenat was released into the wild. "Zeenat's mating with T12 did not result in any cubs. The tigress subsequently changed her territory twice and finally mated with T45 in January this year and delivered four cubs in May," says Gogineni.

Fantastic four!

Nanda says India's tiger conservation programme is facing the challenge of habitat connectivity. "In that context, Zeenat broke the barrier of discontinuity in the habitat." Now 25% of cubs in Similipal have a diverse gene pool and it will grow stronger in three-four years if Zeenat's cubs survive, he adds.

Gogineni is optimistic too. "Currently, there are 32 tigers in Similipal. As the tiger population in Similipal reaches its carrying capacity of 75, tigers from the reserve will move towards the forests in Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Deogarh, and further to south into Angul districts and maybe to Satkosia Tiger Reserve," he says.

Towards the north, tigers will be dispersed in all the forests of the Chota Nagpur Plateau. "This can potentially repopulate tigers in Saranda forests, Palamu Tiger Reserve, Jhargram forests and beyond into Mayurjharna Elephant Reserve. The movement of males will be quick, but females might take longer," adds Gogineni.

This inter-State tiger translocation programme has achieved its medium-term objective. Now, Odisha awaits the decision of a high-level committee on the translocation of the remaining seven of the nine tigers from Maharashtra. Of these, six (five females, one male) were to be translocated to Similipal, while the other three (two males and one female) to Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

If Jamuna comes into estrus (in heat) and Zeenat is ready to mate over the next 18 months, the tiger population could grow naturally. In that case, the proposed translocation of seven more tigers from Tadoba may be reconsidered.

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Beyond bloodlines and borders

22J6. Similipal's black tigers are getting help
सिमिलिपाल के काले बाघों को मिल रही है मदद

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- **Zeenat**, a tigress translocated from **Maharashtra's Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve** to **Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve** two years ago, has given birth to **four cubs**.
  ज़ीनत, जिसे दो वर्ष पहले **महाराष्ट्र के ताडोबा-अंधारी टाइगर रिजर्व** से **ओडिशा के सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व** में स्थानांतरित किया गया था, ने **चार शावकों** को जन्म दिया है।
- **Satyasundar Barik** speaks to the people behind the **high-stakes conservation effort** to rescue Similipal's tigers from a **genetic mutation** that has fuelled the rise of **pseudo-melanism**, or dense, thick, merging stripes.
  सत्यसुंदर बारिक उन लोगों से बातचीत करते हैं जो **उच्च-स्तरीय संरक्षण प्रयास** के पीछे हैं, जिसका उद्देश्य सिमिलिपाल के बाघों को उस **आनुवंशिक उत्परिवर्तन** से बचाना है जिसने **छद्म-मेलेनिज़्म (Pseudo-melanism)** अर्थात घनी, मोटी और आपस में मिलती धारियों की प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा दिया है।
- **Prakash Chand Gogineni**, Field Director of the **Similipal Tiger Reserve** in Odisha, is still coming to terms with the thrill of a moment he witnessed on **May 28**.
  ओडिशा के **सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व** के फील्ड डायरेक्टर **प्रकाश चंद गोगिनेनी** अभी भी **28 मई** को देखे गए एक रोमांचक क्षण को याद कर रहे हैं।
- A **camera trap** had captured a rare sight of a tigress named **Zeenat**, gently carrying her four cubs one by one in her mouth.
  एक **कैमरा ट्रैप** ने **ज़ीनत** नामक बाघिन को अपने चार शावकों को एक-एक करके मुंह में उठाकर ले जाते हुए दुर्लभ दृश्य कैद किया।
- Gogineni saw the images in his modest office in **Baripada**, the district headquarters of **Mayurbhanj**, where Similipal is located.
  गोगिनेनी ने ये तस्वीरें **बारिपदा** स्थित अपने कार्यालय में देखीं, जो **मयूरभंज** जिले का मुख्यालय है और जहां सिमिलिपाल स्थित है।
- He knew immediately that he was experiencing a key moment in **India's wildlife history**.
  उन्हें तुरंत एहसास हो गया कि वे **भारत के वन्यजीव इतिहास** के एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण के साक्षी बन रहे हैं।
- **Pseudo-melanistic tigers** (often called **black tigers**) are a rare variant of the **Bengal tiger**, distinguished by a genetic mutation that causes their black stripes to widen and merge.
  छद्म-मेलेनिस्टिक बाघ (जिन्हें अक्सर **काला बाघ** कहा जाता है) **बंगाल टाइगर** का एक दुर्लभ रूप हैं, जिनमें आनुवंशिक परिवर्तन के कारण काली धारियां चौड़ी होकर आपस में मिल जाती हैं।
- This gives them a dramatically dark coat where slivers of **golden yellow** barely peek through.
  इससे उनका शरीर अत्यंत गहरे रंग का दिखाई देता है, जिसमें **सुनहरे पीले रंग** की झलक बहुत कम दिखाई देती है।
- **Similipal**, which derives its name from **simul** or the **silk cotton tree**, is a **2,750-square-kilometre UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**.
  सिमिलिपाल, जिसका नाम **सिमुल** या **सेमल वृक्ष** से लिया गया है, एक **2,750 वर्ग किलोमीटर का यूनेस्को बायोस्फीयर रिजर्व** है।
- In **1973**, the Indian government declared it a **tiger reserve**.
  1973 में भारत सरकार ने इसे **टाइगर रिजर्व** घोषित किया था।
- Currently, Gogineni says his priority is the safety of the tigress and her cubs.
  वर्तमान में गोगिनेनी का कहना है कि उनकी प्राथमिकता बाघिन और उसके शावकों की सुरक्षा है।
- "This can be seen as **India's first successful inter-State tiger translocation** from a reserve with a surplus population to one with low density," says the 48-year-old **Indian Forest Service (IFS)** officer.
  "इसे **भारत का पहला सफल अंतर-राज्यीय बाघ स्थानांतरण** माना जा सकता है, जिसमें अधिक बाघों वाले रिजर्व से कम घनत्व वाले रिजर्व में बाघ भेजे गए," 48 वर्षीय **भारतीय वन सेवा (IFS)** अधिकारी कहते हैं।
- In **2018**, the State brought in two tigers from **Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve** and **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve** to its **Satkosia Tiger Reserve**.
  2018 में राज्य ने **मध्य प्रदेश के कान्हा टाइगर रिजर्व** और **बांधवगढ़ टाइगर रिजर्व** से दो बाघों को **सतकोसिया टाइगर रिजर्व** में लाया था।

- Spearheaded by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, **Sariska Tiger Reserve** in Rajasthan saw India's first successful tiger reintroduction in **2008**.
  राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (NTCA) के नेतृत्व में राजस्थान के **सरिस्का टाइगर रिजर्व** में **2008** में भारत का पहला सफल बाघ पुनर्प्रवेश कार्यक्रम हुआ।

From Maharashtra to Odisha
महाराष्ट्र से ओडिशा तक

- In **Madhya Pradesh's Panna Tiger Reserve**, **NTCA** and the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)** conducted a similar programme in **2009**.
  मध्य प्रदेश के पन्ना टाइगर रिजर्व में **एनटीसीए (NTCA)** और **भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान (WII)** ने **2009** में इसी प्रकार का कार्यक्रम संचालित किया था।
- In the paper '**high frequency of an otherwise rare phenotype in a small and isolated tiger population**,' the team found that approximately **37%** of Similipal's tigers were **pseudo-melanistic**.
  '**एक छोटी और पृथक बाघ आबादी में अन्यथा दुर्लभ फीनोटाइप की उच्च आवृत्ति**' नामक शोधपत्र में टीम ने पाया कि सिमिलिपाल के लगभग **37%** बाघ **छद्म-मेलेनिस्टिक** थे।
- "**Small and isolated populations** have low genetic variation...making them prone to **extinction**," the paper said.
  शोधपत्र में कहा गया कि "**छोटी और पृथक आबादियों** में आनुवंशिक विविधता कम होती है, जिससे वे **विलुप्ति** के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील हो जाती हैं।"
- The **2014 All India Tiger Estimation (AITE)**, a four-yearly survey led by **NTCA** and **WII**, recorded a drastic decline in the tiger population in Similipal to just **five individuals** (one male and four females).
  2014 ऑल इंडिया टाइगर एस्टीमेशन (AITE), जो **NTCA** और **WII** द्वारा संचालित चार वर्षीय सर्वेक्षण है, ने सिमिलिपाल में बाघों की संख्या घटकर केवल **पांच** (एक नर और चार मादा) रह जाने का उल्लेख किया।
- Only one of them exhibited the **pseudo-melanistic** coat pattern, placing its prevalence at **20%**.
  इनमें से केवल एक बाघ में **छद्म-मेलेनिस्टिक** कोट पैटर्न पाया गया, जिससे इसकी हिस्सेदारी **20%** रही।
- **Pseudo-melanistic tigers** increased to **37.5%** in 2018 and **43.75%** in 2022.
  छद्म-मेलेनिस्टिक बाघों की संख्या 2018 में **37.5%** और 2022 में **43.75%** हो गई।
- **Zeenat**, however, traversed three States: **Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
  हालाँकि **ज़ीनत** ने **ओडिशा, झारखंड और पश्चिम बंगाल** तीन राज्यों की यात्रा की।
- Of these, **six** were to be translocated to **Similipal**, while **three** were planned for **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**.
  इनमें से **छह** को **सिमिलिपाल** और **तीन** को **देब्रीगढ़ वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** में स्थानांतरित किया जाना प्रस्तावित है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	22 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
22J6	'Maritime sector a major engine of economic growth' 'समुद्री क्षेत्र आर्थिक विकास का एक प्रमुख प्रेरक इंजन है'
22J6	Police begin collecting DNA records under 2022 law; over one lakh profiles generated 2022 के कानून के तहत पुलिस ने डीएनए अभिलेख एकत्र करना शुरू किया; एक लाख से अधिक प्रोफाइल तैयार किए गए
22J6	CISF to be deployed at five more prisons in J&K

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जम्मू-कश्मीर की पाँच और जेलों में सीआईएसएफ की तैनाती की जाएगी

'Maritime sector a major engine of economic growth'

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said no nation could emerge as a major power without strong maritime capabilities.

He was speaking at an event here after commissioning three indigenously-built naval ships – *INS Dunagiri*, an advanced stealth frigate; *INS Sanshodhak*, a survey vessel (large); and the *INS Agray*, an anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft.

Describing the event as a milestone in the journey towards "an *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*, a secure India, and a developed India", Mr. Modi said the government viewed the maritime sector not as an isolated industry but as a major engine of employment and economic growth. "The country whose maritime strength is robust, its economic and strategic influence will be equally robust. India is preparing itself for this," he said, asserting that India did not wish to be merely a buyer in the defence sector.

"The strength of the nation's military cannot be measured by its dependence on global markets but by its ability to become self-reliant. India seeks to become a producer and a manufacturer, because nations that manufacture become decisive players on the global stage," he said.

Highlighting recent achievements in indigenous shipbuilding capabilities of the country, the Prime Minister noted that more than 40 indigenously built warships and submarines have been inducted into the Indian Navy over the pa

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22J6. 'Maritime sector a major engine of economic growth'

'समुद्री क्षेत्र आर्थिक विकास का एक प्रमुख प्रेरक इंजन है'

- He was speaking at an event here after commissioning three **indigenously-built naval ships — INS Dunagiri**, an advanced stealth frigate; **INS Sanshodhak**, a survey vessel (large); and **INS Agray**, an anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft.

वह यहाँ एक कार्यक्रम में **स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित तीन नौसैनिक पोतों — आईएनएस दुनागिरी**, एक उन्नत स्टेल्थ फ्रिगेट; **आईएनएस संशोधक**, एक बड़ा सर्वेक्षण पोत; तथा **आईएनएस अग्रय**, एक पनडुब्बी-रोधी उथले जल युद्धपोत — के कमीशनिंग के बाद संबोधित कर रहे थे।

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** said that the tri-commissioning of **INS Dunagiri, INS Agray, and INS Sanshodhak** was going to be a **"defining moment"** in **India's maritime capability development**.

रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने कहा कि **आईएनएस दुनागिरी, आईएनएस अग्रय और आईएनएस संशोधक** की एक साथ कमीशनिंग **भारत की समुद्री क्षमता के विकास** में एक **"निर्णायक क्षण"** सिद्ध होने जा रही है।

Police begin collecting DNA records under 2022 law; over one lakh profiles generated

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The police in several States have started collecting DNA records, primarily from blood samples, of suspects arrested for heinous crimes. Along with DNA profiles, photographs, fingerprints, and iris scans, the government is creating a unique identification record of arrested persons and convicts that can be retained for up to 75 years.

Over the past five months, the DNA records of more than one lakh suspects have been stored in a central database operated by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Union Home Ministry.

The samples are being collected under the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI), a law passed in Parliament in 2022. More than 2,600 measurement collection units have been established across the country, and the CrPI system is now available in police districts and prisons. It is also accessible to Central agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, the National Investigation Agency, and the Narcotics Control Bureau.

The biological samples can be matched with records to identify habitual offenders.

The contours of the CrPI system were showcased on June 19 at an NCRB event presided over by Home Minister Amit Shah.

"The samples are at present being collected by police in cases punishable by seven years. The DNA, mostly drawn from blood and in some cases saliva too, is then sent to a forensic laboratory, which generates a unique number. The NCRB preserves the code in its records. The sanctity of the samples depends on the police," an NCRB official said.

NAFIS

"CrPI Act, 2022 allows police and prison officers to take physical and biological samples of arrested and convicted individuals. To make these provisions effective, there was a need for a national platform that could integrate and make identification-related data useful across the country. In this direction, the NCRB launched the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) in the year 2022, which fully automated the fingerprint matching process. Today, with more than 1.27 crore fingerprint records, NAFIS has played a significant role in solving many old inter-State criminal cases," a presentation on the CrPI system said.

"Through CrPI, now all information related to identification, including face, iris, and biological samples is available in a national-level searchable database, making accurate and scientific identification possible within moments. Now, a photo obtained from a crime scene can be instantly matched with records across the country. CrPI functions as a unified system across the country, where every identification-based measurement is securely stored in a standardised system. As per standards, while taking photos, clarity of the eyes is ensured so that identification is not hindered despite any disguise or changes. CrPI ensures enrolment of face and iris measurements of arrested and convicted persons, and in special cases, registration of biological samples as well. There is a provision to retain all these measurements securely for 75 years," it said.

According to the NCRB presentation, biological samples recovered from crime scenes can be directly matched with existing records, enabling the identification of habitual offenders through scientific methods.

Video analytics feature

The NCRB said the CrPI system also has an advanced video analytics feature through which investigating officers can upload CCTV footage to identify faces of suspicious persons and match them with the national database. "What earlier took hours of manual investigation is now possible in just a few minutes. This feature also simplifies and speeds up identification of interstate criminals, as their records can be matched instantly across the country," it said.

22J6. Police begin collecting DNA records under 2022 law; over one lakh profiles generated

2022 के कानून के तहत पुलिस ने डीएनए अभिलेख एकत्र करना शुरू

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किया; एक लाख से अधिक प्रोफाइल तैयार किए गए

- The police in several States have started collecting **DNA records**, primarily from **blood samples**, of suspects arrested for **heinous crimes**.
  कई राज्यों की पुलिस ने **जघन्य अपराधों** में गिरफ्तार संदिग्धों के **डीएनए अभिलेख** एकत्रित करना शुरू कर दिया है, जो मुख्यतः **रक्त नमूनों** से प्राप्त किए जा रहे हैं।
- Along with **DNA profiles**, photographs, fingerprints, and iris scans, the government is creating a unique **identification record** of arrested persons and convicts that can be retained for up to **75 years**.
  डीएनए प्रोफाइल, फोटोग्राफ, फिंगरप्रिंट और आइरिस स्कैन के साथ सरकार गिरफ्तार व्यक्तियों और दोषसिद्ध अपराधियों का एक विशिष्ट **पहचान अभिलेख** तैयार कर रही है, जिसे **75 वर्षों** तक सुरक्षित रखा जा सकता है।
- Over the past five months, the DNA records of more than **one lakh suspects** have been stored in a central database operated by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** under the Union Home Ministry.
  पिछले पाँच महीनों में **एक लाख से अधिक संदिग्धों** के डीएनए अभिलेखों को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय के अधीन **राष्ट्रीय अपराध अभिलेख ब्यूरो (NCRB)** द्वारा संचालित केंद्रीय डेटाबेस में संग्रहीत किया गया है।
- The samples are being collected under the **Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act (CrPI)**, a law passed in Parliament in **2022**.
  ये नमूने **आपराधिक प्रक्रिया (पहचान) अधिनियम (CrPI)** के अंतर्गत एकत्र किए जा रहे हैं, जो **2022** में संसद द्वारा पारित किया गया था।
- More than **2,600 measurement collection units** have been established across the country, and the CrPI system is now available in police districts and prisons.
  देशभर में **2,600 से अधिक मापन संग्रह इकाइयाँ** स्थापित की गई हैं और अब CrPI प्रणाली पुलिस जिलों तथा कारागारों में उपलब्ध है।
- It is also accessible to Central agencies such as the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**, the **National Investigation Agency (NIA)**, and the **Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**.
  यह प्रणाली **केंद्रीय अन्वेषण ब्यूरो (CBI)**, **राष्ट्रीय अन्वेषण अभिकरण (NIA)** तथा **स्वापक नियंत्रण ब्यूरो (NCB)** जैसी केंद्रीय एजेंसियों के लिए भी उपलब्ध है।
- The contours of the **CrPI system** were showcased on June 19 at an NCRB event presided over by **Home Minister Amit Shah**.
  गृह मंत्री अमित शाह की अध्यक्षता में 19 जून को आयोजित NCRB कार्यक्रम में **CrPI प्रणाली** की रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत की गई।
- "The samples are at present being collected by police in cases punishable by **seven years**.
  "वर्तमान में पुलिस ऐसे मामलों में नमूने एकत्र कर रही है जिनमें **सात वर्ष** तक की सजा का प्रावधान है।
- The DNA, mostly drawn from blood and in some cases saliva too, is then sent to a **forensic laboratory**, which generates a unique number.
  डीएनए, जो प्रायः रक्त तथा कुछ मामलों में लार से प्राप्त किया जाता है, को **फॉरेंसिक प्रयोगशाला** भेजा जाता है, जहाँ एक विशिष्ट संख्या उत्पन्न की जाती है।
- The NCRB preserves the code in its records.
  NCRB इस कोड को अपने अभिलेखों में सुरक्षित रखता है।
- The sanctity of the samples depends on the police," an NCRB official said.
  नमूनों की विश्वसनीयता पुलिस की कार्यप्रणाली पर निर्भर करती है," एक NCRB अधिकारी ने कहा।

NAFIS

एनएएफआईएस (NAFIS)

- "CrPI Act, 2022 allows police and prison officers to take **physical and biological samples** of arrested and convicted individuals.

"CrPI अधिनियम, 2022 पुलिस और कारागार अधिकारियों को गिरफ्तार तथा दोषसिद्ध व्यक्तियों के **भौतिक एवं जैविक नमूने** लेने की अनुमति देता है।

- To make these provisions effective, there was a need for a national platform that could integrate and make identification-related data useful across the country.
  इन प्रावधानों को प्रभावी बनाने के लिए ऐसे राष्ट्रीय मंच की आवश्यकता थी जो पहचान संबंधी आंकड़ों को एकीकृत कर पूरे देश में उपयोगी बना सके।
- In this direction, the NCRB launched the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)** in the year 2022, which fully automated the fingerprint matching process.
  इसी दिशा में NCRB ने वर्ष 2022 में **राष्ट्रीय स्वचालित अंगुलीछाप पहचान प्रणाली (NAFIS)** प्रारंभ की, जिसने फिंगरप्रिंट मिलान प्रक्रिया को पूर्णतः स्वचालित बना दिया।
- Today, with more than **1.27 crore fingerprint records**, NAFIS has played a significant role in solving many old interstate criminal cases," a presentation on the CrPI system said.
  CrPI प्रणाली की प्रस्तुति के अनुसार, आज **1.27 करोड़ से अधिक फिंगरप्रिंट अभिलेखों** के साथ NAFIS ने अनेक पुराने अंतर्राज्यीय आपराधिक मामलों के समाधान में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- "Through CrPI, now all information related to identification, including **face, iris, and biological samples** is available in a national-level searchable database, making accurate and scientific identification possible within moments.
  "CrPI के माध्यम से अब पहचान से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी, जिसमें **चेहरा, आइरिस तथा जैविक नमूने** शामिल हैं, राष्ट्रीय स्तर के खोजयोग्य डेटाबेस में उपलब्ध है, जिससे कुछ ही क्षणों में सटीक एवं वैज्ञानिक पहचान संभव हो गई है।
- Now, a photo obtained from a crime scene can be instantly matched with records across the country.
  अब अपराध स्थल से प्राप्त किसी फोटो का पूरे देश के अभिलेखों से तत्काल मिलान किया जा सकता है।
- CrPI functions as a **unified system** across the country, where every identification-based measurement is securely stored in a standardized system.
  CrPI पूरे देश में एक **एकीकृत प्रणाली** के रूप में कार्य करता है, जहाँ पहचान आधारित प्रत्येक मापन को मानकीकृत प्रणाली में सुरक्षित रखा जाता है।
- As per standards, while taking photos, clarity of the eyes is ensured so that identification is not hindered despite any disguise or changes.
  मानकों के अनुसार, फोटो लेते समय आँखों की स्पष्टता सुनिश्चित की जाती है ताकि किसी भेष परिवर्तन या अन्य बदलाव के बावजूद पहचान में बाधा न आए।
- CrPI ensures enrolment of **face and iris measurements** of arrested and convicted persons, and in special cases, registration of **biological samples** as well.
  CrPI गिरफ्तार एवं दोषसिद्ध व्यक्तियों के **चेहरे और आइरिस मापनों** के पंजीकरण तथा विशेष मामलों में **जैविक नमूनों** के पंजीकरण को सुनिश्चित करता है।
- There is a provision to retain all these measurements securely for **75 years**," it said.
  इसमें इन सभी मापनों को **75 वर्षों** तक सुरक्षित रखने का प्रावधान है," प्रस्तुति में कहा गया।
- According to the NCRB presentation, biological samples recovered from crime scenes can be directly matched with existing records, enabling the identification of **habitual offenders** through scientific methods.
  NCRB की प्रस्तुति के अनुसार, अपराध स्थलों से प्राप्त जैविक नमूनों का सीधे मौजूदा अभिलेखों से मिलान किया जा सकता है, जिससे **आदतन अपराधियों** की वैज्ञानिक तरीकों से पहचान संभव हो जाती है।

Video analytics feature
वीडियो विश्लेषण सुविधा

- The NCRB said the CrPI system also has an advanced **video analytics feature** through which investigating officers can upload **CCTV footage** to identify faces of suspicious persons and match them with the national database.

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NCRB ने कहा कि CrPI प्रणाली में उन्नत **वीडियो विश्लेषण सुविधा** भी उपलब्ध है, जिसके माध्यम से जांच अधिकारी **सीसीटीवी फुटेज** अपलोड कर संदिग्ध व्यक्तियों के चेहरों की पहचान कर उन्हें राष्ट्रीय डेटाबेस से मिला सकते हैं।

- "What earlier took hours of manual investigation is now possible in just a few minutes.
"जिस कार्य में पहले घंटों की मैनुअल जांच लगती थी, वह अब कुछ ही मिनटों में संभव हो गया है।
- This feature also simplifies and speeds up identification of **interstate criminals**, as their records can be matched instantly across the country," it said.
यह सुविधा **अंतर्राज्यीय अपराधियों** की पहचान को भी सरल और तेज बनाती है, क्योंकि उनके अभिलेखों का पूरे देश में तत्काल मिलान किया जा सकता है," प्रस्तुति में कहा गया।

GS III: Internal Security

CISF to be deployed at five more prisons in J&K

The Union Home Ministry is set to deploy the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at five more prisons in Jammu & Kashmir, including a high-security prison in Kathua, a CISF spokesperson said on Sunday. The high-security jail, which will house inmates involved in serious offences, including terrorism, is yet to be operationalised, the official added. The CISF was earlier given the charge of providing armed security to the Central jails in Srinagar and Jammu (Kot Bhalwal) in October 2023. The force is responsible for securing both the inner and outer perimeters of these sensitive facilities through a combination of trained manpower, modern surveillance systems, and strict access control measures, the CISF spokesperson said.

22J6. CISF to be deployed at five more prisons in J&K जम्मू-कश्मीर की पाँच और जेलों में सीआईएसएफ की तैनाती की जाएगी

- The **Union Home Ministry** is set to deploy the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** at **five more prisons** in **Jammu & Kashmir**, including a **high-security prison in Kathua**, a CISF spokesperson said on Sunday.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय जम्मू-कश्मीर की **पाँच और जेलों** में **केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल (CISF)** की तैनाती करने जा रहा है, जिनमें **कठुआ की एक उच्च-सुरक्षा जेल** भी शामिल है। यह जानकारी रविवार को CISF के एक प्रवक्ता ने दी।

- The **high-security jail**, which will house inmates involved in serious offences, including **terrorism**, is yet to be operationalised, the official added.

अधिकारी ने बताया कि यह **उच्च-सुरक्षा जेल**, जिसमें **आतंकवाद** सहित गंभीर अपराधों में संलिप्त कैदियों को रखा जाएगा, अभी तक संचालन में नहीं लाई गई है।

- The CISF was earlier given the charge of providing **armed security** to the **Central Jails in Srinagar and Jammu (Kot Bhalwal)** in **October 2023**.

इससे पहले **अक्टूबर 2023** में CISF को **श्रीनगर और जम्मू (कोट भलवाल) की केंद्रीय जेलों** को **सशस्त्र सुरक्षा** प्रदान करने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई थी।

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PCS Special:	21 June 2026
21J6	Officer at the helm कमान संभालने वाले अधिकारी

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Officer at the helm

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth

The new Army Chief assumes command at a juncture marked by rapid technological advances, evolving security challenges, and a growing emphasis on joint operations

PCS

Saurabh Trivedi

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth, presently serving as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff, will assume office as the 31st Chief of the Army Staff on June 30, succeeding Gen. Upendra Dwivedi upon his retirement.

Lt. Gen. Seth will be the seventh officer from the Armoured Corps to assume the post. Of the previous six Armoured Corps officers who became Army chief, two took over after the position unexpectedly fell vacant. While the Infantry has produced most of India's Army chiefs, five have come from the Corps of Artillery and one from the Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Gen. Seth is set to remain in office until August 31, 2028. The last Armoured Corps officer to head the Indian Army was Gen. S. Roy Chowdhury, who served as Army chief from 1994 to 1997.

A highly accomplished Armoured Corps officer with nearly four decades of distinguished service, Lt. Gen. Seth brings to the position extensive operational experience, strategic vision and a strong record in military modernisation.

An alumnus of the prestigious National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, Lt. Gen. Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.

Throughout his career, he has served across diverse operational environments, from desert warfare formations to counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

He commanded an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, an Armoured Brigade in the Western Theatre and a Counter-Insurgency Force in Jammu & Kashmir.

Following his promotion to Lieutenant General, he led the prestigious Sudarshan Chakra Corps, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations, before serving as General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area. He later commanded both South Western Command and Southern Command.

Lt. Gen. Seth has also held several key staff and strategic appointments. These include Brigade Major of an Independent Armoured Brigade in Jammu & Kashmir, Operations Officer with the UN Mission in Angola and Assistant Military Secretary at Army Headquarters.

Widely regarded as one of the architects of the Indian Army's modernisation efforts, Lt. Gen. Seth has played a pivotal role in strategic planning, force structuring and capability development.

Tri-service exercises

He also oversaw major operational preparedness and training activities, including large-scale joint and tri-service exercises focused on emerging domains such as cyber, information warfare, multi-domain operations and amphibious capabilities. Among these, Exercise Trishul reflected the growing emphasis on integrated operations and joint warfighting concepts. His tenure witnessed continued emphasis on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), reflecting the Indian Army's commitment to national resilience and support for civil authorities.

He has served as Colonel Capability Development for Mechanised Forces, Brigadier Perspective Plans and Acquisition, and Additional Director General Capability Development. In these capacities, he contributed to the Army's Long-Term Integrated Perspective Planning process and future capability enhancement roadmap.

As General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, he championed technology adoption, innovation and civil-military collaboration. A scholar-soldier, Lt. Gen. Seth is a graduate of the Higher Command Course and the National Defence College, and has attended advanced military courses in France and the U.S.

He comes from a military family. He is the son of Lt. Ge. Krishna Mohan Seth, former Adjutant General of the Indian Army and former Governor of Tripura and Chhattisgarh. The family shares a unique legacy, with both father and son having commanded the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. His younger brother, Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth, is a serving Flag Officer in the Indian Navy.

Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth assumes command at a crucial juncture marked by rapid technological advancements, evolving security challenges and an increasing emphasis on joint military operations. The task before him is to lead the Indian Army through its next phase of transformation and preparedness.

21J6. Officer at the helm
कमान संभालने वाले अधिकारी

- The new **Army Chief** assumes command at a juncture marked by rapid **technological advances**, evolving **security challenges**, and a growing emphasis on **joint operations**.
  नए **थल सेना प्रमुख** ऐसे समय में कमान संभाल रहे हैं जब तेज़ **तकनीकी प्रगति**, बदलती **सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ**, और **संयुक्त अभियानों** पर बढ़ता जोर देखने को मिल रहा है।
- **Lt. Gen. Dhiraj Seth**, presently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Army Staff**, will assume office as the **31st Chief of the Army Staff** on **June 30**, succeeding **Gen. Upendra Dwivedi** upon his retirement.

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वर्तमान में **उप सेना प्रमुख** के रूप में कार्यरत **लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल धीरज सेठ 30 जून** को **31वें थल सेना प्रमुख** का पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे और सेवानिवृत्त हो रहे **जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी** का स्थान लेंगे।

- Lt. Gen. Seth will be the **seventh officer** from the **Armoured Corps** to assume the post.
  लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सेठ **आर्मर्ड कोर** से सेना प्रमुख बनने वाले **सातवें अधिकारी** होंगे।
- Of the previous six Armoured Corps officers who became Army chief, two took over after the position unexpectedly fell vacant.
  आर्मर्ड कोर से सेना प्रमुख बने पिछले छह अधिकारियों में से दो ने यह पद अप्रत्याशित रूप से रिक्त होने के बाद संभाला था।
- While the **Infantry** has produced most of India's Army chiefs, five have come from the **Corps of Artillery** and one from the **Corps of Engineers**.
  जहाँ **इन्फैंट्री** ने भारत को सबसे अधिक सेना प्रमुख दिए हैं, वहीं पाँच **कोर ऑफ आर्टिलरी** और एक **कोर ऑफ इंजीनियर्स** से आए हैं।
- Lt. Gen. Seth is set to remain in office until **August 31, 2028**.
  लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सेठ **31 अगस्त 2028** तक पद पर बने रहेंगे।
- The last Armoured Corps officer to head the Indian Army was **Gen. S. Roy Chowdhury**, who served as Army chief from **1994 to 1997**.
  भारतीय सेना का नेतृत्व करने वाले अंतिम आर्मर्ड कोर अधिकारी **जनरल एस. रॉय चौधरी** थे, जिन्होंने **1994 से 1997** तक सेना प्रमुख के रूप में कार्य किया।
- He commanded an **Armoured Regiment** in the desert sector, an **Armoured Brigade** in the Western Theatre and a **Counter-Insurgency Force** in Jammu & Kashmir.
  उन्होंने रेगिस्तानी क्षेत्र में एक **आर्मर्ड रेजिमेंट**, पश्चिमी मोर्चे पर एक **आर्मर्ड ब्रिगेड** और जम्मू-कश्मीर में एक **काउंटर-इंसर्जेंसी फोर्स** की कमान संभाली।
- Following his promotion to **Lieutenant General**, he led the prestigious **Sudarshan Chakra Corps**, one of the Indian Army's premier strike formations, before serving as **General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area**.
  लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल पद पर पदोन्नति के बाद उन्होंने भारतीय सेना की प्रमुख स्ट्राइक फॉर्मेशनों में से एक **सुदर्शन चक्र कोर** का नेतृत्व किया और बाद में **दिल्ली क्षेत्र के जनरल ऑफिसर कमांडिंग** बने।
- These include **Brigade Major** of an Independent Armoured Brigade in Jammu & Kashmir, **Operations Officer** with the **UN Mission in Angola** and **Assistant Military Secretary** at Army Headquarters.
  इनमें जम्मू-कश्मीर में स्वतंत्र आर्मर्ड ब्रिगेड के **ब्रिगेड मेजर**, **अंगोला में संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशन** के साथ **ऑपरेशन अधिकारी**, और सेना मुख्यालय में **सहायक सैन्य सचिव** शामिल हैं।
- Widely regarded as one of the architects of the Indian Army's **modernisation efforts**, Lt. Gen. Seth has played a pivotal role in strategic planning, force structuring and capability development.
  भारतीय सेना के **आधुनिकीकरण प्रयासों** के प्रमुख वास्तुकारों में गिने जाने वाले लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल सेठ ने रणनीतिक योजना, बल संरचना और क्षमता विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

Tri-service exercises
त्रि-सेवा अभ्यास

- He also oversaw major operational preparedness and training activities, including large-scale **joint and tri-service exercises** focused on emerging domains such as **cyber**, **information warfare**, **multi-domain operations** and **amphibious capabilities**.
  उन्होंने **साइबर**, **सूचना युद्ध**, **बहु-क्षेत्रीय अभियान** और **उभयचर क्षमताओं** जैसे उभरते क्षेत्रों पर केंद्रित बड़े पैमाने के **संयुक्त और त्रि-सेवा अभ्यासों** सहित प्रमुख परिचालन तैयारी और प्रशिक्षण गतिविधियों की निगरानी की।

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- Among these, **Exercise Trishul** reflected the growing emphasis on integrated operations and joint warfighting concepts.
  इनमें **अभ्यास त्रिशूल** ने एकीकृत अभियानों और संयुक्त युद्ध अवधारणाओं पर बढ़ते जोर को प्रदर्शित किया।
- His tenure witnessed continued emphasis on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)**, reflecting the Indian Army's commitment to national resilience and support for civil authorities.
  उनके कार्यकाल में **मानवीय सहायता एवं आपदा राहत (HADR)** पर निरंतर जोर दिया गया, जो राष्ट्रीय लचीलेपन और नागरिक प्रशासन के समर्थन के प्रति भारतीय सेना की प्रतिबद्धता को दर्शाता है।
- The family shares a unique legacy, with both father and son having commanded the **Sudarshan Chakra Corps**.
  यह परिवार एक अनूठी विरासत साझा करता है, क्योंकि पिता और पुत्र दोनों ने **सुदर्शन चक्र कोर** की कमान संभाली है।
- His younger brother, **Rear Admiral Ravnish Seth**, is a serving **Flag Officer** in the **Indian Navy**.
  उनके छोटे भाई **रियर एडमिरल रवनीश सेठ** भारतीय नौसेना में कार्यरत **फ्लैग ऑफिसर** हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography	21 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	Ready for talks with T.N. on Mekedatu project: Karnataka मेकेदातु परियोजना पर तमिलनाडु से बातचीत के लिए तैयार: कर्नाटक

21J6. Ready for talks with T.N. on Mekedatu project: Karnataka
मेकेदातु परियोजना पर तमिलनाडु से बातचीत के लिए तैयार: कर्नाटक

- Mr. Reddy said **Karnataka** has proposed the **Mekedatu project** within its territory across the **Cauvery river** primarily to meet the drinking water requirements of the **Bengaluru region**, regulate release to **Tamil Nadu** at **Biligundlu**, and generate **400 MW of hydroelectric power**.
  श्री रेड्डी ने कहा कि **कर्नाटक** ने अपने क्षेत्र में **कावेरी नदी** पर **मेकेदातु परियोजना** का प्रस्ताव मुख्य रूप से **बेंगलुरु क्षेत्र** की पेयजल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने, **बिलिगुंडलु** में **तमिलनाडु** को जल छोड़ने को विनियमित करने और **400 मेगावाट जलविद्युत उत्पादन** के लिए रखा है।
- In its judgment delivered on **November 13, 2025**, the apex court rejected the plea, holding that the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** and the **Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA)** were the competent expert bodies to examine such matters.
  13 नवंबर, 2025 को दिए गए अपने निर्णय में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने याचिका खारिज कर दी और कहा कि **केंद्रीय जल आयोग (CWC)** तथा **कावेरी जल प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (CWMA)** ऐसे मामलों की जांच करने वाली सक्षम विशेषज्ञ संस्थाएं हैं।
- The Minister reiterated that **Karnataka** remained bound by the **Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal award**, as modified by the **Supreme Court** in **2018**, to ensure annual release of **177.25 tmcft** of water to **Tamil Nadu** at **Biligundlu** in a normal water year.
  मंत्री ने दोहराया कि **कर्नाटक**, **2018** में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** द्वारा संशोधित **कावेरी जल विवाद न्यायाधिकरण के निर्णय** के अनुसार, सामान्य जल वर्ष में **बिलिगुंडलु** पर **तमिलनाडु** को प्रतिवर्ष **177.25 टीएमसीफीट** जल छोड़ने के लिए बाध्य है।

GS Paper II: Governance	21 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	J&K govt. orders inquiry into 103 heart procedures under PMJAY

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	पीएमजेएवाई के तहत 103 हृदय प्रक्रियाओं की जांच के आदेश, जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार

J&K govt. orders inquiry into 103 heart procedures under PMJAY

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

A cardiologist posted at GMC Anantnag was suspended; he allegedly falsified medical records

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday suspended a doctor and ordered an inquiry into allegations of misrepresentation of 103 cardiac procedures under the PMJAY-SEHAT scheme at Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag, in south Kashmir.

"An inquiry was initiated after a complaint was received. A few things came to the fore during the investigation, and the doctor was suspended. The doctor will be given a chance to present his case. We will conclude the inquiry and will not allow any doctor to play with the lives of patients," said J&K Health Minister Sakina Itoo.

The doctor has been identified as Syed Maqbool Ahmad Shah, Associate Professor of Cardiology. "During the period of his suspension, he shall remain attached to the office of Government Medical College, Jammu," the order said. According to the preliminary investigation, the doctor allegedly falsified medical records. "...the State Health Agency (SHA) referred the data to the Head of Department (HoD) of Cardiology at SKIMS, Soura, for an expert review," said the preliminary investigation report.

The probe further alleged "flagrant procedural misrepresentation".

Meanwhile, GMC Anantnag administrator Mukbil Lateef said, "No individual can be declared guilty until the inquiry is completed and responsibility is established."

21J6. J&K govt. orders inquiry into 103 heart procedures under PMJAY

पीएमजेएवाई के तहत 103 हृदय प्रक्रियाओं की जांच के आदेश, जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार

- The **Jammu and Kashmir government** on Saturday suspended a doctor and ordered an inquiry into allegations of misrepresentation of **103 cardiac procedures** under the **PMJAY-SEHAT scheme** at **Government Medical College (GMC), Anantnag**, in south Kashmir.

जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार ने शनिवार को एक डॉक्टर को निलंबित कर दिया और दक्षिण कश्मीर के **गवर्नमेंट मेडिकल कॉलेज (जीएमसी), अनंतनाग** में **पीएमजेएवाई-सेहत योजना** के तहत **103 हृदय संबंधी प्रक्रियाओं** में कथित अनियमितताओं की जांच के आदेश दिए।

GS Paper II: International Relations	21 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	A platform for the globalised elite वैश्वीकृत अभिजात वर्ग के लिए एक मंच

PATRIOTICIAS

A platform for the globalised elite

Group of Seven

The grouping of industrialised nations, founded in the 1970s, has weathered major geopolitical storms across the 20th and 21st centuries to remain a key forum for discussions and decision-making on global conflicts and economic challenges

GS II, III

Kallol Bhattacherjee

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The 1960s were a period of restlessness. The anti-Vietnam war protests and civil rights agitation made the Lyndon Johnson administration uneasy. It was in this backdrop that Johnson came to Michigan on May 22, 1964 to deliver his 'Great Society' speech. Johnson quoted Greek philosopher Aristotle to talk about how to create prosperity. "The Great Society" he said, "rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning."

The previous decade had seen the arrival of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that mobilised the decolonised societies. With the upswing in domestic disturbances in the U.S. it was obvious that the U.S. that had provided loans and economic assistance after the Second World War would no longer be able to provide leadership to the global north on its own and that it would require support from the partner countries in the West. As the decolonisation gathered speed, there was a greater need for the Global North to team up. Thus was born the idea of reviving the Global Economic Governance in favour of the industrialised economies out of which would emerge the Group of Seven (G7) in the following decade.

The Global Economic Governance (GEG) had been fashionable since the beginning of the Bretton Woods system but after nearly a decade of unrest in western societies, a definite push came in 1973 when the Yom Kippur war and hostilities between the Arabs and Israel triggered the first oil shock. The oil shock highlighted that the emerging order would challenge the domination of the western world.

In this backdrop, the first World Economic Summit was organised by French President Giscard d'Estaing and West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1975 who invited the leaders of the U.K., Italy, Japan and the U.S. for a meeting at the Chateau de Rambouillet in France. It began as the Group of Six and in 1976, Canada joined the grouping, making it the G7. The economic and financial crises of that time provided the G7 the agenda for the foreseeable future as it came to be known as a platform of industrialised countries for dealing with financial challenges.

Beyond economy

The 1970s were the decade of the New International Economic Order (NIEO) under which the Global south under the leadership of the Group of 77 and NAM demanded the establishment of a new economic order. Under this system, developing nations pushed for a transformation of global financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to deal with the requirements of the newly decolonised economies of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These demands, however, had to be adjusted against the overall power dynamics between the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The G7 started playing a bigger role beyond pure economic issues during the 1980s when it provided a platform to industrialised countries to coordinate response to major conflicts that threatened to interrupt global supply chains. First was the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, which was followed almost simultaneously by the hostilities between the U.K. and Argentina over the Falkland islands and the Iran-Iraq war. It also played an active role in dealing with various sides for the Lebanese civil war. In 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon, the G7 expressed shock on Israel's actions. On the Falklands dispute, however, it supported the U.K. and warned about controlling the conflicts in the West Asian region as they could spill into larger disruption of energy and navigation.

Through coordination among the major economies, G7 for the first time in 1990 showed that it had acquired the ability to put economic pressure to a country that refused to abide by the norms of the international order. As Saddam Hussein prepared to invade Kuwait in August 1990, the G7 convened a meeting in Houston and ensured that Hussein would not profit from forcibly acquiring the energy wealth of Kuwait. By handling a range of conflicts in the 1980s, G7 evolved from the strictly an economic platform to a strategic international mechanism that could play a greater role in maintaining the status quo and avoid shocks and disruptions to the system.

The end of the Cold War provided the G7 with the major opportunity to reinvent itself and this it did by opening its doors to Russia. Already during the Iraqi crisis of 1990-91, G7 had succeeded in getting the USSR on board. The new equation with the USSR was made evident with the arrival of Mikhail Gorbachev to the G7 London summit on July 14-16, 1991.

Following the dissolution of the USSR, the G7 invited Russian President Boris Yeltsin on multiple occasions, indicating a deeper integration of post-Soviet Russia into the international financial architecture. During this period, the G7 also helped Russia deal with the demands for transition by supporting it with an economic package. In 1998, Russia formally joined the grouping, transforming it into G8.

France summit

The G7's most visible role in recent years has been in opposing Russia's military campaign in Ukraine. Following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014, G8 expelled Russia reverting the grouping to its earlier avatar of G7. That apart, the grouping has emerged as a forum for important discussions in dealing with issues that are global in nature and require a collective action. Among the issues that the G7 has prioritised are climate change, pandemic preparedness, energy security, critical minerals and preservation of supply chains. In order to address these vital issues, the G7 has welcomed participation by other important countries such as India, Egypt, South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Ukraine and the UAE to its summit meetings and consultations.

In 52nd G7 summit, held in France on June 15-17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had participated. Among the topics discussed at the summit were the Ukraine war, the U.S.-Iran deal, global economic imbalances, Artificial Intelligence and debt burdens in the developing countries.

As the world deals with major supply chain disruptions and uncertainties following the eruption of the U.S.-Israel war against Iran and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the G7, with its permanent guest European Union, has provided an additional mechanism to discuss difficult issues, often providing its high power table to dissect policies that are relevant to the world order.

This informal meeting allows the global leaders a much required interaction that is not possible within the confines of the UN. While the world has gone through the Cold War and post-Cold War phases, the G7 remains a continuity as it maintains the globalised economic structure without allowing cracks to spread.

THE GIST

- In the backdrop of the oil shock, French President Giscard d'Estaing and West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1975 organised a summit with leaders from the U.K., Italy, Japan and the U.S. in France to discuss economic challenges
- It began as the Group of Six and in 1976, Canada joined the grouping, making it the G7
- The economic and financial crises of that time provided the G7 the agenda for the foreseeable future as it came to be known as a platform of industrialised countries for dealing with financial challenges

21J6. A platform for the globalised elite
वैश्वीकृत अभिजात वर्ग के लिए एक मंच

- The grouping of **industrialised nations**, founded in the **1970s**, has weathered major **geopolitical storms** across the 20th and 21st centuries to remain a key forum for discussions and decision-making on global conflicts and economic challenges.
  1970 के दशक में स्थापित **औद्योगिक देशों** का यह समूह 20वीं और 21वीं सदी के बड़े **भू-राजनीतिक संकटों** का सामना करते हुए वैश्विक संघर्षों और आर्थिक चुनौतियों पर चर्चा तथा निर्णय लेने के एक महत्वपूर्ण मंच के रूप में बना हुआ है।
- The **1960s** were a period of restlessness.
  1960 का दशक अशांति का दौर था।
- The anti-**Vietnam war protests** and **civil rights agitation** made the **Lyndon Johnson administration** uneasy.
  वियतनाम युद्ध विरोधी प्रदर्शनों और **नागरिक अधिकार आंदोलनों** ने **लिंडन जॉनसन प्रशासन** को असहज कर दिया था।
- It was in this backdrop that Johnson came to **Michigan** on **May 22, 1964** to deliver his **'Great Society' speech**.
  इसी पृष्ठभूमि में जॉनसन **22 मई 1964** को **मिशिगन** आए और अपना **'ग्रेट सोसाइटी' भाषण** दिया।

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- Johnson quoted Greek philosopher **Aristotle** to talk about how to create prosperity.
  जॉनसन ने समृद्धि पैदा करने के बारे में बात करते हुए यूनानी दार्शनिक **अरस्तू** का उल्लेख किया।
- "The **Great Society**," he said, "rests on abundance and liberty for all."
  उन्होंने कहा, "**ग्रेट सोसाइटी** सभी के लिए समृद्धि और स्वतंत्रता पर आधारित है।"
- "It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time."
  "यह गरीबी और नस्लीय अन्याय के अंत की मांग करती है, जिसके प्रति हम पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध हैं।"
- "But that is just the beginning."
  "लेकिन यह तो केवल शुरुआत है।"
- The previous decade had seen the arrival of the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** that mobilised the decolonised societies.
  पिछले दशक में **गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन (NAM)** का उदय हुआ था, जिसने उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्त हुए समाजों को संगठित किया।
- With the upswing in domestic disturbances in the **U.S.**, it was obvious that the U.S. that had provided loans and economic assistance after the **Second World War** would no longer be able to provide leadership to the **Global North** on its own.
  अमेरिका में घरेलू अशांति बढ़ने के साथ यह स्पष्ट हो गया कि **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद ऋण और आर्थिक सहायता देने वाला अमेरिका अकेले **वैश्विक उत्तर (Global North)** का नेतृत्व नहीं कर सकेगा।
- It would require support from the partner countries in the West.
  उसे पश्चिमी साझेदार देशों के समर्थन की आवश्यकता होगी।
- As decolonisation gathered speed, there was a greater need for the Global North to team up.
  जैसे-जैसे उपनिवेशवाद का अंत तेज हुआ, **वैश्विक उत्तर** के देशों के एकजुट होने की आवश्यकता बढ़ गई।
- Thus was born the idea of reviving the **Global Economic Governance** in favour of the industrialised economies.
  इसी प्रकार औद्योगिक अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के पक्ष में **वैश्विक आर्थिक शासन (Global Economic Governance)** को पुनर्जीवित करने का विचार जन्मा।
- Out of this would emerge the **Group of Seven (G7)** in the following decade.
  इसी से अगले दशक में **ग्रुप ऑफ सेवन (G7)** का उदय हुआ।
- The **Global Economic Governance (GEG)** had been fashionable since the beginning of the **Bretton Woods system**.
  ब्रेटन वुड्स प्रणाली की शुरुआत से ही **वैश्विक आर्थिक शासन (GEG)** एक प्रमुख अवधारणा रहा था।
- After nearly a decade of unrest in western societies, a definite push came in **1973** when the **Yom Kippur War** and hostilities between the Arabs and Israel triggered the first **oil shock**.
  पश्चिमी समाजों में लगभग एक दशक की अशांति के बाद **1973** में **योम किप्पुर युद्ध** और अरब-इज़राइल संघर्ष के कारण पहला **तेल संकट** उत्पन्न हुआ।
- The oil shock highlighted that the emerging order would challenge the domination of the western world.
  तेल संकट ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया कि उभरती हुई व्यवस्था पश्चिमी दुनिया के प्रभुत्व को चुनौती देगी।
- In this backdrop, the first **World Economic Summit** was organised by French President **Giscard d'Estaing** and West Germany's Chancellor **Helmut Schmidt** in **1975**.
  इसी पृष्ठभूमि में **1975** में फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **गिस्कार्ड द'एस्तेंग** और पश्चिम जर्मनी के चांसलर **हेल्मुट श्मिट** ने पहला **विश्व आर्थिक शिखर सम्मेलन** आयोजित किया।
- They invited the leaders of the **U.K., Italy, Japan and the U.S.** for a meeting at the **Chateau de Rambouillet** in France.
  उन्होंने **ब्रिटेन, इटली, जापान और अमेरिका** के नेताओं को फ्रांस के **शातो द राम्बुइये** में बैठक के लिए आमंत्रित किया।
- It began as the **Group of Six**.
  इसकी शुरुआत **ग्रुप ऑफ सिक्स** के रूप में हुई।

- In **1976**, **Canada** joined the grouping, making it the **G7**.
  1976 में **कनाडा** इसके साथ जुड़ा और यह **G7** बन गया।
- The economic and financial crises of that time provided the G7 the agenda for the foreseeable future.
  उस समय के आर्थिक और वित्तीय संकटों ने G7 को आने वाले वर्षों का एजेंडा प्रदान किया।
- It came to be known as a platform of industrialised countries for dealing with financial challenges.
  यह वित्तीय चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए औद्योगिक देशों के मंच के रूप में जाना जाने लगा।

Beyond economy
अर्थव्यवस्था से परे

- The **1970s** were the decade of the **New International Economic Order (NIEO)**.
  1970 का दशक न्यू इंटरनेशनल इकोनॉमिक ऑर्डर (NIEO) का दशक था।
- Under this, the **Global South**, led by the **Group of 77** and **NAM**, demanded the establishment of a new economic order.
  इसके तहत **ग्रुप ऑफ 77** और **NAM** के नेतृत्व में **वैश्विक दक्षिण** ने नई आर्थिक व्यवस्था की मांग की।
- Developing nations pushed for transforming institutions such as the **World Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
  विकासशील देशों ने **विश्व बैंक** और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)** जैसे संस्थानों में परिवर्तन की मांग की।
- These demands had to be adjusted against the overall power dynamics between the **U.S.** and the **Soviet Union**.
  इन मांगों को **अमेरिका** और **सोवियत संघ** के बीच शक्ति संतुलन के अनुसार समायोजित करना पड़ा।
- The G7 started playing a bigger role beyond pure economic issues during the **1980s**.
  1980 के दशक में G7 ने आर्थिक मुद्दों से आगे बढ़कर बड़ी भूमिका निभानी शुरू की।
- It provided a platform to coordinate responses to major conflicts that threatened global supply chains.
  इसने वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं को प्रभावित करने वाले बड़े संघर्षों पर समन्वित प्रतिक्रिया का मंच प्रदान किया।
- First was the **Soviet invasion of Afghanistan**.
  पहला था **अफगानिस्तान पर सोवियत आक्रमण**।
- This was followed by the **Falkland Islands conflict** and the **Iran-Iraq War**.
  इसके बाद **फॉकलैंड द्वीप संघर्ष** और **ईरान-इराक युद्ध** हुए।
- It also played an active role regarding the **Lebanese Civil War**.
  इसने **लेबनानी गृहयुद्ध** के संबंध में भी सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई।
- In **1982**, when **Israel invaded Lebanon**, the G7 expressed shock at Israel's actions.
  1982 में जब **इज़राइल ने लेबनान पर आक्रमण किया**, तब G7 ने इस पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- On the Falklands dispute, however, it supported the **U.K.**.
  हालांकि फॉकलैंड विवाद में उसने **ब्रिटेन** का समर्थन किया।
- Through coordination among major economies, G7 demonstrated in **1990** its ability to apply economic pressure.
  प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के समन्वय के माध्यम से G7 ने **1990** में आर्थिक दबाव डालने की अपनी क्षमता दिखाई।
- As **Saddam Hussein** prepared to invade **Kuwait**, the G7 convened a meeting in **Houston**.
  जब **सद्दाम हुसैन कुवैत** पर आक्रमण की तैयारी कर रहे थे, तब G7 ने **ह्यूस्टन** में बैठक बुलाई।
- It ensured that Hussein would not profit from forcibly acquiring Kuwait's energy wealth.
  इसने सुनिश्चित किया कि हुसैन कुवैत की ऊर्जा संपदा पर बलपूर्वक कब्जा कर लाभ न उठा सकें।
- The end of the **Cold War** provided the G7 an opportunity to reinvent itself.
  शीत युद्ध के अंत ने G7 को स्वयं को पुनर्परिभाषित करने का अवसर दिया।

- It opened its doors to **Russia**.
  इसने **रूस** के लिए अपने द्वार खोले।
- **Mikhail Gorbachev** attended the G7 London Summit on **July 14-16, 1991**.
  मिखाइल गोर्बाचेव ने **14-16 जुलाई 1991** को लंदन में आयोजित G7 शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लिया।
- Following the dissolution of the **USSR**, Russian President **Boris Yeltsin** was invited on multiple occasions.
  सोवियत संघ के विघटन के बाद रूसी राष्ट्रपति **बोरिस येल्त्सिन** को कई बार आमंत्रित किया गया।
- In **1998**, Russia formally joined the grouping, transforming it into the **G8**.
  1998 में रूस औपचारिक रूप से समूह में शामिल हुआ और यह **G8** बन गया।

France summit
फ्रांस शिखर सम्मेलन

- The G7's most visible role in recent years has been in opposing Russia's military campaign in **Ukraine**.
  हाल के वर्षों में G7 की सबसे प्रमुख भूमिका **यूक्रेन** में रूस के सैन्य अभियान का विरोध करना रही है।
- Following Russia's annexation of **Crimea** in **2014**, the G8 expelled Russia and reverted to the **G7**.
  2014 में **क्रीमिया** के रूस में विलय के बाद G8 ने रूस को बाहर कर दिया और पुनः **G7** बन गया।
- The grouping has emerged as a forum for discussions on **climate change**, **pandemic preparedness**, **energy security**, **critical minerals**, and **supply chains**.
  यह समूह **जलवायु परिवर्तन**, **महामारी तैयारी**, **ऊर्जा सुरक्षा**, **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** और **आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं** पर चर्चा का प्रमुख मंच बन गया है।
- To address these issues, the G7 has welcomed participation by countries such as **India, Egypt, South Africa, Brazil, South Korea, Ukraine and the UAE**.
  इन मुद्दों पर चर्चा के लिए G7 ने **भारत, मिस्र, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, ब्राज़ील, दक्षिण कोरिया, यूक्रेन और यूएई** जैसे देशों की भागीदारी का स्वागत किया है।
- In the **52nd G7 Summit**, held in **France** on **June 15-17**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated.
  15-17 जून को **फ्रांस** में आयोजित **52वें G7 शिखर सम्मेलन** में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने भाग लिया।
- Among the topics discussed were the **Ukraine war**, the **U.S.-Iran deal**, **global economic imbalances**, **Artificial Intelligence**, and **debt burdens** in developing countries.
  चर्चा के प्रमुख विषयों में **यूक्रेन युद्ध**, **अमेरिका-ईरान समझौता**, **वैश्विक आर्थिक असंतुलन**, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** और विकासशील देशों का **ऋण बोझ** शामिल थे।
- As the world deals with major supply chain disruptions and uncertainties following the **U.S.-Israel war against Iran** and the closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, the G7 has provided an additional mechanism to discuss difficult issues.
  ईरान के खिलाफ अमेरिका-इज़राइल युद्ध और **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** के बंद होने के बाद उत्पन्न वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला संकट और अनिश्चितताओं के बीच G7 कठिन मुद्दों पर चर्चा का अतिरिक्त मंच प्रदान कर रहा है।
- This informal meeting allows global leaders a much-required interaction that is not possible within the confines of the **United Nations**.
  यह अनौपचारिक बैठक वैश्विक नेताओं को ऐसा आवश्यक संवाद का अवसर प्रदान करती है जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** के औपचारिक ढांचे में संभव नहीं होता।
- While the world has gone through the **Cold War** and **post-Cold War** phases, the **G7** remains a continuity as it maintains the globalised economic structure without allowing cracks to spread.
  दुनिया **शीत युद्ध** और **शीत युद्धोत्तर** चरणों से गुजर चुकी है, फिर भी **G7** निरंतरता का प्रतीक बना हुआ है क्योंकि यह वैश्वीकृत आर्थिक संरचना को बनाए रखते हुए उसमें दरारें फैलने नहीं देता।

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GS Paper III: Economy	21 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	In Odisha, Modi unveils ₹47,000-crore infra push ओडिशा में मोदी ने ₹47,000 करोड़ की अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं का शुभारंभ किया
21J6	Why have India's statistical databases been upgraded? भारत के सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेस को उन्नत क्यों किया गया है?
21J6	Microsoft introduces pay-as-you-go model for AI agents माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने एआई एजेंटों के लिए 'उपयोग के अनुसार भुगतान' मॉडल पेश किया

In Odisha, Modi unveils ₹47,000-crore infra push

GS III: Economy

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled development projects worth ₹47,000 crore for Odisha, at an event in Rairangpur to mark two years of the Bharatiya Janata Party government in the State.

Also marking President Droupadi Murmu's 68th birthday, Mr. Modi visited the nearby Pahadpur village, home to her in-laws.

Addressing the meeting in Rairangpur, Mr. Modi switched themes between the tribal roots of the President and the development of Odisha through its natural resources. "Today, many important projects related to Odisha's development have been inaugurated. About ₹47,000 crore will be spent on these projects in power, roads, railways, health, and education, which will greatly benefit the people," he said.

Rairangpur, playing host to the celebrations marking two years of the BJP government in the State, is the northern Odisha town closest to Ms. Murmu's tiny home village of Uparbeda.

First, Mr. Modi observed tribal traditions at Pahadpur, the President's in-laws' village. Accompanied by Ms. Murmu, he toured the village, interacted with residents, and paid obeisance at the *Jahera*, the sacred Santhal place of worship.

"It is a matter of great pride for all of us that Odisha's daughter has reached such a high office in the country and is guiding us. Her personality, her generous and compassionate nature, and her unwavering dedication to serving the nation and society have strengthened not only Mayurbhanj but the identity of the entire Odisha," Mr. Modi said, extending birthday greetings to Ms. Murmu.

To the roots: PM Narendra Modi waters a sapling in the presence of President Droupadi Murmu at Pahadpur in Odisha on Saturday. ANI

Mr. Modi, at Rairangpur, laid the foundation for a ₹25,016 crore coal gasification unit being established in Jharsuguda district and launched ₹700 crore worth of rail infrastructure under East Coast Railway. "So far, investment proposals worth around ₹20 lakh crore have been received. Work is underway on mega projects worth over ₹3.5 lakh crore. Efforts are being made for holistic development to create a favourable environment for industries. More than ₹6,000 crore is being invested in the power sector," Mr. Modi said.

Solar-powered village

"I also want to inform you about a government decision that Pahadpur village will be rapidly developed as a Suryagram, a solar village. That means every household will generate solar power. We can proudly say that just as Odisha is known for the Sun Temple in Konark, Pahadpur will gain recognition as a Suryagram," he said.

Mr. Modi said, "The Centre's vision is that India's development will come through the development of eastern India. That's why we are working on the 'Purvodaya' policy. The eastern region, which was once synonymous with backwardness during the Congress era, is now becoming the gateway to progress. Odisha itself is witnessing this transformation."

During the Prime Minister's visit, the President assumed the roles of host and guide. She was effusive in her praise for Mr. Modi, congratulating him for being the longest-serving Prime Minister of India.

MODI IN WEST BENGAL
» PAGE 4

21J6. In Odisha, Modi unveils ₹47,000-crore infra push
ओडिशा में मोदी ने ₹47,000 करोड़ की अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं का शुभारंभ किया

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Saturday unveiled development projects worth **₹47,000 crore** for **Odisha**, at an event in **Rairangpur** to mark two years of the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** government in the State.

प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने शनिवार को **ओडिशा** के लिए **₹47,000 करोड़** की विकास परियोजनाओं का शुभारंभ किया। यह कार्यक्रम राज्य में **भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा)** सरकार के दो वर्ष पूरे होने के उपलक्ष्य में **रायरंगपुर** में आयोजित किया गया।

- Also marking President **Droupadi Murmu's** 68th birthday, Mr. Modi visited the nearby **Pahadpur** village, home to her in-laws.

राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मु** के 68वें जन्मदिन के अवसर पर श्री मोदी ने उनके ससुराल वाले गांव **पहाड़पुर** का भी दौरा किया।

- Addressing the meeting in **Rairangpur**, Mr. Modi switched themes between the tribal roots of the President and the development of Odisha through its natural resources.

रायरंगपुर में सभा को संबोधित करते हुए श्री मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति की जनजातीय पृष्ठभूमि और ओडिशा के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के माध्यम से विकास के विषयों पर बात की।

- "Today, many important projects related to Odisha's development have been inaugurated. About **₹47,000 crore** will be spent on these projects in **power, roads, railways, health, and education**, which will greatly benefit the people," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "आज ओडिशा के विकास से जुड़ी कई महत्वपूर्ण परियोजनाओं का उद्घाटन किया गया है।

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बिजली, सड़क, रेलवे, स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा से संबंधित इन परियोजनाओं पर लगभग **₹47,000 करोड़** खर्च किए जाएंगे, जिससे लोगों को बहुत लाभ होगा।"

- **Rairangpur**, playing host to the celebrations marking two years of the BJP government in the State, is the northern Odisha town closest to Ms. Murmu's tiny home village of **Uparbeda**.
  राज्य में भाजपा सरकार के दो वर्ष पूरे होने के समारोह की मेजबानी कर रहा **रायरंगपुर**, सुश्री मुर्मु के पैतृक गांव **उपरबेड़ा** के सबसे निकट स्थित उत्तरी ओडिशा का नगर है।
- First, Mr. Modi observed tribal traditions at **Pahadpur**, the President's in-laws' village.
  सबसे पहले श्री मोदी ने राष्ट्रपति के ससुराल गांव **पहाड़पुर** में जनजातीय परंपराओं का पालन किया।
- Accompanied by Ms. Murmu, he toured the village, interacted with residents, and paid obeisance at the **Jahera**, the sacred **Santhal** place of worship.
  सुश्री मुर्मु के साथ उन्होंने गांव का दौरा किया, ग्रामीणों से बातचीत की और **जाहेरा**, जो **संथाल** समुदाय का पवित्र पूजा स्थल है, वहां श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।
- "It is a matter of great pride for all of us that Odisha's daughter has reached such a high office in the country and is guiding us. Her personality, her generous and compassionate nature, and her unwavering dedication to serving the nation and society have strengthened not only **Mayurbhanj** but the identity of the entire Odisha," Mr. Modi said, extending birthday greetings to Ms. Murmu.
  श्री मोदी ने सुश्री मुर्मु को जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए कहा, "यह हम सभी के लिए गर्व की बात है कि ओडिशा की बेटी देश के इतने उच्च पद तक पहुंची है और हमारा मार्गदर्शन कर रही है। उनका व्यक्तित्व, उदार और संवेदनशील स्वभाव तथा राष्ट्र और समाज की सेवा के प्रति उनका अटूट समर्पण न केवल **मयूरभंज** बल्कि पूरे ओडिशा की पहचान को मजबूत करता है।"
- Mr. Modi, at **Rairangpur**, laid the foundation for a **₹25,016 crore coal gasification unit** being established in **Jharsuguda** district and launched **₹700 crore** worth of rail infrastructure under **East Coast Railway**.
  श्री मोदी ने **रायरंगपुर** में **झारसुगुड़ा** जिले में स्थापित होने वाली **₹25,016 करोड़ की कोल गैसीफिकेशन इकाई** की आधारशिला रखी तथा **ईस्ट कोस्ट रेलवे** के अंतर्गत **₹700 करोड़** की रेल अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं का शुभारंभ किया।
- "So far, investment proposals worth around **₹20 lakh crore** have been received. Work is underway on mega projects worth over **₹3.5 lakh crore**. Efforts are being made for holistic development to create a favourable environment for industries. More than **₹6,000 crore** is being invested in the power sector," Mr. Modi said.
  श्री मोदी ने कहा, "अब तक लगभग **₹20 लाख करोड़** के निवेश प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं। **₹3.5 लाख करोड़** से अधिक की मेगा परियोजनाओं पर कार्य चल रहा है। उद्योगों के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने हेतु समग्र विकास के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। बिजली क्षेत्र में **₹6,000 करोड़** से अधिक का निवेश किया जा रहा है।"

Solar-powered village
सौर ऊर्जा संचालित गांव

- "I also want to inform you about a government decision that **Pahadpur** village will be rapidly developed as a **Suryagram**, a solar village. That means every household will generate solar power. We can proudly say that just as Odisha is known for the **Sun Temple in Konark**, Pahadpur will gain recognition as a **Suryagram**," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "मैं आपको सरकार के एक निर्णय के बारे में भी बताना चाहता हूं कि **पहाड़पुर** गांव को तेजी से एक **सूर्यग्राम** के रूप में विकसित किया जाएगा। इसका अर्थ है कि प्रत्येक घर सौर ऊर्जा का उत्पादन करेगा। जिस प्रकार ओडिशा **कोणार्क के सूर्य मंदिर** के लिए प्रसिद्ध है, उसी प्रकार पहाड़पुर भी एक **सूर्यग्राम** के रूप में पहचान प्राप्त करेगा।"
- Mr. Modi said, "The Centre's vision is that India's development will come through the development of **eastern India**. That's why we are working on the **'Purvodaya' policy**. The eastern region, which was once synonymous with backwardness during the Congress era, is

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now becoming the gateway to progress. Odisha itself is witnessing this transformation."
श्री मोदी ने कहा, "केंद्र की सोच है कि भारत का विकास **पूर्वी भारत** के विकास से होगा। इसी कारण हम **'पूर्वोदय' नीति** पर कार्य कर रहे हैं। पूर्वी क्षेत्र, जो कभी कांग्रेस शासन में पिछड़ेपन का पर्याय माना जाता था, अब प्रगति का द्वार बन रहा है। स्वयं ओडिशा इस परिवर्तन का साक्षी है।"

- During the Prime Minister's visit, the President assumed the roles of host and guide.
प्रधानमंत्री की यात्रा के दौरान राष्ट्रपति ने मेजबान और मार्गदर्शक दोनों की भूमिका निभाई।
- She was effusive in her praise for Mr. Modi, congratulating him for being the **longest-serving Prime Minister of India**.
उन्होंने श्री मोदी की प्रशंसा करते हुए उन्हें **भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक सेवा देने वाले प्रधानमंत्री** बनने पर बधाई दी।

Why have India's statistical databases been upgraded?

GS III: Economy

What key economic indicators have been revised? Why was an overhaul of the databases necessary? What changes were made to the national accounts and GDP estimates? How has the measurement of industrial output been improved? What changes have been made to India's inflation indicators?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

Last November, the Indian government received a 'C' grade, the second-lowest grade, by the International Monetary Fund for the quality of its national accounts statistics. Over the last few months, it has made several upgrades to its statistical databases, improving their timeliness, representativeness, accuracy, and coverage. These improvements have been wide-ranging, covering the way India measures its gross domestic product (GDP), the value addition in the economy, industrial output, and price levels at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels.

What are the metrics that have been updated?

The most significant of these changes was made to India's national accounts statistics in February this year by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). National accounts include several key metrics such as GDP, gross value added (GVA), sector-wise output and growth figures, and the contributions of each of the engines of growth to the economy – government expenditure, private investment, household consumption, and trade. These are released on a quarterly and annual basis.

In June, MoSPI also updated the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which captures how industrial activity in the economy is doing on a monthly basis. This includes key sectors such as manufacturing, mining, electricity, infrastructure, capital goods, and consumer goods. Apart from providing a regular snapshot of how the industrial sectors are doing, these monthly figures also feed into the GDP and GVA metrics.

The third broad set of upgrades were to how India measures inflation. Price changes at the retail level, which is meant to capture the consumer-end of the market, are measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Similarly, price changes at the wholesale level, which is ideally meant to capture the prices that producers get, are measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). MoSPI releases the CPI while the Ministry of Commerce and Industry releases the WPI. Both these indices have been significantly updated and upgraded – the CPI in February and the WPI in June.

In June, the Commerce Ministry also introduced a new index – the Producer Price Index (PPI) – which not only captures the price impact on producers more accurately, but will also replace the WPI entirely in five years.

Why was an update needed?

These databases were outdated and were becoming less representative of reality with each passing year. The GDP and GVA data, for example, had a base year of 2011-12, as did the IIP. The economy has changed substantially in the years since then, with the contribution of several sectors to the economy growing while others have diminished in importance. An outdated base year weakens the overall measurements and makes them less representative of the current reality.

Before they were updated, the WPI and CPI had base years of 2011-12 and 2012, respectively. Here, too, the outdated indices were measuring price changes and index values based on household consumption patterns that were about 15 years old. Several items used back then, such as DVDs and cassettes, were included in the indices even though they are not used now. Conversely, several items that are being used now were not captured by the indices because they were not in use back then.

The databases were outdated and were becoming less representative of reality with each passing year. An outdated base year weakens the overall measurements and makes them less representative of the current reality

Items like DVD players and tape recorders have been removed from CPI. GETTY IMAGES

More accurate price information is important not just for policymaking but also for a more accurate measure of the size of the economy and its growth. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, for example, uses the CPI to gauge inflation and decide on interest rates. The Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief given to current and former government employees, respectively, are pegged to inflation. The rate of growth of the real economy, which is the commonly accepted metric used to measure growth worldwide, is arrived at after having adjusted the impact of inflation on the economy.

What changes were made to the national accounts?

First, the base year was updated to 2022-23, immediately making the data more representative of the current situation. Apart from this, the new series of national accounts has also incorporated several methodological changes and measurement improvements.

One of the most important changes, and one that has long been advocated by statisticians, was the incorporation of the 'double deflator' method for estimating real GDP growth. This adjusts input and output prices separately, providing a much more accurate picture of the impact of price changes. Currently, the 'double deflator' method is being used for agriculture and manufacturing. It is expected to be adopted for the other sectors as well over time.

The other important change was the segregation of activities in multi-activity enterprises. There are several companies that are active across different sectors. Earlier, the data would capture the company's entire output and allocate it to the main sector within which it was operating. This yielded a somewhat inaccurate measure of sectoral activity. Now, the output will be allocated to each sector proportionately, providing a more accurate picture.

The new series also incorporates new data sources such as the Goods and Services Tax data and the Periodic Labour Force Surveys. It also incorporates several improvements in statistical methodology that will reduce discrepancies.

What other changes were made to output measures?

MoSPI updated the base year of the IIP to 2022-23 and expanded its coverage by including sectors such as gas supply, water supply, sewerage, and waste management activities, while retaining the previous sectors. Simultaneously, the index was revamped to provide greater granularity in terms of sources of electricity (renewable and non-renewable), and the types of minerals produced.

The revised item basket consists of 1,042 products mapped to 463 item groups, compared to 839 items mapped to 407 item groups in the previous series.

What are the inflation-related changes?

The base year of the CPI was updated to 2024, and the basket of items it measures as well as their relative weightages were pegged to the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey of 2023-24. The price change metrics now better reflect the current consumption patterns of households.

The data is also more illustrative, with the tables providing 12 different categories of items compared to the six groups in the previous series. Overall, the total number of items measured – including both goods and services – has increased from 299 to 358.

These additions of goods and services include for the first time inclusion of rural house rent, modern consumption items such as online media services and fuels such as CNG and PNG, and improvements in the measurement of telephone charges, rail fare, air fare, fuel, postal charges and online media and streaming services. Items that are no longer used, such as VCRs, DVD players, radio, tape recorders, and cassettes, were removed from the CPI.

The WPI was similarly updated, with its base year revised to 2022-23 and the number of items expanded from 697 to 957. The new series also incorporates several methodological refinements.

The data have also been reorganised more logically. For instance, crude petroleum and natural gas have been moved from the 'Primary Articles' category to the 'Fuel and Power' major group, which already includes other key fuels such as coal, electricity and petroleum products.

The third major change introduced by the Commerce Ministry was the adoption of a PPI. Unlike the WPI, the PPI separately tracks the prices producers pay for inputs and the prices they receive for their outputs. The PPI excludes additional costs such as transport and indirect taxes, which the WPI includes. This makes the PPI a more accurate representation of prices at the producer level. It also incorporates both goods and services, which makes it more holistic. The government has indicated that the WPI will be phased out over the next five years, leaving the CPI and PPI as the country's two principal price indices.

21J6. Why have India's statistical databases been upgraded?
भारत के सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेस को उन्नत क्यों किया गया है?

- **India upgrades key statistical databases to improve accuracy and representation of the economy**
भारत ने अर्थव्यवस्था की अधिक सटीक एवं यथार्थपरक तस्वीर प्रस्तुत करने के लिए प्रमुख सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेसों को उन्नत किया
- Last November, the **Indian government** received a **'C' grade**, the second-lowest grade, by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** for the quality of its **national accounts statistics**.
पिछले नवंबर में **भारतीय सरकार** को उसके **राष्ट्रीय लेखा सांख्यिकी** की गुणवत्ता के लिए **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)** द्वारा **'C' ग्रेड** प्रदान किया गया था, जो दूसरा सबसे निम्न ग्रेड है।

- Over the last few months, it has made several upgrades to its statistical databases, improving their **timeliness**, **representativeness**, **accuracy**, and **coverage**.
  पिछले कुछ महीनों में सरकार ने अपने सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेसों में अनेक सुधार किए हैं, जिससे उनकी **समयबद्धता**, **प्रतिनिधित्व क्षमता**, **सटीकता** और **व्यापकता** में वृद्धि हुई है।
- These improvements have been wide-ranging, covering the way India measures its **gross domestic product (GDP)**, the **value addition** in the economy, **industrial output**, and **price levels** at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels.
  ये सुधार व्यापक स्तर पर किए गए हैं, जिनमें भारत द्वारा **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)**, अर्थव्यवस्था में **मूल्य संवर्धन**, **औद्योगिक उत्पादन**, तथा खुदरा, थोक और उत्पादक स्तर पर **मूल्य स्तरों** के मापन की पद्धति शामिल है।

What are the metrics that have been updated?
किन संकेतकों को अद्यतन किया गया है?

- The most significant of these changes was made to India's **national accounts statistics** in February this year by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
  इन परिवर्तनों में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन इस वर्ष फरवरी में **सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI)** द्वारा भारत की **राष्ट्रीय लेखा सांख्यिकी** में किया गया।
- National accounts include several key metrics such as **GDP**, **Gross Value Added (GVA)**, sector-wise output and growth figures, and the contributions of each of the engines of growth to the economy — **government expenditure**, **private investment**, **household consumption**, and **trade**.
  राष्ट्रीय लेखों में **GDP**, **सकल मूल्य वर्धन (GVA)**, क्षेत्रवार उत्पादन और वृद्धि के आँकड़े तथा अर्थव्यवस्था के विकास के प्रमुख घटकों — **सरकारी व्यय**, **निजी निवेश**, **घरेलू उपभोग** और **व्यापार** — का योगदान शामिल होता है।
- These are released on a quarterly and annual basis.
  इन आँकड़ों को त्रैमासिक और वार्षिक आधार पर जारी किया जाता है।
- In June, MoSPI also updated the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, which captures how industrial activity in the economy is doing on a monthly basis.
  जून में MoSPI ने **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP)** को भी अद्यतन किया, जो अर्थव्यवस्था में औद्योगिक गतिविधियों की मासिक स्थिति को दर्शाता है।
- This includes key sectors such as **manufacturing**, **mining**, **electricity**, **infrastructure**, **capital goods**, and **consumer goods**.
  इसमें **विनिर्माण**, **खनन**, **बिजली**, **अवसंरचना**, **पूंजीगत वस्तुएँ** तथा **उपभोक्ता वस्तुएँ** जैसे प्रमुख क्षेत्र शामिल हैं।
- Apart from providing a regular snapshot of how the industrial sectors are doing, these monthly figures also feed into the **GDP** and **GVA** metrics.
  औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों की स्थिति का नियमित आकलन करने के अलावा ये मासिक आँकड़े **GDP** और **GVA** की गणना में भी योगदान देते हैं।
- The third broad set of upgrades were to how India measures **inflation**.
  सुधारों का तीसरा प्रमुख क्षेत्र **मुद्रास्फीति** के मापन से संबंधित था।
- Price changes at the retail level, which is meant to capture the consumer-end of the market, are measured by the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**.
  खुदरा स्तर पर मूल्य परिवर्तनों, जो उपभोक्ता पक्ष को दर्शाते हैं, का मापन **उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)** द्वारा किया जाता है।
- Similarly, price changes at the wholesale level, which is ideally meant to capture the prices that producers get, are measured by the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**.
  इसी प्रकार, थोक स्तर पर मूल्य परिवर्तनों, जो उत्पादकों को प्राप्त मूल्यों को दर्शाते हैं, का मापन **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI)** द्वारा किया जाता है।

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- MoSPI releases the **CPI** while the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** releases the **WPI**.
  MoSPI द्वारा **CPI** जारी किया जाता है, जबकि **वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय** द्वारा **WPI** जारी किया जाता है।
- Both these indices have been significantly updated and upgraded — the CPI in February and the WPI in June.
  इन दोनों सूचकांकों में महत्वपूर्ण संशोधन किए गए हैं — **CPI** को फरवरी में और **WPI** को जून में अद्यतन किया गया।
- In June, the Commerce Ministry also introduced a new index — the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** — which not only captures the price impact on producers more accurately, but will also replace the **WPI** entirely in five years.
  जून में वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने एक नया सूचकांक — **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक (PPI)** — भी शुरू किया, जो उत्पादकों पर मूल्य प्रभाव को अधिक सटीक रूप से दर्शाता है तथा अगले पाँच वर्षों में **WPI** का पूर्णतः स्थान ले लेगा।

Why was an update needed?
अद्यतन की आवश्यकता क्यों थी?

- These databases were outdated and were becoming less representative of reality with each passing year.
  ये डेटाबेस पुराने हो चुके थे और प्रत्येक वर्ष वास्तविकता का कम प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे।
- The **GDP** and **GVA** data, for example, had a **base year of 2011-12**, as did the **IIP**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **GDP**, **GVA** तथा **IIP** का **आधार वर्ष 2011-12** था।
- The economy has changed substantially in the years since then, with the contribution of several sectors to the economy growing while others have diminished in importance.
  उसके बाद के वर्षों में अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन हुए हैं, जिसमें कुछ क्षेत्रों का योगदान बढ़ा है जबकि कुछ अन्य क्षेत्रों का महत्व कम हुआ है।
- An outdated base year weakens the overall measurements and makes them less representative of the current reality.
  पुराना आधार वर्ष समग्र मापनों को कमजोर बना देता है और उन्हें वर्तमान वास्तविकता का कम प्रतिनिधि बनाता है।
- Before they were updated, the **WPI** and **CPI** had base years of **2011-12** and **2012**, respectively.
  अद्यतन से पहले **WPI** का आधार वर्ष **2011-12** तथा **CPI** का आधार वर्ष **2012** था।
- Here, too, the outdated indices were measuring price changes and index values based on household consumption patterns that were about **15 years old**.
  यहाँ भी पुराने सूचकांक लगभग **15 वर्ष पुराने घरेलू उपभोग पैटर्न** के आधार पर मूल्य परिवर्तनों को माप रहे थे।
- Several items used back then, such as **DVDs** and **cassettes**, were included in the indices even though they are not used now.
  उस समय उपयोग में आने वाली कई वस्तुएँ, जैसे **डीवीडी** और **कैसेट**, अब भी सूचकांकों में शामिल थीं, जबकि वर्तमान में उनका उपयोग लगभग समाप्त हो चुका है।
- Conversely, several items that are being used now were not captured by the indices because they were not in use back then.
  इसके विपरीत, वर्तमान में उपयोग की जाने वाली कई वस्तुएँ सूचकांकों में शामिल नहीं थीं क्योंकि वे उस समय प्रचलन में नहीं थीं।
- More accurate price information is important not just for policymaking but also for a more accurate measure of the **size of the economy** and its **growth**.
  अधिक सटीक मूल्य संबंधी जानकारी केवल नीतिनिर्माण के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि अर्थव्यवस्था के **आकार** और उसकी **वृद्धि** के अधिक सटीक आकलन के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण है।

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- The **RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**, for example, uses the **CPI** to gauge inflation and decide on **interest rates**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की मौद्रिक नीति समिति (MPC)** मुद्रास्फीति का आकलन करने और **ब्याज दरों** का निर्धारण करने हेतु **CPI** का उपयोग करती है।
- The **Dearness Allowance (DA)** and **Dearness Relief (DR)** given to current and former government employees, respectively, are pegged to inflation.
  वर्तमान और सेवानिवृत्त सरकारी कर्मचारियों को दिए जाने वाले **महंगाई भत्ते (DA)** और **महंगाई राहत (DR)** का निर्धारण भी मुद्रास्फीति के आधार पर किया जाता है।
- The rate of growth of the **real economy**, which is the commonly accepted metric used to measure growth worldwide, is arrived at after having adjusted the impact of inflation on the economy.
  वास्तविक अर्थव्यवस्था की वृद्धि दर, जो विश्वभर में आर्थिक विकास को मापने का सर्वमान्य मानक है, अर्थव्यवस्था पर मुद्रास्फीति के प्रभाव को समायोजित करने के बाद निर्धारित की जाती है।

What changes were made to the national accounts?
राष्ट्रीय लेखा आँकड़ों में क्या परिवर्तन किए गए?

- First, the **base year** was updated to **2022-23**, immediately making the data more representative of the current situation.
  सबसे पहले, **आधार वर्ष** को **2022-23** में परिवर्तित किया गया, जिससे आँकड़े तत्काल वर्तमान परिस्थितियों का अधिक सटीक प्रतिनिधित्व करने लगे।
- Apart from this, the new series of **national accounts** has also incorporated several **methodological changes** and **measurement improvements**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **राष्ट्रीय लेखा आँकड़ों** की नई श्रृंखला में कई **कार्यप्रणालीगत परिवर्तन** तथा **मापन संबंधी सुधार** भी शामिल किए गए हैं।
- One of the most important changes, and one that has long been advocated by statisticians, was the incorporation of the **'double deflator' method** for estimating **real GDP growth**.
  सबसे महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तनों में से एक, जिसकी लंबे समय से सांख्यिकीविदों द्वारा वकालत की जा रही थी, **वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि** के आकलन हेतु **'डबल डिफ्लेटर' पद्धति** को अपनाना था।
- This adjusts **input prices** and **output prices** separately, providing a much more accurate picture of the impact of price changes.
  यह पद्धति **इनपुट मूल्यों** और **आउटपुट मूल्यों** को अलग-अलग समायोजित करती है, जिससे मूल्य परिवर्तनों के प्रभाव का अधिक सटीक आकलन संभव होता है।
- Currently, the **'double deflator' method** is being used for **agriculture** and **manufacturing**.
  वर्तमान में **'डबल डिफ्लेटर' पद्धति** का उपयोग **कृषि** और **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र** के लिए किया जा रहा है।
- It is expected to be adopted for the other sectors as well over time.
  समय के साथ इसे अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी लागू किए जाने की अपेक्षा है।
- The other important change was the segregation of activities in **multi-activity enterprises**.
  दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन **बहु-गतिविधि उद्यमों** की गतिविधियों को अलग-अलग वर्गीकृत करना था।
- There are several companies that are active across different sectors.
  कई ऐसी कंपनियाँ हैं जो विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में कार्यरत हैं।
- Earlier, the data would capture the company's entire output and allocate it to the main sector within which it was operating.
  पहले आँकड़ों में कंपनी के पूरे उत्पादन को उसके मुख्य कार्यक्षेत्र में ही शामिल कर दिया जाता था।
- This yielded a somewhat inaccurate measure of **sectoral activity**.
  इससे **क्षेत्रीय गतिविधियों** का आकलन कुछ हद तक असटीक हो जाता था।
- Now, the output will be allocated to each sector proportionately, providing a more accurate picture.

अब उत्पादन को प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में उसके वास्तविक अनुपात के अनुसार विभाजित किया जाएगा, जिससे अधिक सटीक तस्वीर प्राप्त होगी।

- The new series also incorporates new data sources such as **Goods and Services Tax (GST) data** and the **Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS)**.
  नई श्रृंखला में **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर (GST) डेटा** तथा **आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS)** जैसे नए डेटा स्रोतों को भी शामिल किया गया है।
- It also incorporates several improvements in statistical methodology that will reduce discrepancies.
  इसमें सांख्यिकीय कार्यप्रणाली में कई सुधार भी किए गए हैं, जो आँकड़ों में विसंगतियों को कम करेंगे।

What other changes were made to output measures?
उत्पादन मापन में और क्या परिवर्तन किए गए?

- **MoSPI** updated the **base year** of the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** to **2022-23** and expanded its coverage by including sectors such as **gas supply**, **water supply**, **sewerage**, and **waste management activities**, while retaining the previous sectors.
  MoSPI ने **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP)** का **आधार वर्ष** बदलकर **2022-23** कर दिया तथा इसके दायरे का विस्तार करते हुए **गैस आपूर्ति**, **जल आपूर्ति**, **सीवरेज** और **अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन गतिविधियों** जैसे क्षेत्रों को शामिल किया, जबकि पूर्ववर्ती क्षेत्रों को भी बनाए रखा गया।
- Simultaneously, the index was revamped to provide greater granularity in terms of sources of electricity (**renewable** and **non-renewable**) and the types of minerals produced.
  साथ ही, सूचकांक को इस प्रकार पुनर्गठित किया गया कि वह बिजली के स्रोतों (**नवीकरणीय** और **गैर-नवीकरणीय**) तथा उत्पादित खनिजों के प्रकारों के बारे में अधिक विस्तृत जानकारी प्रदान कर सके।
- The revised item basket consists of **1,042 products** mapped to **463 item groups**, compared to **839 items** mapped to **407 item groups** in the previous series.
  संशोधित वस्तु-सूची में **1,042 उत्पाद** शामिल हैं जिन्हें **463 वस्तु समूहों** में वर्गीकृत किया गया है, जबकि पूर्ववर्ती श्रृंखला में **839 वस्तुएँ** और **407 वस्तु समूह** थे।

What are the inflation-related changes?
मुद्रास्फीति से संबंधित क्या परिवर्तन किए गए हैं?

- The **base year** of the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** was updated to **2024**, and the basket of items it measures as well as their relative weightages were pegged to the latest **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24**.
  उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI) का **आधार वर्ष** बदलकर **2024** कर दिया गया तथा इसमें शामिल वस्तुओं और सेवाओं तथा उनके भारांक को नवीनतम **घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण (HCES) 2023-24** के अनुरूप निर्धारित किया गया।
- The price change metrics now better reflect the current consumption patterns of households.
  अब मूल्य परिवर्तन के संकेतक घरेलू उपभोग के वर्तमान पैटर्न को अधिक सटीक रूप से दर्शाते हैं।
- The data is also more illustrative, with the tables providing **12 different categories** of items compared to the **six groups** in the previous series.
  अब आँकड़े अधिक विस्तृत हैं, क्योंकि नई तालिकाओं में वस्तुओं की **12 विभिन्न श्रेणियाँ** शामिल हैं, जबकि पूर्ववर्ती श्रृंखला में केवल **छह समूह** थे।
- Overall, the total number of items measured — including both goods and services — has increased from **299 to 358**.
  कुल मिलाकर, मापी जाने वाली वस्तुओं एवं सेवाओं की संख्या **299 से बढ़कर 358** हो गई है।
- These additions of goods and services include for the first time inclusion of **rural house rent**, modern consumption items such as **online media services**, and fuels such as **CNG** and **PNG**.

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इन नई वस्तुओं एवं सेवाओं में पहली बार **ग्रामीण मकान किराया**, आधुनिक उपभोग वस्तुएँ जैसे **ऑनलाइन मीडिया सेवाएँ**, तथा **CNG** और **PNG** जैसे ईंधन शामिल किए गए हैं।

- It also includes improvements in the measurement of **telephone charges**, **rail fare**, **air fare**, **fuel**, **postal charges**, and **online media and streaming services**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **टेलीफोन शुल्क**, **रेल किराया**, **हवाई किराया**, **ईंधन**, **डाक शुल्क**, तथा **ऑनलाइन मीडिया एवं स्ट्रीमिंग सेवाओं** के मापन में भी सुधार किया गया है।
- Items that are no longer used, such as **VCRs**, **DVD players**, **radio**, **tape recorders**, and **cassettes**, were removed from the CPI.
  अब उपयोग में न आने वाली वस्तुओं जैसे **वीसीआर**, **डीवीडी प्लेयर**, **रेडियो**, **टेप रिकॉर्डर** और **कैसेट** को CPI से हटा दिया गया है।
- The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** was similarly updated, with its base year revised to **2022-23** and the number of items expanded from **697 to 957**.
  इसी प्रकार **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI)** को भी अद्यतन किया गया है, जिसका आधार वर्ष **2022-23** कर दिया गया है तथा इसमें शामिल वस्तुओं की संख्या **697 से बढ़ाकर 957** कर दी गई है।
- The new series also incorporates several **methodological refinements**.
  नई श्रृंखला में कई **कार्यप्रणालीगत सुधार** भी शामिल किए गए हैं।
- The data have also been reorganised more logically.
  डेटा को अधिक तार्किक ढंग से पुनर्गठित किया गया है।
- For instance, **crude petroleum** and **natural gas** have been moved from the **'Primary Articles'** category to the **'Fuel and Power'** major group.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **कच्चे पेट्रोलियम** और **प्राकृतिक गैस** को **'प्राथमिक वस्तुएँ'** श्रेणी से हटाकर **'ईंधन एवं ऊर्जा'** प्रमुख समूह में शामिल किया गया है।
- This group already includes other key fuels such as **coal**, **electricity**, and **petroleum products**.
  इस समूह में पहले से ही **कोयला**, **बिजली** और **पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद** जैसे प्रमुख ईंधन शामिल हैं।
- The third major change introduced by the **Commerce Ministry** was the adoption of a **Producer Price Index (PPI)**.
  वाणिज्य मंत्रालय द्वारा किया गया तीसरा प्रमुख परिवर्तन **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक (PPI)** को अपनाना था।
- Unlike the **WPI**, the **PPI** separately tracks the prices producers pay for **inputs** and the prices they receive for their **outputs**.
  WPI के विपरीत, **PPI** उत्पादकों द्वारा **इनपुट** के लिए चुकाई गई कीमतों तथा **आउटपुट** के लिए प्राप्त कीमतों को अलग-अलग मापता है।
- The **PPI** excludes additional costs such as **transport** and **indirect taxes**, which the WPI includes.
  PPI में **परिवहन लागत** और **अप्रत्यक्ष करों** जैसी अतिरिक्त लागतें शामिल नहीं होतीं, जबकि **WPI** में इन्हें शामिल किया जाता है।
- This makes the **PPI** a more accurate representation of prices at the producer level.
  इससे **PPI** उत्पादक स्तर पर कीमतों का अधिक सटीक प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।
- It also incorporates both **goods** and **services**, which makes it more holistic.
  यह **वस्तुओं** और **सेवाओं** दोनों को शामिल करता है, जिससे यह अधिक व्यापक बन जाता है।
- The government has indicated that the **WPI** will be phased out over the next **five years**, leaving the **CPI** and **PPI** as the country's two principal price indices.
  सरकार ने संकेत दिया है कि अगले **पाँच वर्षों** में **WPI** को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त कर दिया जाएगा, जिसके बाद **CPI** और **PPI** देश के दो प्रमुख मूल्य सूचकांक रह जाएंगे।

Microsoft introduces pay-as-you-go model for AI agents

GS III: Economy

DECODED

John Xavier

For the past two years, the AI industry has been trying to solve a billing problem: how do you charge users for artificial intelligence?

Bundling AI services into software subscriptions and selling it the way enterprise software has been sold for years looked fine for some time. Microsoft, Google and others added AI assistants to their productivity suites and put a monthly price tag on them.

That logic worked if companies were already paying per employee for email, spreadsheets and collaboration tools. But AI is unlike traditional software.

One employee may use an AI assistant a few times a week to summarise meetings. Another may use it all day to analyse documents, write reports and automate repetitive tasks. Increasingly, AI systems are also becoming agents that can perform actions on behalf of users, carrying out tasks that would previously have required hours of human effort. This leads to a mismatch between how AI is consumed and how it is billed.

That is what makes Microsoft's latest move interesting. The company has introduced a pay-as-you-go model for its AI agents, allowing customers to pay according to usage rather than committing solely to fixed licences.

What Microsoft is really doing is moving AI closer to the economics of cloud computing.

Cloud computing became a trillion-dollar business because it replaced large upfront investments with consumption-based pricing. Companies could rent computing power as required and pay for what they used.

Microsoft has introduced a pay-as-you-go model for its AI agents, allowing customers to pay according to usage. REUTERS

The model worked because it aligned costs with value. If a business needed more computing resources, it paid more. If demand fell, spending fell too. AI seems to indicate a similar trend.

The challenge with subscription pricing for AI services is that it assumes every user derives roughly the same value from the service. In reality, AI usage varies enormously. Some workers barely touch these tools. Others rely on them constantly. The gap is likely to become even wider as AI agents become more capable and autonomous.

A flat monthly fee begins to look increasingly arbitrary in such a world. So, the new pricing attempts to solve that problem by linking spending to usage. Customers can experiment without making large commitments.

But the reason behind Microsoft taking this route isn't just to give its customers more autonomy.

For instance, once Word is installed, Microsoft does not incur any additional cost each time a customer types out a new document. The product has been sold. But with AI, the business relationship is back and forth. Every prompt, every response and every agent action consumes computing resources. This type of supplier and customer relationship will shoot up the token generation cost for cloud providers.

No wonder Microsoft picked a consumption-based model that reflects this reality far more accurately than a fixed subscription. In effect, the Windows software maker is likely treating AI as an organism that grows and takes new forms inside an organisation.

The company's experience with Azure suggests it understands how to build operating models around metered consumption. Enterprises have already become comfortable paying for storage, computing power and databases this way. Paying for AI capacity may not be such a dramatic leap.

Yet there are reasons for caution. The same pricing model that makes cloud computing flexible can also make it unpredictable. Anyone who has ever been surprised by a cloud-services bill knows that usage-based pricing has a downside. Customers like paying only for what they use, but they also like knowing what next month's bill will look like.

But as the use of AI agents expands in organisations, it will be difficult to forecast how much to budget for the next quarter. Organisations face a challenge akin to modernising the plumbing of an old, large building.

If AI agents become deeply embedded in their business processes, usage could rise rapidly. Microsoft's challenge will be convincing customers that they can scale their AI deployments without losing control of spending.

21J6. Microsoft introduces pay-as-you-go model for AI agents
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट ने एआई एजेंटों के लिए 'उपयोग के अनुसार भुगतान' मॉडल पेश किया

- For the past two years, the **AI industry** has been trying to solve a fundamental **billing problem**: how should users be charged for **artificial intelligence** services?
  पिछले दो वर्षों से **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) उद्योग** एक मूलभूत **बिलिंग समस्या** का समाधान खोजने का प्रयास कर रहा है कि AI सेवाओं के लिए उपयोगकर्ताओं से शुल्क किस प्रकार लिया जाए।
- Initially, companies bundled AI services into existing **software subscriptions** and sold them alongside traditional enterprise software.
  प्रारम्भ में कंपनियों ने AI सेवाओं को मौजूदा **सॉफ्टवेयर सदस्यताओं** के साथ जोड़कर पारंपरिक एंटरप्राइज़ सॉफ्टवेयर की तरह बेचना शुरू किया।
- **Microsoft**, **Google**, and others added AI assistants to their productivity suites and assigned a monthly subscription fee.

माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, **गूगल** तथा अन्य कंपनियों ने अपने उत्पादकता प्लेटफ़ॉर्म में AI सहायक जोड़े और उनके लिए मासिक सदस्यता शुल्क निर्धारित किया।

- This model worked reasonably well when organisations were already paying per employee for email, spreadsheets, and collaboration tools.
  यह मॉडल तब तक प्रभावी रहा जब तक संगठन ईमेल, स्प्रेडशीट और सहयोगात्मक उपकरणों के लिए प्रति कर्मचारी भुगतान कर रहे थे।
- However, **AI** behaves very differently from traditional software.
  हालाँकि, **AI** पारंपरिक सॉफ्टवेयर से काफी अलग तरीके से कार्य करता है।

The mismatch between AI usage and billing
AI के उपयोग और बिलिंग के बीच असंगति

- One employee may use an AI assistant only occasionally to summarise meetings.
  कोई कर्मचारी AI सहायक का उपयोग केवल बैठकों का सारांश तैयार करने के लिए कभी-कभार कर सकता है।
- Another employee may use it throughout the day to analyse documents, write reports, and automate repetitive tasks.
  वहीं दूसरा कर्मचारी पूरे दिन दस्तावेज़ों का विश्लेषण करने, रिपोर्ट लिखने और दोहराए जाने वाले कार्यों को स्वचालित करने के लिए इसका उपयोग कर सकता है।
- Increasingly, AI systems are evolving into **AI agents** capable of performing tasks on behalf of users.
  अब AI प्रणालियाँ **AI एजेंटों** के रूप में विकसित हो रही हैं, जो उपयोगकर्ताओं की ओर से कार्य कर सकती हैं।
- These agents can execute activities that previously required several hours of human effort.
  ये एजेंट उन कार्यों को भी कर सकती हैं जिनमें पहले कई घंटे का मानवीय श्रम लगता था।
- As a result, there is a growing mismatch between how AI is consumed and how customers are billed for it.
  परिणामस्वरूप AI के वास्तविक उपयोग और उसके लिए की जाने वाली बिलिंग के बीच असंगति बढ़ती जा रही है।

Microsoft's new approach
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का नया दृष्टिकोण

- This explains why Microsoft's latest move is significant.
  यही कारण है कि माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का नवीनतम कदम महत्वपूर्ण माना जा रहा है।
- The company has introduced a **pay-as-you-go model** for AI agents.
  कंपनी ने AI एजेंटों के लिए **उपयोग के अनुसार भुगतान (Pay-as-you-go)** मॉडल शुरू किया है।
- Under this approach, customers pay according to actual usage rather than relying solely on fixed licences.
  इस मॉडल के अंतर्गत ग्राहक निश्चित लाइसेंस शुल्क के बजाय वास्तविक उपयोग के आधार पर भुगतान करते हैं।
- In essence, Microsoft is moving AI closer to the economics of **cloud computing**.
  वास्तव में माइक्रोसॉफ्ट AI को **क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग** की आर्थिक संरचना के अधिक निकट ला रहा है।

Lessons from cloud computing
क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग से प्राप्त सीख

- Cloud computing became a **trillion-dollar industry** because it replaced large upfront investments with **consumption-based pricing**.
  क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग एक **ट्रिलियन डॉलर उद्योग** इसलिए बन सकी क्योंकि इसने बड़े प्रारम्भिक निवेशों को **उपयोग-आधारित मूल्य निर्धारण** से प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया।

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- Companies could rent computing resources as needed and pay only for what they used.
  कंपनियाँ आवश्यकता अनुसार कंप्यूटिंग संसाधन किराए पर लेकर केवल उनके उपयोग के लिए भुगतान कर सकती थीं।
- This model succeeded because it aligned costs directly with value.
  यह मॉडल इसलिए सफल हुआ क्योंकि इसमें लागत और प्राप्त मूल्य के बीच सीधा संबंध स्थापित हुआ।
- If a business required more computing resources, it paid more.
  यदि किसी व्यवसाय को अधिक कंप्यूटिंग संसाधनों की आवश्यकता होती थी, तो उसे अधिक भुगतान करना पड़ता था।
- If demand declined, spending also fell.
  यदि मांग कम होती थी, तो व्यय भी कम हो जाता था।
- AI now appears to be moving in a similar direction.
  अब AI भी इसी प्रकार की दिशा में आगे बढ़ता हुआ दिखाई दे रहा है।

Why subscription pricing may not work
सदस्यता-आधारित मूल्य निर्धारण क्यों अपर्याप्त हो सकता है

- The main challenge with subscription pricing is that it assumes all users derive similar value from AI services.
  सदस्यता-आधारित मूल्य निर्धारण की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती यह है कि यह मानकर चलता है कि सभी उपयोगकर्ता AI से लगभग समान लाभ प्राप्त करते हैं।
- In reality, AI usage varies dramatically from one user to another.
  वास्तविकता में AI का उपयोग विभिन्न उपयोगकर्ताओं के बीच अत्यधिक भिन्न होता है।
- Some employees barely use AI tools, while others depend on them continuously.
  कुछ कर्मचारी AI उपकरणों का बहुत कम उपयोग करते हैं, जबकि अन्य उन पर निरंतर निर्भर रहते हैं।
- As AI agents become more capable and autonomous, this gap is likely to widen further.
  जैसे-जैसे AI एजेंट अधिक सक्षम और स्वायत्त बनेंगे, यह अंतर और भी बढ़ सकता है।
- In such a scenario, a flat monthly fee begins to appear increasingly arbitrary.
  ऐसी स्थिति में एक समान मासिक शुल्क व्यवस्था अधिकाधिक अव्यावहारिक प्रतीत होने लगती है।
- Microsoft's new pricing model attempts to solve this issue by linking spending directly to usage.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का नया मूल्य निर्धारण मॉडल इस समस्या का समाधान उपयोग को सीधे खर्च से जोड़कर करने का प्रयास करता है।
- This allows customers to experiment with AI without making large upfront commitments.
  इससे ग्राहक बड़े वित्तीय निवेश के बिना AI का प्रयोग और परीक्षण कर सकते हैं।

The economics behind Microsoft's decision
माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के निर्णय के पीछे का आर्थिक तर्क

- Microsoft's motivation is not merely to provide customers with greater flexibility.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट का उद्देश्य केवल ग्राहकों को अधिक लचीलापन प्रदान करना नहीं है।
- Traditional software products such as **Microsoft Word** generate minimal additional cost once installed and sold.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट वर्ड जैसे पारंपरिक सॉफ्टवेयर उत्पादों को बेचने और स्थापित करने के बाद अतिरिक्त लागत बहुत कम होती है।
- However, AI works differently.
  किन्तु AI की प्रकृति भिन्न है।
- Every **prompt**, every **response**, and every **agent action** consumes computing resources.
  प्रत्येक **प्रॉम्प्ट**, प्रत्येक **उत्तर** और प्रत्येक **AI एजेंट की कार्रवाई** कंप्यूटिंग संसाधनों का उपभोग करती है।

- This creates an ongoing and resource-intensive relationship between the provider and the customer.
  इससे सेवा प्रदाता और ग्राहक के बीच निरंतर और संसाधन-आधारित संबंध बन जाता है।
- The associated **token generation costs** can rise significantly for cloud providers.
  इसके कारण क्लाउड प्रदाताओं के लिए **टोकन निर्माण लागत** काफी बढ़ सकती है।
- A consumption-based pricing model reflects this reality much more accurately than a fixed subscription fee.
  इस वास्तविकता को एक **उपयोग-आधारित मूल्य निर्धारण मॉडल** निश्चित सदस्यता शुल्क की तुलना में अधिक सटीक रूप से प्रतिबिंबित करता है।
- Microsoft is effectively treating AI as an evolving system that grows and adapts within an organisation.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट AI को एक ऐसी विकसित होती प्रणाली के रूप में देख रहा है जो किसी संगठन के भीतर निरंतर बढ़ती और परिवर्तित होती रहती है।

Advantages and challenges of the model
इस मॉडल के लाभ और चुनौतियाँ

- Microsoft's experience with Microsoft Azure suggests that it understands how to build business models around **metered consumption**.
  Microsoft Azure के साथ माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के अनुभव से स्पष्ट है कि वह **मापित उपभोग (Metered Consumption)** पर आधारित व्यावसायिक मॉडल विकसित करने में सक्षम है।
- Many enterprises are already comfortable paying for **storage**, **computing power**, and **databases** on a usage basis.
  कई उद्यम पहले से ही **स्टोरेज**, **कंप्यूटिंग क्षमता** और **डेटाबेस सेवाओं** के लिए उपयोग के आधार पर भुगतान करने के अभ्यस्त हैं।
- Therefore, paying for AI capacity may not represent a major shift.
  इसलिए AI क्षमता के लिए भुगतान करना बहुत बड़ा परिवर्तन नहीं माना जा सकता।
- However, there are also reasons for caution.
  फिर भी सावधानी बरतने के पर्याप्त कारण मौजूद हैं।
- The same model that provides flexibility can also create **cost uncertainty**.
  जो मॉडल लचीलापन प्रदान करता है, वही **लागत संबंधी अनिश्चितता** भी उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- Many customers appreciate paying only for what they use, but they also prefer knowing what their next bill will look like.
  ग्राहक केवल उपयोग के लिए भुगतान करना पसंद करते हैं, किन्तु वे यह भी जानना चाहते हैं कि अगला बिल कितना आएगा।
- As AI agents become deeply integrated into business processes, forecasting future spending could become increasingly difficult.
  जैसे-जैसे AI एजेंट व्यावसायिक प्रक्रियाओं में गहराई से समाहित होंगी, भविष्य के खर्चों का अनुमान लगाना अधिक कठिन हो सकता है।
- Usage may increase rapidly, making budget planning more challenging.
  उपयोग में तीव्र वृद्धि हो सकती है, जिससे बजट योजना बनाना जटिल हो जाएगा।
- Microsoft's key challenge will be convincing customers that they can expand their **AI deployments** without losing control over spending.
  माइक्रोसॉफ्ट के सामने सबसे बड़ी चुनौती यह होगी कि वह ग्राहकों को विश्वास दिला सके कि वे अपने **AI अनुप्रयोगों** का विस्तार कर सकते हैं, बिना व्यय पर नियंत्रण खोए।

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TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	Mass messaging and more जनसंदेश और उससे भी अधिक
21J6	The plague was deadly even before farming's rise कृषि के उदय से पहले भी प्लेग घातक था
21J6	Why do recessive traits from older generations suddenly resurface in one individual? पुरानी पीढ़ियों के अप्रभावी (रिसेसिव) लक्षण अचानक किसी एक व्यक्ति में पुनः क्यों दिखाई देते हैं?

PATRIOTIC IAS

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS
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Mass messaging and more

Telegram

The 'WhatsApp alternative' with a strong commitment to user privacy, which has over 15 crore users in India, is facing a week-long ban in the country

GS III: S&T

Aroon Deep

REUTERS

The mythology surrounding Telegram founder Pavel Durov is one of exile and reinvention: Mr. Durov declined to cooperate with Russian diktats to fork over data on Ukrainian protesters in 2014, in the months following the Euromaidan demonstrations in Kyiv. Mr. Durov's previous company, VKontakte, remains a popular social media platform with much of the same design language and content as Telegram, which was created around the same time he left Russia.

To understand Telegram's success in the highly expensive and competitive messaging app market, it is useful to look at what the app does differently from WhatsApp, or even Signal. The service moved quickly in its early years to deploy features that have made it a favourite among activist and dissident circles. For instance, channels send push notifications at a massive scale to subscribers, allowing activists, politicians and even news organisations to quickly get instant viewership on fast-moving events like the Russia-Ukraine war.

While some of those features have found their way into WhatsApp, Telegram stayed relevant with two more things that its competitors may have had less appetite for: incredibly large filesharing limits, and a penchant for performing its stated principles – a commitment to "user privacy and human rights such as freedom of speech and assembly," according to an automated message shared with journalists who send the platform any inquiries.

Deep imprint

The latter manifested in its decision to quickly challenge a week-long ban in India starting June 16, following the National Testing Agency's (NTA) concerns that exam paper leak related frauds, made possible by editing features the app provides to backdate newly uploaded documents, may cause mass confusion. Telegram lost its petition in the Delhi High Court seeking to overturn this ban.

Just like Meta and X, a billionaire founder's personal philosophies have left a deep imprint on the app's functioning. Mr. Durov said the firm loses "tens of millions of dollars" in India – an estimate that is consistent with its 15 crore-strong user base and the likely hundreds of terabytes of data travelling through the platform each day.

Unlike Meta and X, which are part of a diversified galaxy of firms, allowing their founders to cross-subsidise heavy messaging, Mr. Durov's firm is purely messaging-focused. That may have naturally incentivised the firm to vigorously fight bans and restrictions wherever possible.

But that confrontation has come with little representation. Even in a market where the firm loses millions of dollars with such a large user base, it has only a handful of employees, mostly to liaise with the Union government. It has been embroiled in copyright-related cases at a massive scale, for instance with some Hindi newspaper publishers.

It ended up making concessions, but the last-minute participation in court – when its availability was under legitimate threat – was also visible in Brazil, where it had no personnel or legal representation at hand until a judge blocked the platform entirely. Mr. Durov, a French-Emirati-Russian citizen, was himself arrested in France for allegedly lax moderation on the platform of child sex abuse and exploitation material.

A result of not having diversified business interests is that the firm gets to speak its mind. That is certainly not the case with firms like Meta and Google, which are often in a balancing act with the Union government in cases like censorship, since they have a vast array of digital revenues at risk if they are seen as too obdurate. Relenting to demands and a give-and-take approach to a relationship with the state is typical of the Big Tech giants.

Not Telegram. The firm's official X handle quickly responded with open derision to the ban, even as advocates at Khaitan & Co. were strenuously making a legal case to quash the ban in court. "Over 300,000 people die of drowning each year. In order to protect society, it is now illegal to consume or possess water," the account posted on June 17. "Your government is also considering banning solid food, as it presents a needless choking hazard. You are not an adult. You are a baby. Eat the baby food," it added.

21J6. Mass messaging and more
जनसंदेश और उससे भी अधिक

- The '**WhatsApp alternative**' with a strong commitment to **user privacy**, which has over **15 crore users in India**, is facing a **week-long ban** in the country.

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यूज़र प्राइवेसी के प्रति मजबूत प्रतिबद्धता रखने वाला '**व्हाट्सऐप का विकल्प**', जिसके भारत में **15 करोड़ से अधिक उपयोगकर्ता** हैं, देश में **एक सप्ताह के प्रतिबंध** का सामना कर रहा है।

- The mythology surrounding **Telegram founder Pavel Durov** is one of exile and reinvention.
  टेलीग्राम के संस्थापक पावेल ड्यूरोव से जुड़ी कहानी निर्वासन और पुनर्निर्माण की है।
- Mr. Durov declined to cooperate with Russian diktats to fork over data on **Ukrainian protesters** in **2014**, in the months following the **Euromaidan demonstrations** in Kyiv.
  2014 में, कीव में हुए **यूरोमैदान प्रदर्शनों** के बाद के महीनों में, श्री ड्यूरोव ने **यूक्रेनी प्रदर्शनकारियों** का डेटा सौंपने संबंधी रूसी आदेशों का पालन करने से इनकार कर दिया।
- Mr. Durov's previous company, **VKontakte**, remains a popular social media platform with much of the same design language and content as Telegram.
  श्री ड्यूरोव की पूर्व कंपनी **वीकॉन्टैक्टे (VKontakte)** आज भी एक लोकप्रिय सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म है, जिसका डिज़ाइन और सामग्री काफी हद तक टेलीग्राम जैसी है।
- Telegram was created around the same time he left **Russia**.
  टेलीग्राम का निर्माण उसी समय हुआ था जब उन्होंने **रूस** छोड़ा था।
- To understand Telegram's success in the highly expensive and competitive messaging app market, it is useful to look at what the app does differently from **WhatsApp** or even **Signal**.
  महंगे और प्रतिस्पर्धी मैसेजिंग ऐप बाज़ार में टेलीग्राम की सफलता को समझने के लिए यह देखना उपयोगी है कि यह **व्हाट्सऐप** और **सिग्नल** से अलग क्या करता है।
- The service moved quickly in its early years to deploy features that have made it a favourite among **activist and dissident circles**.
  अपने शुरुआती वर्षों में इस सेवा ने तेजी से ऐसे फीचर्स शुरू किए, जिन्होंने इसे **कार्यकर्ताओं और असंतुष्ट समूहों** के बीच लोकप्रिय बना दिया।
- For instance, **channels** send push notifications at a massive scale to subscribers.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **चैनल** अपने ग्राहकों को बड़े पैमाने पर पुश नोटिफिकेशन भेजते हैं।
- This allows activists, politicians and even news organisations to quickly get instant viewership on fast-moving events like the **Russia-Ukraine war**.
  इससे कार्यकर्ताओं, राजनेताओं और समाचार संगठनों को **रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध** जैसी तेजी से बदलती घटनाओं पर तुरंत दर्शक मिल जाते हैं।
- While some of those features have found their way into WhatsApp, Telegram stayed relevant with two more things that its competitors may have had less appetite for.
  हालाँकि इनमें से कुछ फीचर व्हाट्सऐप में भी आ गए हैं, लेकिन टेलीग्राम दो अन्य कारणों से प्रासंगिक बना रहा।
- These are incredibly large **file-sharing limits** and a penchant for performing its stated principles.
  ये हैं अत्यधिक बड़े **फाइल-शेयरिंग लिमिट्स** और अपने घोषित सिद्धांतों का पालन करने की प्रवृत्ति।
- It maintains a commitment to "**user privacy and human rights such as freedom of speech and assembly**," according to an automated message shared with journalists who send the platform inquiries.
  प्लेटफ़ॉर्म को प्रश्न भेजने वाले पत्रकारों को साझा किए गए एक स्वचालित संदेश के अनुसार, यह "**उपयोगकर्ता गोपनीयता और अभिव्यक्ति एवं सभा की स्वतंत्रता जैसे मानवाधिकारों**" के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध है।

Deep imprint
गहरी छाप

- The latter manifested in its decision to quickly challenge a **week-long ban in India** starting **June 16**.
  यह प्रतिबद्धता **16 जून** से भारत में लगाए गए **एक सप्ताह के प्रतिबंध** को तुरंत चुनौती देने के निर्णय में दिखाई दी।

- The ban followed concerns from the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**.
  यह प्रतिबंध **राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (NTA)** की चिंताओं के बाद लगाया गया।
- The NTA feared that exam paper leak related frauds, made possible by editing features that allow users to backdate newly uploaded documents, may cause mass confusion.
  NTA को आशंका थी कि नए अपलोड किए गए दस्तावेजों को पिछली तारीख का दिखाने वाली एडिटिंग सुविधा के कारण परीक्षा-पत्र लीक से जुड़े धोखाधड़ी मामलों से व्यापक भ्रम पैदा हो सकता है।
- Telegram lost its petition in the **Delhi High Court** seeking to overturn this ban.
  इस प्रतिबंध को हटाने की मांग वाली टेलीग्राम की याचिका **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** में खारिज हो गई।
- Just like **Meta** and **X**, a billionaire founder's personal philosophies have left a deep imprint on the app's functioning.
  मेटा और **एक्स** की तरह, एक अरबपति संस्थापक के व्यक्तिगत विचारों ने ऐप के संचालन पर गहरी छाप छोड़ी है।
- Mr. Durov said the firm loses "**tens of millions of dollars**" in India.
  श्री ड्यूरोव ने कहा कि कंपनी भारत में "**कई करोड़ डॉलर**" का नुकसान उठाती है।
- This estimate is consistent with its **15 crore-strong user base** and the likely hundreds of terabytes of data travelling through the platform each day.
  यह अनुमान इसके **15 करोड़ उपयोगकर्ताओं** और प्रतिदिन प्लेटफॉर्म से गुजरने वाले सैकड़ों टेराबाइट डेटा के अनुरूप है।
- Unlike Meta and X, which are part of a diversified galaxy of firms, Telegram is purely **messaging-focused**.
  मेटा और एक्स के विपरीत, जो विविध व्यवसायों वाले समूहों का हिस्सा हैं, टेलीग्राम पूरी तरह **मैसेजिंग-केंद्रित** कंपनी है।
- That may have naturally incentivised the firm to vigorously fight bans and restrictions wherever possible.
  इस कारण कंपनी को जहां भी संभव हो, प्रतिबंधों और सीमाओं के खिलाफ मजबूती से लड़ने की प्रेरणा मिली होगी।
- But that confrontation has come with little representation.
  लेकिन इस टकराव के साथ सीमित प्रतिनिधित्व भी जुड़ा रहा है।
- Even in a market where the firm loses millions of dollars, it has only a handful of employees, mostly to liaise with the **Union government**.
  यहाँ तक कि ऐसे बाज़ार में भी जहाँ कंपनी लाखों डॉलर खोती है, उसके पास केवल कुछ कर्मचारी हैं, जो मुख्यतः **केंद्र सरकार** के साथ समन्वय के लिए हैं।
- It has been embroiled in **copyright-related cases** at a massive scale, for instance with some Hindi newspaper publishers.
  यह बड़े पैमाने पर **कॉपीराइट संबंधी मामलों** में भी उलझी रही है, जैसे कुछ हिंदी समाचारपत्र प्रकाशकों के साथ।
- It ended up making concessions.
  अंततः इसे कुछ रियायतें देनी पड़ीं।
- But the last-minute participation in court was also visible in **Brazil**, where it had no personnel or legal representation until a judge blocked the platform entirely.
  लेकिन अंतिम समय में अदालत में भागीदारी की स्थिति **ब्राज़ील** में भी देखी गई, जहाँ प्लेटफ़ॉर्म पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध लगाए जाने तक उसका कोई कर्मचारी या कानूनी प्रतिनिधि नहीं था।
- Mr. Durov, a **French-Emirati-Russian citizen**, was himself arrested in **France** for allegedly lax moderation of child sex abuse and exploitation material on the platform.
  फ्रांसीसी-अमीराती-रूसी नागरिक श्री ड्यूरोव को **फ्रांस** में प्लेटफॉर्म पर बाल यौन शोषण सामग्री के कथित रूप से ढीले मॉडरेशन के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया था।
- A result of not having diversified business interests is that the firm gets to speak its mind.
  विविध व्यावसायिक हित न होने का एक परिणाम यह है कि कंपनी खुलकर अपनी बात कह सकती है।

- That is certainly not the case with firms like **Meta** and **Google**.
  यह स्थिति **मेटा** और **गूगल** जैसी कंपनियों में नहीं है।
- These firms are often in a balancing act with the Union government in cases like censorship because they have a vast array of digital revenues at risk.
  ये कंपनियाँ सेंसरशिप जैसे मामलों में केंद्र सरकार के साथ संतुलन बनाकर चलती हैं क्योंकि उनकी विशाल डिजिटल आय दांव पर लगी होती है।
- Relenting to demands and a give-and-take approach to a relationship with the state is typical of the **Big Tech giants**.
  मांगों के आगे झुकना और सरकार के साथ लेन-देन आधारित संबंध रखना **बिग टेक कंपनियों** की सामान्य विशेषता है।
- Not Telegram.
  लेकिन टेलीग्राम ऐसा नहीं करता।
- The firm's official **X handle** quickly responded with open derision to the ban.
  कंपनी के आधिकारिक **X अकाउंट** ने प्रतिबंध पर खुली व्यंग्यात्मक प्रतिक्रिया दी।
- At the same time, advocates at **Khaitan & Co.** were making a legal case to quash the ban in court.
  उसी समय **खैतान एंड कंपनी** के वकील अदालत में प्रतिबंध हटाने के लिए कानूनी लड़ाई लड़ रहे थे।
- "Over **300,000 people** die of drowning each year."
  "हर साल **3,00,000 से अधिक लोग** डूबने से मरते हैं।"
- "In order to protect society, it is now illegal to consume or possess water," the account posted on **June 17**.
  "समाज की रक्षा के लिए अब पानी पीना या अपने पास रखना अवैध कर दिया गया है," अकाउंट ने **17 जून** को पोस्ट किया।
- "Your government is also considering banning solid food, as it presents a needless choking hazard."
  "आपकी सरकार ठोस भोजन पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाने पर विचार कर रही है, क्योंकि उससे गला रुकने का खतरा है।"
- "You are not an adult. You are a baby. Eat the baby food," it added.
  उसने आगे कहा, "आप वयस्क नहीं हैं। आप एक शिशु हैं। शिशु आहार खाइए।"

GS III: S&T

The plague was deadly even before farming's rise

Scientists have found evidence of plague outbreaks among hunter-gatherers near Lake Baikal in Siberia dating back 5,500 years. The findings challenge the old belief that the plague only became a major threat once humans began living in dense, crowded farming communities. The team analysed ancient DNA and estimated an infection rate of 39%. However, the strains lacked the genes needed to be spread by flea bites, suggesting they moved directly from person to person.

21J6. The plague was deadly even before farming's rise

कृषि के उदय से पहले भी प्लेग घातक था

- Scientists have found evidence of **plague outbreaks** among **hunter-gatherers** near **Lake Baikal** in **Siberia** dating back **5,500 years**.
  वैज्ञानिकों ने **साइबेरिया** स्थित **लेक बैकाल** के निकट रहने वाले **शिकारी-संग्रहकर्ता समुदायों** में लगभग **5,500 वर्ष पुराने प्लेग प्रकोपों** के प्रमाण खोजे हैं।
- The findings challenge the old belief that the **plague** only became a major threat once humans began living in dense, crowded **farming communities**.
  ये निष्कर्ष उस पुरानी धारणा को चुनौती देते हैं कि **प्लेग** केवल तब एक बड़ा खतरा बना जब मनुष्य घनी आबादी वाली **कृषि समुदायों** में रहने लगे।
- The team analysed **ancient DNA** and estimated an **infection rate** of **39%**.

शोध दल ने **प्राचीन डीएनए** का विश्लेषण किया और **संक्रमण दर** लगभग **39%** होने का अनुमान लगाया।

- However, the strains lacked the genes needed to be spread by **flea bites**.
  हालाँकि, इन जीवाणु उपभेदों में **पिस्सुओं के काटने** के माध्यम से फैलने के लिए आवश्यक जीन मौजूद नहीं थे।
- This suggests they moved directly from **person to person**.
  इससे संकेत मिलता है कि यह संक्रमण सीधे **एक व्यक्ति से दूसरे व्यक्ति** में फैला था।

Dive and resurface

Why do recessive traits from older generations suddenly resurface in one individual?

GS III: S&T

Genes work in pairs. Every person inherits two copies of most genes, one from each parent. Some gene variants, called dominant alleles, express themselves even when only one copy is present. Others, called recessive alleles, express themselves when a person inherits both copies. Someone with one recessive allele alongside a dominant one is called a carrier: they will show no sign of the trait. So a family may carry the allele for a particular eye colour, yet a single person won't display it if in every generation, each carrier is paired with someone who has the dominant allele. But when two carriers have a child together, each parent may pass on their recessive allele, and if both do, the child inherits two copies. Thus, the trait will finally express itself. Chance has a starring role. When eggs and sperm form, genes get shuffled and distributed at random, creating a vast range of possible combinations, which is why even full siblings can inherit different traits from the same parents.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

21J6. Why do recessive traits from older generations suddenly resurface in one individual?

पुरानी पीढ़ियों के अप्रभावी (रिसेसिव) लक्षण अचानक किसी एक व्यक्ति में पुनः क्यों दिखाई देते हैं?

- **Genes** work in pairs.
  जीन युग्मों में कार्य करते हैं।
- Every person inherits **two copies** of most genes, one from each parent.
  प्रत्येक व्यक्ति अधिकांश जीनों की **दो प्रतियाँ** प्राप्त करता है, एक प्रत्येक माता-पिता से।
- Some gene variants, called **dominant alleles**, express themselves even when only one copy is present.
  कुछ जीन रूपांतर, जिन्हें **प्रभावी एलील (Dominant Alleles)** कहा जाता है, केवल एक प्रति उपस्थित होने पर भी स्वयं को अभिव्यक्त कर देते हैं।
- Others, called **recessive alleles**, express themselves when a person inherits both copies.
  अन्य, जिन्हें **अप्रभावी एलील (Recessive Alleles)** कहा जाता है, तब अभिव्यक्त होते हैं जब व्यक्ति उनकी दोनों प्रतियाँ प्राप्त करता है।
- Someone with one **recessive allele** alongside a **dominant one** is called a **carrier**; they will show no sign of the trait.
  जिस व्यक्ति में एक **अप्रभावी एलील** और एक **प्रभावी एलील** होता है, उसे **वाहक (Carrier)** कहा जाता है; उसमें उस लक्षण का कोई बाहरी संकेत दिखाई नहीं देता।
- So a family may carry the allele for a particular **eye colour**, yet a single person won't display it if in every generation, each carrier is paired with someone who has the dominant allele.
  इस प्रकार कोई परिवार किसी विशेष **नेत्र रंग** के एलील को वहन कर सकता है, फिर भी वह लक्षण किसी व्यक्ति में दिखाई नहीं देगा यदि प्रत्येक पीढ़ी में वाहक का संयोग ऐसे व्यक्ति से हो जिसमें प्रभावी एलील मौजूद हो।
- But when **two carriers** have a child together, each parent may pass on their recessive allele, and if both do, the child inherits two copies.
  किन्तु जब **दो वाहकों** की संतान होती है, तो प्रत्येक माता-पिता अपना अप्रभावी एलील प्रदान कर सकते हैं, और यदि दोनों ऐसा करते हैं, तो संतान को उसकी दो प्रतियाँ प्राप्त होती हैं।
- Thus, the trait will finally express itself.
  इस प्रकार वह **लक्षण** अंततः अभिव्यक्त हो जाता है।
- **Chance** has a starring role.
  इस प्रक्रिया में **संयोग (Chance)** की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

- When **eggs and sperm** form, genes get shuffled and distributed at random, creating a vast range of possible combinations.
  जब **अंडाणु और शुक्राणु** बनते हैं, तब जीन यादृच्छिक रूप से पुनर्व्यवस्थित और वितरित होते हैं, जिससे संभावित संयोजनों की विशाल विविधता उत्पन्न होती है।
- This is why even **full siblings** can inherit different traits from the same parents.
  यही कारण है कि एक ही माता-पिता की **सगी संतानें (Full Siblings)** भी अलग-अलग लक्षण प्राप्त कर सकती हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	21 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21J6	Bringing life back to a thirsty land प्यासी धरती में फिर से जीवन लौटाना
21J6	What a 'super' El Niño might mean for India's monsoon 'सुपर' एल नीनो का भारत के मानसून पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ सकता है
21J6	War in Ukraine hit different mammals differently यूक्रेन युद्ध ने विभिन्न स्तनधारी प्रजातियों को अलग-अलग प्रकार से प्रभावित किया

Bringing life back to a thirsty land

Once known for water scarcity, Rayadurgam in Andhra Pradesh is witnessing an ecological revival through community-led water conservation, afforestation efforts

GS III: Environment

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Rayadurgam in drought-prone Anantapur district in western Andhra Pradesh, along the Karnataka border, is witnessing a quiet but significant transformation. Long defined by chronic water scarcity, the region's red, sandy terrain and prolonged dry spells had often drawn comparisons with Rajasthan's desert landscapes.

Today, under the Ananta Neeru Sanrakshanam Project, the narrative is changing. More than 400 villagers, in collaboration with the Forest Department, have led a community-driven effort to restore water resources, turning once-parched land into a landscape showing signs of recovery, not only in forest areas but also on adjoining agricultural fields.

A scientific approach has guided the initiative. Traditional water bodies were restored through desilting, enhancing storage capacity and enabling groundwater recharge. Simultaneously, thousands of native saplings were planted, improving green cover and stabilising the fragile ecosystem. The impact is visible. Barren stretches are now punctuated by patches of blue and green. The initiative has attracted national attention, earning praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For local communities, the change is most evident during the harsh summer months. Shepherds now lead their cattle to replenished tanks after long hours under the sun. Rayadurgam, which receives only 450-550 mm of annual rainfall, depends heavily on such conservation measures for water security. In addition to restoring tanks, small water bodies have been created within forested areas, providing drinking sources for wildlife such as sloth bears, leopards and wild boars, and helping reduce human-animal conflict.

The improved habitat now supports pollinators such as bees and butterflies, a variety of bird species and larger fauna.

A neglected stretch of land once used for dumping garbage and illegal activities has been transformed into a protected green space. Fencing along the western side of Nagara Vanam, an emerging urban forest project, has helped prevent encroachment and safeguard the area, according to forest officials.

Though not yet formally open to the public, Nagara Vanam is already attracting local residents. Despite the progress, water scarcity persists in some pockets of Rayadurgam, highlighting the need for sustained intervention. Even so, the ongoing transformation stands as a model of resilience—where science, community participation and ecological restoration are steadily rewriting the story of a once water-stressed region.

Hope springs: A variety of colourful butterflies can now be seen around the water bodies.

21J6. Bringing life back to a thirsty land
प्यासी धरती में फिर से जीवन लौटाना

- **Rayadurgam** in drought-prone **Anantapur district** in western **Andhra Pradesh**, along the **Karnataka border**, is witnessing a quiet but significant transformation.
  पश्चिमी **आंध्र प्रदेश** के सूखा-प्रभावित **अनंतपुर जिले** में स्थित **रायदुर्गम**, जो **कर्नाटक सीमा** के पास है, एक शांत लेकिन महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन का साक्षी बन रहा है।

- Long defined by chronic **water scarcity**, the region's red, sandy terrain and prolonged dry spells had often drawn comparisons with **Rajasthan's desert landscapes**.
  लंबे समय तक **जल संकट** से पहचाने जाने वाले इस क्षेत्र की लाल रेतीली भूमि और लंबे शुष्क काल की तुलना अक्सर **राजस्थान के रेगिस्तानी परिदृश्यों** से की जाती थी।
- Today, under the **Ananta Neeru Sanrakshanam Project**, the narrative is changing.
  आज **अनंता नीरू संरक्षणम परियोजना** के तहत यह कहानी बदल रही है।
- More than **400 villagers**, in collaboration with the **Forest Department**, have led a community-driven effort to restore water resources, turning once-parched land into a landscape showing signs of recovery, not only in forest areas but also on adjoining agricultural fields.
  वन विभाग के सहयोग से **400 से अधिक ग्रामीणों** ने जल संसाधनों के पुनर्जीवन के लिए सामुदायिक प्रयासों का नेतृत्व किया है, जिससे कभी सूखी पड़ी भूमि अब पुनरुद्धार के संकेत दिखा रही है, केवल वन क्षेत्रों में ही नहीं बल्कि आसपास के कृषि क्षेत्रों में भी।
- A scientific approach has guided the initiative.
  इस पहल का मार्गदर्शन एक **वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोण** ने किया है।
- Traditional **water bodies** were restored through **desilting**, enhancing storage capacity and enabling **groundwater recharge**.
  पारंपरिक **जल निकायों** को **गाद हटाने (डीसिल्टिंग)** के माध्यम से पुनर्स्थापित किया गया, जिससे उनकी जल भंडारण क्षमता बढ़ी और **भूजल पुनर्भरण** संभव हुआ।
- Simultaneously, thousands of **native saplings** were planted, improving green cover and stabilising the fragile ecosystem.
  साथ ही, हजारों **स्थानीय पौधे** लगाए गए, जिससे हरित आवरण बढ़ा और नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को स्थिरता मिली।
- The impact is visible.
  इसका प्रभाव स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दे रहा है।
- Barren stretches are now punctuated by patches of blue and green.
  बंजर क्षेत्र अब नीले और हरे रंग के हिस्सों से सुसज्जित दिखाई देते हैं।
- The initiative has attracted national attention, earning praise from **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
  इस पहल ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है और इसे **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** की सराहना भी प्राप्त हुई है।
- For local communities, the change is most evident during the harsh summer months.
  स्थानीय समुदायों के लिए यह परिवर्तन सबसे अधिक गर्मियों के कठिन महीनों में दिखाई देता है।
- Shepherds now lead their cattle to replenished tanks after long hours under the sun.
  चरवाहे अब लंबे समय तक धूप में रहने के बाद अपने पशुओं को पुनर्भरित जलाशयों तक ले जाते हैं।
- **Rayadurgam**, which receives only **450-550 mm** of annual rainfall, depends heavily on such conservation measures for **water security**.
  रायदुर्गम, जहां प्रतिवर्ष केवल **450-550 मिमी** वर्षा होती है, **जल सुरक्षा** के लिए ऐसे संरक्षण उपायों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर है।
- In addition to restoring tanks, small water bodies have been created within forested areas, providing drinking sources for wildlife such as **sloth bears, leopards and wild boars**, and helping reduce **human-animal conflict**.
  टैंकों के पुनर्स्थापन के अलावा, वन क्षेत्रों के भीतर छोटे जल स्रोत बनाए गए हैं, जो **भालू, तेंदुए और जंगली सूअर** जैसे वन्यजीवों को पेयजल उपलब्ध कराते हैं तथा **मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष** को कम करने में सहायता करते हैं।
- The improved habitat now supports pollinators such as **bees and butterflies**, a variety of bird species and larger fauna.

बेहतर हुए आवास अब **मधुमक्खियों और तितलियों** जैसे परागणकर्ताओं, विभिन्न पक्षी प्रजातियों और बड़े वन्यजीवों का समर्थन कर रहे हैं।

- A neglected stretch of land once used for dumping garbage and illegal activities has been transformed into a protected green space.
  एक उपेक्षित भूमि, जिसका कभी कचरा फेंकने और अवैध गतिविधियों के लिए उपयोग किया जाता था, अब एक संरक्षित हरित क्षेत्र में बदल गई है।
- Fencing along the western side of **Nagara Vanam**, an emerging urban forest project, has helped prevent encroachment and safeguard the area, according to forest officials.
  वन अधिकारियों के अनुसार, उभरती हुई शहरी वन परियोजना **नगरा वनम** के पश्चिमी हिस्से में की गई बाड़बंदी ने अतिक्रमण रोकने और क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा में मदद की है।
- Though not yet formally open to the public, **Nagara Vanam** is already attracting local residents.
  हालांकि **नगरा वनम** अभी औपचारिक रूप से जनता के लिए नहीं खोला गया है, फिर भी यह स्थानीय लोगों को आकर्षित कर रहा है।
- Despite the progress, **water scarcity** persists in some pockets of **Rayadurgam**, highlighting the need for sustained intervention.
  प्रगति के बावजूद, **रायदुर्गम** के कुछ क्षेत्रों में **जल संकट** अब भी बना हुआ है, जो निरंतर हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता को दर्शाता है।
- Even so, the ongoing transformation stands as a model of **resilience**—where **science**, **community participation** and **ecological restoration** are steadily rewriting the story of a once water-stressed region.
  फिर भी, यह जारी परिवर्तन **लचीलापन (रेज़िलिएंस)** का एक उदाहरण बनकर उभरा है, जहां **विज्ञान**, **सामुदायिक भागीदारी** और **पारिस्थितिक पुनर्स्थापन** मिलकर कभी जल-संकटग्रस्त रहे क्षेत्र की कहानी को धीरे-धीरे बदल रहे हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

What a 'super' El Niño might mean for India's monsoon

Setting the El Niño years since 1950 against IMD's long-period rainfall series shows that, of roughly two dozen such years, about 15 produced a below-normal monsoon and around 10 tipped into outright deficiency

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) confirmed this month that an El Niño has formed in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and placed the odds at about 63% that it will strengthen into a "very strong" – colloquially, a "super" – event by the northern winter. India's June rainfall, until the 16th, is roughly 35% below normal. The combination has revived a question that returns with every El Niño year: how reliably do the strongest of these events translate into a failed Indian monsoon?

An El Niño is the periodic warming of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific that tends to weaken the South Asian monsoon and whose potency is measured by how far sea-surface temperatures in a reference patch of the Pacific climb above their long-term average.

D.S. Pai, Chief Forecaster at the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai, set out the gradations: a departure of 0.5-1° C is 'weak,' 1-1.5° is 'moderate,' 1.5-2° is 'strong', and anything beyond 2° is 'very strong.' He added that some forecasts suggest the current event could approach a record of around 2.5°.

The trade winds that normally drive warm surface water westward towards Asia weaken; the eastern Pacific warms, which in turn slackens the winds further generating a feedback loop that amplifies the anomaly. Scientists note that a warmer baseline ocean, the result of long-term climate change, has raised the heat available to recent events, making them more intense than earlier ones.

In the long term however, such events remain rare. Only a handful, the instrumental record shows, have crossed the 2° threshold – 1972-73, 1982-83, 1997-98 and 2015-16.

El Niño also follows a consistent calendar, which bears directly on its monsoon impact. "It starts in one spring season, peaks in the winter, and very fast it weakens in the next spring," Pai said, noting that an event very occasionally persists into a second year. Because the warming establishes only in spring and matures later, he said, its suppressing effect on the monsoon is felt mainly in the middle and later part of the June-September season rather than at its start. June rainfall and the pace of onset, he added, are governed largely by local and regional factors – so a weak June, including the present 35% shortfall, is not by itself a reliable guide to the season.

The 1982-83 El Niño was associated with severe drought and bushfires in Australia and dry conditions across Indonesia. The 1997-98 event drove severe forest fires and choking haze across Indonesia and Southeast Asia, killed an estimated one-sixth of the world's coral, and helped push global temperatures to a record. The 2015-16 episode triggered mass bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef, made 2016 the warmest year then recorded, and catalysed severe drought and food shortages across southern and eastern Africa.

Paradoxically, the 1997-98 El Niño actually brought 2% more rains than usual for India's summer monsoon months. This was due to an effect in the Indian Ocean, called the Indian Ocean Dipole, that brought in warm water pools, countering the Pacific-induced drying. Since then, forecasters have consistently watched for the Dipole's waxing and waning.

One of the reasons, IMD Director General, M. Mohapatra has said, for a monsoon deficit this year is that the Dipole won't be strong enough to counter the Niño.

Setting the El Niño years since 1950 against IMD's long-period rainfall series shows that, of roughly two dozen such years, about 15 produced a below-normal monsoon and around 10 tipped into outright deficiency, i.e. seasonal rainfall below 90% of the long-period average. This correlation is strong enough to shape food and fiscal planning.

Several of India's worst droughts were in El Niño years, among them 1972, 1982, 2009, and 2015.

El Niño also redistributes the world's tropical cyclones rather than simply adding to them. NOAA's research arm notes that the warming generally suppresses Atlantic hurricane activity by strengthening vertical wind shear – the change in wind speed and direction with height that can tear a developing storm apart – while making conditions more favourable for hurricanes in the central and eastern Pacific. The effect tends to scale with the event's strength.

For the basins closer to Asia, the signal runs the other way: forecasters note that during an El Niño, the odds of a Pacific storm intensifying into a super typhoon rise appreciably, though such systems typically recurve towards East Asia and the Americas rather than the Indian subcontinent.

El Niño follows a consistent calendar, which bears directly on its monsoon impact. THE HINDU

21J6. What a 'super' El Niño might mean for India's monsoon
'सुपर' एल नीनो का भारत के मानसून पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ सकता है

- The **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** confirmed this month that an **El Niño** has formed in the **equatorial Pacific Ocean**.
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय महासागरीय एवं वायुमंडलीय प्रशासन (NOAA) ने इस माह पुष्टि की है कि **भूमध्यरेखीय प्रशांत महासागर** में **एल नीनो** विकसित हो चुका है।
- It placed the odds at about **63%** that it will strengthen into a **"very strong"** or colloquially a **"super El Niño"** by the northern winter.
  NOAA के अनुसार, इसके उत्तरी गोलार्ध की सर्दियों तक **"अत्यंत प्रबल"** अथवा सामान्य भाषा में **"सुपर एल नीनो"** बनने की संभावना लगभग **63%** है।
- India's **June rainfall**, until the 16th, was roughly **35% below normal**.
  भारत में **16 जून** तक का **जून माह का वर्षापात** सामान्य से लगभग **35% कम** दर्ज किया गया।
- This combination has revived a recurring question: how reliably do the strongest El Niño events lead to a weak **Indian monsoon**?

इस परिस्थिति ने एक बार फिर यह प्रश्न खड़ा कर दिया है कि क्या सबसे प्रबल **एल नीनो घटनाएँ** वास्तव में भारतीय **मानसून** को कमजोर कर देती हैं।

What is El Niño?
एल नीनो क्या है?

- An **El Niño** is the periodic warming of the **central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean**.
  एल नीनो मध्य और पूर्वी **भूमध्यरेखीय प्रशांत महासागर** के समय-समय पर होने वाले असामान्य ऊष्मीकरण को कहा जाता है।
- It generally tends to weaken the **South Asian monsoon**.
  यह सामान्यतः **दक्षिण एशियाई मानसून** को कमजोर करने की प्रवृत्ति रखता है।
- Its intensity is measured by how much the **sea surface temperatures** in a reference region of the Pacific rise above their long-term average.
  इसकी तीव्रता को इस आधार पर मापा जाता है कि प्रशांत महासागर के एक निर्धारित क्षेत्र में **समुद्री सतह का तापमान** अपने दीर्घकालिक औसत से कितना अधिक बढ़ता है।
- According to **D.S. Pai**, Chief Forecaster at the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai, the categories are clearly defined.
  भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के चेन्नई स्थित क्षेत्रीय मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र के मुख्य पूर्वानुमानकर्ता **डी.एस. पाई** के अनुसार इसकी विभिन्न श्रेणियाँ निर्धारित हैं।
- A temperature departure of **0.5°C–1°C** is classified as **weak**.
  0.5°C से 1°C तक की तापमान वृद्धि को **कमज़ोर (Weak)** एल नीनो माना जाता है।
- A departure of **1°C–1.5°C** is considered **moderate**.
  1°C से 1.5°C तक की वृद्धि को **मध्यम (Moderate)** श्रेणी में रखा जाता है।
- A departure of **1.5°C–2°C** is classified as **strong**.
  1.5°C से 2°C तक की वृद्धि को **प्रबल (Strong)** एल नीनो कहा जाता है।
- Anything above **2°C** is considered **very strong**.
  2°C से अधिक की वृद्धि को **अत्यंत प्रबल (Very Strong)** एल नीनो माना जाता है।
- Mr. Pai added that some forecasts suggest the current event could approach **2.5°C**, which would be near a historical record.
  श्री पाई ने बताया कि कुछ पूर्वानुमानों के अनुसार वर्तमान घटना **2.5°C** तक पहुँच सकती है, जो ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड के निकट होगी।

How does El Niño develop?
एल नीनो कैसे विकसित होता है?

- Normally, **trade winds** push warm surface waters westward towards Asia.
  सामान्य परिस्थितियों में **व्यापारिक पवनें (Trade Winds)** गर्म सतही जल को पश्चिम की ओर एशिया की दिशा में धकेलती हैं।
- During an El Niño event, these winds weaken.
  एल नीनो की स्थिति में ये पवनें कमजोर पड़ जाती हैं।
- As a result, the **eastern Pacific Ocean** becomes warmer.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर** का तापमान बढ़ जाता है।
- This warming further weakens the winds, creating a **positive feedback loop** that intensifies the anomaly.
  यह ऊष्मीकरण पवनों को और अधिक कमजोर करता है, जिससे एक **सकारात्मक प्रतिपुष्टि चक्र (Positive Feedback Loop)** बनता है और स्थिति और तीव्र हो जाती है।
- Scientists note that **long-term climate change** has warmed the oceans, increasing the amount of heat available to El Niño events.

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वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि **दीर्घकालिक जलवायु परिवर्तन** ने महासागरों को गर्म कर दिया है, जिससे एल नीनो घटनाओं के लिए उपलब्ध ऊष्मा की मात्रा बढ़ गई है।

- This has made recent El Niño episodes more intense than many earlier events.
  इसी कारण हाल की एल नीनो घटनाएँ पहले की अनेक घटनाओं की तुलना में अधिक तीव्र रही हैं।

How rare are very strong El Niño events?
अत्यंत प्रबल एल नीनो घटनाएँ कितनी दुर्लभ हैं?

- Despite increasing temperatures, **very strong El Niño events** remain relatively rare.
  तापमान वृद्धि के बावजूद **अत्यंत प्रबल एल नीनो घटनाएँ** अभी भी अपेक्षाकृत दुर्लभ हैं।
- Instrumental records show that only a few events have crossed the **2°C threshold**.
  उपलब्ध प्रेक्षणीय अभिलेख बताते हैं कि केवल कुछ ही घटनाएँ **2°C की सीमा** को पार कर सकी हैं।
- These occurred in **1972–73**, **1982–83**, **1997–98**, and **2015–16**.
  ऐसी प्रमुख घटनाएँ **1972–73**, **1982–83**, **1997–98** तथा **2015–16** में दर्ज की गई थीं।

Why does timing matter for the monsoon?
मानसून के लिए समय का महत्व क्यों है?

- El Niño follows a relatively predictable seasonal cycle.
  एल नीनो एक अपेक्षाकृत निश्चित मौसमी चक्र का पालन करता है।

- According to Mr. Pai, it usually begins during **spring**, reaches its peak during **winter**, and weakens rapidly in the following spring.
  श्री पाई के अनुसार यह सामान्यतः **वसंत ऋतु** में प्रारम्भ होता है, **शीत ऋतु** में चरम पर पहुँचता है और अगले वसंत तक तेजी से कमजोर हो जाता है।
- Only occasionally does an El Niño event continue into a second year.
  केवल कुछ विशेष परिस्थितियों में ही एल नीनो दूसरे वर्ष तक बना रहता है।
- Because the warming develops gradually during spring and matures later, its impact on the **Indian monsoon** is usually felt more strongly during the **middle and latter part** of the June–September season.
  चूँकि इसका ऊष्मीकरण धीरे-धीरे वसंत ऋतु में विकसित होता है और बाद में परिपक्व होता है, इसलिए इसका प्रभाव सामान्यतः जून से सितंबर के मानसून काल के **मध्य और अंतिम चरण** में अधिक दिखाई देता है।
- Its effect is generally less significant at the beginning of the season.
  मौसम के प्रारम्भिक चरण में इसका प्रभाव अपेक्षाकृत कम होता है।
- Mr. Pai emphasised that **June rainfall** and the pace of **monsoon onset** are influenced largely by local and regional factors.
  श्री पाई ने स्पष्ट किया कि **जून की वर्षा** तथा **मानसून के आगमन की गति** मुख्यतः स्थानीय और क्षेत्रीय कारकों से प्रभावित होती है।
- Therefore, a weak June — including the current **35% rainfall deficit** — is not by itself a reliable indicator of how the entire monsoon season will perform.
  इसलिए केवल जून माह में वर्षा की कमी, जिसमें वर्तमान **35% वर्षा घाटा** भी शामिल है, पूरे मानसून सत्र के प्रदर्शन का विश्वसनीय संकेतक नहीं माना जा सकता।

Major impacts of strong El Niño events around the world
विश्वभर में प्रबल एल नीनो घटनाओं के प्रमुख प्रभाव

- The **1982-83 El Niño** was associated with severe **drought** and **bushfires** in **Australia** and dry conditions across **Indonesia**.

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1982-83 के एल नीनो का संबंध **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** में भीषण **सूखे** और **वनाग्नियों** तथा **इंडोनेशिया** में व्यापक शुष्क परिस्थितियों से था।

- The **1997-98 El Niño** caused severe **forest fires** and choking **haze** across **Indonesia** and **Southeast Asia**.
  1997-98 के एल नीनो ने **इंडोनेशिया** और **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** में भीषण **वनाग्नियों** तथा घने **धुएँ (हैज़)** की स्थिति उत्पन्न की।
- It killed an estimated **one-sixth of the world's coral reefs** and helped push global temperatures to a record level.
  इस घटना के कारण विश्व के लगभग **एक-छठे प्रवाल भित्तियों (Coral Reefs)** को क्षति पहुँची तथा वैश्विक तापमान रिकॉर्ड स्तर तक पहुँच गया।
- The **2015-16 El Niño** triggered mass **bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef**.
  2015-16 के एल नीनो ने **ग्रेट बैरियर रीफ** में व्यापक स्तर पर **कोरल ब्लीचिंग** उत्पन्न की।
- It also made **2016** the warmest year recorded at that time.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **2016** उस समय तक का सबसे गर्म वर्ष दर्ज किया गया।
- The event also contributed to severe **drought** and **food shortages** across **southern and eastern Africa**.
  इस घटना ने **दक्षिणी और पूर्वी अफ्रीका** में गंभीर **सूखे** और **खाद्य संकट** को भी बढ़ावा दिया।

The role of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)
हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव (IOD) की भूमिका

- Paradoxically, the **1997-98 El Niño** brought about **2% more rainfall** than normal during India's summer monsoon season.
  विरोधाभासी रूप से, **1997-98 के एल नीनो** के दौरान भारत में ग्रीष्मकालीन मानसून के समय सामान्य से लगभग **2% अधिक वर्षा** हुई थी।
- This occurred because of a phenomenon in the **Indian Ocean** known as the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.
  ऐसा **हिंद महासागर** में सक्रिय **हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव (Indian Ocean Dipole - IOD)** नामक परिघटना के कारण हुआ।
- The IOD generated **warm water pools**, which counteracted the drying influence of the Pacific Ocean.
  IOD ने **गर्म जल क्षेत्रों** का निर्माण किया, जिसने प्रशांत महासागर से उत्पन्न शुष्क प्रभाव को संतुलित कर दिया।
- Since then, forecasters have closely monitored the strengthening and weakening of the **IOD**.
  तब से मौसम वैज्ञानिक **IOD** की तीव्रता और कमजोरी पर लगातार निगरानी रखते हैं।
- According to **M. Mohapatra**, Director General of the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, one reason for the expected monsoon deficit this year is that the **IOD** is unlikely to be strong enough to offset the effects of El Niño.
  भारतीय मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के महानिदेशक **एम. मोहापात्र** के अनुसार, इस वर्ष संभावित मानसून कमी का एक प्रमुख कारण यह है कि **IOD** एल नीनो के प्रभाव को संतुलित करने के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से मजबूत नहीं होग

El Niño and the Indian monsoon record
एल नीनो और भारतीय मानसून का ऐतिहासिक रिकॉर्ड

- A comparison of **El Niño years since 1950** with the IMD's long-period rainfall data shows a strong relationship between El Niño and weak monsoons.
  1950 के बाद के एल नीनो वर्षों की तुलना IMD के दीर्घकालिक वर्षा आँकड़ों से करने पर एल नीनो और कमजोर मानसून के बीच मजबूत संबंध दिखाई देता है।

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- Out of roughly **two dozen El Niño years**, about **15 years** recorded **below-normal monsoon rainfall**.
  लगभग **दो दर्जन एल नीनो वर्षों** में से करीब **15 वर्षों** में **सामान्य से कम मानसूनी वर्षा** दर्ज की गई।
- Around **10 years** experienced a **deficient monsoon**, where seasonal rainfall fell below **90% of the long-period average**.
  लगभग **10 वर्षों** में **मानसूनी वर्षा की कमी (Deficient Monsoon)** रही, जिसमें मौसमी वर्षा दीर्घकालिक औसत के **90% से कम** रही।
- This relationship is strong enough to influence **food security planning** and **fiscal policy decisions**.
  यह संबंध इतना महत्वपूर्ण है कि इसका प्रभाव **खाद्य सुरक्षा योजना** और **राजकोषीय नीति निर्माण** पर पड़ता है।
- Several of India's most severe droughts occurred during **El Niño years**, including **1972**, **1982**, **2009**, and **2015**.
  भारत के कई भीषण सूखे **एल नीनो वर्षों** में पड़े, जिनमें **1972**, **1982**, **2009** और **2015** प्रमुख हैं।

El Niño and tropical cyclones
एल नीनो और उष्णकटिबंधीय चक्रवात

- El Niño does not simply increase the number of tropical cyclones; instead, it **redistributes cyclone activity** across different ocean basins.
  एल नीनो केवल चक्रवातों की संख्या नहीं बढ़ाता, बल्कि विभिन्न महासागरीय क्षेत्रों में **चक्रवाती गतिविधियों का पुनर्वितरण** करता है।
- According to the research division of **NOAA**, El Niño generally suppresses **Atlantic hurricane activity**.
  NOAA के अनुसंधान विभाग के अनुसार, एल नीनो सामान्यतः **अटलांटिक महासागर में हरिकेन गतिविधि** को कम करता है।
- This happens because El Niño strengthens **vertical wind shear**, which refers to changes in wind speed and direction with height.
  ऐसा इसलिए होता है क्योंकि एल नीनो **ऊर्ध्वाधर पवन कर्तन (Vertical Wind Shear)** को बढ़ाता है, अर्थात ऊँचाई के साथ पवन की गति और दिशा में परिवर्तन।
- Strong wind shear can disrupt and weaken developing storms.
  अधिक पवन कर्तन विकसित हो रहे तूफानों को कमजोर या नष्ट कर सकता है।
- At the same time, El Niño creates more favourable conditions for **hurricanes in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean**.
  वहीं दूसरी ओर, एल नीनो **मध्य और पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर** में हरिकेन बनने के लिए अधिक अनुकूल परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न करता है।
- The magnitude of this effect generally increases with the strength of the El Niño event.
  यह प्रभाव सामान्यतः एल नीनो की तीव्रता बढ़ने के साथ अधिक मजबूत होता जाता है।

Impact on the Pacific and Asian region
प्रशांत एवं एशियाई क्षेत्र पर प्रभाव

- For ocean basins closer to **Asia**, the relationship works differently.
  एशिया के निकट स्थित महासागरीय क्षेत्रों में इसका प्रभाव कुछ भिन्न होता है।
- Forecasters note that during an El Niño, the likelihood of a Pacific tropical storm intensifying into a **super typhoon** increases significantly.
  मौसम विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, एल नीनो के दौरान प्रशांत महासागर के उष्णकटिबंधीय तूफानों के **सुपर टाइफून** में परिवर्तित होने की संभावना काफी बढ़ जाती है।
- However, such systems usually curve towards **East Asia** or the **Americas** rather than moving towards the **Indian subcontinent**.

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हालाँकि ऐसे शक्तिशाली तूफान सामान्यतः **पूर्वी एशिया** या **अमेरिकी महाद्वीपों** की ओर मुड़ जाते हैं, न कि **भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप** की दिशा में।

- Thus, while El Niño strongly influences global weather patterns, its impact on India depends on several interacting factors, particularly the strength of the **Indian Ocean Dipole**, regional atmospheric conditions, and the timing of monsoon development.

अतः यद्यपि एल नीनो वैश्विक मौसम प्रणालियों को व्यापक रूप से प्रभावित करता है, भारत पर इसका प्रभाव कई परस्पर जुड़े कारकों पर निर्भर करता है, विशेष रूप से **हिंद महासागर द्विध्रुव (IOD)** की तीव्रता, क्षेत्रीय वायुमंडलीय परिस्थितियों तथा मानसून के विकास के समय पर।

GS III: Environment

War in Ukraine hit different mammals differently

Using camera traps, researchers in Ukraine compared animal activity during the 2022 Russian occupation to peacetime data from 2021 in the Chornobyl Exclusion Zone. They found mammals adjusted their habits quickly to survive. For instance, red deer and foxes significantly reduced their activity at night. When combat intensified, roe deer activity dropped while brown hares were spotted more often. And while wild boars avoided military sites, lynx and foxes stayed closer to human settlements.

21J6. War in Ukraine hit different mammals differently

यूक्रेन युद्ध ने विभिन्न स्तनधारी प्रजातियों को अलग-अलग प्रकार से प्रभावित किया

- Using **camera traps**, researchers in **Ukraine** compared animal activity during the **2022 Russian occupation** to peacetime data from **2021** in the **Chornobyl Exclusion Zone**.

कैमरा ट्रैपों का उपयोग करते हुए **यूक्रेन** के शोधकर्ताओं ने **चोर्नोबिल बहिष्करण क्षेत्र** में **2022 के रूसी कब्ज़े** के दौरान पशुओं की गतिविधियों की तुलना **2021** के शांतिकालीन आँकड़ों से की।

- They found **mammals** adjusted their habits quickly to survive.

उन्होंने पाया कि **स्तनधारी जीवों** ने जीवित रहने के लिए अपनी आदतों में शीघ्रता से परिवर्तन कर लिया।

- For instance, **red deer** and **foxes** significantly reduced their activity at night.

उदाहरण के लिए, **लाल हिरण (रेड डियर)** और **लोमड़ियों** ने रात्रि के समय अपनी गतिविधियों में उल्लेखनीय कमी कर दी।

- When **combat intensified**, **roe deer** activity dropped while **brown hares** were spotted more often.

जब **युद्ध गतिविधियाँ तेज़ हुईं**, तब **रो हिरण** की गतिविधियाँ कम हो गईं, जबकि **भूरे खरगोश (ब्राउन हेयर)** अधिक बार दिखाई देने लगे।

- And while **wild boars** avoided **military sites**, **lynx** and **foxes** stayed closer to **human settlements**.

जहाँ **जंगली सूअर सैन्य स्थलों** से दूर रहे, वहीं **लिंक्स** और **लोमड़ियाँ मानवीय बस्तियों** के अधिक निकट देखी गईं।

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PCS Special:	20 June 2026
20J6	Maker of Battlefield says film is very much related to present-day conflict in Manipur बैटलफील्ड के निर्माता का कहना है कि यह फिल्म मणिपुर के वर्तमान संघर्ष से गहराई से जुड़ी हुई है'
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Maker of *Battlefield* says film is very much related to present-day conflict in Manipur

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

An anti-war documentary from the ethnic conflict-scarred Manipur is set to be screened at the ongoing 19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) on Saturday.

The seven-day MIFF, South Asia's oldest and largest festival dedicated to documentary, short fiction, and animation films, ends on Sunday.

Manipuri filmmaker Borun Thokchom's *Battlefield*, an 80-minute documentary that revisits the battles of Imphal and Kohima during World War II, took 13 years to complete. Another film from Manipur, Trishul Yumnam and Yaso Sharma's 15-minute animation *Story of a Forest*, has also made it to MIFF's international competition.

A scene from Borun Thokchom's *Battlefield*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Present-day Manipur and Nagaland were theatres of World War II in 1944. Fought between the Allied forces and the Imperial Japanese Army alongside Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army, the battles named after the State capitals are considered a turning point in the war in Asia.

Locals, however, continue to feel the impact of the battles.

"World War II turned Manipur into a frontline battlefield. Villages were bombed, people were displaced, and locals watched big foreign armies fight for their own freedom. That experience gave people new ideas about self-rule and nationhood," Mr. Thokchom told *The Hindu*.

"Soon after the war, Manipur was merged with India. The destruction caused by the war and that forced merger left behind a deep anger, and that anger grew into the ethnic and separatist movements that have lasted ever since," he said.

Ethnic violence

Battlefield was almost complete when the ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki-Zo communities erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023. It eventually qualified for MIFF 2026.

Mr. Thokchom said the subject of his documentary may be a war fought eight decades ago, but "it is very much related" to the present-day conflict in Manipur.

20J6. Maker of Battlefield says film is very much related to present-day conflict in Manipur

बैटलफील्ड के निर्माता का कहना है कि यह फिल्म मणिपुर के वर्तमान संघर्ष से गहराई से जुड़ी हुई है

- An **anti-war documentary** from the ethnic conflict-scarred **Manipur** is set to be screened at the ongoing **19th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)** on Saturday.
  जातीय संघर्ष से प्रभावित **मणिपुर** की एक **युद्ध-विरोधी डॉक्यूमेंट्री** का प्रदर्शन शनिवार को आयोजित हो रहे **19वें मुंबई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय फिल्म महोत्सव (MIFF)** में किया जाएगा।
- The seven-day **MIFF**, South Asia's oldest and largest festival dedicated to documentary, short fiction, and animation films, ends on Sunday.
  सात दिवसीय **MIFF**, जो डॉक्यूमेंट्री, लघु कथा और एनीमेशन फिल्मों को समर्पित दक्षिण एशिया का सबसे पुराना और सबसे बड़ा महोत्सव है, रविवार को समाप्त होगा।
- Manipuri filmmaker **Borun Thokchom's Battlefield**, an 80-minute documentary that revisits the battles of **Imphal** and **Kohima** during **World War II**, took 13 years to complete.
  मणिपुरी फिल्म निर्माता **बोरुन थोकचोम** की **बैटलफील्ड**, जो **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के दौरान **इम्फाल** और **कोहिमा** की लड़ाइयों को पुनः प्रस्तुत करने वाली 80 मिनट की डॉक्यूमेंट्री है, को पूरा होने में 13 वर्ष लगे।
- Another film from **Manipur**, **Trishul Yumnam** and **Yaso Sharma's** 15-minute animation **Story of a Forest**, has also made it to MIFF's international competition.
  मणिपुर की एक अन्य फिल्म, **त्रिशूल युमनाम** और **यासो शर्मा** की 15 मिनट की एनीमेशन फिल्म **स्टोरी ऑफ अ फॉरेस्ट**, भी MIFF की अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतियोगिता में शामिल हुई है।
- Present-day **Manipur** and **Nagaland** were theatres of **World War II** in 1944.
  वर्तमान **मणिपुर** और **नागालैंड** वर्ष 1944 में **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के प्रमुख युद्धक्षेत्र थे।
- Fought between the **Allied forces** and the **Imperial Japanese Army** alongside **Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army**, the battles named after the State capitals are considered a turning point in the war in Asia.
  मित्र राष्ट्रों की सेनाओं और **शाही जापानी सेना** के बीच, **सुभाष चंद्र बोस की भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सेना** के साथ लड़ी

गई ये लड़ाइयाँ, जो राज्य की राजधानियों के नाम पर जानी जाती हैं, एशिया में युद्ध का एक निर्णायक मोड़ मानी जाती हैं।

- Locals, however, continue to feel the impact of the battles.
  हालांकि, स्थानीय लोग आज भी इन लड़ाइयों के प्रभाव को महसूस करते हैं।
- "**World War II** turned **Manipur** into a frontline battlefield.
  "**द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** ने **मणिपुर** को एक अग्रिम मोर्चे के युद्धक्षेत्र में बदल दिया।
- Villages were bombed, people were displaced, and locals watched big foreign armies fight for their own freedom.
  गांवों पर बमबारी हुई, लोग विस्थापित हुए, और स्थानीय लोगों ने बड़ी विदेशी सेनाओं को अपनी स्वतंत्रता के लिए लड़ते देखा।
- That experience gave people new ideas about self-rule and nationhood," Mr. Thokchom told The Hindu.
  उस अनुभव ने लोगों को स्वशासन और राष्ट्रवाद के बारे में नए विचार दिए," श्री थोकचोम ने कहा।
- "Soon after the war, **Manipur** was merged with **India**.
  "युद्ध के तुरंत बाद **मणिपुर** का **भारत** में विलय कर दिया गया।
- The destruction caused by the war and that forced merger left behind a deep anger, and that anger grew into the ethnic and separatist movements that have lasted ever since," he said.
  युद्ध से हुई तबाही और उस जबरन विलय ने गहरा आक्रोश पैदा किया, और वही आक्रोश बाद में जातीय तथा अलगाववादी आंदोलनों में बदल गया, जो आज तक जारी हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

Ethnic violence
जातीय हिंसा

- **The battlefield** was almost complete when the ethnic violence between the **Meitei** and the **Kuki-Zo** communities erupted in **Manipur** on May 3, 2023.
  बैटलफील्ड लगभग पूरी हो चुकी थी, जब 3 मई 2023 को **मणिपुर** में **मैतेई** और **कुकी-जो** समुदायों के बीच जातीय हिंसा भड़क उठी।
- It eventually qualified for **MIFF 2026**.
  अंततः यह **MIFF 2026** के लिए चयनित हो गई।
- Mr. Thokchom said the subject of his documentary may be a war fought eight decades ago, but "it is very much related" to the present-day conflict in **Manipur**.
  श्री थोकचोम ने कहा कि उनकी डॉक्यूमेंट्री का विषय भले ही आठ दशक पहले लड़ा गया युद्ध हो, लेकिन "यह मणिपुर के वर्तमान संघर्ष से बहुत गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।"

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Stripping Zelenskyy of top award: Poland President

[redacted] PCS
WARSAW

Poland's nationalist President Karol Nawrocki announced on Friday he was stripping Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy of the country's top award, escalating a row between the neighbours and allies over Second World War massacres.

Relations between Warsaw and Kyiv have been tense for days over Mr. Zelenskyy's naming of a Ukrainian army unit after a Second World War nationalist insurgent army that took part in massacres against Poles.

Mr. Nawrocki's decision landed days before Poland is due to host the annual Ukraine Recovery Conference in its Baltic city of Gdansk. It is not clear if Mr. Zelenskyy will attend.

Mr. Nawrocki revoked Mr. Zelenskyy's Order of the White Eagle – Poland's highest award – over the objections of both Kyiv and Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Karol Nawrocki

"Historical truth is not, and can never be, a bargaining chip," he said in a statement announcing the decision.

Mr. Nawrocki said Poland had "repeatedly" called on Ukraine to reverse the naming of the unit. "The Ukrainian side's position has not changed," he added.

"Therefore, in light of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's consent to name one of the units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine 'Heroes of the UPA'... I have decided to revoke the Order of the White Eagle from the President of Ukraine," he said.

Kyiv said the decision was a "strategic mistake" from which "only Moscow stands to gain". Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said he now planned to return an award he had received from Poland in 2022 after the "unjustified, impulsive and disrespectful" decision.

Poland has been one of Ukraine's main allies during more than four years of Moscow's invasion, taking in hundreds of thousands of refugees and serving as a logistics hub for Western aid to Ukraine.

20J6. Stripping Zelenskyy of top award: Poland President
ज़ेलेंस्की से सर्वोच्च सम्मान वापस: पोलैंड के राष्ट्रपति

- **Poland's nationalist President Karol Nawrocki** announced on Friday he was stripping **Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy** of the country's top award, escalating a row between the neighbours and allies over **Second World War massacres**.
  पोलैंड के राष्ट्रवादी राष्ट्रपति **कारोल नावरोत्स्की** ने शुक्रवार को घोषणा की कि वह **यूक्रेन के वोलोदिमिर ज़ेलेंस्की** से देश का सर्वोच्च सम्मान वापस ले रहे हैं, जिससे **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के नरसंहारों** को लेकर दोनों पड़ोसी और सहयोगी देशों के बीच विवाद और बढ़ गया है।
- Relations between **Warsaw** and **Kyiv** have been tense for days over Mr. Zelenskyy's naming of a Ukrainian army unit after a **Second World War nationalist insurgent army** that took part in massacres against Poles.
  वारसॉ और **कीव** के बीच संबंध कई दिनों से तनावपूर्ण हैं, क्योंकि श्री ज़ेलेंस्की ने यूक्रेनी सेना की एक इकाई का नाम **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के एक राष्ट्रवादी विद्रोही सैन्य समूह** के नाम पर रखा, जिसने पोलिश लोगों के खिलाफ नरसंहारों में भाग लिया था।
- Mr. Nawrocki's decision landed days before Poland is due to host the annual **Ukraine Recovery Conference** in its Baltic city of **Gdansk**.
  श्री नावरोत्स्की का यह निर्णय उस समय आया है जब कुछ ही दिनों बाद पोलैंड के बाल्टिक तटीय शहर **ग्दांस्क** में वार्षिक **यूक्रेन रिकवरी कॉन्फ्रेंस** आयोजित होने वाली है।
- It is not clear if Mr. Zelenskyy will attend.
  यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि श्री ज़ेलेंस्की इसमें भाग लेंगे या नहीं।

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- Mr. Nawrocki revoked Mr. Zelenskyy's **Order of the White Eagle** — Poland's highest award — over the objections of both Kyiv and Poland's Prime Minister **Donald Tusk**.
  श्री नावरोत्स्की ने **ऑर्डर ऑफ द व्हाइट ईगल**, जो पोलैंड का सर्वोच्च सम्मान है, श्री ज़ेलेंस्की से वापस ले लिया, जबकि कीव और पोलैंड के प्रधानमंत्री **डोनाल्ड टस्क** दोनों ने इसका विरोध किया था।
- "**Historical truth** is not, and can never be, a bargaining chip," he said in a statement announcing the decision.
  निर्णय की घोषणा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, "**ऐतिहासिक सत्य** कोई सौदेबाजी का साधन नहीं है और न ही कभी हो सकता है।"
- Mr. Nawrocki said Poland had "repeatedly" called on Ukraine to reverse the naming of the unit.
  श्री नावरोत्स्की ने कहा कि पोलैंड ने यूक्रेन से कई बार उस सैन्य इकाई का नाम बदलने का अनुरोध किया था।
- "The Ukrainian side's position has not changed," he added.
  उन्होंने कहा, "यूक्रेनी पक्ष का रुख नहीं बदला है।"
- "Therefore, in light of President **Volodymyr Zelenskyy's** consent to name one of the units of the **Armed Forces of Ukraine** '**Heroes of the UPA**'... I have decided to revoke the **Order of the White Eagle** from the President of Ukraine," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "इसलिए, राष्ट्रपति **वोलोदिमिर ज़ेलेंस्की** द्वारा **यूक्रेन के सशस्त्र बलों** की एक इकाई का नाम '**हीरोज ऑफ द UPA**' रखने की स्वीकृति को देखते हुए... मैंने यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति से **ऑर्डर ऑफ द व्हाइट ईगल** वापस लेने का निर्णय किया है।"
- **Kyiv** said the decision was a "**strategic mistake**" from which "only **Moscow** stands to gain".
  कीव ने इस निर्णय को "**रणनीतिक भूल**" बताया और कहा कि इससे "केवल **मॉस्को** को लाभ होगा।"
- Ukrainian Foreign Minister **Andriy Sybiga** said he now planned to return an award he had received from Poland in **2022** after the "unjustified, impulsive and disrespectful" decision.
  यूक्रेन के विदेश मंत्री **आंद्री सिबीगा** ने कहा कि वह अब पोलैंड से **2022** में प्राप्त अपना सम्मान वापस करने की योजना बना रहे हैं, क्योंकि यह निर्णय "अनुचित, आवेगपूर्ण और अपमानजनक" था।
- **Poland** has been one of **Ukraine's** main allies during more than four years of **Moscow's invasion**, taking in hundreds of thousands of refugees and serving as a logistics hub for **Western aid** to Ukraine.
  पोलैंड, **मॉस्को के आक्रमण** के चार वर्षों से अधिक समय के दौरान, **यूक्रेन** का प्रमुख सहयोगी रहा है। उसने लाखों शरणार्थियों को शरण दी है और यूक्रेन के लिए **पश्चिमी सहायता** के लॉजिस्टिक केंद्र के रूप में कार्य किया है।

GS Paper 1: Society	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	The pressures of counting India भारत की जनगणना की चुनौतियाँ

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Census enumerators at Shashi Garden in the Mayur Vihar area in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The pressures of counting India

Enumerators working on the Census are facing several challenges in the field, including heat, connectivity issues, and safety concerns. Though the exercise is being conducted through a digital system designed for real-time monitoring, field workers say conditions on the ground and supervisory instructions are affecting data collection. **Vijaita Singh** reports on the challenges

Every day for about a month, M. Soumina, a government-school teacher, began her mornings by knocking on the doors of apartments in a multi-storey residential complex in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar.

Although the school where she taught was closed for the summer break, Soumina had her task cut out for her after being appointed an enumerator for the ongoing Census. The exercise relies on about 33 lakh government teachers and other enumerators, who will spend nearly a year surveying an estimated 1.4 billion Indians on housing, amenities, and demographics.

For Soumina, the work meant spending hours going door to door in a brutal Delhi summer, with temperatures consistently hovering between 40°C and 42°C. She surveyed 150 flats spread across 17 apartment blocks and administered a 33-question survey to each household within 26 days.

"I was making those visits daily from May 19," said Soumina. "I had an app on my phone to record the data. Before asking the questions, the households also have to be mapped and geo-tagged on the app."

Other than her smartphone, a black bag, a QR-enabled identity card, and a white cap with the Census logo to protect her from the heat, Soumina's companion during these visits was her husband, who works in the production unit of a newspaper. She said she felt safer with him around.

Like Soumina, enumerators working on the Census report facing several challenges in the field, including heat, connectivity issues, and safety concerns. Though the exercise is being conducted through a digital system designed for real-time monitoring, field workers said conditions on the ground and supervisory instructions are affecting data collection. Many of them have also flagged these issues on social media.

A massive exercise

The questions that enumerators asked are part of the Houselisting and Housing Operations (HLO), the first phase of the Population Census 2027. The questionnaire was notified by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India on January 22.

The 2027 Census marks several firsts: it is India's first fully digital Census, the first to collect caste data, and the first to allow residents to self-enumerate. The exercise was originally scheduled for 2021, but was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, India is conducting its population count six years later than the decennial schedule, with governments continuing to rely on 2011 Census data for policy planning and welfare programmes.

The HLO phase involves the collection of data on housing conditions, household composition, basic amenities, and assets to assess living standards. It captures information on the structure of dwellings; access to water, sanitation, and energy, ownership of consumer goods, and the number of people living in a household. It also collects residents' mobile numbers for official communication.

The HLO phase will lay the foundation for the second phase of the Census – Population Enumeration – scheduled for February 2027. In Ladakh and the snow-bound regions of Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh, both phases have been set a deadline of September 30, 2026, due to weather constraints.

> When I filled untreated tap water as an option, the supervisor and the charge officers asked me to change the entry to tap water from treated source.
> Census enumerator

The second phase will enumerate caste and collect other detailed individual-level data, including religion. Each enumerator gets an honorarium of ₹25,000 for completing the task. So far, 23 States and Union Territories have completed the first phase.

Meeting strangers

With several occupants being working professionals, Soumina said it was difficult to get them to answer questions during the day.

"Most residents leave for work around 8.30 in the morning. So I visited homes between 7 and 7.30 with my husband. While some were accommodative, others asked us to come again later or skip the exercise altogether," she said.

If a house was locked, she would go back again and again until she got the data, Soumina added. "Sometimes the visit extended into the evening, so I would again go with my husband."

Like her, many female enumerators, mostly government school teachers, said they asked their husbands or other male members in their families to accompany them during field visits.

Meenu Verma, a primary school teacher from Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, said that her husband and brother-in-law helped her during the exercise. "I was assigned 172 houses," she said. "My husband and I used to wake up at 4 in the morning and reach the assigned village by 7. From 7 to about 11, we would find people in their homes, but after noon, due to the heat, the entire village would be deserted."

She said they would then hesitate to knock on doors. "Many of them had no awareness about the Census, so we had to first explain it them. I want to request the government to appoint enumerators in pairs. Or a male colleague should accompany a female enumerator. Not everyone is polite. And in villages, houses are spread afar," Verma said.

On May 21, a First Information Report (FIR) was registered against a Delhi resident for allegedly harassing a female Census enumerator while she was on duty. On June 13, a Delhi court convicted the accused, Sandeep Panwar, 43, for the crime. Earlier, on April 25, a female Census enumerator was allegedly denied entry into an apartment building in Bengaluru where an unidentified individual allegedly used abusive language against her, following which an FIR was registered against him.

Census enumerators in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Dinesh Kumar Dwivedi, a Hindi lecturer at a government school, who was Soumina's supervisor, said six enumerators were reporting to him. "Fetching data from slum clusters was easier than seeking information from multi-storey apartments," he said.

In Haryana and Delhi, Census enumerators, mostly government school teachers, complained that they faced hostility and were denied entry by residents of high-rise buildings and residents' welfare associations (RWAs). The district administration of Gurugram wrote letters to RWAs saying that according to Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948, every resident is "legally bound" to answer Census-related questions to the best of their knowledge or belief.

"The slum residents were hesitant initially," said Dwivedi, who collected data as an enumerator during the 2011 Census. "They thought this was an exercise to demolish the slums. When they understood its purpose, they were more than forthcoming. Some thought that participating in it would make them eligible for government schemes. Many others came to us with documents, asking for help in applying for welfare schemes."

Dwivedi recalled that in 2011, the process was tedious: all the data had to be noted down on paper, which could get lost or damaged. He said residents were reluctant to share information on assets as they feared tax raids.

The digital divide

Beyond personal safety, the digital divide in India has also affected fieldwork. In metros and towns with better mobile connectivity, enumerators entered data directly on their phones. Elsewhere, they said they recorded details on paper or in notebooks and uploaded them on the app after going back home.

According to the Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, conducted from January to March 2025 as a part of the 80th round of the National Sample Survey, 83.3 % of rural households and 91.6% of urban households had access to Internet. The total number of households surveyed was 34,950 (19,071 in rural areas and 15,879 in urban areas) and the total number of people was 1.42 lakh (82,573 in rural areas and 59,492 in urban areas). In the survey, a person was considered to have "used the internet" if they had accessed it at least once in the past three months.

"Connectivity is a huge issue, especially in rural areas. Once an enumerator has logged in, it is difficult to make changes, and if the network is poor, the data can get corrupted," said an enumerator from U.P.

Enumerators use their own phones to collect the data and have been asked not to delete the apps during the enumeration phase. However, they said the app crashes often.

On the Google Play Store, the Census 2027 Houselist App, which has more than 10 lakh downloads, has a rating of 2.9. It can only be downloaded by authorised users – enumerators, supervisors, and charge officers. Of the 4,570 reviews submitted, 2,054 users gave it a one-star rating, while 1,735 rated it five stars.

Facing FIRs

On the outskirts of Delhi, in U.P.'s Noida, Sector-6, Indu Prakash Singh, charge officer, who oversees the work of enumerators and supervisors, set up a camp office at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre to monitor Census-related work. Officials with technical expertise were stationed in a large hall, with computer screens placed on desks arranged in a semicircle.

Singh's job was to ensure the smooth conduct of the exercise, which entailed surveying 2,309 house-listing blocks (HLBs), each comprising 150-180 households with a population of 800-1,000. The exercise ran from May 22 to June 20 in U.P.

Though Census activities are usually carried out by government employees, in U.P., private-school teachers were also enrolled to tide over the shortage of government school teachers.

"The district administration in Noida issued directions to engage teachers from private schools for Census work," Singh said.

"But some of them moved the Allahabad High Court, which ruled in their favour, and 50% of the 1,000 teachers who were trained backed out at the last moment. We were forced to engage NGOs and other private people for the task," said a government official in Noida.

In Maharashtra, over 500 private unaided and minority schools moved the Bombay High Court in May against notices, appointment orders, and coercive steps such as FIRs issued against their teaching and non-teaching staff for failing to report for Census duties.

On May 22, the Court granted interim protection to the school associations and observed that Section 4A of the Census Act applies only to "local authorities" and prima facie the Census Act and the Census Rules, 1990 do not impose any statutory obligation on private unaided schools to provide their staff as enumerators or supervisors.

There have been several instances of enumerators facing FIRs for not taking up the assigned work. Though the total figures are difficult to assess, at least two FIRs were filed in Haryana against 10 enumerators, while a case each was filed in Noida and Greater Noida against more than 80 enumerators on June 3.

The National Crime Records Bureau reports for 2010 and 2011, when the first and second phases of the Census were last conducted, do not mention any cases registered under the Census Act.

Enumerators took to social media to flag issues such as heat and connectivity problems. They also reported witnessing stark income inequality, and described pressure from superiors to edit data in the name of correcting discrepancies.

Editing data

Earlier, it often took months or even years to process Census forms. Mobile apps have now enabled real-time data monitoring through the Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) portal. Access to the data entered via the app is available not only to enumerators, but also to supervisors and charge officers. Enumerators said they were asked to change data, particularly for questions related to sanitation, electricity, and LPG connection.

A school teacher in Delhi said during training, for a question relating to "access to latrine", they were asked not to select the "no" option. This is used as a category for households without access to a latrine, and indicates open defecation. The "Yes" option is further broken down into "Exclusively for household use only (1)," "Shared with other households (2)," and "Public latrine (3)."

"During training, we were told to fill in the data observed by us," said an enumerator from Rajasthan. "On the field, many residents in my enumeration block said they defecate in the open. When I submitted the data, I was asked by my supervisor to revisit the homes and revise the data to show that the households had access to a latrine, even if a public toilet was anywhere in the vicinity."

Another enumerator from U.P. said they were also asked to edit data on the main source of drinking water. The options include tap water from treated source/untreated source, well, hand pump, tubewell/borehole, spring, river/canal, tank/pond/lake, packaged/bottled water and other sources. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, one of the flagship schemes of the Bharatiya Janata Party government, nearly 81.97% households in India have tap water connection.

"When I filled untreated tap water as an option, the supervisor and the charge officers asked me to change the entry to tap water from treated source. What is the point of door-to-door enumeration then," asked the enumerator.

The question on the availability of a kitchen and LPG/PNG connection were also edited, the enumerator added. "Even if the house has an LPG connection in their name, they were using cow dung cakes or wooden logs to cook as they had not refilled the cylinders for several months. If we mentioned firewood or charcoal as the response, which is what we observed, we were asked to change the entry to show that the main fuel is LPG," said an enumerator from Rajasthan. According to the Press Information Bureau, national LPG coverage rose from 55.9% in April 2014 to 107.2% in April 2026. Consumers grew from 14.51 crore to 33.39 crore in the same period.

On June 2, the Director of Census Operations, Rajasthan, wrote to all district functionaries saying "during the analysis of field data collected so far, some discrepancies have been noticed". Charge officers were instructed to "verify the block-level data through the CMMS portal, in accordance with the actual field situation."

Around 11 a.m. on June 12, Manish Kumar, a government employee, went to a building in Noida's Sector-2. An open drain flowed on the side. Several doors were locked since many of the occupants, largely migrants, were away at work. In the courtyard of the three-storey building, a woman was washing bedsheets in a corner using two tubs of water. A man was taking a bath in a narrow veranda outside his one-room accommodation, which he shared with six other members of the family.

Kumar knocked on each door to ensure that every household was enumerated. The rooms that were open mostly had women and children inside. While some residents responded immediately, others were suspicious of Kumar. He noted down the details, stepped out of the building, and then logged the information into the Census app on his phone.

He said he would return in the evening and over the weekend to reach residents whose doors were locked. "A household must be labelled vacant or locked only after multiple visits," he said.

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20J6. The pressures of counting India
भारत की जनगणना की चुनौतियाँ

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A massive exercise
एक विशाल अभ्यास

- Every day for about a month, **M. Soumina**, a government-school teacher, began her mornings by knocking on the doors of apartments in a multi-storey residential complex in East Delhi's **Mayur Vihar**.
  लगभग एक महीने तक प्रतिदिन, सरकारी विद्यालय की शिक्षिका **एम. सौमिना** अपनी सुबह की शुरुआत पूर्वी दिल्ली के **मयूर विहार** स्थित एक बहुमंजिला आवासीय परिसर के फ्लैटों के दरवाजे खटखटाकर करती थीं।
- Although the school where she taught was closed for the summer break, Soumina had her task cut out for her after being appointed an **enumerator** for the ongoing **Census**.
  यद्यपि जिस विद्यालय में वह पढ़ाती थीं वह ग्रीष्मकालीन अवकाश के कारण बंद था, लेकिन चल रही **जनगणना** के लिए **प्रगणक (Enumerator)** नियुक्त किए जाने के बाद उनके सामने एक महत्वपूर्ण जिम्मेदारी थी।
- The exercise relies on about **33 lakh government teachers** and other enumerators, who will spend nearly a year surveying an estimated **1.4 billion Indians** on housing, amenities, and demographics.
  यह कार्य लगभग **33 लाख सरकारी शिक्षकों** और अन्य प्रगणकों पर आधारित है, जो आवास, सुविधाओं और जनसांख्यिकीय विवरणों के संबंध में अनुमानित **1.4 अरब भारतीयों** का लगभग एक वर्ष तक सर्वेक्षण करेंगे।
- For Soumina, the work meant spending hours going door to door in a brutal Delhi summer, with temperatures consistently hovering between **40°C and 42°C**.
  सौमिना के लिए इस कार्य का अर्थ था दिल्ली की भीषण गर्मी में घंटों घर-घर जाकर सर्वेक्षण करना, जहां तापमान लगातार **40°C से 42°C** के बीच बना रहता था।
- She surveyed **150 flats** spread across **17 apartment blocks** and administered a **33-question survey** to each household within **26 days**.
  उन्होंने **17 अपार्टमेंट ब्लॉकों** में फैले **150 फ्लैटों** का सर्वेक्षण किया और **26 दिनों** के भीतर प्रत्येक परिवार से **33 प्रश्नों वाला सर्वेक्षण** पूरा कराया।
- "I was making those visits daily from **May 19**," said Soumina.
  "मैं **19 मई** से प्रतिदिन ये दौरे कर रही थी," सौमिना ने कहा।
- "I had an app on my phone to record the data."
  "मेरे फोन में डेटा दर्ज करने के लिए एक ऐप था।"
- "Before asking the questions, the households also have to be mapped and **geotagged** on the app."
  "प्रश्न पूछने से पहले परिवारों को ऐप पर मैप और **जियोटैग** भी करना होता है।"
- Other than her smartphone, a black bag, a **QR-enabled identity card**, and a white cap with the **Census logo** to protect her from the heat, Soumina's companion during these visits was her husband, who works in the production unit of a newspaper.
  अपने स्मार्टफोन, एक काले बैग, **QR-सक्षम पहचान पत्र**, और गर्मी से बचाव के लिए **जनगणना लोगो** वाली सफेद टोपी के अलावा, इन दौरों के दौरान सौमिना के साथ उनके पति भी रहते थे, जो एक समाचारपत्र के उत्पादन विभाग में कार्यरत हैं।
- She said she felt safer with him around.
  उन्होंने कहा कि उनके साथ रहने पर वह स्वयं को अधिक सुरक्षित महसूस करती थीं।
- Like Soumina, enumerators working on the **Census** report facing several challenges in the field, including **heat**, **connectivity issues**, and **safety concerns**.
  सौमिना की तरह **जनगणना** में कार्यरत अन्य प्रगणक भी **गर्मी**, **कनेक्टिविटी संबंधी समस्याओं** और **सुरक्षा चिंताओं** सहित कई चुनौतियों का सामना कर रहे हैं।
- Though the exercise is being conducted through a **digital system** designed for **real-time monitoring**, field workers said conditions on the ground and supervisory instructions are affecting **data collection**.
  हालांकि यह कार्य **रीयल-टाइम निगरानी** के लिए तैयार की गई **डिजिटल प्रणाली** के माध्यम से किया जा रहा है,

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लेकिन मैदानी कर्मचारियों का कहना है कि जमीनी परिस्थितियां और पर्यवेक्षकों के निर्देश **डेटा संग्रहण** को प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।

- Many of them have also flagged these issues on **social media**.
  इनमें से कई लोगों ने इन समस्याओं को **सोशल मीडिया** पर भी उठाया है।
- The questions that enumerators asked are part of the **Houselisting and Housing Operations (HLO)**, the first phase of the **Population Census 2027**.
  प्रगणकों द्वारा पूछे गए प्रश्न **हाउसलिस्टिंग एंड हाउसिंग ऑपरेशंस (HLO)** का हिस्सा हैं, जो **जनसंख्या जनगणना 2027** का पहला चरण है।
- The questionnaire was notified by the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India** on **January 22**.
  इस प्रश्नावली को **भारत के रजिस्ट्रार जनरल एवं जनगणना आयुक्त** द्वारा **22 जनवरी** को अधिसूचित किया गया था।
- The **2027 Census** marks several firsts: it is India's first fully digital Census, the first to collect caste data, and the first to allow residents to self-enumerate.
  2027 की जनगणना कई दृष्टियों से पहली होगी: यह भारत की पहली पूर्णतः डिजिटल जनगणना है, पहली बार जातिगत आंकड़े एकत्र किए जाएंगे, और पहली बार नागरिक स्वयं अपना पंजीकरण कर सकेंगे।
- The exercise was originally scheduled for **2021**, but was postponed because of the **COVID-19 pandemic**.
  यह कार्य मूल रूप से **2021** में होना था, लेकिन **कोविड-19 महामारी** के कारण इसे स्थगित कर दिया गया।
- As a result, India is conducting its population count six years later than the decennial schedule, with governments continuing to rely on **2011 Census data** for policy planning and welfare programmes.
  परिणामस्वरूप, भारत अपनी जनगणना निर्धारित दस वर्षीय चक्र से छह वर्ष बाद कर रहा है, जबकि सरकारें अभी भी नीति निर्माण और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लिए **2011 की जनगणना** के आंकड़ों पर निर्भर हैं।
- The **HLO phase** involves the collection of data on housing conditions, household composition, basic amenities, and assets to assess living standards.
  HLO चरण में आवासीय स्थिति, परिवार की संरचना, बुनियादी सुविधाओं और संपत्तियों से संबंधित आंकड़े एकत्र किए जाते हैं ताकि जीवन स्तर का आकलन किया जा सके।
- It captures information on the structure of dwellings; access to water, sanitation, and energy, ownership of consumer goods, and the number of people living in a household.
  इसमें मकानों की संरचना, जल, स्वच्छता और ऊर्जा की उपलब्धता, उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं का स्वामित्व तथा एक परिवार में रहने वाले लोगों की संख्या से संबंधित जानकारी एकत्र की जाती है।
- It also collects residents' mobile numbers for official communication.
  इसमें आधिकारिक संपर्क हेतु निवासियों के मोबाइल नंबर भी एकत्र किए जाते हैं।
- The **HLO phase** will lay the foundation for the second phase of the Census — **Population Enumeration** — scheduled for **February 2027**.
  HLO चरण जनगणना के दूसरे चरण — **जनसंख्या गणना (Population Enumeration)** — की नींव रखेगा, जो **फरवरी 2027** में निर्धारित है।
- In **Ladakh** and the snow-bound regions of **Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh**, both phases have been set a deadline of **September 30, 2026**, due to weather constraints.
  लद्दाख तथा **उत्तराखंड, जम्मू-कश्मीर और हिमाचल प्रदेश** के हिमाच्छादित क्षेत्रों में मौसम संबंधी बाधाओं के कारण दोनों चरणों की अंतिम तिथि **30 सितंबर 2026** निर्धारित की गई है।
- The second phase will enumerate caste and collect other detailed individual-level data, including religion.
  दूसरे चरण में जाति की गणना की जाएगी तथा धर्म सहित अन्य विस्तृत व्यक्तिगत आंकड़े एकत्र किए जाएंगे।

- Each enumerator gets an **honorarium of ₹25,000** for completing the task.
  प्रत्येक प्रगणक को कार्य पूरा करने पर **₹25,000 का मानदेय** दिया जाता है।
- So far, **23 States and Union Territories** have completed the first phase.
  अब तक **23 राज्य और केंद्रशासित प्रदेश** पहला चरण पूरा कर चुके हैं।

Meeting strangers
अजनबियों से मुलाकात

- With several occupants being working professionals, Soumina said it was difficult to get them to answer questions during the day.
  कई निवासी कामकाजी पेशेवर होने के कारण, सौमिना ने कहा कि दिन के समय उनसे प्रश्नों के उत्तर प्राप्त करना कठिन था।
- "Most residents leave for work around **8.30 in the morning**."
  "अधिकांश निवासी सुबह लगभग **8:30 बजे** काम पर निकल जाते हैं।"
- "So I visited homes between **7 and 7.30** with my husband."
  "इसलिए मैं अपने पति के साथ **7 बजे से 7:30 बजे** के बीच घरों में जाती थी।"
- "While some were accommodative, others asked us to come again later or skip the exercise altogether," she said.
  "जहां कुछ लोग सहयोगी थे, वहीं कुछ ने हमें बाद में आने या सर्वेक्षण को पूरी तरह छोड़ देने के लिए कहा," उन्होंने कहा।
- If a house was locked, she would go back again and again until she got the data, Soumina added.
  सौमिना ने बताया कि यदि कोई घर बंद मिलता था तो वह आवश्यक जानकारी मिलने तक बार-बार वहां जाती थीं।
- "Sometimes the visit extended into the evening, so I would again go with my husband."
  "कभी-कभी यह दौरा शाम तक चल जाता था, इसलिए मैं फिर अपने पति के साथ जाती थी।"
- Like her, many female enumerators, mostly government school teachers, said they asked their husbands or other male members in their families to accompany them during field visits.
  उनकी तरह कई महिला प्रगणकों, जो अधिकांशतः सरकारी विद्यालयों की शिक्षिकाएं थीं, ने बताया कि वे फील्ड विजिट के दौरान अपने पति या परिवार के अन्य पुरुष सदस्यों को साथ ले जाती थीं।
- **Meenu Verma**, a primary school teacher from **Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh**, said that her husband and brother-in-law helped her during the exercise.
  उत्तर प्रदेश के रायबरेली की प्राथमिक विद्यालय शिक्षिका **मीनू वर्मा** ने कहा कि इस कार्य के दौरान उनके पति और देवर ने उनकी सहायता की।
- "I was assigned **172 houses**," she said.
  "मुझे **172 घरों** का कार्य सौंपा गया था," उन्होंने कहा।
- "My husband and I used to wake up at **4 in the morning** and reach the assigned village by **7**."
  "मैं और मेरे पति सुबह **4 बजे** उठते थे और **7 बजे** तक निर्धारित गांव पहुंच जाते थे।"
- "From 7 to about 11, we would find people in their homes, but after noon, due to the heat, the entire village would be deserted."
  "सुबह 7 बजे से लगभग 11 बजे तक लोग घरों में मिल जाते थे, लेकिन दोपहर के बाद गर्मी के कारण पूरा गांव सुनसान हो जाता था।"
- She said they would then hesitate to knock on doors.
  उन्होंने कहा कि इसके बाद वे लोगों के दरवाजे खटखटाने में संकोच करते थे।
- "Many of them had no awareness about the **Census**, so we had to first explain it to them."
  "कई लोगों को **जनगणना** के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं थी, इसलिए पहले हमें उन्हें इसके बारे में समझाना पड़ता था।"

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- "I want to request the government to appoint enumerators in pairs."
  "मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहती हूं कि प्रगणकों की नियुक्ति जोड़ों में की जाए।"
- "Or a male colleague should accompany a female enumerator."
  "या फिर किसी महिला प्रगणक के साथ एक पुरुष सहकर्मी को भेजा जाए।"
- "Not everyone is polite."
  "हर व्यक्ति विनम्र नहीं होता।"
- "And in villages, houses are spread afar," Verma said.
  "और गांवों में घर काफी दूर-दूर स्थित होते हैं," वर्मा ने कहा।
- On **May 21**, a **First Information Report (FIR)** was registered against a Delhi resident for allegedly harassing a female Census enumerator while she was on duty.
  21 मई को ड्यूटी के दौरान एक महिला जनगणना प्रगणक से कथित रूप से दुर्व्यवहार करने के आरोप में दिल्ली के एक निवासी के खिलाफ **प्रथम सूचना रिपोर्ट (FIR)** दर्ज की गई।
- On **June 13**, a Delhi court convicted the accused, **Sandeep Panwar**, 43, for the crime.
  13 जून को दिल्ली की एक अदालत ने 43 वर्षीय आरोपी **संदीप पंवार** को इस अपराध के लिए दोषी ठहराया।
- Earlier, on **April 25**, a female Census enumerator...
  इससे पहले **25 अप्रैल** को एक महिला जनगणना प्रगणक के साथ भी एक घटना घटी थी... (आगे का भाग अगले खंड में जारी रहेगा)।

Meeting strangers
अजनबियों से मुलाकात

- Earlier, on **April 25**, a female **Census enumerator** was allegedly denied entry into an apartment building in **Bengaluru** where an unidentified individual allegedly used abusive language against her, following which an **FIR** was registered against him.
  इससे पहले **25 अप्रैल** को **बेंगलुरु** में एक महिला **जनगणना प्रगणक** को कथित रूप से एक अपार्टमेंट भवन में प्रवेश करने से रोक दिया गया, जहां एक अज्ञात व्यक्ति ने कथित रूप से उनके साथ अभद्र भाषा का प्रयोग किया, जिसके बाद उसके विरुद्ध **एफआईआर** दर्ज की गई।
- **Dinesh Kumar Dwivedi**, a Hindi lecturer at a government school, who was Soumina's supervisor, said six enumerators were reporting to him.
  सरकारी विद्यालय में हिंदी के व्याख्याता **दिनेश कुमार द्विवेदी**, जो सौमिना के पर्यवेक्षक थे, ने कहा कि छह प्रगणक उन्हें रिपोर्ट करते थे।
- "Fetching data from **slum clusters** was easier than seeking information from **multi-storey apartments**," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**झुग्गी बस्तियों** से डेटा एकत्र करना **बहुमंजिला अपार्टमेंटों** से जानकारी प्राप्त करने की तुलना में आसान था।"
- In **Haryana** and **Delhi**, Census enumerators, mostly government school teachers, complained that they faced hostility and were denied entry by residents of high-rise buildings and **Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs)**.
  हरियाणा और **दिल्ली** में जनगणना प्रगणकों, जिनमें अधिकांश सरकारी विद्यालयों के शिक्षक थे, ने शिकायत की कि उन्हें शत्रुतापूर्ण व्यवहार का सामना करना पड़ा और ऊंची इमारतों के निवासियों तथा **रेज़िडेंट्स वेलफेयर एसोसिएशनों (RWAs)** द्वारा प्रवेश नहीं दिया गया।
- The district administration of **Gurugram** wrote letters to RWAs saying that according to **Section 8(2) of the Census Act, 1948**, every resident is "legally bound" to answer Census-related questions to the best of their knowledge or belief.
  गुरुग्राम जिला प्रशासन ने RWAs को पत्र लिखकर कहा कि **जनगणना अधिनियम, 1948 की धारा 8(2)** के अनुसार प्रत्येक निवासी अपने ज्ञान और विश्वास के अनुसार जनगणना संबंधी प्रश्नों का उत्तर देने के लिए "कानूनी रूप से बाध्य" है।
- "The slum residents were hesitant initially," said Dwivedi, who collected data as an enumerator during the **2011 Census**.

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2011 की जनगणना में प्रगणक के रूप में कार्य कर चुके द्विवेदी ने कहा, "झुग्गी बस्तियों के निवासी शुरुआत में हिचकिचा रहे थे।"

- "They thought this was an exercise to demolish the slums."
  "उन्हें लगा कि यह झुग्गियों को हटाने की कवायद है।"
- "When they understood its purpose, they were more than forthcoming."
  "जब उन्होंने इसका उद्देश्य समझा, तो उन्होंने भरपूर सहयोग किया।"
- "Some thought that participating in it would make them eligible for government schemes."
  "कुछ लोगों को लगा कि इसमें भाग लेने से वे सरकारी योजनाओं के पात्र बन जाएंगे।"
- "Many others came to us with documents, asking for help in applying for welfare schemes."
  "कई अन्य लोग दस्तावेज लेकर हमारे पास आए और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं के लिए आवेदन करने में सहायता मांगने लगे।"
- Dwivedi recalled that in **2011**, the process was tedious: all the data had to be noted down on paper, which could get lost or damaged.
  द्विवेदी ने याद करते हुए कहा कि **2011** में यह प्रक्रिया काफी कठिन थी, क्योंकि सारा डेटा कागज पर दर्ज करना पड़ता था, जो खो सकता था या क्षतिग्रस्त हो सकता था।
- He said residents were reluctant to share information on assets as they feared **tax raids**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि लोग अपनी संपत्तियों की जानकारी साझा करने में हिचकिचाते थे क्योंकि उन्हें **कर छापों (Tax Raids)** का डर था।

The digital divide
डिजिटल विभाजन

- Beyond personal safety, the **digital divide** in India has also affected fieldwork.
  व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा के अलावा, भारत में **डिजिटल विभाजन** ने भी फील्डवर्क को प्रभावित किया है।
- In metros and towns with better mobile connectivity, enumerators entered data directly on their phones.
  बेहतर मोबाइल कनेक्टिविटी वाले महानगरों और कस्बों में प्रगणक सीधे अपने फोन पर डेटा दर्ज करते थे।
- Elsewhere, they said they recorded details on paper or in notebooks and uploaded them on the app after going back home.
  अन्य स्थानों पर उन्होंने बताया कि वे विवरण कागज या नोटबुक में दर्ज करते थे और घर लौटने के बाद उन्हें ऐप पर अपलोड करते थे।
- According to the **Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom**, conducted from January to March 2025 as a part of the **80th round of the National Sample Survey**, **83.3%** of rural households and **91.6%** of urban households had access to the Internet.
  राष्ट्रीय नमूना सर्वेक्षण के 80वें दौर के अंतर्गत जनवरी से मार्च 2025 के बीच किए गए **कॉम्प्रिहेन्सिव मॉड्यूलर सर्वे: टेलीकॉम** के अनुसार, **83.3%** ग्रामीण परिवारों और **91.6%** शहरी परिवारों को इंटरनेट की उपलब्धता थी।
- The total number of households surveyed was **34,950** (19,071 in rural areas and 15,879 in urban areas) and the total number of people was **1.42 lakh** (82,573 in rural areas and 59,492 in urban areas).
  सर्वेक्षण में कुल **34,950 परिवारों** (ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 19,071 और शहरी क्षेत्रों में 15,879) तथा कुल **1.42 लाख व्यक्तियों** (ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 82,573 और शहरी क्षेत्रों में 59,492) को शामिल किया गया।
- In the survey, a person was considered to have "used the internet" if they had accessed it at least once in the past three months.
  सर्वेक्षण में किसी व्यक्ति को "इंटरनेट उपयोगकर्ता" तभी माना गया जब उसने पिछले तीन महीनों में कम से कम एक बार इंटरनेट का उपयोग किया हो।
- "**Connectivity** is a huge issue, especially in rural areas."
  "**कनेक्टिविटी** एक बड़ी समस्या है, विशेषकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में।"

- "Once an enumerator has logged in, it is difficult to make changes, and if the network is poor, the data can get corrupted," said an enumerator from **U.P.**
  "एक बार प्रगणक के लॉग-इन करने के बाद बदलाव करना कठिन हो जाता है, और यदि नेटवर्क खराब हो तो डेटा भी खराब हो सकता है," **उत्तर प्रदेश** के एक प्रगणक ने कहा।
- Enumerators use their own phones to collect the data and have been asked not to delete the apps during the enumeration phase.
  प्रगणक डेटा संग्रह के लिए अपने निजी मोबाइल फोन का उपयोग करते हैं और उन्हें गणना अवधि के दौरान ऐप को हटाने से मना किया गया है।
- However, they said the app crashes often.
  हालांकि, उनका कहना है कि ऐप अक्सर क्रैश हो जाता है।
- On the **Google Play Store**, the **Census 2027 Houselist App**, which has more than **10 lakh downloads**, has a rating of **2.9**.
  गूगल प्ले स्टोर पर **Census 2027 Houselist App**, जिसे **10 लाख से अधिक बार डाउनलोड** किया गया है, की रेटिंग **2.9** है।
- It can only be downloaded by authorised users — enumerators, supervisors, and charge officers.
  इसे केवल अधिकृत उपयोगकर्ता — प्रगणक, पर्यवेक्षक और चार्ज अधिकारी — ही डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं।
- Of the **4,570 reviews** submitted, **2,054 users** gave it a one-star rating, while **1,735** rated it five stars.
  प्राप्त **4,570 समीक्षाओं** में से **2,054 उपयोगकर्ताओं** ने इसे एक-स्टार रेटिंग दी, जबकि **1,735** ने इसे पांच-स्टार रेटिंग दी।

Facing FIRs
एफआईआर का सामना

- On the outskirts of Delhi, in **Noida Sector-6**, **Indu Prakash Singh**, charge officer, who oversees the work of enumerators and supervisors, set up a camp office at the **Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre** to monitor Census-related work.
  दिल्ली की सीमा से लगे **नोएडा सेक्टर-6** में प्रगणकों और पर्यवेक्षकों के कार्य की निगरानी करने वाले चार्ज अधिकारी **इंदु प्रकाश सिंह** ने जनगणना कार्यों की निगरानी के लिए **इंदिरा गांधी सांस्कृतिक केंद्र** में एक कैंप कार्यालय स्थापित किया।
- Officials with technical expertise were stationed in a large hall, with computer screens placed on desks arranged in a semicircle.
  तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता वाले अधिकारियों को एक बड़े हॉल में तैनात किया गया था, जहां कंप्यूटर स्क्रीन अर्धवृत्ताकार ढंग से सजाई गई मेजों पर रखी गई थीं।
- Singh's job was to ensure the smooth conduct of the exercise, which entailed surveying **2,309 house-listing blocks (HLBs)**, each comprising **150-180 households** with a population of **800-1,000**.
  सिंह का कार्य इस प्रक्रिया को सुचारु रूप से संचालित करना था, जिसमें **2,309 हाउस-लिस्टिंग ब्लॉकों (HLBs)** का सर्वेक्षण शामिल था, जिनमें प्रत्येक में **150-180 परिवार** और **800-1,000 की आबादी** थी।
- The exercise ran from **May 22 to June 20** in **U.P.**
  उत्तर प्रदेश में यह प्रक्रिया **22 मई से 20 जून** तक चली।
- Though Census activities are usually carried out by government employees, in U.P., private-school teachers were also enrolled to tide over the shortage of government school teachers.
  हालांकि जनगणना कार्य सामान्यतः सरकारी कर्मचारियों द्वारा किया जाता है, लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में सरकारी शिक्षकों की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए निजी विद्यालयों के शिक्षकों को भी शामिल किया गया।

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GS Paper 1: Geography	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	T.N. House unanimously opposes Karnataka govt.'s Mekedatu dam proposal तमिलनाडु विधानसभा ने कर्नाटक सरकार के मेकेदातु बांध प्रस्ताव का सर्वसम्मति से विरोध किया
20J6	Four glacial lakes in Arunachal have expanded in a decade: study अरुणाचल प्रदेश की चार हिमनदीय झीलों का एक दशक में विस्तार हुआ: अध्ययन

Still waters, calm minds

A yoga session under way on Pokhribal Lake in Srinagar on Friday, in the run-up to International Yoga Day observed on June 21. IMRAN NISSAR

A yoga session is under way on Pokhribal Lake in Srinagar on Friday, in the run-up to International Yoga Day observed on June 21.

20J6. Four glacial lakes in Arunachal have expanded in a decade: study
अरुणाचल प्रदेश की चार हिमनदीय झीलों का एक दशक में विस्तार हुआ: अध्ययन

- Analysis by a geospatial **intelligence firm** shows that the '**high-risk**' lakes have increased in area, with one of them growing by **10 hectares**.
  भू-स्थानिक खुफिया कंपनी के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि '**उच्च-जोखिम**' वाली झीलों का क्षेत्रफल बढ़ा है, जिनमें से एक झील का विस्तार **10 हेक्टेयर** तक हुआ है।
- Experts say expansion warrants attention but should not be interpreted as evidence of an impending disaster.
  विशेषज्ञ का कहना है कि इस विस्तार पर ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन इसे किसी आसन्न आपदा का प्रमाण नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।
- A satellite-based assessment of **five glacial lakes** in the **Tawang district** of **Arunachal Pradesh** has found that four have expanded over the last decade, with one lake showing rapid growth, adding fresh evidence to concerns over the threat posed by **Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)** in the eastern Himalaya.
  अरुणाचल प्रदेश के **तवांग जिले** की **पांच हिमनदीय झीलों** के उपग्रह-आधारित आकलन में पाया गया है कि पिछले एक दशक में उनमें से चार का विस्तार हुआ है, जबकि एक झील में तीव्र वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है, जिससे पूर्वी हिमालय में **हिमनदीय झील विस्फोट बाढ़ (GLOFs)** के खतरे को लेकर चिंताएं और बढ़ गई हैं।
- The analysis — a report and not a peer-reviewed study — conducted by the Noida-based **geospatial intelligence firm Suhora Technologies**, examined five lakes in the **Mago Chu basin** that have been classified by the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** as "**high-risk**" or "**very high-risk**".
  नोएडा स्थित **भू-स्थानिक खुफिया कंपनी सुहोरा टेक्नोलॉजीज** द्वारा किया गया यह विश्लेषण — जो एक रिपोर्ट है, सहकर्मी-समीक्षित अध्ययन नहीं — **मागो चू बेसिन** की पांच झीलों की जांच करता है, जिन्हें **राष्ट्रीय आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (NDMA)** ने "**उच्च-जोखिम**" या "**अत्यधिक उच्च-जोखिम**" के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है।
- The assessment comes amid heightened attention on glacial hazards in the region following a recent risk evaluation by the **Centre for Earth Sciences and Himalayan Studies (CESHS), Arunachal Pradesh**.

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यह आकलन **पृथ्वी विज्ञान एवं हिमालयी अध्ययन केंद्र (CESHS), अरुणाचल प्रदेश** द्वारा हाल ही में किए गए जोखिम मूल्यांकन के बाद क्षेत्र में हिमनदीय खतरों पर बढ़ते ध्यान के बीच सामने आया है।

- Using imagery from **ICEYE, PlanetScope, and LISS-IV satellites**, Suhora compared the extent of the lakes between 2016 and June 2026.
  ICEYE, PlanetScope और LISS-IV उपग्रहों की छवियों का उपयोग करते हुए, सुहोरा ने वर्ष 2016 और जून 2026 के बीच झीलों के विस्तार की तुलना की।
- In a press statement, the company said that "four out of five lakes have expanded, reflecting a general trend of **glacial retreat** and **meltwater storage**".
  एक प्रेस वक्तव्य में कंपनी ने कहा कि "पांच में से चार झीलों का विस्तार हुआ है, जो **हिमनदों के पीछे हटने** और **पिघले हुए जल के संचय** की सामान्य प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है।"
- However, it cautioned that "lake expansion does not directly indicate a flood event" and said the findings instead highlighted "the importance of regular monitoring and further assessment to better understand future risks".
  हालांकि, कंपनी ने चेतावनी दी कि "झील का विस्तार सीधे तौर पर बाढ़ की घटना का संकेत नहीं देता" और कहा कि निष्कर्ष "भविष्य के जोखिमों को बेहतर ढंग से समझने के लिए नियमित निगरानी और आगे के आकलन के महत्व" को रेखांकित करते हैं।

High-risk lakes
उच्च-जोखिम वाली झीलें

- Among the lakes analysed, **Sanhapo Lake** showed the most significant growth.
  विश्लेषित झीलों में **सन्हापो झील** में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
- Suhora estimated its area at **78.07 hectares** in 2019, increasing to **88.81 hectares** by mid-June 2026.
  सुहोरा ने वर्ष 2019 में इसका क्षेत्रफल **78.07 हेक्टेयर** आंका था, जो जून 2026 के मध्य तक बढ़कर **88.81 हेक्टेयर** हो गया।
- The company said that while uncertainties remain regarding its historical extent because of ice cover visible in its 2016 imagery, the lake has exhibited sustained expansion in recent years.
  कंपनी ने कहा कि 2016 की उपग्रह छवियों में दिखाई देने वाली बर्फीली परत के कारण इसके ऐतिहासिक विस्तार को लेकर कुछ अनिश्चितताएं बनी हुई हैं, फिर भी हाल के वर्षों में झील में निरंतर विस्तार देखा गया है।
- Given its size and continued growth, Suhora identified it as the highest-priority lake among those assessed for detailed hazard modelling, continuous monitoring and possible **early-warning systems**.
  इसके आकार और निरंतर वृद्धि को देखते हुए, सुहोरा ने इसे विस्तृत खतरा मॉडलिंग, सतत निगरानी और संभावित **पूर्व चेतावनी प्रणालियों** के लिए सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता वाली झील के रूप में चिन्हित किया।
- The remaining lakes showed more modest changes.
  अन्य झीलों में अपेक्षाकृत मामूली परिवर्तन दर्ज किए गए।
- Two lakes categorised by the **NDMA** as "**very high risk**" expanded by about a hectare over the decade, while **Dharkha Tso**, listed as "**high risk**", also recorded gradual growth.
  NDMA द्वारा "**अत्यधिक उच्च-जोखिम**" श्रेणी में रखी गई दो झीलों का विस्तार लगभग एक हेक्टेयर हुआ, जबकि "**उच्च-जोखिम**" श्रेणी में सूचीबद्ध **धारखा त्सो** में भी क्रमिक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
- A fifth lake remained broadly stable over the observation period.
  पांचवीं झील अवलोकन अवधि के दौरान लगभग स्थिर बनी रही।
- **Amit Kumar**, co-founder and chief operating officer of **Suhora Technologies**, said satellite observations were increasingly important for monitoring remote mountain regions where field access was often difficult.
  सुहोरा टेक्नोलॉजीज के सह-संस्थापक और मुख्य परिचालन अधिकारी **अमित कुमार** ने कहा कि दूरस्थ

पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों की निगरानी के लिए उपग्रह अवलोकन लगातार अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होते जा रहे हैं, जहां प्रत्यक्ष क्षेत्रीय पहुंच अक्सर कठिन होती है।

- "By comparing satellite imagery across multiple years, it is possible to track changes in glacial lake extent…with the **monsoon season** approaching, continuous observation of glacial lakes becomes increasingly important", he added.
  "कई वर्षों की उपग्रह छवियों की तुलना करके हिमनदीय झीलों के विस्तार में हुए परिवर्तनों का पता लगाया जा सकता है... और **मानसून ऋतु** के निकट आने के साथ हिमनदीय झीलों का निरंतर अवलोकन और भी महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है," उन्होंने कहा।
- **Anil Kulkarni**, glaciologist and distinguished fellow at the **Divecha Centre for Climate Change**, **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**, and who wasn't connected to the study, said the observed expansion warranted attention but should not be interpreted as evidence of an impending disaster.
  भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान, बेंगलुरु के **दिवेचा सेंटर फॉर क्लाइमेट चेंज** के हिमनद वैज्ञानिक और विशिष्ट फेलो **अनिल कुलकर्णी**, जो इस अध्ययन से जुड़े नहीं थे, ने कहा कि देखा गया विस्तार ध्यान देने योग्य है, लेकिन इसे किसी आसन्न आपदा का प्रमाण नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।
- "If lakes are expanding, then it is considered as an unstable lake," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "यदि झीलों का विस्तार हो रहा है, तो उन्हें अस्थिर झील माना जाता है।"
- However, he stressed that the key question was why a lake was growing.
  हालांकि, उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि मुख्य प्रश्न यह है कि झील का विस्तार क्यों हो रहा है।
- Lakes impounded by **moraines** — ridges of rock and debris deposited by glaciers — can become hazardous when retreating glaciers increase the volume of water trapped behind them.
  मोरैनों — अर्थात हिमनदों द्वारा जमा की गई चट्टानों और मलबे की दीवारों — द्वारा अवरुद्ध झीलें तब खतरनाक बन सकती हैं जब पीछे हटते हिमनद उनके पीछे फंसे जल की मात्रा बढ़ा दें।
- Yet several other factors determine risk, including the possibility of **landslides, avalanches or rockfalls** entering the lake.
  फिर भी जोखिम का निर्धारण कई अन्य कारकों से होता है, जिनमें झील में **भूस्खलन, हिमस्खलन या चट्टानों के गिरने** की संभावना भी शामिल है।
- "Mere increase in area, even over a decade, cannot be a single criterion" for judging how dangerous a lake is, Mr. Kulkarni told The Hindu.
  श्री कुलकर्णी ने कहा, "केवल क्षेत्रफल में वृद्धि, चाहे वह एक दशक में ही क्यों न हुई हो, किसी झील की खतरनाकता का एकमात्र मापदंड नहीं हो सकती।"
- "It can be a concern, but how risky it is, we do not know."
  "यह चिंता का विषय हो सकता है, लेकिन यह कितना जोखिमपूर्ण है, यह हम नहीं जानते।"

Concerns over floods
बाढ़ को लेकर चिंताएं

- Worries over **Himalayan glacial hazards** have intensified since the **October 2023 disaster in Sikkim**, when a breach associated with **South Lhonak Lake** triggered floods that killed dozens of people and destroyed the **Chungthang hydropower dam**.
  हिमालयी हिमनदीय खतरों को लेकर चिंताएं **अक्टूबर 2023 में सिक्किम की आपदा** के बाद बढ़ गई हैं, जब **साउथ ल्होनाक झील** से जुड़ी एक घटना के कारण आई बाढ़ ने दर्जनों लोगों की जान ले ली और **चुंगथांग जलविद्युत बांध** को नष्ट कर दिया।
- **GLOFs** can occur when natural moraine dams fail or when large avalanches, landslides, or icefalls suddenly displace water and generate destructive waves.
  GLOFs तब उत्पन्न हो सकते हैं जब प्राकृतिक मोरैन बांध विफल हो जाएं या बड़े हिमस्खलन, भूस्खलन अथवा हिमखंडों के गिरने से अचानक जल विस्थापित होकर विनाशकारी लहरें उत्पन्न हों।

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- Mr. Kulkarni said India's ability to identify potentially dangerous glacial lakes had improved considerably through satellite monitoring and modelling.
  श्री कुलकर्णी ने कहा कि उपग्रह निगरानी और मॉडलिंग के माध्यम से संभावित रूप से खतरनाक हिमनदीय झीलों की पहचान करने की भारत की क्षमता में काफी सुधार हुआ है।
- However, he argued that translating scientific assessments into practical risk reduction remained a major challenge.
  हालांकि, उन्होंने कहा कि वैज्ञानिक आकलनों को व्यावहारिक जोखिम न्यूनीकरण उपायों में बदलना अभी भी एक बड़ी चुनौती बना हुआ है।

GS Paper II: Polity	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	Walking on footpath is a fundamental right, says SC फुटपाथ पर चलना एक मौलिक अधिकार है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा'

Walking on footpath is a fundamental right, says SC

GS II: Polity

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday, in a judgment, declared the freedom to walk on demarcated and well-maintained footpaths a fundamental right which has priority over movement by motorised vehicles. The court highlighted the need to lay down a statutory framework, not only for declaring the right to walk a fundamental right, but also to recognise the duty-bearers.

"If a road exists, there must then be a duty to ensure that a footpath is demarcated and maintained for the walkers. This is an enforceable duty. The fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths shall override the privilege of a motorised vehicle," Justice P.S. Narasimha, who authored the judgment, held.

The judgment came in a case of the death of a five-year-old boy who was crushed to death by a truck while walking to school with his father. The court found that the parent was entitled to compensation of over ₹11 lakh.

'Most basic of rights'

Justice Narasimha said walking safely and carefree along footpaths, without danger lurking at every turn, was the most basic of rights. "It is the simplest of the human activity, inextricably connected to life."

The court said the Constitution recognised and guaranteed walking as a fundamental right in its words, "All citizens shall have the right... to move freely throughout the territory of India".

But over the years, demands of trade and urbanisation have relegated walking to an inconvenience. Governments and local bodies paralleled wide roads and expressways to growth, building motorways while leaving little space for walking, the court said.

"It could also be elitism to start with, for machines with wheels were only for the rich, but as economies progressed and cheaper motor vehicles were introduced, the entire spectrum of motorised transportation dominated the roads, pushed aside the walkers to the extent that they are treated as a nuisance for the drivers who routinely run over the walkers and their footpaths. This should stop from now on as we declare the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths alongside motorised roads," the top court said.

"Walking is a struggle for the not-so-fortunate, meditation in motion for many, resistance for others, discovery for the inquisitive, a cohesive strategy for sharp socio-political minds. It certainly did inspire and ignite some of the ideals of the freedom struggle... In that sense, walking is not just motion, it certainly embodies expressional, congregational and associational rights under Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b) and Article 19 (1)(c)," Justice Narasimha said. Common spaces must not be the monopoly of motorised vehicles. The freedom to walk, subject to reasonable restrictions, also deserved ample space.

"In reality, how much does it take to create a well-demarcated footpath wherever a road exists? All that the fundamental right to walk demands is a comfortable space for an easy and carefree walk. Should this not be the minimum of the minimum duty that a municipal authority owes to the citizens?" the top court asked the government.

Regulatory body

It said that the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, had never bothered to recognise the fundamental right to walk. The Supreme Court also highlighted that the proposed Act must protect, enhance, and provide quick remedies for violations, and also establish a full-time regulator to plan, enforce, and implement the right to walk

"To enhance and effectuate the fundamental right to walk on demarcated footpaths, it is necessary to establish a regulatory body... Institutional expertise is critical, and such a regulator will employ human resources with domain expertise and talent," Justice Narasimha said. The court directed its Registry to send a copy of the judgment to the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rural Development, Road Transport and Highways, to "reflect on the compelling necessity for initiating the necessary legal framework".

The Justice also said Constitutional courts were also obliged to declare and reiterate the right to walk as a fundamental right.

> If a road exists, there must then be a duty to ensure that a footpath is demarcated and maintained for the walkers. This is an enforceable duty... Walking is not just motion, it embodies expressional, congregational and associational rights under Article 19
> SUPREME COURT

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20J6. Walking on footpath is a fundamental right, says SC

फुटपाथ पर चलना एक मौलिक अधिकार है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा

- The **Supreme Court** on Friday, in a judgment, declared the freedom to walk on **demarcated** and well-maintained **footpaths** a **fundamental right** which has priority over movement by **motorised vehicles**.

शुक्रवार को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने एक निर्णय में **चिह्नित** और सुव्यवस्थित **फुटपाथों** पर चलने की स्वतंत्रता को एक **मौलिक अधिकार** घोषित किया, जिसे **मोटर चालित वाहनों** की आवाजाही पर प्राथमिकता प्राप्त होगी।

- The court highlighted the need to lay down a **statutory framework**, not only for declaring the right to walk a **fundamental right**, but also to recognise the **duty-bearers**.

अदालत ने इस आवश्यकता पर बल दिया कि चलने के अधिकार को **मौलिक अधिकार** घोषित करने के साथ-साथ **कर्तव्य निभाने वालों** को भी मान्यता देने हेतु एक **वैधानिक ढांचा** बनाया जाए।

- "If a road exists, there must then be a duty to ensure that a **footpath** is demarcated and maintained for the walkers.

"यदि कोई सड़क मौजूद है, तो यह सुनिश्चित करने का दायित्व होना चाहिए कि पैदल चलने वालों के लिए **फुटपाथ** चिह्नित और सुव्यवस्थित हो।

- This is an **enforceable duty**.

यह एक **प्रवर्तनीय दायित्व** है।

- The **fundamental right** to walk on demarcated footpaths shall override the privilege of a motorised vehicle," Justice **P. S. Narasimha**, who authored the judgment, held.

निर्णय लिखने वाले न्यायमूर्ति **पी. एस. नरसिम्हा** ने कहा कि

चिह्नित फुटपाथों पर चलने का **मौलिक अधिकार**, मोटर वाहन के विशेषाधिकार पर वरीयता रखेगा।

- The judgment came in a case of the death of a **five-year-old boy** who was crushed to death by a truck while walking to school with his father.
  यह निर्णय एक **पांच वर्षीय बालक** की मृत्यु के मामले में आया, जिसे अपने पिता के साथ स्कूल जाते समय एक ट्रक ने कुचल दिया था।
- The court found that the parent was entitled to **compensation** of over **₹11 lakh**.
  अदालत ने पाया कि माता-पिता **₹11 लाख** से अधिक के **मुआवजे** के हकदार हैं।

'Most basic of rights'
'अधिकारों में सबसे बुनियादी अधिकार'

- Justice Narasimha said walking safely and carefree along footpaths, without danger lurking at every turn, was the most basic of rights.
  न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने कहा कि हर मोड़ पर खतरे के बिना, फुटपाथों पर सुरक्षित और निश्चिंत होकर चलना अधिकारों में सबसे बुनियादी अधिकार है।
- "It is the simplest of human activity, inextricably connected to life."
  "यह मानव गतिविधियों में सबसे सरल है, जो जीवन से अविच्छिन्न रूप से जुड़ी हुई है।"
- The court said the **Constitution** recognised and guaranteed walking as a **fundamental right** in its words, "All citizens shall have the right… to move freely throughout the territory of India".
  अदालत ने कहा कि **संविधान** ने चलने को एक **मौलिक अधिकार** के रूप में मान्यता दी है और इसकी गारंटी दी है, जिसमें कहा गया है, "सभी नागरिकों को... भारत के समस्त क्षेत्र में स्वतंत्र रूप से घूमने का अधिकार होगा।"
- But over the years, demands of trade and urbanisation have relegated walking to an inconvenience.
  लेकिन वर्षों में व्यापार और शहरीकरण की मांगों ने पैदल चलने को एक असुविधा बना दिया है।
- Governments and local bodies paralleled wide roads and expressways to growth, building motorways while leaving little space for walking, the court said.
  अदालत ने कहा कि सरकारों और स्थानीय निकायों ने विकास को चौड़ी सड़कों और एक्सप्रेसवे से जोड़ा तथा मोटरमार्ग बनाए, जबकि पैदल चलने के लिए बहुत कम स्थान छोड़ा।
- "It could also be elitism to start with, for machines with wheels were only for the rich, but as economies progressed and cheaper motor vehicles were introduced, the entire spectrum of motorised transportation dominated the roads, pushed aside the walkers to the extent that they are treated as a nuisance for the drivers who routinely run over the walkers and their footpaths.
  "शुरुआत में यह अभिजात्यवाद भी हो सकता था, क्योंकि पहियों वाली मशीनें केवल अमीरों के लिए थीं, लेकिन जैसे-जैसे अर्थव्यवस्थियां विकसित हुईं और सस्ते मोटर वाहन आए, मोटर चालित परिवहन ने सड़कों पर प्रभुत्व स्थापित कर लिया और पैदल चलने वालों को इस हद तक किनारे कर दिया कि उन्हें वाहन चालकों द्वारा परेशानी समझा जाने लगा।
- This should stop from now on as we declare the **fundamental right** to walk on demarcated footpaths alongside motorised roads," the top court said.
  शीर्ष अदालत ने कहा, "अब यह रुकना चाहिए क्योंकि हम मोटर सड़कों के साथ चिह्नित फुटपाथों पर चलने के **मौलिक अधिकार** की घोषणा कर रहे हैं।"
- "Walking is a struggle for the not-so-fortunate, meditation in motion for many, resistance for others, discovery for the inquisitive, a cohesive strategy for sharp socio-political minds.
  "पैदल चलना कम भाग्यशाली लोगों के लिए संघर्ष है, अनेक लोगों के लिए गतिशील ध्यान है, कुछ के लिए प्रतिरोध है, जिज्ञासुओं के लिए खोज है और तीक्ष्ण सामाजिक-राजनीतिक मस्तिष्कों के लिए एक समन्वित रणनीति है।
- It certainly did inspire and ignite some of the ideals of the **freedom struggle**…
  इसने निश्चित रूप से **स्वतंत्रता संग्राम** के कुछ आदर्शों को प्रेरित और प्रज्ज्वलित किया।

- In that sense, walking is not just motion, it certainly embodies **expressional**, **congregational** and **associational rights** under **Article 19(1)(a)**, **Article 19(1)(b)** and **Article 19(1)(c),"** Justice Narasimha said.
  इस अर्थ में पैदल चलना केवल गति नहीं है, बल्कि यह **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a)**, **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(b)** और **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(c)** के अंतर्गत **अभिव्यक्ति**, **सभा** और **संघ बनाने के अधिकारों** को भी समाहित करता है," न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने कहा।
- Common spaces must not be the monopoly of motorised vehicles.
  सार्वजनिक स्थान मोटर चालित वाहनों का एकाधिकार नहीं होने चाहिए।
- The freedom to walk, subject to reasonable restrictions, also deserved ample space.
  उचित प्रतिबंधों के अधीन पैदल चलने की स्वतंत्रता को भी पर्याप्त स्थान मिलना चाहिए।
- "In reality, how much does it take to create a well-demarcated footpath wherever a road exists?
  "वास्तव में जहां भी सड़क है, वहां एक सुव्यवस्थित और स्पष्ट रूप से चिह्नित फुटपाथ बनाने में कितना लगता है?
- All that the **fundamental right** to walk demands is a comfortable space for an easy and carefree walk.
  पैदल चलने का **मौलिक अधिकार** केवल एक सहज और निश्चिंत पैदल यात्रा के लिए आरामदायक स्थान की मांग करता है।
- Should this not be the minimum of the minimum duty that a municipal authority owes to the citizens?" the top court asked the government.
  क्या यह नागरिकों के प्रति किसी नगर निकाय का न्यूनतम से भी न्यूनतम दायित्व नहीं होना चाहिए?" शीर्ष अदालत ने सरकार से पूछा।

Regulatory body
नियामक निकाय

- It said that the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, had never bothered to recognise the **fundamental right** to walk.
  अदालत ने कहा कि **मोटर वाहन अधिनियम, 1988** ने कभी भी पैदल चलने के **मौलिक अधिकार** को मान्यता देने की चिंता नहीं की।
- The Supreme Court also highlighted that the proposed Act must protect, enhance, and provide quick remedies for violations, and also establish a full-time **regulator** to plan, enforce, and implement the right to walk.
  सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने यह भी रेखांकित किया कि प्रस्तावित कानून को इस अधिकार की रक्षा करनी चाहिए, इसे सुदृढ़ बनाना चाहिए, उल्लंघनों के लिए त्वरित उपचार उपलब्ध कराना चाहिए तथा पैदल चलने के अधिकार की योजना, प्रवर्तन और क्रियान्वयन के लिए एक पूर्णकालिक **नियामक** स्थापित करना चाहिए।
- "To enhance and effectuate the **fundamental right** to walk on demarcated footpaths, it is necessary to establish a **regulatory body**…
  "चिह्नित फुटपाथों पर चलने के **मौलिक अधिकार** को सशक्त और प्रभावी बनाने के लिए एक **नियामक निकाय** की स्थापना आवश्यक है...
- Institutional expertise is critical, and such a regulator will employ human resources with domain expertise and talent," Justice Narasimha said.
  संस्थागत विशेषज्ञता अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है और ऐसा नियामक क्षेत्रीय विशेषज्ञता एवं प्रतिभा वाले मानव संसाधनों को नियुक्त करेगा," न्यायमूर्ति नरसिम्हा ने कहा।
- The court directed its Registry to send a copy of the judgment to the **Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Rural Development, Road Transport and Highways**, to "reflect on the compelling necessity for initiating the necessary legal framework".
  अदालत ने अपने रजिस्ट्री को निर्देश दिया कि वह इस निर्णय की प्रति **आवास एवं शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय, ग्रामीण**

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विकास मंत्रालय तथा सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्रालय को भेजे ताकि वे "आवश्यक कानूनी ढांचे की शुरुआत की अनिवार्य आवश्यकता पर विचार करें।"

- The Justice also said **Constitutional courts** were also obliged to declare and reiterate the right to walk as a **fundamental right**.
  न्यायमूर्ति ने यह भी कहा कि **संवैधानिक न्यायालयों** का भी यह दायित्व है कि वे पैदल चलने के अधिकार को एक **मौलिक अधिकार** के रूप में घोषित करें और उसकी पुनर्पुष्टि करें।

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20J6	Right of Way मार्गाधिकार

GS II: Governance

Right of way

India needs to build more footpaths to help pedestrians walk freely

As part of the Supreme Court's expansion of Article 21 since the 1970s, it has declared the right to walk on demarcated footpaths a fundamental right. The Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar reaffirmed the right in a case seeking higher compensation for a five-year-old boy's death after being struck and killed by a tanker lorry in Karnataka. As motorised transport has become more widespread, the Bench noted with regret that walking has become an inconvenience, with motorists often treating pedestrians as a 'nuisance' to be tolerated or cleared. In the absence of a national law governing pedestrian rights, responsibility for pedestrian safety is split across municipal laws, town-planning statutes, and street design guidelines. As such, pedestrians are considered to be safe if they face no immediate physical harm. Most cities also lack continuous unobstructed footpaths; where footpaths do exist, they are often encroached on by parking, vendors, utilities, and construction debris, and competing pressures such as road widening work.

While a right to walk is desirable, the ideas that pavements belong to pedestrians and that they have right of way should be cultural in order to endure. Rights-based legislation in India that has sought to change public culture has had mixed success. The Street Vendors Act 2014 sought to protect vendors from harassment as under Article 19(1)(g). But in most cities, municipalities still conduct "eviction drives" while implementation has lagged because the Act requires surveys, town vending committees, and the demarcation of vending zones – processes that many urban local bodies have delayed or simply abandoned. Weak implementation has allowed informal rent-seeking by officials to persist in some cases. The new judgment is also likely to set up disputes with the 2014 Act. Second, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003 curtailed public smoking over 20 years, but not by "restitutionary remedies", as the Court has suggested for walking, but with consistent social messaging and small, immediate fines. Finally, despite strict laws and 'Swachh Bharat' mandates, the culture of littering remains because the law focuses on citizens' duty to segregate whereas the state has often overlooked its duty to collect segregated waste. Similarly, if the state does not build footpaths, the citizen's right will be meaningless. The Court's constitutional nudge may thus lead to no real change if it remains a legal tool for compensation after a tragedy. A state using it to 'cleanse' streets of informal commercial activity could also gentrify these public spaces and criminalise the survival of the urban poor. The nudge's principal path to success will be by moving the state's funds towards pedestrian infrastructure.

20J6. Right of Way
मार्गाधिकार

- India needs to build more **footpaths** to help **pedestrians** walk freely.

भारत को **पैदल मार्गों (फुटपाथों)** का अधिक निर्माण करने की आवश्यकता है ताकि **पैदल यात्री** स्वतंत्र रूप से चल सकें।

A right to walk
पैदल चलने का अधिकार

- As part of the **Supreme Court's** expansion of **Article 21** since the 1970s, it has declared the **right to walk** on demarcated footpaths a **fundamental right**.

1970 के दशक से **अनुच्छेद 21** के विस्तार के क्रम में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने चिह्नित फुटपाथों पर **पैदल चलने के अधिकार** को एक **मौलिक अधिकार** घोषित किया है।

- The Bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha** and **Atul S. Chandurkar** reaffirmed the right in a case seeking higher compensation for a five-year-old boy's death after being struck and killed by a tanker lorry in Karnataka.

न्यायमूर्ति **पी.एस. नरसिम्हा** और **अतुल एस. चांदुरकर** की पीठ ने कर्नाटक में एक टैंकर लॉरी की चपेट में आकर मृत्यु को प्राप्त हुए पाँच वर्षीय बालक के लिए अधिक मुआवजे की मांग से संबंधित मामले में इस अधिकार की पुनः पुष्टि की।

- As motorised transport has become more widespread, the Bench noted with regret that walking has become an inconvenience, with motorists often treating pedestrians as a **'nuisance'** to be tolerated or cleared.

मोटर चालित परिवहन के व्यापक प्रसार के साथ पीठ ने खेद व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि पैदल चलना एक असुविधा बन गया है, और वाहन चालक प्रायः पैदल यात्रियों को **'बाधा'** के रूप में देखते हैं जिसे सहन किया जाए या रास्ते से हटाया जाए।

- In the absence of a national law governing **pedestrian rights**, responsibility for pedestrian safety is split across municipal laws, town-planning statutes, and street design guidelines.

पैदल यात्रियों के अधिकारों को विनियमित करने वाले किसी राष्ट्रीय कानून के अभाव में उनकी सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी नगरपालिका कानूनों, नगर नियोजन अधिनियमों तथा सड़क अभिकल्पन दिशानिर्देशों में विभाजित है।

- As such, pedestrians are considered to be safe if they face no immediate physical harm.
  फलस्वरूप, पैदल यात्रियों को केवल तभी सुरक्षित माना जाता है जब उन्हें कोई तात्कालिक शारीरिक क्षति न हो।
- Most cities also lack continuous unobstructed **footpaths**; where footpaths do exist, they are often encroached on by parking, vendors, utilities, and construction debris, and competing pressures such as road widening work.
  अधिकांश शहरों में निरंतर एवं अवरोध-मुक्त **फुटपाथों** का अभाव है; और जहाँ फुटपाथ उपलब्ध हैं, वहाँ भी उन पर प्रायः पार्किंग, फेरीवालों, सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं, निर्माण मलबे तथा सड़क चौड़ीकरण जैसी गतिविधियों का अतिक्रमण होता है।
- While a **right to walk** is desirable, the ideas that pavements belong to pedestrians and that they have **right of way** should be cultural in order to endure.
  यद्यपि **पैदल चलने का अधिकार** वांछनीय है, परंतु यह विचार कि फुटपाथ पैदल यात्रियों के लिए हैं तथा उन्हें **मार्ग-प्राथमिकता (Right of Way)** प्राप्त है, स्थायी होने के लिए सामाजिक संस्कृति का हिस्सा बनना चाहिए।
- Rights-based legislation in India that has sought to change public culture has had mixed success.
  भारत में सार्वजनिक संस्कृति को परिवर्तित करने का प्रयास करने वाले अधिकार-आधारित कानूनों को मिश्रित सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।
- The **Street Vendors Act 2014** sought to protect vendors from harassment as under **Article 19(1)(g)**.
  स्ट्रीट वेंडर्स अधिनियम, 2014 ने **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(g)** के अंतर्गत विक्रेताओं को उत्पीड़न से संरक्षण प्रदान करने का प्रयास किया।
- But in most cities, municipalities still conduct **"eviction drives"** while implementation has lagged because the Act requires surveys, town vending committees, and the demarcation of vending zones — processes that many urban local bodies have delayed or simply abandoned.
  किन्तु अधिकांश शहरों में नगरपालिकाएँ अब भी **"अतिक्रमण हटाओ अभियान"** चलाती हैं, जबकि अधिनियम का कार्यान्वयन पीछे रह गया है क्योंकि इसके लिए सर्वेक्षण, नगर विक्रय समितियों तथा विक्रय क्षेत्रों के निर्धारण की आवश्यकता होती है — ऐसी प्रक्रियाएँ जिन्हें अनेक शहरी स्थानीय निकायों ने विलंबित कर दिया है या त्याग दिया है।
- Weak implementation has allowed informal **rent-seeking** by officials to persist in some cases.
  कमजोर क्रियान्वयन ने कुछ मामलों में अधिकारियों द्वारा अनौपचारिक **किराया-लाभ (Rent-Seeking)** की प्रवृत्ति को बनाए रखा है।
- The new judgment is also likely to set up disputes with the **2014 Act**.
  यह नया निर्णय **2014 के अधिनियम** के साथ विवाद उत्पन्न करने की संभावना भी रखता है।
- Second, the **Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act 2003** curtailed public smoking over 20 years, but not by **"restitutionary remedies"**, as the Court has suggested for walking, but with consistent social messaging and small, immediate fines.
  दूसरे, **सिगरेट एवं अन्य तंबाकू उत्पाद अधिनियम, 2003** ने बीते 20 वर्षों में सार्वजनिक धूम्रपान को कम किया, परंतु यह **"प्रतिपूरक उपायों (Restitutionary Remedies)"** के माध्यम से नहीं, जैसा कि न्यायालय ने पैदल चलने के संदर्भ में सुझाया है, बल्कि निरंतर सामाजिक संदेशों तथा छोटे एवं त्वरित जुर्मानों के माध्यम से संभव हुआ।
- Finally, despite strict laws and **'Swachh Bharat'** mandates, the culture of littering remains because the law focuses on citizens' duty to segregate whereas the state has often overlooked its duty to collect segregated waste.
  अंततः, कठोर कानूनों और **'स्वच्छ भारत'** के निर्देशों के बावजूद कूड़ा फैलाने की संस्कृति बनी हुई है, क्योंकि कानून नागरिकों के कचरा पृथक्करण के दायित्व पर केंद्रित है, जबकि राज्य ने अक्सर पृथक किए गए कचरे के संग्रहण के अपने दायित्व की उपेक्षा की है।

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- Similarly, if the state does not build **footpaths**, the citizen's right will be meaningless.
  इसी प्रकार, यदि राज्य **फुटपाथों** का निर्माण नहीं करता, तो नागरिकों का यह अधिकार निरर्थक हो जाएगा।
- The Court's constitutional **nudge** may thus lead to no real change if it remains a legal tool for compensation after a tragedy.
  अतः न्यायालय का यह संवैधानिक **प्रेरक संकेत (Nudge)** वास्तविक परिवर्तन नहीं ला पाएगा यदि यह केवल किसी दुर्घटना के बाद मुआवजा दिलाने का कानूनी साधन बनकर रह जाए।
- A state using it to **'cleanse' streets** of informal commercial activity could also **gentrify** these public spaces and criminalise the survival of the urban poor.
  यदि राज्य इसका उपयोग अनौपचारिक व्यावसायिक गतिविधियों से सड़कों को **'मुक्त'** करने के लिए करता है, तो यह सार्वजनिक स्थानों के **उच्चवर्गीकरण (Gentrification)** को बढ़ावा दे सकता है तथा शहरी गरीबों की आजीविका को अपराध की श्रेणी में ला सकता है।
- The nudge's principal path to success will be by moving the state's funds towards **pedestrian infrastructure**.
  इस प्रेरक संकेत की सफलता का मुख्य मार्ग राज्य के वित्तीय संसाधनों को **पैदल यात्री अवसंरचना** के विकास की ओर स्थानांतरित करने में निहित होगा।

GS Paper III: Economy	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	India's cheapest power is here, the grid must catch up भारत की सबसे सस्ती विद्युत यहाँ उपलब्ध है, अब ग्रिड अवसंरचना को इसके अनुरूप विकसित होना चाहिए
20J6	World Bank approves $1.5 bn support for India reform plan विश्व बैंक ने भारत की सुधार योजना के लिए 1.5 अरब डॉलर की सहायता को मंजूरी दी
20J6	Jio eyes satellite communications जियो की नजर सैटेलाइट संचार पर
20J6	SEBI reintroduces open market stock buyback at board meet सेबी ने बोर्ड बैठक में ओपन मार्केट शेयर बायबैक को फिर से शुरू किया

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India's cheapest power is here, the grid must catch up

GS III: Economy

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The country's clean-energy future depends on faster, smarter grid expansion and optimisation

India is leaving tens of gigawatts (GW) of cheap solar and wind power stranded – not because the projects are not ready, but because the grid is not. Upgrading the existing grid with advanced technologies and adding storage at key nodes can unlock 1,000 GW of new clean energy, without acquiring any additional land for transmission.

India is on the verge of a major shift in its electricity system. Solar and wind are now the country's cheapest power sources, and deployment is accelerating, with over 45 GW added in 2025, roughly matching the United States. Paired with some of the world's lowest battery costs, India can now deliver firm clean power at about ₹3.5 per kWh.

Yet, just as technology and prices have aligned, transmission has become the defining constraint. More than 50 GW of clean capacity is already stranded because projects can come online in 12 to 18 months, but transmission takes three to five years to build, slowed by land acquisition, multi-agency approvals, and restrictions on new corridors. Without faster and smarter grid expansion, the benefits of low-cost clean energy will remain out of reach.

India has about 250 GW of renewables today, 100 GW under construction, and will need about 2,000 GW by 2050 to meet rising demand and electrify industry and transport. This implies one of the largest transmission build-outs anywhere in the world. The question is no longer whether India must build more lines – it must –but whether new lines alone will suffice. They will not. India needs both major new transmission and far better use of the network it already has.

Creating clean-energy superhighways

India can unlock the equivalent of nearly 1,000 GW of renewable energy far faster than building new lines by tapping the vast potential of its existing grid. Much of this potential is hidden in plain sight. Four opportunities stand out.

Storage unlocks more from the same wires. First, most renewable plants today use their transmission connections only about 25% of the time. For example, solar energy fills the transmission line during the day, but the same connection sits idle during evening peaks and at night. It is a bit like a highway used only during rush hour – busy for a few hours, empty the rest of the day. Adding batteries at the same locations allows power to be stored and delivered during evening peaks and at night, raising utilisation two to three times without new corridors or land. This directly enables the equivalent of 400 GW of additional clean energy.

Coal corridors can also carry clean power. Second, power lines connected to coal-based power plants offer another major opportunity. Many high-cost or old coal plants, totalling about 100 GW, operate at low output for long periods despite having valuable transmission connections. Locating solar and wind near these stations allows clean power to use this underused capacity whenever coal units are not fully loaded. In many hours it is cheaper to transmit renewable power than to run the coal plant, giving developers access to scarce grid connection and providing coal plant owners new revenue from underutilised assets. This approach can enable the equivalent of 100 GW of additional clean energy.

Using existing substations. A third opportunity sits at existing transmission substations. Many of these locations can take on new grid connections, letting more renewable projects plug straight into the system. Coupling these nodes with batteries can further support peak-demand supply and help manage power flows. Nationally, this could support around 100 GW of additional clean energy.

Modern wires can carry double the power. And fourth, much of India's grid still uses older wires or conductors that sag under heat and restrict flow. Replacing them with high-temperature, low-sag conductors – manufactured domestically – can nearly double transfer capacity on the same towers and rights-of-way. It is like upgrading the engines on a train so it can haul twice as many goods on the same track – no new land, just better technology. This added headroom allows reconductoring to double the clean energy enabled by storage and shared transmission connections – raising the total potential to over 1,000 GW within the current transmission footprint and effectively transforming today's corridors into clean-energy superhighways.

A rapid path

Crucially, these solutions can be deployed within months, not years. They require no new land for transmission, minimal permitting, and far fewer approvals than building new corridors. They can relieve bottlenecks immediately, connect stranded clean power, and let new renewable projects advance while new lines catch up. They also improve grid utilisation and lower the average cost of using the grid.

New renewable energy projects will still require significant land, but locating them near coal plants, renewable energy hubs, or substations – where some land and grid access already exist – offers a practical, lower-conflict pathway as suitable land becomes increasingly difficult to secure.

India must build new transmission, but it must build it smart. A new line built with advanced conductors and designed to work with storage can carry four to five times more clean power for only a modest additional cost. And with India planning a 40% expansion of its grid over the next decade, costing well over $100 billion and ranking among the world's largest buildouts, every kilometre must be future-proofed from the start.

India will need both approaches. Upgrading and optimising the existing grid offers the fastest relief to today's bottlenecks, while smarter, higher-capacity new transmission infrastructure will be essential to support the massive renewable energy expansion required in the coming decades.

The policy shifts that will determine success

India already enjoys structural advantages: a unified national grid and a track record of adding transmission capacity faster than many developed countries. In the U.S. and parts of Europe, the inability to connect low-cost renewable energy to the grid has become the most severe bottleneck in the energy transition. As India accelerates renewable deployment, it can avoid this trap through forward-looking policy.

Three shifts matter most. First, India's national electricity regulator has already created enabling rules that require solar plants to make better use of their grid access by pairing with storage. This approach now needs to be implemented and expanded at the State level, with regulators and utilities actively incorporating it into planning and procurement decisions.

Second, regulation and procurement norms should reward the use of advanced transmission technologies that cost slightly more upfront but deliver greater system-wide benefits over their lifetime by expanding capacity without the need for new corridors.

Third, the coordinated development of large renewable energy zones and optimised transmission corridors is essential to overcome site-selection, planning, and timing challenges, and to enable the efficient movement of vast volumes of low-cost clean energy.

These measures will help India sustain its lead in low-cost clean power at a time when industries such as steel, aluminium, cement, data centres and chemicals are increasingly demanding reliable 24X7 electricity at predictable prices. The path ahead is clear: build all the transmission India can – and get far more out of every line. The grid is no longer background infrastructure. It is India's next engine of growth, and a cornerstone of a low-cost, high-productivity future.

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6.

India's cheapest power is here, the grid must catch up

भारत की सबसे सस्ती विद्युत यहाँ उपलब्ध है, अब ग्रिड अवसंरचना को इसके अनुरूप विकसित होना चाहिए

- **India** is leaving tens of **gigawatts (GW)** of cheap **solar** and **wind power** stranded — not because the projects are not ready, but because the **grid** is not.
  भारत सस्ती **सौर** और **पवन ऊर्जा** के दर्जनों **गीगावाट (GW)** को अनुपयोगी छोड़ रहा है — इसलिए नहीं कि परियोजनाएँ तैयार नहीं हैं, बल्कि इसलिए कि **ग्रिड** तैयार नहीं है।
- Upgrading the existing grid with **advanced technologies** and adding **storage** at key nodes can unlock **1,000 GW** of new clean energy, without acquiring any additional land for transmission.
  मौजूदा ग्रिड को **उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों** से उन्नत बनाकर तथा प्रमुख बिंदुओं पर **भंडारण (Storage)** जोड़कर, संचरण हेतु अतिरिक्त भूमि अधिग्रहण किए बिना **1,000 GW** नई स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उपलब्ध कराई जा सकती है।
- **India** is on the verge of a major shift in its electricity system.
  भारत अपनी विद्युत प्रणाली में एक बड़े परिवर्तन के कगार पर खड़ा है।
- **Solar** and **wind** are now the country's cheapest power sources, and deployment is accelerating, with over **45 GW** added in 2025, roughly matching the **United States**.
  सौर और **पवन ऊर्जा** अब देश के सबसे सस्ते विद्युत स्रोत बन चुके हैं, और इनकी स्थापना तीव्र गति से बढ़ रही है। वर्ष 2025 में **45 GW** से अधिक क्षमता जोड़ी गई, जो लगभग **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के बराबर है।
- Paired with some of the world's lowest **battery costs**, India can now deliver **firm clean power** at about **₹3.5 per kWh**.

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विश्व की सबसे कम **बैटरी लागतों** में से कुछ के साथ, भारत अब लगभग **₹3.5 प्रति किलोवाट-घंटा (kWh)** की दर पर **विश्वसनीय स्वच्छ ऊर्जा** उपलब्ध करा सकता है।

- Yet, just as technology and prices have aligned, **transmission** has become the defining constraint.
  किन्तु जैसे ही प्रौद्योगिकी और लागत के बीच संतुलन स्थापित हुआ है, **विद्युत संचरण (Transmission)** सबसे बड़ी बाधा बनकर उभरा है।
- More than **50 GW** of clean capacity is already stranded because projects can come online in **12 to 18 months**, but transmission takes **three to five years** to build, slowed by **land acquisition**, multi-agency approvals, and restrictions on new corridors.
  50 GW से अधिक स्वच्छ ऊर्जा क्षमता पहले से ही फँसी हुई है क्योंकि परियोजनाएँ **12 से 18 महीनों** में चालू हो सकती हैं, जबकि संचरण अवसंरचना के निर्माण में **तीन से पाँच वर्ष** लग जाते हैं, जिसे **भूमि अधिग्रहण**, बहु-एजेंसी स्वीकृतियाँ और नए गलियारों पर प्रतिबंध धीमा कर देते हैं।
- Without faster and smarter grid expansion, the benefits of low-cost clean energy will remain out of reach.
  तेज और अधिक बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण ग्रिड विस्तार के बिना कम लागत वाली स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के लाभ लोगों की पहुँच से बाहर बने रहेंगे।
- India has about **250 GW** of renewables today, **100 GW** under construction, and will need about **2,000 GW by 2050** to meet rising demand and electrify industry and transport.
  आज भारत के पास लगभग **250 GW** नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता है, **100 GW** निर्माणाधीन है, और बढ़ती मांग को पूरा करने तथा उद्योग एवं परिवहन के विद्युतीकरण के लिए **2050 तक लगभग 2,000 GW** क्षमता की आवश्यकता होगी।
- This implies one of the largest **transmission build-outs** anywhere in the world.
  इसका अर्थ है कि भारत को विश्व की सबसे बड़ी **संचरण अवसंरचना विस्तार योजनाओं** में से एक को क्रियान्वित करना होगा।
- The question is no longer whether India must build more lines — it must — but whether new lines alone will suffice.
  अब प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि भारत को अधिक संचरण लाइनें बनानी चाहिए या नहीं — उसे अवश्य बनानी चाहिए — बल्कि यह है कि क्या केवल नई लाइनें ही पर्याप्त होंगी।
- They will not.
  वे पर्याप्त नहीं होंगी।
- India needs both major new transmission and far better use of the network it already has.
  भारत को नए बड़े पैमाने के संचरण नेटवर्क के साथ-साथ मौजूदा नेटवर्क का कहीं अधिक प्रभावी उपयोग भी करना होगा।

Creating clean-energy superhighways
स्वच्छ ऊर्जा सुपरहाइवे का निर्माण

- India can unlock the equivalent of nearly **1,000 GW** of renewable energy far faster than building new lines by tapping the vast potential of its existing grid.
  भारत अपने मौजूदा ग्रिड की विशाल क्षमता का उपयोग करके नई संचरण लाइनों के निर्माण की तुलना में कहीं अधिक तेजी से लगभग **1,000 GW** नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के समतुल्य क्षमता को उपलब्ध करा सकता है।
- Much of this potential is hidden in plain sight.
  इस क्षमता का बड़ा भाग हमारे सामने होते हुए भी अनदेखा बना हुआ है।
- **Four opportunities** stand out.
  इस संदर्भ में **चार प्रमुख अवसर** उभरकर सामने आते हैं।
- **Storage unlocks more from the same wires.**
  भंडारण (Storage) उसी संचरण नेटवर्क से अधिक क्षमता उपलब्ध कराता है।

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- First, most renewable plants today use their transmission connections only about **25%** of the time.
  पहला, अधिकांश नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा संयंत्र आज अपनी संचरण क्षमता का उपयोग केवल लगभग **25%** समय ही करते हैं।
- For example, **solar energy** fills the transmission line during the day, but the same connection sits idle during evening peaks and at night.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **सौर ऊर्जा** दिन के समय संचरण लाइन का उपयोग करती है, किन्तु वही कनेक्शन शाम के चरम मांग काल और रात्रि में निष्क्रिय रहता है।
- It is a bit like a highway used only during rush hour — busy for a few hours, empty the rest of the day.
  यह कुछ वैसा ही है जैसे कोई राजमार्ग केवल व्यस्त समय में उपयोग हो और शेष दिन खाली पड़ा रहे।
- Adding **batteries** at the same locations allows power to be stored and delivered during evening peaks and at night, raising utilisation **two to three times** without new corridors or land.
  उसी स्थान पर **बैटरियाँ** लगाने से ऊर्जा का भंडारण किया जा सकता है और उसे शाम के चरम समय तथा रात्रि में आपूर्ति किया जा सकता है, जिससे बिना नए गलियारों या भूमि के उपयोगिता **दो से तीन गुना** बढ़ सकती है।
- This directly enables the equivalent of **400 GW** of additional clean energy.
  इससे प्रत्यक्ष रूप से **400 GW** अतिरिक्त स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के समतुल्य क्षमता उपलब्ध हो सकती है।
- **Coal corridors can also carry clean power.**
  कोयला आधारित संचरण गलियारे भी स्वच्छ ऊर्जा वहन कर सकते हैं।
- Second, power lines connected to **coal-based power plants** offer another major opportunity.
  दूसरा, **कोयला आधारित विद्युत संयंत्रों** से जुड़ी संचरण लाइनें एक और महत्वपूर्ण अवसर प्रदान करती हैं।
- Many high-cost or old coal plants, totalling about **100 GW**, operate at low output for long periods despite having valuable transmission connections.
  लगभग **100 GW** क्षमता वाले अनेक महंगे अथवा पुराने कोयला संयंत्र मूल्यवान संचरण संपर्क होने के बावजूद लंबे समय तक कम उत्पादन पर कार्य करते हैं।
- Locating solar and wind near these stations allows clean power to use this underused capacity whenever coal units are not fully loaded.
  इन संयंत्रों के निकट **सौर** और **पवन ऊर्जा** परियोजनाएँ स्थापित करने से स्वच्छ ऊर्जा इस अल्प-उपयोगित संचरण क्षमता का उपयोग कर सकती है, जब कोयला इकाइयाँ पूर्ण क्षमता पर कार्य नहीं कर रही हों।
- In many hours it is cheaper to transmit renewable power than to run the coal plant, giving developers access to scarce grid connection and providing coal plant owners new revenue from underutilised assets.
  अनेक समयावधियों में नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का संचरण करना कोयला संयंत्र चलाने की तुलना में अधिक सस्ता होता है, जिससे डेवलपर्स को सीमित ग्रिड संपर्क उपलब्ध होता है और कोयला संयंत्र मालिकों को कम उपयोग की जा रही परिसंपत्तियों से अतिरिक्त आय प्राप्त होती है।
- This approach can enable the equivalent of **100 GW** of additional clean energy.
  यह दृष्टिकोण **100 GW** अतिरिक्त स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के समतुल्य क्षमता को सक्षम बना सकता है।
- A third opportunity sits at existing **transmission substations**.
  तीसरा अवसर मौजूदा **विद्युत संचरण उपकेंद्रों (Transmission Substations)** में निहित है।
- Many of these locations can take on new **grid connections**, letting more renewable projects plug straight into the system.
  इनमें से अनेक स्थान नए **ग्रिड कनेक्शनों** को समायोजित कर सकते हैं, जिससे अधिक नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाएँ सीधे प्रणाली से जुड़ सकती हैं।
- Coupling these nodes with **batteries** can further support **peak-demand supply** and help manage power flows.
  इन नोडों को **बैटरियों** के साथ जोड़ने से **उच्च मांग अवधि (Peak Demand)** के दौरान विद्युत आपूर्ति को समर्थन मिलेगा तथा ऊर्जा प्रवाह के प्रबंधन में सहायता मिलेगी।

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- Nationally, this could support around **100 GW** of additional clean energy.
  राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर यह लगभग **100 GW** अतिरिक्त स्वच्छ ऊर्जा क्षमता का समर्थन कर सकता है।
- **Modern wires can carry double the power.**
  आधुनिक तार दोगुनी विद्युत वहन क्षमता प्रदान कर सकते हैं।
- And fourth, much of India's grid still uses older **wires** or **conductors** that sag under heat and restrict flow.
  चौथा, भारत के ग्रिड का एक बड़ा भाग अभी भी पुराने **तारों (Wires)** अथवा **कंडक्टरों (Conductors)** का उपयोग करता है, जो गर्मी के प्रभाव से झुक जाते हैं और विद्युत प्रवाह को सीमित करते हैं।
- Replacing them with **high-temperature, low-sag conductors** — manufactured domestically — can nearly double transfer capacity on the same towers and rights-of-way.
  इनकी जगह घरेलू स्तर पर निर्मित **उच्च-तापमान, निम्न-झुकाव (High-Temperature, Low-Sag) कंडक्टरों** का उपयोग करने से समान टावरों और मार्गाधिकार (Right-of-Way) पर संचरण क्षमता लगभग दोगुनी हो सकती है।
- It is like upgrading the engines on a train so it can haul twice as many goods on the same track — no new land, just better technology.
  यह उसी प्रकार है जैसे किसी रेलगाड़ी के इंजन को उन्नत कर दिया जाए ताकि वह उसी पटरियों पर दोगुना माल ढो सके — बिना अतिरिक्त भूमि के, केवल बेहतर प्रौद्योगिकी के माध्यम से।
- This added **headroom** allows **reconductoring** to double the clean energy enabled by storage and shared transmission connections — raising the total potential to over **1,000 GW** within the current transmission footprint and effectively transforming today's corridors into **clean-energy superhighways**.
  यह अतिरिक्त **क्षमता-वृद्धि (Headroom) रीकंडक्टोरिंग (Reconductoring)** को भंडारण तथा साझा संचरण कनेक्शनों से प्राप्त स्वच्छ ऊर्जा क्षमता को दोगुना करने की अनुमति देती है, जिससे वर्तमान संचरण नेटवर्क के भीतर कुल संभावित क्षमता **1,000 GW** से अधिक हो सकती है और वर्तमान गलियारों को प्रभावी रूप से **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा सुपरहाइवे** में परिवर्तित किया जा सकता है।

A rapid path
एक तीव्र एवं व्यावहारिक मार्ग

- Crucially, these solutions can be deployed within **months**, not years.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, इन समाधानों को **वर्षों** के बजाय **कुछ महीनों** के भीतर लागू किया जा सकता है।
- They require no new land for transmission, minimal permitting, and far fewer approvals than building new corridors.
  इनके लिए संचरण हेतु नई भूमि की आवश्यकता नहीं होती, अनुमति प्रक्रियाएँ न्यूनतम होती हैं तथा नए गलियारों के निर्माण की तुलना में कहीं कम स्वीकृतियों की जरूरत पड़ती है।
- They can relieve **bottlenecks** immediately, connect stranded clean power, and let new renewable projects advance while new lines catch up.
  ये तत्काल **अवरोधों (Bottlenecks)** को कम कर सकते हैं, फँसी हुई स्वच्छ ऊर्जा को ग्रिड से जोड़ सकते हैं तथा नई संचरण लाइनों के तैयार होने तक नई नवीकरणीय परियोजनाओं को आगे बढ़ने का अवसर प्रदान कर सकते हैं।
- They also improve **grid utilisation** and lower the average cost of using the grid.
  ये **ग्रिड उपयोगिता (Grid Utilisation)** में सुधार करते हैं तथा ग्रिड के उपयोग की औसत लागत को कम करते हैं।
- New renewable energy projects will still require significant **land**, but locating them near **coal plants**, **renewable energy hubs**, or **substations** — where some land and grid access already exist — offers a practical, lower-conflict pathway as suitable land becomes increasingly difficult to secure.
  नई नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए अब भी पर्याप्त **भूमि** की आवश्यकता होगी, किन्तु उन्हें **कोयला**

संयंत्रों, **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा हबों** अथवा **उपकेंद्रों** के निकट स्थापित करना — जहाँ कुछ भूमि और ग्रिड संपर्क पहले से उपलब्ध हैं — एक अधिक व्यावहारिक तथा कम विवादपूर्ण विकल्प प्रदान करता है, विशेषकर तब जब उपयुक्त भूमि प्राप्त करना लगातार कठिन होता जा रहा है।

- India must build new **transmission**, but it must build it smart.
  भारत को नई **संचरण अवसंरचना (Transmission Infrastructure)** का निर्माण अवश्य करना चाहिए, किन्तु उसे बुद्धिमत्तापूर्वक निर्मित करना होगा।
- A new line built with **advanced conductors** and designed to work with **storage** can carry **four to five times** more clean power for only a modest additional cost.
  उन्नत कंडक्टरों से निर्मित तथा **भंडारण प्रणाली** के साथ कार्य करने हेतु डिज़ाइन की गई नई संचरण लाइन अपेक्षाकृत मामूली अतिरिक्त लागत पर **चार से पाँच गुना** अधिक स्वच्छ ऊर्जा वहन कर सकती है।
- And with India planning a **40% expansion** of its grid over the next decade, costing well over **$100 billion** and ranking among the world's largest buildouts, every kilometre must be **future-proofed** from the start.
  और जब भारत अगले दशक में अपने ग्रिड का **40% विस्तार** करने की योजना बना रहा है, जिसकी लागत **100 अरब डॉलर** से अधिक होगी और जो विश्व की सबसे बड़ी अवसंरचना विस्तार योजनाओं में शामिल होगा, तब प्रत्येक किलोमीटर को आरंभ से ही **भविष्य-सुरक्षित (Future-Proofed)** बनाया जाना चाहिए।
- India will need both approaches.
  भारत को इन दोनों दृष्टिकोणों की आवश्यकता होगी।
- Upgrading and optimising the existing grid offers the fastest relief to today's bottlenecks, while smarter, higher-capacity new transmission infrastructure will be essential to support the massive renewable energy expansion required in the coming decades.
  मौजूदा ग्रिड का उन्नयन और अनुकूलन वर्तमान अवरोधों से सबसे शीघ्र राहत प्रदान करता है, जबकि अधिक बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण एवं उच्च क्षमता वाली नई संचरण अवसंरचना आने वाले दशकों में अपेक्षित विशाल नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विस्तार को समर्थन देने के लिए अनिवार्य होगी।

The policy shifts that will determine success
वे नीतिगत परिवर्तन जो सफलता निर्धारित करेंगे

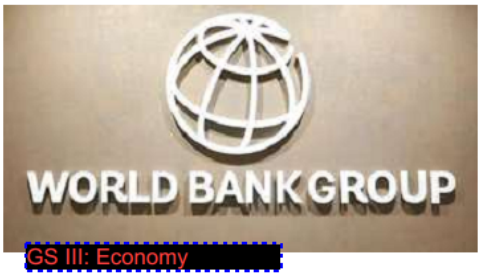
- India already enjoys **structural advantages**: a **unified national grid** and a track record of adding transmission capacity faster than many developed countries.
  भारत को पहले से ही कुछ महत्वपूर्ण **संरचनात्मक लाभ (Structural Advantages)** प्राप्त हैं: एक **एकीकृत राष्ट्रीय ग्रिड (Unified National Grid)** तथा अनेक विकसित देशों की तुलना में अधिक तीव्र गति से संचरण क्षमता बढ़ाने का सफल अनुभव।
- In the **U.S.** and parts of **Europe**, the inability to connect low-cost renewable energy to the grid has become the most severe **bottleneck** in the energy transition.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका (U.S.) तथा **यूरोप** के कुछ भागों में कम लागत वाली नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को ग्रिड से जोड़ पाने में असमर्थता ऊर्जा संक्रमण की सबसे गंभीर **बाधा (Bottleneck)** बन गई है।
- As India accelerates renewable deployment, it can avoid this trap through **forward-looking policy**.
  जैसे-जैसे भारत नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा की स्थापना को तीव्र कर रहा है, वह **दूरदर्शी नीतियों (Forward-Looking Policy)** के माध्यम से इस समस्या से बच सकता है।

Three shifts matter most.
तीन परिवर्तन सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- First, India's **national electricity regulator** has already created enabling rules that require solar plants to make better use of their grid access by pairing with **storage**.
  प्रथम, भारत के **राष्ट्रीय विद्युत नियामक (National Electricity Regulator)** ने पहले ही ऐसे सक्षमकारी

नियम बनाए हैं, जिनके अंतर्गत सौर संयंत्रों को **भंडारण (Storage)** के साथ जोड़कर अपने ग्रिड संपर्क का अधिक प्रभावी उपयोग करना आवश्यक है।

- This approach now needs to be implemented and expanded at the **State level**, with regulators and utilities actively incorporating it into planning and procurement decisions.
अब इस दृष्टिकोण को **राज्य स्तर** पर लागू और विस्तारित किए जाने की आवश्यकता है, तथा नियामकों और विद्युत उपयोगिता संस्थाओं को इसे अपनी योजना एवं खरीद संबंधी निर्णय प्रक्रियाओं में सक्रिय रूप से सम्मिलित करना चाहिए।
- Second, regulation and **procurement norms** should reward the use of **advanced transmission technologies** that cost slightly more upfront but deliver greater system-wide benefits over their lifetime by expanding capacity without the need for new corridors.
द्वितीय, विनियामक व्यवस्थाओं और **क्रय मानदंडों (Procurement Norms)** को ऐसी **उन्नत संचरण प्रौद्योगिकियों (Advanced Transmission Technologies)** के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिए, जिनकी प्रारंभिक लागत थोड़ी अधिक हो सकती है, किन्तु वे बिना नए गलियारों की आवश्यकता के क्षमता वृद्धि करके दीर्घकाल में संपूर्ण प्रणाली को अधिक लाभ प्रदान करती हैं।
- Third, the coordinated development of large **renewable energy zones** and optimised **transmission corridors** is essential to overcome site-selection, planning, and timing challenges, and to enable the efficient movement of vast volumes of low-cost clean energy.
तृतीय, बड़े **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षेत्रों (Renewable Energy Zones)** तथा अनुकूलित **संचरण गलियारों (Transmission Corridors)** का समन्वित विकास स्थल-चयन, योजना निर्माण और समय-निर्धारण संबंधी चुनौतियों को दूर करने तथा विशाल मात्रा में कम लागत वाली स्वच्छ ऊर्जा के कुशल संचरण को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- These measures will help India sustain its lead in **low-cost clean power** at a time when industries such as **steel, aluminium, cement, data centres and chemicals** are increasingly demanding reliable **24×7 electricity** at predictable prices.
ये उपाय भारत को **कम लागत वाली स्वच्छ ऊर्जा** के क्षेत्र में अपनी अग्रणी स्थिति बनाए रखने में सहायता करेंगे, विशेषकर ऐसे समय में जब **इस्पात, एल्युमिनियम, सीमेंट, डेटा सेंटर तथा रासायनिक उद्योग** पूर्वानुमेय कीमतों पर विश्वसनीय **24×7 विद्युत आपूर्ति** की बढ़ती मांग कर रहे हैं।
- The path ahead is clear: build all the **transmission** India can — and get far more out of every line.
आगे का मार्ग स्पष्ट है: भारत जितनी अधिक **संचरण अवसंरचना (Transmission Infrastructure)** विकसित कर सकता है, उसे विकसित करे — और प्रत्येक संचरण लाइन से अधिकतम लाभ प्राप्त करे।
- The **grid** is no longer background infrastructure.
ग्रिड अब केवल पृष्ठभूमि में कार्य करने वाली अवसंरचना नहीं रह गया है।
- It is India's next **engine of growth**, and a cornerstone of a **low-cost, high-productivity future**.
यह भारत के अगले **विकास इंजन (Engine of Growth)** के रूप में उभर रहा है तथा **कम लागत और उच्च उत्पादकता वाले भविष्य** की आधारशिला है।



GS III: Economy

World Bank approves $1.5 bn support for India reform plan

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on Friday approved $1.5 billion financing to India to support structural reforms aimed at boosting private sector-led job creation and economic growth, it said in a statement. It added the financing, being provided under Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation, can create job opportunities for 11 million youth who would be entering the labour market every year over the next two decades. The Bank's DPF seeks to rapidly disburse financing to help a borrower country address existing or anticipated development financing requirements. The statement read, "The DPF operation builds on many structural reforms undertaken or initiated in recent years, including tax simplification, trade integration, and legislative and regulatory reforms to improve ease of living and the ease of doing business."

20J6. World Bank approves $1.5 bn support for India reform plan

विश्व बैंक ने भारत की सुधार योजना के लिए 1.5 अरब डॉलर की सहायता को मंजूरी दी

- The **World Bank's Board of Executive Directors** on Friday approved **$1.5 billion financing** to India to support **structural reforms** aimed at boosting **private sector-led job creation** and **economic growth**, it said in a statement.

विश्व बैंक के कार्यकारी निदेशकों के बोर्ड ने शुक्रवार को भारत को **1.5 अरब डॉलर के वित्तपोषण** को मंजूरी दी, ताकि **संरचनात्मक सुधारों** को समर्थन दिया जा सके, जिनका उद्देश्य **निजी क्षेत्र के नेतृत्व में रोजगार सृजन** और **आर्थिक विकास** को बढ़ावा देना है। यह जानकारी एक बयान में दी गई।

- It added the financing, being provided under **Development Policy Financing (DPF) Operation**, can create job opportunities for **11 million youth** who would be entering the labour market every year over the next two decades.

बयान में कहा गया कि **डेवलपमेंट पॉलिसी फाइनेंसिंग (DPF) ऑपरेशन** के अंतर्गत प्रदान किया जा रहा यह वित्तपोषण अगले दो दशकों में हर वर्ष श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश करने वाले **1.1 करोड़ युवाओं** के लिए रोजगार के अवसर पैदा कर सकता है।

- The Bank's **DPF** seeks to rapidly disburse financing to help a borrower country address existing or anticipated **development financing requirements**.

विश्व बैंक की **DPF** व्यवस्था का उद्देश्य वित्तपोषण को शीघ्र वितरित करना है, ताकि उधार लेने वाला देश अपनी वर्तमान या संभावित **विकास वित्तपोषण आवश्यकताओं** को पूरा कर सके।

- The statement read, "The **DPF operation** builds on many structural reforms undertaken or initiated in recent years, including **tax simplification**, **trade integration**, and **legislative and regulatory reforms** to improve **ease of living** and the **ease of doing business**."

बयान में कहा गया, "यह **DPF ऑपरेशन** हाल के वर्षों में किए गए या शुरू किए गए अनेक संरचनात्मक सुधारों पर आधारित है, जिनमें **कर सरलीकरण**, **व्यापार एकीकरण**, तथा **विधायी एवं नियामक सुधार** शामिल हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य **जीवन सुगमता (Ease of Living)** और **व्यवसाय करने में सुगमता (Ease of Doing Business)** को बेहतर बनाना है।"

Jio eyes satellite communications

GS III: Economy

MUMBAI

Jio is evaluating the development of a sovereign Low Earth Orbit satellite constellation for India, said Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani.

Addressing the AGM, he said, "Jio connected India on the ground. Now, we must connect India from the skies. There are still remotest villages, island communities and border outposts where Jio network can't reach. For them, satellite connectivity will be the bridge to the rest of India," he said.

"We are also partnering leading global constellation providers by leasing satellite capacity, so that we can accelerate service availability while building our own long-term sovereign capability," he said.

To anchor this ambition, Jio is building its own ground station infrastructure in India, he added.

"These ground stations will support partner constellations as well as our own future satellites, creating an end-to-end satellite broadband ecosystem from space to ground." Mr. Ambani said.

The announcement aligns with the emergence of competition from global satellite broadband players such as SpaceX's Starlink and Amazon's Project Kuiper, both of which are seeking a foothold in India's satellite communications market.

Sovereign AI backbone

Speaking on the future plans for Reliance Intelligence, a subsidiary of RIL dealing with digital infrastructure, Mr. Ambani said, the firm will build 'India's sovereign AI backbone at Jamnagar' to address the scarcity and high cost of compute in AI.

Mukesh Ambani

"This cutting-edge infrastructure will be powered entirely by clean energy from Reliance's own solar generation from the Kutch renewable platform. The first 120 MW will be commissioned by the end of 2026," he said.

NVIDIA GPUs

In addition, the company would operationalise an initial fleet of advanced NVIDIA GB300 GPUs. This next-generation compute capacity is equivalent to more than 75,000 H100 GPUs on an AI-inference basis. As the first 120 MW becomes fully operational, this capacity can scale to over two lakh H100-equivalent GPUs, he said.

"This capacity places Reliance among the largest AI infrastructure platforms being built anywhere in the world. When compute becomes affordable, innovation becomes inevitable," he added.

20J6. Jio eyes satellite communications
जियो की नजर सैटेलाइट संचार पर

- **Jio** is evaluating the development of a sovereign **Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite constellation** for India, said **Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani**.

रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज के **सीएमडी मुकेश अंबानी** ने कहा कि **जियो** भारत के लिए एक स्वदेशी **लो अर्थ ऑर्बिट (LEO) सैटेलाइट कॉन्स्टेलेशन** विकसित करने की संभावना का मूल्यांकन कर रहा है।

- Addressing the **AGM**, he said, "Jio connected India on the ground.

एजीएम (AGM) को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा, "जियो ने भारत को जमीन पर जोड़ा है।

- Now, we must connect India from the skies.

अब हमें भारत को आसमान से जोड़ना होगा।

- There are still remotest villages, island communities and border outposts where **Jio network** can't reach.

अभी भी ऐसे दूरस्थ गांव, द्वीपीय समुदाय और सीमा चौकियां हैं जहां **जियो नेटवर्क** नहीं पहुंच पाता है।

- For them, **satellite connectivity** will be the bridge to the rest of India," he said.

उनके लिए **सैटेलाइट कनेक्टिविटी** भारत के बाकी हिस्सों से जुड़ने का माध्यम बनेगी," उन्होंने कहा।

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- "We are also partnering leading global constellation providers by leasing satellite capacity, so that we can accelerate service availability while building our own long-term sovereign capability," he said.
  "हम प्रमुख वैश्विक सैटेलाइट कॉन्स्टेलेशन प्रदाताओं के साथ उनकी सैटेलाइट क्षमता लीज़ पर लेकर साझेदारी भी कर रहे हैं, ताकि अपनी दीर्घकालिक स्वदेशी क्षमता विकसित करते हुए सेवाओं की उपलब्धता को तेज़ किया जा सके," उन्होंने कहा।
- To anchor this ambition, **Jio** is building its own **ground station infrastructure** in India, he added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि इस महत्वाकांक्षा को साकार करने के लिए **जियो** भारत में अपना स्वयं का **ग्राउंड स्टेशन इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर** विकसित कर रहा है।
- "These ground stations will support partner constellations as well as our own future satellites, creating an end-to-end **satellite broadband ecosystem** from space to ground." Mr. Ambani said.
  "ये ग्राउंड स्टेशन साझेदार कॉन्स्टेलेशनों के साथ-साथ हमारे भविष्य के उपग्रहों को भी समर्थन देंगे, जिससे अंतरिक्ष से धरती तक एक संपूर्ण **सैटेलाइट ब्रॉडबैंड इकोसिस्टम** तैयार होगा," श्री अंबानी ने कहा।
- The announcement aligns with the emergence of competition from global satellite broadband players such as **SpaceX's Starlink** and **Amazon's Project Kuiper**, both of which are seeking a foothold in India's **satellite communications market**.
  यह घोषणा वैश्विक सैटेलाइट ब्रॉडबैंड कंपनियों जैसे **स्पेसएक्स के स्टारलिंक** और **अमेज़न के प्रोजेक्ट कुइपर** से बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा के अनुरूप है, जो दोनों भारत के **सैटेलाइट संचार बाजार** में अपनी उपस्थिति स्थापित करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

Sovereign AI backbone
स्वदेशी एआई आधारभूत संरचना

- Speaking on the future plans for **Reliance Intelligence**, a subsidiary of **RIL** dealing with digital infrastructure, Mr. Ambani said, the firm will build 'India's sovereign **AI backbone** at **Jamnagar**' to address the scarcity and high cost of compute in **AI**.
  डिजिटल अवसंरचना से जुड़ी **रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड (RIL)** की सहायक कंपनी **रिलायंस इंटेलिजेंस** की भविष्य की योजनाओं पर बोलते हुए श्री अंबानी ने कहा कि कंपनी **एआई** क्षेत्र में कंप्यूटिंग क्षमता की कमी और ऊंची लागत को दूर करने के लिए **जामनगर** में 'भारत की स्वदेशी **एआई बैकबोन**' का निर्माण करेगी।
- "This cutting-edge infrastructure will be powered entirely by **clean energy** from Reliance's own solar generation from the **Kutch renewable platform**.
  "यह अत्याधुनिक अवसंरचना पूरी तरह से **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा** से संचालित होगी, जो रिलायंस के **कच्छ नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्लेटफॉर्म** पर आधारित सौर ऊर्जा उत्पादन से प्राप्त होगी।
- The first **120 MW** will be commissioned by the end of **2026**," he said.
  पहले **120 मेगावाट** की क्षमता को **2026** के अंत तक चालू कर दिया जाएगा," उन्होंने कहा।

NVIDIA GPUs
एनवीडिया जीपीयू

- In addition, the company would operationalise an initial fleet of advanced **NVIDIA GB300 GPUs**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, कंपनी उन्नत **NVIDIA GB300 GPU** के प्रारंभिक बेड़े को भी परिचालन में लाएगी।
- This next-generation compute capacity is equivalent to more than **75,000 H100 GPUs** on an **AI-inference** basis.
  यह अगली पीढ़ी की कंप्यूटिंग क्षमता **AI-Inference** के आधार पर **75,000 से अधिक H100 GPU** के बराबर है।

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- As the first **120 MW** becomes fully operational, this capacity can scale to over **two lakh H100-equivalent GPUs**, he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि जैसे ही पहली **120 मेगावाट** क्षमता पूरी तरह चालू होगी, यह क्षमता बढ़कर **दो लाख से अधिक H100-समकक्ष GPU** तक पहुंच सकती है।
- "This capacity places **Reliance** among the largest **AI infrastructure platforms** being built anywhere in the world.
  "यह क्षमता **रिलायंस** को दुनिया में विकसित किए जा रहे सबसे बड़े **एआई इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्लेटफॉर्मों** में शामिल करती है।
- When computers become affordable, innovation becomes inevitable," he added.
  जब कंप्यूटिंग सस्ती हो जाती है, तो नवाचार अवश्यंभावी हो जाता है," उन्होंने कहा।

20J6. SEBI reintroduces open market stock buyback at board meet
सेबी ने बोर्ड बैठक में ओपन मार्केट शेयर बायबैक को फिर से शुरू किया

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** reintroduced **open market buybacks** via stock exchanges after the **Finance Ministry** eased tax treatment of such transactions in **Union Budget 2026**.
  भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड (SEBI) ने **केंद्रीय बजट 2026** में **वित्त मंत्रालय** द्वारा ऐसे लेनदेन पर कर व्यवस्था को आसान बनाए जाने के बाद स्टॉक एक्सचेंजों के माध्यम से **ओपन मार्केट बायबैक** को पुनः शुरू कर दिया है।
- At the first **board meeting of FY27**, the capital markets watchdog okayed proposals to ease stock buybacks, deepen investments in **municipal bonds**, transfer of securities to heirs of deceased among others.
  वित्त वर्ष 2027 की पहली **बोर्ड बैठक** में पूंजी बाजार नियामक ने शेयर बायबैक को आसान बनाने, **नगरपालिका बॉण्डों** में निवेश को बढ़ाने तथा मृतक निवेशकों की प्रतिभूतियों को उनके उत्तराधिकारियों को हस्तांतरित करने सहित कई प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दी।
- Buybacks must be announced electronically and the process should be completed within **66 working days**.
  बायबैक की घोषणा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक माध्यम से की जानी चाहिए और पूरी प्रक्रिया **66 कार्यदिवसों** के भीतर पूरी की जानी चाहिए।
- Buybacks will be done through the **normal trading window**, SEBI said.
  सेबी ने कहा कि बायबैक **सामान्य ट्रेडिंग विंडो** के माध्यम से किया जाएगा।
- Employing **merchant bankers** for buyback deals would be optional.
  बायबैक सौदों के लिए **मर्चेंट बैंकरों** की नियुक्ति वैकल्पिक होगी।
- **SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey** told the media the findings of the study to review the impact of **derivatives trading** on retail investors would be released in **July**.
  सेबी के अध्यक्ष तुहिन कांत पांडे ने मीडिया को बताया कि खुदरा निवेशकों पर **डेरिवेटिव ट्रेडिंग** के प्रभाव की समीक्षा करने वाले अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष **जुलाई** में जारी किए जाएंगे।
- SEBI also approved a **'quick transmission process'** for transfer of securities of deceased to legal heirs.
  सेबी ने मृतक निवेशकों की प्रतिभूतियों को कानूनी उत्तराधिकारियों को हस्तांतरित करने के लिए **'क्विक ट्रांसमिशन प्रोसेस'** को भी मंजूरी दी।
- SEBI amended **municipal debt security regulation** to develop the **M-bond markets**.
  सेबी ने **एम-बॉण्ड बाजार** के विकास के लिए **नगरपालिका ऋण प्रतिभूति विनियमों** में संशोधन किया।

- SEBI reintroduces open market stock buyback at board meet

GS III: Economy

Ashokamithran T
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reintroduced open market buybacks via stock exchanges after Finance Ministry eased tax treatment of such transactions in Union Budget 2026.

At the first board meeting of FY27, the capital markets watchdog okayed proposals to ease stock buy backs, deepen investments in municipal bonds, transfer of securities to heirs of deceased among others.

Buybacks must be announced electronically and the process should be completed within 66 working days. Buybacks will be done through the normal trading window, SEBI said.

Employing merchant bankers for buyback deals would be optional.

SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey told the media the findings of the study to review the impact of derivatives trading on retail investors would be released in July. SEBI also approved a 'quick transmission process' for transfer of securities of deceased to legal heirs.

SEBI amended municipal debt security regulation to develop the M-bond markets. Local bodies can now issue bonds to refinance existing debt for specific projects. To encourage retail participation, issuers of M-bonds can now offer incentives to senior citizens, women serving defence personnel and bereaved spouses and ex-defence personnel.

Also, SEBI brought in changes to social stock exchange framework to ease investments into them.

- Local bodies can now issue bonds to refinance existing debt for specific projects.
  अब स्थानीय निकाय विशेष परियोजनाओं के लिए मौजूदा ऋण के पुनर्वित्तपोषण हेतु बॉण्ड जारी कर सकेंगे।
- To encourage **retail participation**, issuers of **M-bonds** can now offer incentives to **senior citizens**, **women**, serving **defence personnel** and **bereaved spouses** and **ex-defence personnel**.
  खुदरा निवेशकों की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **एम-बॉण्ड** जारीकर्ता अब **वरिष्ठ नागरिकों**, **महिलाओं**, सेवारत **रक्षा कर्मियों**, **शहीद/दिवंगत रक्षा कर्मियों के जीवनसाथियों** तथा **पूर्व रक्षा कर्मियों** को प्रोत्साहन प्रदान कर सकते हैं।
- Also, SEBI brought in changes to the **social stock exchange framework** to ease investments into them.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, सेबी ने **सोशल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज ढांचे** में भी बदलाव किए हैं ताकि उनमें निवेश को आसान बनाया जा सके।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	Sickle cell anaemia to be eradicated by 2047: Murmu 2047 तक सिकल सेल एनीमिया का उन्मूलन होगा: मुर्मु

Sickle cell anaemia to be eradicated by 2047: Murmu

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday said that the country would eradicate sickle cell anaemia well before the government-set target of 2047, while calling for collective efforts to raise awareness about the disorder, especially among tribal communities.

Addressing a Madhya Pradesh Government event in Khandwa district's Omkareshwar, the President said, "Through collective strength and active participation of all States, India would achieve its national goal of eliminating sickle cell-related diseases well before 2047."

She also said that various key targets set during the launch of the National Mission in 2023 have been achieved ahead of schedule, including the screening of seven crore people between zero and 40 years of age. The President said that various scientific studies had shown that sickle cell anaemia among tribal communities was many times higher than in the general population. "I would like to urge all State governments and officials not to take this disease lightly because it passes from one generation to another. Efforts should be made to eradicate it completely," she said.

20J6. Sickle cell anaemia to be eradicated by 2047: Murmu
2047 तक सिकल सेल एनीमिया का उन्मूलन होगा: मुर्मु

- President **Droupadi Murmu** on Friday said that the country would eradicate **sickle cell anemia** well before the government-set target of **2047**, while calling for collective efforts to raise awareness about the disorder, especially among **tribal communities**.

राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मु** ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि देश **सिकल सेल एनीमिया** का उन्मूलन सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित **2047** के लक्ष्य से काफी पहले कर लेगा, साथ ही उन्होंने विशेष रूप से **जनजातीय समुदायों** के बीच इस रोग के प्रति जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए सामूहिक प्रयासों का आह्वान किया।

- Addressing a **Madhya Pradesh Government** event in **Khandwa district's Omkareshwar**, the President said, "Through collective strength and active participation of all States, India would achieve its national goal of eliminating **sickle cell-related diseases** well before 2047."

मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के **खंडवा जिले के ओंकारेश्वर** में आयोजित एक कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए राष्ट्रपति ने कहा, "सभी राज्यों की सामूहिक शक्ति और सक्रिय भागीदारी के माध्यम से भारत **सिकल सेल संबंधी बीमारियों** को समाप्त करने का अपना राष्ट्रीय लक्ष्य 2047 से काफी पहले प्राप्त कर लेगा।"

- She also said that various key targets set during the launch of the **National Mission** in **2023** have been achieved ahead of schedule, including the screening of **seven crore people** between zero and 40 years of age.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **2023** में **राष्ट्रीय मिशन** की शुरुआत के दौरान निर्धारित कई प्रमुख लक्ष्य समय से पहले प्राप्त कर लिए गए हैं, जिनमें शून्य से 40 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के **सात करोड़ लोगों** की जांच शामिल है।

- The President said that various scientific studies had shown that **sickle cell anaemia** among **tribal communities** was many times higher than in the general population.

राष्ट्रपति ने कहा कि विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों से पता चला है कि **जनजातीय समुदायों** में **सिकल सेल एनीमिया** की दर सामान्य जनसंख्या की तुलना में कई गुना अधिक है।

- "I would like to urge all **State governments** and officials not to take this disease lightly because it passes from one generation to another.

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"मैं सभी **राज्य सरकारों** और अधिकारियों से आग्रह करना चाहती हूं कि वे इस बीमारी को हल्के में न लें क्योंकि यह एक पीढ़ी से दूसरी पीढ़ी में स्थानांतरित होती है।

- Efforts should be made to eradicate it completely," she said.
  इसे पूरी तरह समाप्त करने के लिए प्रयास किए जाने चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	20 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
20J6	Soon, police may scan your fingerprints on the go जल्द ही, पुलिस चलते-फिरते आपके फिंगरप्रिंट स्कैन कर सकती है
20J6	3 indigenous naval vessels to be launched by PM tomorrow प्रधानमंत्री कल 3 स्वदेशी नौसैनिक पोतों का शुभारंभ करेंगे
20J6	Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal is new FATF Vice-President संस्कृति सचिव विवेक अग्रवाल FATF के नए उपाध्यक्ष बने
20J6	Moving from drone purchases to drone partnerships ड्रोन खरीद से ड्रोन साझेदारी की ओर अग्रसर होना

Soon, police may scan your fingerprints on the go

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Police and investigating agencies across the country will soon be equipped with portable fingerprint scanners linked to a national database of 1.3 crore criminal suspects and convicts, letting them stop individuals anywhere, even on the streets, to collect thumb impressions and instantly check for any pending criminal records on their smartphones.

Abhigyan, an app developed by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) to implement the procedure, was launched by Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday.

The app links to the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), which stores fingerprint scans of accused, convicts, and those in prisons.

A demonstration of the app showed that prints can be matched with the NAFIS database in 35 seconds.

"During routine vehicle checks on the streets, biometric scans of any suspicious individual can be conducted to identify persons wanted in connection with crimes. Field officers can get the criminal history of the suspect in few seconds. This will provide protection to the police as they will be alerted of the presence of a hardened criminal," the demo stated.

An NCRB official told *The Hindu* that the Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022 provides the legal basis for such checks. However, Section 3 of the Act seems to limit the mandatory recording of measurements, including fingerprints, to people who have been convicted or arrested, and those ordered to give security for good behaviour or maintaining peace under the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

The Act does not mention the possibility of random testing of individuals without any evidence linking them to a punishable offence.

Data patrol: The app enables field police personnel to access a vast repository of criminal records directly on their smartphones. PTI

Current system

At present, the facility to check fingerprints against the NAFIS database is only available through 1,556 workstations deployed at police stations and district headquarters across the country.

The current process involves bringing an individual to the workstation to match his or her fingerprints with the database.

Mr. Shah said that the app enables field police personnel to access a vast repository of criminal records directly on their smartphones. "Secured with two-step authentication, it allows real-time fingerprint identification within seconds, strengthening ground-level policing. Equipped with features such as fast identification, portability, and access to millions of records, 'Abhigyan' is a highly powerful tool," the Minister said.

The NAFIS database includes the records of around 9.91 lakh narcotics offenders, 3.65 lakh human trafficking cases, and extensive prison databases, Mr. Shah said.

NAFIS should not be used merely to identify offenders, he said, noting that its effectiveness depends on continuously enriching the database by uploading fingerprints collected from every crime scene. He noted that a criminal's DNA sample, if properly preserved, can also be used in the investigation of other crimes, adding that this is primarily the responsibility of the States.

The focus should not be limited merely to the arrest of criminals but on time-bound justice, the Home Minister said added.

20J6. Soon, police may scan your fingerprints on the go
जल्द ही, पुलिस चलते-फिरते आपके फिंगरप्रिंट स्कैन कर सकती है

- Police and investigating agencies across the country will soon be equipped with portable **fingerprint scanners** linked to a national database of **1.3 crore criminal suspects and convicts**, letting them stop individuals anywhere, even on the streets, to collect thumb impressions and instantly check for any pending criminal records on their smartphones.
  देशभर की पुलिस और जांच एजेंसियों को जल्द ही पोर्टेबल **फिंगरप्रिंट स्कैनर** उपलब्ध कराए जाएंगे, जो **1.3**

करोड़ आपराधिक संदिग्धों और दोषसिद्ध व्यक्तियों के राष्ट्रीय डेटाबेस से जुड़े होंगे, जिससे वे कहीं भी, यहां तक कि सड़कों पर भी, व्यक्तियों को रोककर उनके अंगूठे के निशान ले सकेंगे और अपने स्मार्टफोन पर लंबित आपराधिक रिकॉर्ड की तुरंत जांच कर सकेंगे।

- **Abhigyan**, an app developed by the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** to implement the procedure, was launched by Home Minister **Amit Shah** on Friday.
  इस प्रक्रिया को लागू करने के लिए **राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो (NCRB)** द्वारा विकसित **अभिज्ञान** ऐप का शुभारंभ शुक्रवार को गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** ने किया।
- The app links to the **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS)**, which stores fingerprint scans of accused, convicts, and those in prisons.
  यह ऐप **राष्ट्रीय स्वचालित फिंगरप्रिंट पहचान प्रणाली (NAFIS)** से जुड़ा है, जिसमें आरोपियों, दोषियों और जेलों में बंद व्यक्तियों के फिंगरप्रिंट स्कैन संग्रहीत हैं।
- A demonstration of the app showed that prints can be matched with the **NAFIS database** in **35 seconds**.
  ऐप के प्रदर्शन में दिखाया गया कि फिंगरप्रिंट का मिलान **NAFIS डेटाबेस** से मात्र **35 सेकंड** में किया जा सकता है।
- "During routine vehicle checks on the streets, biometric scans of any suspicious individual can be conducted to identify persons wanted in connection with crimes.
  "सड़कों पर नियमित वाहन जांच के दौरान किसी भी संदिग्ध व्यक्ति का बायोमेट्रिक स्कैन किया जा सकता है ताकि अपराधों से जुड़े वांछित व्यक्तियों की पहचान की जा सके।
- Field officers can get the criminal history of the suspect in few seconds.
  मैदानी अधिकारी कुछ ही सेकंड में संदिग्ध का आपराधिक इतिहास प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- This will provide protection to the police as they will be alerted of the presence of a hardened criminal," the demo stated.
  इससे पुलिस को सुरक्षा मिलेगी क्योंकि उन्हें किसी आदतन अपराधी की उपस्थिति की सूचना मिल जाएगी," प्रदर्शन में बताया गया।
- An **NCRB** official told The Hindu that the **Criminal Procedure Identification Act, 2022** provides the legal basis for such checks.
  एक **NCRB** अधिकारी ने बताया कि **आपराधिक प्रक्रिया (पहचान) अधिनियम, 2022** इस प्रकार की जांच के लिए कानूनी आधार प्रदान करता है।
- However, **Section 3** of the Act seems to limit the mandatory recording of measurements, including fingerprints, to people who have been convicted or arrested, and those ordered to give security for good behaviour or maintaining peace under the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973**.
  हालांकि, अधिनियम की **धारा 3** फिंगरप्रिंट सहित मापों के अनिवार्य रिकॉर्डिंग को केवल उन लोगों तक सीमित करती प्रतीत होती है जिन्हें दोषी ठहराया गया है या गिरफ्तार किया गया है, तथा उन लोगों तक जिन्हें **दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता, 1973** के तहत सदाचार या शांति बनाए रखने हेतु सुरक्षा देने का आदेश दिया गया है।
- The Act does not mention the possibility of random testing of individuals without any evidence linking them to a punishable offence.
  यह अधिनियम ऐसे व्यक्तियों की यादृच्छिक जांच की संभावना का उल्लेख नहीं करता जिनके विरुद्ध किसी दंडनीय अपराध से जुड़ा कोई साक्ष्य न हो।

Current system
वर्तमान प्रणाली

- At present, the facility to check fingerprints against the **NAFIS database** is only available through **1,556 workstations** deployed at police stations and district headquarters across the country.

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वर्तमान में **NAFIS डेटाबेस** के विरुद्ध फिंगरप्रिंट जांच की सुविधा केवल देशभर के पुलिस थानों और जिला मुख्यालयों में स्थापित **1,556 वर्कस्टेशनों** के माध्यम से उपलब्ध है।

- The current process involves bringing an individual to the workstation to match his or her fingerprints with the database.
  वर्तमान प्रक्रिया में किसी व्यक्ति को वर्कस्टेशन तक लाया जाता है ताकि उसके फिंगरप्रिंट का डेटाबेस से मिलान किया जा सके।
- Mr. Shah said that the app enables field police personnel to access a vast repository of criminal records directly on their smartphones.
  श्री शाह ने कहा कि यह ऐप मैदानी पुलिसकर्मियों को सीधे अपने स्मार्टफोन पर आपराधिक रिकॉर्ड के विशाल भंडार तक पहुंच प्रदान करता है।
- "Secured with **two-step authentication**, it allows real-time fingerprint identification within seconds, strengthening ground-level policing.
  "**दो-स्तरीय प्रमाणीकरण** से सुरक्षित यह ऐप कुछ ही सेकंड में वास्तविक समय में फिंगरप्रिंट पहचान की सुविधा देता है, जिससे जमीनी स्तर की पुलिसिंग मजबूत होती है।
- Equipped with features such as fast identification, portability, and access to millions of records, '**Abhigyan**' is a highly powerful tool," the Minister said.
  तेज पहचान, पोर्टेबिलिटी और लाखों रिकॉर्ड तक पहुंच जैसी सुविधाओं से लैस '**अभिज्ञान**' एक अत्यंत शक्तिशाली उपकरण है," मंत्री ने कहा।
- The **NAFIS database** includes the records of around **9.91 lakh narcotics offenders**, **3.65 lakh human trafficking cases**, and extensive prison databases, Mr. Shah said.
  श्री शाह ने कहा कि **NAFIS डेटाबेस** में लगभग **9.91 लाख मादक पदार्थ अपराधियों**, **3.65 लाख मानव तस्करी मामलों**, तथा व्यापक जेल डेटाबेस के रिकॉर्ड शामिल हैं।
- NAFIS should not be used merely to identify offenders, he said, noting that its effectiveness depends on continuously enriching the database by uploading fingerprints collected from every crime scene.
  उन्होंने कहा कि NAFIS का उपयोग केवल अपराधियों की पहचान के लिए नहीं किया जाना चाहिए, बल्कि इसकी प्रभावशीलता प्रत्येक अपराध स्थल से एकत्रित फिंगरप्रिंट को अपलोड करके डेटाबेस को लगातार समृद्ध करने पर निर्भर करती है।
- He noted that a criminal's **DNA sample**, if properly preserved, can also be used in the investigation of other crimes, adding that this is primarily the responsibility of the States.
  उन्होंने कहा कि किसी अपराधी का **डीएनए नमूना**, यदि सही ढंग से संरक्षित किया जाए, तो अन्य अपराधों की जांच में भी उपयोग किया जा सकता है, और यह मुख्य रूप से राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी है।
- The focus should not be limited merely to the arrest of criminals but on **time-bound justice**, the Home Minister added.
  गृह मंत्री ने कहा कि ध्यान केवल अपराधियों की गिरफ्तारी तक सीमित नहीं होना चाहिए, बल्कि **समयबद्ध न्याय** सुनिश्चित करने पर होना चाहिए।

GS III: Internal Security

3 indigenous naval vessels to be launched by PM tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will commission three indigenously-built Indian Navy frontline platforms – Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray – at a landmark ceremony at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata on Sunday, marking a significant boost to India's maritime capabilities and indigenous shipbuilding programme. According to the Ministry of Defence, the three vessels, designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, represent critical capabilities across maritime combat, hydrographic surveying and anti-submarine warfare. The three platforms have indigenous content exceeding 75%.

20J6. 3 indigenous naval vessels to be launched by PM tomorrow

प्रधानमंत्री कल 3 स्वदेशी नौसैनिक पोतों का शुभारंभ करेंगे

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will commission three **indigenously-built Indian Navy frontline platforms** — **Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray** — at a landmark ceremony at **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port** in **Kolkata** on Sunday, marking a significant boost to India's **maritime capabilities** and **indigenous shipbuilding programme**.

प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** रविवार को **कोलकाता** स्थित **श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी पोर्ट** में आयोजित एक ऐतिहासिक समारोह में भारतीय नौसेना के तीन **स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित अग्रिम पंक्ति के प्लेटफॉर्म — दुनागिरी, संशोधक और अग्रय** — को राष्ट्र को समर्पित करेंगे, जो भारत की **समुद्री क्षमताओं** और **स्वदेशी जहाज निर्माण कार्यक्रम** को महत्वपूर्ण बढ़ावा देगा।

- According to the **Ministry of Defence**, the three vessels, designed by the **Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata**, represent critical capabilities across **maritime combat**, **hydrographic surveying** and **anti-submarine warfare**.
  रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, **भारतीय नौसेना के युद्धपोत डिजाइन ब्यूरो** द्वारा डिजाइन किए गए और **गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एंड इंजीनियर्स (GRSE), कोलकाता** द्वारा निर्मित ये तीनों पोत **समुद्री युद्ध**, **हाइड्रोग्राफिक सर्वेक्षण** तथा **पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्धक क्षमता** के क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण क्षमताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
- The three platforms have **indigenous content** exceeding **75%**.
  इन तीनों प्लेटफॉर्मों में **75% से अधिक स्वदेशी सामग्री** का उपयोग किया गया है।

Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal is new FATF Vice-President

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary has appointed Union Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal as the next Vice-President of the global anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing watchdog for the 2026-2027 term.

"Members approved the priorities of the FATF under the incoming U.K. Presidency, and appointed Mr. Vivek Aggarwal of India as the incoming Vice-President of the FATF (July 2026-June 2027)," said an FATF release. Mr. Aggarwal will succeed Giles Thomson, who has served as FATF Vice-President since July 1, 2025.

Currently serving as Secretary in the Culture Ministry, Mr. Aggarwal has headed India's delegation to the FATF. He led a multidisciplinary team during India's FATF Mutual Evaluation process. His selection is being viewed as a significant development for India's role in global financial governance and efforts to strengthen international cooperation on issues of anti-money laundering, counterterrorist financing, and illicit financial flows.

Vivek Aggarwal

20J6. Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal is new FATF Vice-President

संस्कृति सचिव विवेक अग्रवाल FATF के नए उपाध्यक्ष बने

- The **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Plenary** has appointed Union **Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal** as the next **Vice-President** of the global **anti-money laundering** and **counter-terrorist financing** watchdog for the **2026-2027 term**.
  फाइनेंशियल एक्शन टास्क फोर्स (FATF) प्लेनरी ने केंद्रीय **संस्कृति सचिव विवेक अग्रवाल** को वैश्विक **धन शोधन निरोधक (Anti-Money Laundering)** तथा **आतंकवाद वित्तपोषण निरोधक (Counter-Terrorist Financing)** निगरानी संस्था का **2026-2027 कार्यकाल** के लिए अगला **उपाध्यक्ष** नियुक्त किया है।
- "Members approved the priorities of the **FATF** under the incoming **U.K. Presidency**, and appointed Mr. **Vivek Aggarwal** of India as the incoming **Vice-President of the FATF (July 2026-June 2027)**," said an **FATF** release.
  FATF की एक विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया, "सदस्यों ने आगामी **यू.के. अध्यक्षता** के अंतर्गत **FATF** की प्राथमिकताओं को मंजूरी दी और भारत के **विवेक अग्रवाल** को **FATF के उपाध्यक्ष (जुलाई 2026-जून 2027)** के रूप में नियुक्त किया।"
- Mr. Aggarwal will succeed **Giles Thomson**, who has served as **FATF Vice-President** since **July 1, 2025**.
  श्री अग्रवाल **गाइल्स थॉमसन** का स्थान लेंगे, जो **1 जुलाई 2025** से **FATF के उपाध्यक्ष** के रूप में कार्यरत हैं।
- Currently serving as **Secretary** in the **Culture Ministry**, Mr. Aggarwal has headed India's delegation to the **FATF**.
  वर्तमान में **संस्कृति मंत्रालय** में **सचिव** के रूप में कार्यरत श्री अग्रवाल **FATF** में भारत के प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व कर चुके हैं।

- He led a multidisciplinary team during India's **FATF Mutual Evaluation** process.
  उन्होंने भारत की **FATF म्यूचुअल इवैल्यूएशन** प्रक्रिया के दौरान एक बहु-विषयक टीम का नेतृत्व किया।
- His selection is being viewed as a significant development for India's role in global **financial governance** and efforts to strengthen international cooperation on issues of **anti-money laundering**, **counter-terrorist financing**, and **illicit financial flows**.
  उनका चयन वैश्विक **वित्तीय शासन (Financial Governance)** में भारत की भूमिका तथा **धन शोधन निरोध**, **आतंकवाद वित्तपोषण निरोध** और **अवैध वित्तीय प्रवाहों** से संबंधित मुद्दों पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग को मजबूत करने के प्रयासों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण विकास के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

Moving from drone purchases to drone partnerships

GS III: Internal Security

The Indian government's planned $2 billion drone procurement from domestic manufacturers reinforces its commitment to indigenous manufacturing and will boost the country's growing drone industry. It also signals a shift from buying large, sophisticated platforms such as fighter aircraft to smaller, cheaper and more attritable systems. This shift also means procurement practices will have to address the challenges that come with the territory.

Long-term capital procurement that deals with systems such as tanks and fighter jets, is likely to struggle to keep pace with the rapid demand for upgrades and modifications. The willingness to spend money on these platforms is a good sign, but the question now is whether procurement systems will spend it well.

The economics of drones

Although public conversations about military drones typically focus on large uncrewed combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) such as the MQ-9B Reaper and the Bayraktar TB-2, recent conflicts have exemplified the utility of smaller, cheaper drones.

These typically fall within the 'micro' and 'nano' drone categories, and are built to be cost-effective. Both Iran's use of drones against the United States and Israel, and the use of drones in the Russia-Ukraine war, have followed this principle. Intercepting drones that are being used to strike high-priced hardware, is typically far more expensive than the drones themself. The trend across recent wars has been to produce vast numbers of cheap drones, and deploy them in large numbers. Creative uses and modifications of drones that were originally manufactured for commercial use, have also served as an inexpensive means to achieve military objectives.

Ukraine's use of first-person-view (FPV) drones that have been retrofitted with warheads has made many headlines. Innovation in the defence drone sector is therefore closely linked to innovation in civilian drone technology, creating a need for more iterative and collaborative research and development (R&D) processes. The case of the Chinese drone industry demonstrates the benefits of closer collaboration among industry, academia and the military.

Adya Madhavan
Researcher at the Takshashila Institution

India's drone ambitions require smarter contracts and continuous innovation

The challenge of drone relevance

The other unique aspect of procuring tactical drones, is that the challenge lies not in acquiring them, but in ensuring that they stay relevant. A state-of-the-art fighter jet or tank bought in 2015 is still relatively new today, and is reasonably competitive. Tactical drones bought today can be obsolete in as little as two to three years, as enemy capabilities and threat environments continue to evolve. Enemy electronic warfare (EW) units can adapt their jammers to the signal of a new drone in as little as six to eight weeks.

When Ukrainian engineers faced this issue, the solution was not to procure new systems with different communication links, but to replace radio links with fibre-optic cables. Processes need to be quick, and allow for rapid modifications and upgrades without the constraint of red tape and bureaucratic timelines.

Indian procurement frameworks have made some good provisions in this direction, but there is still scope for change. For instance, the draft Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) allows the armed forces to procure commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) systems, enabling them to purchase commercial drones wherever they can be utilised. The DAP also has provisions to streamline upgrades. The Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) allows financial buffers for unforeseen repairs and upgrade costs. These are sensible moves.

The key shortcoming of current procurement frameworks is that buyer-seller relationships remain fundamentally transactional. The underlying assumption is that once the government identifies a requirement, it can issue a tender and procure a product that meets it.

However, in a domain where technology evolves rapidly, products require continuous iteration and improvement.

Partnerships, not transactions

A more suitable model for tactical drone procurement may resemble a managed service contract rather than like purchasing hardware.

Much like large organisations that procure computers with maintenance, software updates and replacement support, the armed forces could enter longer-term agreements with drone manufacturers. Such contracts would provide industry with demand predictability while ensuring assured supply, upgrade pathways and surge production capacity during conflicts. They would also create a framework for continuous improvements, including performance enhancements and adaptations to evolving electronic warfare threats. Most importantly, they would foster closer collaboration between the armed forces and industry in a domain where technology changes rapidly and future requirements are constantly evolving.

While Indian policy frameworks continue to take steps in the right direction, perhaps structural changes within these frameworks could create an environment better suited to keeping pace with the evolution of tactical drones. India's domestic drone industry has the technical foundation to support a more sophisticated procurement relationship. The $2 billion commitment is the clearest signal yet that the political will exists. Translating that into the right contractual architecture, one that prioritises sustained capability over one-off delivery, is the logical next step.

20J6. Moving from drone purchases to drone partnerships
ड्रोन खरीद से ड्रोन साझेदारी की ओर अग्रसर होना

- The Indian government's planned **$2 billion drone procurement** from domestic manufacturers reinforces its commitment to **indigenous manufacturing** and will boost the country's growing **drone industry**.
  भारतीय सरकार द्वारा घरेलू निर्माताओं से प्रस्तावित **2 अरब डॉलर के ड्रोन अधिग्रहण** से **स्वदेशी विनिर्माण (Indigenous Manufacturing)** के प्रति उसकी प्रतिबद्धता सुदृढ़ होती है तथा इससे देश के विकसित होते **ड्रोन उद्योग** को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।
- It also signals a shift from buying large, sophisticated platforms such as **fighter aircraft** to smaller, cheaper and more **attritable systems**.
  यह **लड़ाकू विमानों (Fighter Aircraft)** जैसे बड़े और अत्याधुनिक प्लेटफॉर्मों की खरीद से हटकर छोटे, सस्ते और अधिक **त्याज्य/क्षतिसहनीय प्रणालियों (Attritable Systems)** की ओर बढ़ते रुझान का भी संकेत देता है।
- This shift also means procurement practices will have to address the challenges that come with the territory.

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इस परिवर्तन का अर्थ यह भी है कि खरीद संबंधी व्यवस्थाओं को इससे जुड़ी नई चुनौतियों का समाधान करना होगा।

- Long-term capital procurement that deals with systems such as **tanks** and **fighter jets**, is likely to struggle to keep pace with the rapid demand for upgrades and modifications.
  टैंकों और **लड़ाकू विमानों** जैसी प्रणालियों से संबंधित दीर्घकालिक पूंजीगत खरीद व्यवस्थाएँ तीव्र गति से बढ़ती उन्नयन एवं संशोधन आवश्यकताओं के साथ तालमेल बिठाने में कठिनाई का सामना कर सकती हैं।
- The willingness to spend money on these platforms is a good sign, but the question now is whether procurement systems will spend it well.
  इन प्लेटफॉर्मों पर व्यय करने की तत्परता एक सकारात्मक संकेत है, किंतु अब प्रश्न यह है कि क्या खरीद प्रणालियाँ इस धन का प्रभावी उपयोग कर पाएँगी।

The economics of drones
ड्रोनों का अर्थशास्त्र

- Although public conversations about military drones typically focus on large **uncrewed combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs)** such as the **MQ-9B Reaper** and the **Bayraktar TB-2**, recent conflicts have exemplified the utility of smaller, cheaper drones.
  यद्यपि सैन्य ड्रोनों पर सार्वजनिक चर्चाएँ सामान्यतः बड़े **मानवरहित लड़ाकू हवाई वाहनों (UCAVs)** जैसे **MQ-9B Reaper** और **Bayraktar TB-2** पर केंद्रित रहती हैं, हाल के संघर्षों ने छोटे और सस्ते ड्रोनों की उपयोगिता को स्पष्ट रूप से प्रदर्शित किया है।
- These typically fall within the **'micro'** and **'nano'** drone categories, and are built to be cost-effective.
  ये सामान्यतः **'माइक्रो'** तथा **'नैनो'** ड्रोन श्रेणियों में आते हैं और लागत-प्रभावी होने के उद्देश्य से निर्मित किए जाते हैं।
- Both **Iran's** use of drones against the **United States** and **Israel**, and the use of drones in the **Russia-Ukraine war**, have followed this principle.
  ईरान द्वारा **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **इज़राइल** के विरुद्ध ड्रोनों का उपयोग तथा **रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध** में ड्रोनों का प्रयोग इसी सिद्धांत पर आधारित रहा है।
- Intercepting drones that are being used to strike high-priced hardware, is typically far more expensive than the drones themselves.
  उच्च मूल्य वाले सैन्य उपकरणों पर आक्रमण करने वाले ड्रोनों को निष्क्रिय करना प्रायः स्वयं उन ड्रोनों की लागत से कहीं अधिक महंगा होता है।
- The trend across recent wars has been to produce vast numbers of cheap drones, and deploy them in large numbers.
  हाल के युद्धों में प्रवृत्ति यह रही है कि बड़ी संख्या में सस्ते ड्रोनों का उत्पादन किया जाए और उन्हें व्यापक स्तर पर तैनात किया जाए।
- Creative uses and modifications of drones that were originally manufactured for commercial use, have also served as an inexpensive means to achieve military objectives.
  मूलतः व्यावसायिक उपयोग के लिए निर्मित ड्रोनों के रचनात्मक उपयोग और संशोधनों ने भी सैन्य उद्देश्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए एक सस्ता और प्रभावी साधन प्रदान किया है।
- **Ukraine's** use of **first-person-view (FPV) drones** that have been retrofitted with warheads has made many headlines.
  यूक्रेन द्वारा **फर्स्ट-पर्सन-व्यू (FPV) ड्रोन** का उपयोग, जिन्हें युद्धास्त्रों (Warheads) से सुसज्जित किया गया है, व्यापक रूप से सुर्खियों में रहा है।
- Innovation in the **defence drone sector** is therefore closely linked to innovation in **civilian drone technology**, creating a need for more iterative and collaborative **research and development (R&D)** processes.

अतः **रक्षा ड्रोन क्षेत्र** में नवाचार का सीधा संबंध **नागरिक ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी** में नवाचार से है, जिससे अधिक क्रमिक एवं सहयोगात्मक **अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D)** प्रक्रियाओं की आवश्यकता उत्पन्न होती है।

- The case of the **Chinese drone industry** demonstrates the benefits of closer collaboration among **industry, academia and the military**.
  चीनी ड्रोन उद्योग का उदाहरण **उद्योग, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों तथा सैन्य प्रतिष्ठानों** के बीच घनिष्ठ सहयोग के लाभों को प्रदर्शित करता है।

The challenge of drone relevance
ड्रोनों की प्रासंगिकता बनाए रखने की चुनौती

- The other unique aspect of procuring **tactical drones**, is that the challenge lies not in acquiring them, but in ensuring that they stay relevant.
  सामरिक ड्रोनों (Tactical Drones) की खरीद का एक अन्य विशिष्ट पहलू यह है कि चुनौती इनके अधिग्रहण में नहीं, बल्कि इन्हें लगातार प्रासंगिक बनाए रखने में निहित है।
- A state-of-the-art **fighter jet** or **tank** bought in 2015 is still relatively new today, and is reasonably competitive.
  वर्ष 2015 में खरीदा गया अत्याधुनिक **लड़ाकू विमान (Fighter Jet)** अथवा **टैंक** आज भी अपेक्षाकृत नया माना जाता है और पर्याप्त रूप से प्रतिस्पर्धी बना हुआ है।
- Tactical drones bought today can be obsolete in as little as **two to three years**, as enemy capabilities and threat environments continue to evolve.
  किन्तु आज खरीदे गए **सामरिक ड्रोन** केवल **दो से तीन वर्षों** में अप्रासंगिक हो सकते हैं, क्योंकि शत्रु की क्षमताएँ और खतरे का वातावरण निरंतर विकसित होते रहते हैं।
- Enemy **electronic warfare (EW)** units can adapt their **jammers** to the signal of a new drone in as little as **six to eight weeks**.
  शत्रु की **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध (Electronic Warfare - EW)** इकाइयाँ मात्र **छह से आठ सप्ताह** के भीतर किसी नए ड्रोन के संकेतों के अनुरूप अपने **जैमरों (Jammers)** को अनुकूलित कर सकती हैं।
- When Ukrainian engineers faced this issue, the solution was not to procure new systems with different communication links, but to replace **radio links** with **fibre-optic cables**.
  जब यूक्रेनी अभियंताओं को इस समस्या का सामना करना पड़ा, तो समाधान नए संचार तंत्र खरीदना नहीं था, बल्कि **रेडियो लिंक** को **फाइबर-ऑप्टिक केबलों** से प्रतिस्थापित करना था।
- Processes need to be quick, and allow for rapid modifications and upgrades without the constraint of **red tape** and bureaucratic timelines.
  प्रक्रियाएँ त्वरित होनी चाहिए तथा उनमें **लालफीताशाही (Red Tape)** और नौकरशाही समयसीमाओं की बाधाओं के बिना शीघ्र संशोधन और उन्नयन की सुविधा होनी चाहिए।
- Indian **procurement frameworks** have made some good provisions in this direction, but there is still scope for change.
  भारतीय **खरीद ढाँचों (Procurement Frameworks)** ने इस दिशा में कुछ सकारात्मक प्रावधान किए हैं, किन्तु अभी भी सुधार की पर्याप्त संभावना मौजूद है।
- For instance, the draft **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP)** allows the armed forces to procure **commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS)** systems, enabling them to purchase commercial drones wherever they can be utilised.
  उदाहरणार्थ, प्रारूप **रक्षा अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया (Defence Acquisition Procedure - DAP)** सशस्त्र बलों को **कमर्शियल-ऑफ-द-शेल्फ (COTS)** प्रणालियाँ खरीदने की अनुमति देती है, जिससे वे जहाँ आवश्यक हो, व्यावसायिक ड्रोन खरीद सकते हैं।
- The DAP also has provisions to streamline upgrades.
  DAP में उन्नयन प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाने के प्रावधान भी शामिल हैं।
- The **Defence Procurement Manual (DPM)** allows financial buffers for unforeseen repairs and upgrade costs.

रक्षा खरीद नियमावली (Defence Procurement Manual - DPM) अप्रत्याशित मरम्मत एवं उन्नयन लागतों के लिए वित्तीय प्रावधानों की अनुमति देती है।

- These are sensible moves.
  ये सभी विवेकपूर्ण और व्यावहारिक कदम हैं।
- The key shortcoming of current procurement frameworks is that **buyer-seller relationships** remain fundamentally transactional.
  वर्तमान खरीद ढाँचों की प्रमुख कमी यह है कि **क्रेता-विक्रेता संबंध** अभी भी मूलतः लेन-देन आधारित बने हुए हैं।
- The underlying assumption is that once the government identifies a requirement, it can issue a tender and procure a product that meets it.
  मूल धारणा यह है कि सरकार आवश्यकता की पहचान करने के बाद निविदा जारी कर सकती है और उस आवश्यकता को पूरा करने वाला उत्पाद खरीद सकती है।
- However, in a domain where technology evolves rapidly, products require continuous iteration and improvement.
  किन्तु ऐसे क्षेत्र में जहाँ प्रौद्योगिकी तीव्र गति से विकसित होती है, उत्पादों को निरंतर संशोधन, सुधार और उन्नयन की आवश्यकता होती है।

Partnerships, not transactions
लेन-देन नहीं, बल्कि साझेदारी

- A more suitable model for tactical drone procurement may resemble a **managed service contract** rather than purchasing hardware.
  सामरिक ड्रोन खरीद के लिए अधिक उपयुक्त मॉडल केवल हार्डवेयर खरीदने के बजाय **प्रबंधित सेवा अनुबंध (Managed Service Contract)** के समान हो सकता है।
- Much like large organisations that procure computers with maintenance, software updates and replacement support, the armed forces could enter longer-term agreements with drone manufacturers.
  जिस प्रकार बड़े संगठन कंप्यूटरों के साथ रखरखाव, सॉफ्टवेयर अद्यतन और प्रतिस्थापन सहायता प्राप्त करते हैं, उसी प्रकार सशस्त्र बल ड्रोन निर्माताओं के साथ दीर्घकालिक समझौते कर सकते हैं।
- Such contracts would provide industry with **demand predictability** while ensuring assured supply, upgrade pathways and **surge production capacity** during conflicts.
  ऐसे अनुबंध उद्योग को **मांग की पूर्वानुमेयता (Demand Predictability)** प्रदान करेंगे, साथ ही संघर्ष की स्थिति में सुनिश्चित आपूर्ति, उन्नयन के मार्ग तथा **अतिरिक्त उत्पादन क्षमता (Surge Production Capacity)** भी उपलब्ध कराएँगे।
- They would also create a framework for continuous improvements, including performance enhancements and adaptations to evolving **electronic warfare threats**.
  ये निरंतर सुधारों के लिए भी एक ढाँचा प्रदान करेंगे, जिसमें प्रदर्शन संवर्द्धन तथा विकसित होते **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध संबंधी खतरों** के अनुरूप अनुकूलन शामिल होगा।
- Most importantly, they would foster closer collaboration between the **armed forces** and **industry** in a domain where technology changes rapidly and future requirements are constantly evolving.
  सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि वे **सशस्त्र बलों** और **उद्योग** के बीच अधिक घनिष्ठ सहयोग को बढ़ावा देंगे, विशेषकर ऐसे क्षेत्र में जहाँ प्रौद्योगिकी तेजी से बदलती है और भविष्य की आवश्यकताएँ निरंतर विकसित होती रहती हैं।
- While Indian policy frameworks continue to take steps in the right direction, perhaps structural changes within these frameworks could create an environment better suited to keeping pace with the evolution of tactical drones.
  यद्यपि भारतीय नीतिगत ढाँचे सही दिशा में आगे बढ़ रहे हैं, तथापि इनके भीतर संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन ऐसे

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वातावरण का निर्माण कर सकते हैं जो सामरिक ड्रोनों के तीव्र विकास के साथ बेहतर तालमेल स्थापित कर सके।

- India's domestic **drone industry** has the technical foundation to support a more sophisticated procurement relationship.
  भारत का घरेलू **ड्रोन उद्योग** अधिक उन्नत और परिष्कृत खरीद संबंधों को समर्थन देने हेतु आवश्यक तकनीकी आधार रखता है।
- The **$2 billion commitment** is the clearest signal yet that the political will exists.
  2 अरब डॉलर की प्रतिबद्धता इस बात का अब तक का सबसे स्पष्ट संकेत है कि आवश्यक राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति मौजूद है।
- Translating that into the right **contractual architecture**, one that prioritises sustained capability over one-off delivery, is the logical next step.
  इसे उचित **संविदात्मक संरचना (Contractual Architecture)** में परिवर्तित करना — जो एकमुश्त आपूर्ति के बजाय दीर्घकालिक क्षमता निर्माण को प्राथमिकता दे — अगला तार्किक कदम होगा।

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FAITH

GS IV: Ethics

Shed your 'I-ness': Krishna

Lord Krishna tells Arjuna, "Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer, whatever you give, and whatever austerities you perform, Oh son of Kunti, do them as an offering to Me." This single verse transforms ordinary life into *sadhana*, said Swami Mitranandaji. Dedication improves quality of action. When we work merely for salary, recognition or ego, the mind stays restless and shortcuts appear. However, the moment an action is dedicated to the Lord, the attitude changes. The Gita calls this 'yoga of action'. Work is no longer mechanical, it becomes worship. The fruit is surrendered. Like cooking for God, the cook tastes but is not attached. Such *nishkama karma* (selfless action) purifies the heart. The law of karma applies to the ego, not to the surrender.

The distance between jeeva and the Divine is only selfishness. We feel far from God not because He is far, but because 'I, me, mine' comes in between. Selfishness is the wall. My desire, my plan, my credit – this "I-ness" hides the Divine. When we drop the claim of ownership, the wall thins. The verse (opening para) attacks selfishness and asks us to offer everything. It is easy to start in a small way and develop selflessness. Krishna does not ask for renunciation overnight. Begin with one action , whatever it may be, offer it mentally, saying "This is for You". Slowly, expand this mood to more activities. As selfish motives drop, selfless service grows naturally. Step by step, one's life itself becomes an offering. The quote from Bhagavad Gita shows a practical path. One should dedicate oneself, one should conduct oneself with quality; one should be free from karma, get rid of selfishness. He will take care.

20J6. Shed your 'I-ness': Krishna
अपने 'मैंपन' को त्यागें: कृष्ण

- **Lord Krishna** tells **Arjuna**, "Whatever you do, whatever you eat, whatever you offer, whatever you give, and whatever austerities you perform, Oh son of Kunti, do them as an offering to Me."
  भगवान कृष्ण अर्जुन से कहते हैं, "तुम जो कुछ करते हो, जो कुछ खाते हो, जो कुछ अर्पित करते हो, जो कुछ दान देते हो और जो भी तप करते हो, हे कुन्तीपुत्र, वह सब मुझे अर्पण करो।"
- This single verse transforms ordinary life into **sadhana**, said **Swami Mitranandaji**.
  स्वामी मित्रानंदजी ने कहा कि यह एक श्लोक सामान्य जीवन को **साधना** में परिवर्तित कर देता है।
- Dedication improves quality of action.
  समर्पण कर्म की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाता है।
- When we work merely for salary, recognition or ego, the mind stays restless and shortcuts appear.
  जब हम केवल वेतन, पहचान या अहंकार के लिए काम करते हैं, तब मन अशांत रहता है और शॉर्टकट अपनाने की प्रवृत्ति उत्पन्न होती है।
- However, the moment an action is dedicated to the **Lord**, the attitude changes.
  लेकिन जैसे ही कोई कर्म **भगवान** को समर्पित किया जाता है, दृष्टिकोण बदल जाता है।
- The **Gita** calls this '**yoga of action**'.
  गीता इसे '**कर्मयोग**' कहती है।

- Work is no longer mechanical, it becomes worship.
  तब कार्य केवल यांत्रिक नहीं रहता, बल्कि उपासना बन जाता है।
- The fruit is surrendered.
  कर्मफल समर्पित कर दिया जाता है।
- Like cooking for God, the cook tastes but is not attached.
  जैसे भगवान के लिए भोजन बनाते समय रसोइया स्वाद तो चखता है, पर उससे आसक्त नहीं होता।
- Such **nishkama karma (selfless action)** purifies the heart.
  ऐसा **निष्काम कर्म (निःस्वार्थ कर्म)** हृदय को शुद्ध करता है।
- The law of **karma** applies to the ego, not to the surrender.
  कर्म का नियम अहंकार पर लागू होता है, समर्पण पर नहीं।
- The distance between **jeeva** and the **Divine** is only selfishness.
  जीव और **ईश्वर** के बीच की दूरी केवल स्वार्थ है।
- We feel far from God not because He is far, but because 'I, me, mine' comes in between.
  हमें भगवान दूर प्रतीत होते हैं, इसलिए नहीं कि वे दूर हैं, बल्कि इसलिए कि 'मैं, मेरा, मेरे लिए' बीच में आ जाता है।
- Selfishness is the wall.
  स्वार्थ ही वह दीवार है।
- My desire, my plan, my credit — this "**I-ness**" hides the Divine.
  मेरी इच्छा, मेरी योजना, मेरा श्रेय — यही "**मैंपन**" ईश्वर को छिपा देता है।
- When we drop the claim of ownership, the wall thins.
  जब हम स्वामित्व का दावा छोड़ देते हैं, तब यह दीवार पतली होने लगती है।
- The verse (opening para) attacks selfishness and asks us to offer everything.
  यह श्लोक (प्रारंभिक अनुच्छेद) स्वार्थ पर प्रहार करता है और हमें सब कुछ अर्पित करने के लिए कहता है।
- It is easy to start in a small way and develop selflessness.
  छोटे स्तर से शुरुआत करके निःस्वार्थता विकसित करना आसान है।
- **Krishna** does not ask for renunciation overnight.
  कृष्ण एक ही रात में संन्यास लेने के लिए नहीं कहते।
- Begin with one action, whatever it may be, offer it mentally, saying "This is for You".
  किसी एक कार्य से शुरुआत करें, चाहे वह कोई भी हो, और मन ही मन कहें, "यह आपके लिए है।"
- Slowly, expand this mood to more activities.
  धीरे-धीरे इस भावना को अधिक कार्यों तक विस्तारित करें।
- As selfish motives drop, selfless service grows naturally.
  जैसे-जैसे स्वार्थपूर्ण उद्देश्यों का त्याग होता है, वैसे-वैसे निःस्वार्थ सेवा स्वाभाविक रूप से बढ़ती है।
- Step by step, one's life itself becomes an offering.
  कदम-दर-कदम, व्यक्ति का पूरा जीवन ही एक अर्पण बन जाता है।
- The quote from **Bhagavad Gita** shows a practical path.
  भगवद्गीता का यह उद्धरण एक व्यावहारिक मार्ग दिखाता है।
- One should dedicate oneself, one should conduct oneself with quality; one should be free from karma, get rid of selfishness.
  मनुष्य को स्वयं को समर्पित करना चाहिए, अपने आचरण में उत्कृष्टता लानी चाहिए; उसे कर्मबंधन से मुक्त होकर स्वार्थ का त्याग करना चाहिए।
- He will take care.
  वह स्वयं सबकी देखभाल करेगा।

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GS Paper 1: History	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	QUIZ

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Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This U.S. President signed a declaration of war against Britain, initiating the War of 1812, which arose from U.S. grievances over oppressive maritime practices during the Napoleonic Wars? **Ans: James Madison**
2. Which English musician, born on this day, gained global fame with the Beatles? **Ans: Paul McCartney**
3. The SALT II treaty was signed by which two countries? **Ans: The U.S., Soviet Union**
4. On this day in 1940, which French General, broadcasting from London, after France fell to the Nazis, appealed to his compatriots to continue World War II under his leadership? **Ans: Charles de Gaulle**
5. Where did British explorer and mountaineer George Mallory, born on this day in 1886, disappear? **Ans: Mount Everest**
6. This American suffragist was fined after being convicted for voting in the 1872 presidential election, though she refused to pay it. **Ans: Susan B. Anthony**
7. Identify this person. She became the first American woman to fly into outer space in 1983. **Ans: Sally Ride**

Early Birds

Abhay Krishnan | Prithvi Chouhan |Yashica | Prem Nath Tiwari | Alisha Yadav

19J6. QUIZ

1. James Madison and the War of 1812

- James Madison, the fourth President of the United States, played a central role in the outbreak of the **War of 1812**.
- On June 1, 1812, he sent a message to Congress detailing American grievances against Britain, including the impressment of American sailors, interference with U.S. trade, and restrictive maritime policies during the Napoleonic Wars.
- Congress approved the declaration of war, and Madison signed it on June 18, 1812, formally initiating the conflict.

2. Paul McCartney and The Beatles

- Sir Paul McCartney, born on June 18, 1942, in Liverpool, England, is one of the most influential musicians in modern history.
- He achieved worldwide fame as a founding member of The Beatles, serving as bassist, vocalist, and songwriter alongside John Lennon.
- The Beatles transformed popular music through innovative songwriting and recording techniques.
- Following the band's breakup in 1970, McCartney enjoyed successful careers with Wings and as a solo artist.

3. SALT II Treaty

- The Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) Treaty was signed on June 18, 1979, by U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna.
- The agreement aimed to curb the production and deployment of strategic nuclear weapons by the two Cold War superpowers.
- Although the U.S. The Senate never formally ratified the treaty following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, both countries largely adhered to its provisions for several years.
- SALT II represented a major effort toward nuclear arms control and strategic stability.

4. Charles de Gaulle's Appeal from London

- **Answer: Charles de Gaulle**
- On June 18, 1940, French General Charles de Gaulle delivered his historic "Appeal of 18 June" from London after France's defeat by Nazi Germany.
- Broadcast through the BBC, he urged French citizens, soldiers, and officials to continue resisting German occupation rather than accept surrender.
- The speech became a symbol of French resistance during World War II and laid the foundation for the Free French movement.
- De Gaulle later emerged as one of France's most influential leaders and served as President of the French Republic.

5. George Mallory and Mount Everest

- British explorer and mountaineer George Mallory, born on June 18, 1886, is remembered for his pioneering attempts to climb Mount Everest.
- During the 1924 British Everest Expedition, Mallory and fellow climber Andrew Irvine disappeared near the summit.
- Their fate remained one of mountaineering's greatest mysteries for decades. Mallory's body was discovered in 1999, but it remains uncertain whether he reached the summit before his death.
- His famous response to why he wanted to climb Everest—**"Because it is there"**—has become legendary.

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6. Susan B. Anthony and Voting Rights

- Susan B. Anthony was a leading American suffragist and advocate for women's rights.
- In the 1872 U.S. presidential election, she voted despite laws prohibiting women from doing so.
- She was subsequently arrested, tried, and fined $100.
- Anthony refused to pay the fine, arguing that she had exercised her constitutional rights as a citizen.
- Her act of civil disobedience became a landmark event in the women's suffrage movement. Decades later, the **Nineteenth Amendment granted American women the right to vote in 1920**.

GS Paper 1: Society	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	Silent scream that lingers: Boong's quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice लंबे समय तक गूंजती मौन चीख: 'बूंग' का पितृसत्तात्मक अन्याय के साथ शांत आत्ममंथन

Silent scream that lingers: *Boong*'s quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, the film touches upon the complex gender dynamics of Manipuri society; it also compels viewers to pause and reflect on the deeply embedded patriarchal structures, urging much-needed social introspection

GS I: Society

Pradip Phanjoubam

The Manipuri movie *Boong* written and directed by Laxmipriya Devi and co-produced by Farhan Akhtar, was understandably celebrated in Manipur for its cinematic brilliance, and for the pride it brought the place, after all it was first Indian film to win a prestigious BAFTA award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the children's film category in 2026. I watched it with my family on the third day of its theatrical release in Imphal.

Beyond the engaging drama of a boy's longing for his long-missing father, and the intimate glimpses his search offers into the complex and emotionally fragile inter-community relationships in multi-ethnic Manipur, the film also struck a deeper, raw nerve among the Manipuri audience.

As the show ended and lights flooded back into the theatre, there was a palpable sense of catharsis – the kind that good performing arts leave behind. Yet, some women remained seated, quietly wiping off tears, taking a few extra moments to regain composure before rising to join the rest of the audience.

Manipur's gender equation reality is complex. At one level, women have historically been at the forefront of many social, economic and political upheavals. Across both the hills and the valley, exclusive women-run markets thrive, and in the agrarian economy, men and women function as equal partners. The fact that the director of *Boong* is a woman reflects this sinew of gender empowerment too.

The Meira Paibi movement amongst Meiteis, which also manifests under different nomenclatures amongst hill communities, is the most prominent alibi of Manipuri women's well-deserved image as social torchbearers.

During the colonial period, in 1904 and again in 1939, women rose to protest against British policies, ultimately forcing their withdrawal. These uprisings are now commemorated as *Nupi Lan* or women's war.

The first was against the forced labour of Manipuri men to rebuild the British Residency in Imphal, which had been gutted in an arson attack by disgruntled elements; the second opposed the large-scale export of rice from the State to support the British World War II effort, which led to severe shortages for local consumption.

Patriarchy persists

Despite this, there are strongly entrenched gender oppressive patriarchal norms which have persisted. This is especially true among Meiteis, who continue to carry the albatrosses of a feudal past. Polygamy is arguably the most troubling.

The practice persists since it is normalised, even though not encouraged. This is particularly common among the elite section, where keeping mistresses or even taking more than one wife, is not uncommon. Many of Manipur's current set of Ministers and MLAs would be guilty of this despicable feudal legacy.

The hurt and humiliation endured by women who suffer this fate are profound. Even those who are spared often live with anxiety over the vulnerability of their daughters and loved ones. As the practice has become normalised within society, this deeply gendered anguish largely remains invisible.

Women often become gatekeepers of the patriarchal order that oppresses them, reflecting what Frantz Fanon characterised as the silent desire of the oppressed to emulate their oppressors. Hence, even women vigilantes tend to overlook men who betray marital fidelity, accepting it as destiny. However, if a woman were to make this breach, these same vigilantes often become the harshest moral police.

Change, however, may not be too far away. Although, no study has yet established a connection, rising cases of divorce among younger Meiteis may be a herald of Fanon's "mailed fist".

In the spirit that good art is hiding good art, *Boong* succeeds in drawing up a non-dogmatic but piercing portrayal of this inherent gender injustice. Boong's father, Joykumar–a carpenter and timber trader played by Hamom Sadananda – works along the India-Myanmar border, in the town of Moreh and the neighbouring township of Tamu in Myanmar.

At some point, the family loses contact with him and for a prolonged period. Many presume he is dead or has joined the insurgents, but the family refuses to give up. Boong, or Brojendro, played by Gugun Kipgen, yearns to find his father and bring the good news to his mother Mandakini, played by Bala Hijam.

On one occasion the boy dupes his mother that his school was organising a 2-day school excursion to Ukhrul district and would like to be part of the tour. He then slips away to make a trip to Moreh instead. His bosom friend, a Manipuri Marwari, Raju Agarwal, played by Angom Sanamatum, follows him there out of concern. The families of the boys learn of the trip but too late. The two boys' adventure is thrilling. Boong traces his father in Tamu, but to his horror, discovers that he has remarried and has a daughter.

The final scene is powerful. Boong finds his mother, on crutches after a scooter accident, waiting for him at their courtyard. Both know the truth – and both know that the other knows. The boy tells his mother bluntly "Baba is dead". The camera then closes in on her. She pauses a while before asking in resignation, "Is he doing well?" Boong replies, "Yes" and hugs her.

Bala's breathing deepens; her face reddens, and her eyes well up. She is forced to confront what she had long suspected but tried not to believe. Not a word is spoken, yet her tearing pain, numbing humiliation, and seething anger surface – along with a quiet resolve to remain standing for the sake of her son.

For those sensitive enough to hear it, her silent, agonised scream is deafening. For many others who have endured this betrayal themselves, or have witnessed loved ones suffer it, Bala's silent scream becomes their own.

Powerful as this portrayal of an invisible oppressive order is, life may well settle back into its old, abnormal normal. Yet, for many, Bala's silent scream affirms that *Boong* is, at its heart, a desperate appeal for social introspection.

Pradip Phanjoubam is Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics, and the author of two books.

19J6. Silent scream that lingers: Boong's quiet reckoning with patriarchal injustice

लंबे समय तक गूंजती मौन चीख: 'बूंग' का पितृसत्तात्मक अन्याय के साथ शांत आत्ममंथन

- **The Manipuri movie Boong** written and directed by **Laxmipriya Devi** and co-produced by **Farhan Akhtar**, was understandably celebrated in **Manipur** for its cinematic brilliance, and for the pride it brought the place, after all it was the **first Indian film** to win a prestigious **BAFTA**

Award, the British equivalent of the Oscar, in the **Children's Film Category** in **2026**.
मणिपुरी फिल्म बूंग, जिसका लेखन और निर्देशन **लक्ष्मीप्रिया देवी** ने किया तथा जिसका सह-निर्माण **फरहान अख्तर** ने किया, अपनी उत्कृष्ट सिनेमाई प्रस्तुति और मणिपुर को गौरवान्वित करने वाली उपलब्धि के कारण स्वाभाविक रूप से **मणिपुर** में व्यापक रूप से सराही गई। यह **वर्ष 2026** में **बाल फिल्म श्रेणी** में प्रतिष्ठित **ब्रिटिश चलचित्र एवं दूरदर्शन कला अकादमी पुरस्कार** प्राप्त करने वाली **पहली भारतीय फिल्म** बनी।

- I watched it with my family on the third day of its theatrical release in **Imphal**.
  मैंने इसे **इम्फाल** में इसके प्रदर्शन के तीसरे दिन अपने परिवार के साथ देखा।
- Beyond the engaging drama of **a boy's longing for his long-missing father**, and the intimate glimpses his search offers into the complex and emotionally fragile **inter-community relationships** in **multi-ethnic Manipur**, the film also struck a deeper, raw nerve among the Manipuri audience.
  अपने लंबे समय से लापता पिता के प्रति एक बालक की व्याकुलता पर आधारित मार्मिक कथा तथा **बहु-जातीय मणिपुर** में जटिल और भावनात्मक रूप से संवेदनशील **अंतर-सामुदायिक संबंधों** की झलकियों से परे, इस फिल्म ने मणिपुरी दर्शकों की भावनाओं को गहराई से स्पर्श किया।
- As the show ended and lights flooded back into the theatre, there was a palpable sense of **catharsis** — the kind that good performing arts leave behind.
  प्रदर्शन समाप्त होने और सभागार में प्रकाश पुनः फैलने के बाद वहाँ **भावनात्मक शुद्धि एवं आत्ममुक्ति** की स्पष्ट अनुभूति थी, जैसा प्रभाव उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शन कलाएँ छोड़ जाती हैं।
- Yet, some women remained seated, quietly wiping off tears, taking a few extra moments to regain composure before rising to join the rest of the audience.
  फिर भी कुछ महिलाएँ अपनी आँखों से आँसू पोंछते हुए अपनी भावनाओं को संयत करने के लिए कुछ अतिरिक्त समय तक बैठी रहीं और उसके बाद ही अन्य दर्शकों के साथ बाहर निकलीं।
- **Manipur's gender equation reality** is complex.
  मणिपुर में लैंगिक संबंधों की वास्तविकता जटिल है।
- At one level, women have historically been at the forefront of many **social, economic and political upheavals**.
  एक स्तर पर महिलाएँ ऐतिहासिक रूप से अनेक **सामाजिक, आर्थिक और राजनीतिक आंदोलनों** के अग्रभाग में रही हैं।
- Across both the hills and the valley, exclusive **women-run markets** thrive, and in the **agrarian economy**, men and women function as equal partners.
  पर्वतीय और घाटी दोनों क्षेत्रों में पूर्णतः **महिलाओं द्वारा संचालित बाजार** फल-फूल रहे हैं और **कृषि आधारित अर्थव्यवस्था** में पुरुष तथा महिलाएँ समान भागीदार के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- The fact that the director of **Boong** is a woman reflects this sinew of **gender empowerment** too.
  यह तथ्य कि **बूंग** की निर्देशक एक महिला हैं, **महिला सशक्तिकरण** की इसी सशक्त परंपरा को प्रतिबिंबित करता है।
- The **Meira Paibi movement** amongst **Meiteis**, which also manifests under different nomenclatures amongst hill communities, is the most prominent alibi of Manipuri women's well-deserved image as **social torchbearers**.
  मेइती समुदाय के बीच चलने वाला **मेइरा पैबी आंदोलन**, जो पर्वतीय समुदायों में विभिन्न नामों से भी विद्यमान है, मणिपुरी महिलाओं की **सामाजिक पथप्रदर्शक** के रूप में स्थापित प्रतिष्ठा का सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण है।
- During the **colonial period**, in **1904** and again in **1939**, women rose to protest against **British policies**, ultimately forcing their withdrawal.
  औपनिवेशिक काल में **1904** और पुनः **1939** में महिलाओं ने **ब्रिटिश नीतियों** के विरुद्ध व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शन किए, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ब्रिटिश प्रशासन को अपने निर्णयों से पीछे हटना पड़ा।
- These uprisings are now commemorated as **Nupi Lan** or **Women's War**.
  इन आंदोलनों को आज **नूपी लान** अथवा **महिला युद्ध** के रूप में स्मरण किया जाता है।

- The first was against the **forced labour** of Manipuri men to rebuild the **British Residency in Imphal**, which had been gutted in an arson attack by disgruntled elements.
  पहला आंदोलन मणिपुरी पुरुषों से **बलपूर्वक श्रम** कराकर **इम्फाल स्थित ब्रिटिश रेजिडेंसी** के पुनर्निर्माण के विरुद्ध था, जिसे असंतुष्ट तत्वों द्वारा किए गए आगजनी हमले में नष्ट कर दिया गया था।
- The second opposed the **large-scale export of rice** from the State to support the **British World War II effort**, which led to severe shortages for local consumption.
  दूसरा आंदोलन राज्य से **बड़े पैमाने पर चावल के निर्यात** के विरुद्ध था, जो **ब्रिटिश द्वितीय विश्वयुद्ध प्रयासों** के समर्थन हेतु किया जा रहा था और जिसके कारण स्थानीय उपभोग के लिए गंभीर खाद्यान्न संकट उत्पन्न हो गया था।

Patriarchy persists
पितृसत्ता अब भी बनी हुई है

- Despite this, there are strongly entrenched **gender-oppressive patriarchal norms** which have persisted.
  इसके बावजूद **लैंगिक उत्पीड़नकारी पितृसत्तात्मक मान्यताएँ** गहराई से जड़ें जमाए हुए हैं और आज भी बनी हुई हैं।
- This is especially true among **Meiteis**, who continue to carry the albatrosses of a **feudal past**.
  यह विशेष रूप से **मेइती समुदाय** में दिखाई देता है, जो अब भी अपने **सामंती अतीत** के बोझ को ढो रहा है।
- **Polygamy** is arguably the most troubling.
  बहुविवाह संभवतः सबसे अधिक चिंताजनक प्रथा है।
- The practice persists since it is normalised, even though not encouraged.
  यह प्रथा इसलिए बनी हुई है क्योंकि इसे सामाजिक रूप से सामान्य मान लिया गया है, भले ही इसे प्रोत्साहित न किया जाता हो।
- This is particularly common among the **elite section**, where keeping mistresses or even taking more than one wife, is not uncommon.
  यह विशेष रूप से **अभिजात वर्ग** में अधिक प्रचलित है, जहाँ उपपत्नी रखना या एक से अधिक विवाह करना असामान्य नहीं माना जाता।
- Many of Manipur's current set of **Ministers and MLAs** would be guilty of this despicable **feudal legacy**.
  मणिपुर के अनेक वर्तमान **मंत्री और विधायक** इस निंदनीय **सामंती विरासत** के दोषी माने जा सकते हैं।
- The hurt and humiliation endured by women who suffer this fate are profound.
  इस स्थिति का सामना करने वाली महिलाओं द्वारा सहा जाने वाला **दुःख और अपमान** अत्यंत गहरा होता है।
- Even those who are spared often live with anxiety over the vulnerability of their daughters and loved ones.
  यह पीड़ा न झेलने वाली महिलाएँ भी अपनी बेटियों और प्रियजनों की असुरक्षा को लेकर निरंतर चिंता में रहती हैं।
- As the practice has become normalised within society, this deeply gendered anguish largely remains invisible.
  चूँकि यह प्रथा समाज में सामान्यीकृत हो चुकी है, इसलिए यह गहरी **लैंगिक पीड़ा** प्रायः अदृश्य बनी रहती है।
- Women often become **gatekeepers of the patriarchal order** that oppresses them, reflecting what **Frantz Fanon** characterised as the silent desire of the oppressed to emulate their oppressors.
  महिलाएँ अनेक बार उसी **पितृसत्तात्मक व्यवस्था की संरक्षक** बन जाती हैं जो उनका दमन करती है, जो **फ्रांत्स फैनन** द्वारा वर्णित उस प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है जिसमें उत्पीड़ित लोग अपने उत्पीड़कों का अनुकरण करने लगते हैं।
- Hence, even **women vigilantes** tend to overlook men who betray marital fidelity, accepting it as destiny.

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इसी कारण **महिला प्रहरी समूह** भी वैवाहिक निष्ठा भंग करने वाले पुरुषों को प्रायः अनदेखा कर देते हैं और इसे नियति मान लेते हैं।

- However, if a woman were to make this breach, these same vigilantes often become the harshest **moral police**.
  किन्तु यदि कोई महिला ऐसा करे, तो यही समूह सबसे कठोर **नैतिक प्रहरी** बन जाते हैं।
- Change, however, may not be too far away.
  हालाँकि परिवर्तन अब बहुत दूर नहीं प्रतीत होता।
- Although, no study has yet established a connection, rising cases of **divorce among younger Meiteis** may be a herald of Fanon's **"mailed fist"**.
  यद्यपि अभी तक किसी अध्ययन ने प्रत्यक्ष संबंध स्थापित नहीं किया है, फिर भी **युवा मेइती समुदाय में बढ़ते तलाक के मामले** फैनन की **"लोहे की मुट्ठी"** जैसी प्रतिक्रिया के संकेतक हो सकते हैं।
- In the spirit that good art is hiding good art, **Boong** succeeds in drawing up a non-dogmatic but piercing portrayal of this inherent **gender injustice**.
  श्रेष्ठ कला की परंपरा का पालन करते हुए **बूंग** इस अंतर्निहित **लैंगिक अन्याय** का गैर-उपदेशात्मक किन्तु अत्यंत मार्मिक चित्रण प्रस्तुत करने में सफल होती है।
- Boong's father, **Joykumar** — a carpenter and timber trader played by **Hamom Sadananda** — works along the **India-Myanmar border**, in the town of **Moreh** and the neighbouring township of **Tamu** in Myanmar.
  बूंग के पिता **जॉयकुमार**, जिनकी भूमिका **हामोम सदानंद** ने निभाई है, एक बढ़ई और लकड़ी व्यापारी हैं जो **भारत-म्यांमार सीमा** पर स्थित **मोरेह** तथा म्यांमार के पड़ोसी नगर **तामू** में कार्य करते हैं।
- At some point, the family loses contact with him and for a prolonged period.
  एक समय ऐसा आता है जब परिवार का उनसे लंबे समय तक संपर्क टूट जाता है।
- Many presume he is dead or has joined the insurgents, but the family refuses to give up.
  बहुत से लोग मान लेते हैं कि वह मर चुके हैं या विद्रोही समूहों में शामिल हो गए हैं, किन्तु परिवार आशा नहीं छोड़ता।
- **Boong**, or **Brojendro**, played by **Gugun Kipgen**, yearns to find his father and bring the good news to his mother **Mandakini**, played by **Bala Hijam**.
  बूंग अथवा **ब्रोजेन्द्रो**, जिसकी भूमिका **गुगुन किपगेन** ने निभाई है, अपने पिता को खोजकर यह शुभ समाचार अपनी माँ **मंदाकिनी** तक पहुँचाना चाहता है, जिनकी भूमिका **बाला हिजाम** ने निभाई है।
- On one occasion the boy dupes his mother that his school was organising a **two-day excursion** to **Ukhrul district** and would like to be part of the tour.
  एक अवसर पर वह अपनी माँ से कहता है कि उसके विद्यालय द्वारा **उखरूल जिले** की **दो दिवसीय शैक्षणिक यात्रा** आयोजित की जा रही है और वह उसमें भाग लेना चाहता है।
- He then slips away to make a trip to **Moreh** instead.
  किन्तु वह गुप्त रूप से **मोरेह** की यात्रा पर निकल जाता है।
- His bosom friend, a **Manipuri Marwari**, **Raju Agarwal**, played by **Angom Sanamatum**, follows him there out of concern.
  उसका घनिष्ठ मित्र, एक **मणिपुरी मारवाड़ी राजू अग्रवाल**, जिसकी भूमिका **अंगोम सनामतुम** ने निभाई है, चिंता के कारण उसके पीछे वहाँ पहुँच जाता है।
- The families of the boys learn of the trip but too late.
  लड़कों के परिवारों को इस यात्रा की जानकारी मिलती है, लेकिन तब तक बहुत देर हो चुकी होती है।
- The two boys' adventure is thrilling.
  दोनों लड़कों का साहसिक अभियान अत्यंत रोमांचक है।
- Boong traces his father in **Tamu**, but to his horror, discovers that he has remarried and has a daughter.
  बूंग **तामू** में अपने पिता को खोज लेता है, किन्तु यह जानकर स्तब्ध रह जाता है कि उन्होंने पुनर्विवाह कर लिया है और उनकी एक पुत्री भी है।

- The **final scene** is powerful.
  अंतिम दृश्य अत्यंत प्रभावशाली है।
- Boong finds his mother, on crutches after a scooter accident, waiting for him at their courtyard.
  बूंग अपनी माँ को, जो स्कूटर दुर्घटना के बाद बैसाखियों के सहारे चल रही होती हैं, घर के आँगन में उसकी प्रतीक्षा करते हुए पाता है।
- Both know the truth — and both know that the other knows.
  दोनों सत्य जानते हैं — और दोनों यह भी जानते हैं कि दूसरा भी सत्य से परिचित है।
- The boy tells his mother bluntly, **"Baba is dead."**
  बालक अपनी माँ से स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहता है, **"बाबा मर चुके हैं।"**
- The camera then closes in on her.
  इसके बाद कैमरा माँ के चेहरे पर केंद्रित हो जाता है।
- She pauses a while before asking in resignation, **"Is he doing well?"**
  वह कुछ क्षण रुककर शांत स्वीकृति के साथ पूछती है, **"क्या वह ठीक हैं?"**
- Boong replies, **"Yes,"** and hugs her.
  बूंग उत्तर देता है, **"हाँ,"** और उन्हें गले लगा लेता है।
- **Bala's** breathing deepens; her face reddens, and her eyes well up.
  बाला की साँसें गहरी हो जाती हैं, चेहरा लाल पड़ जाता है और आँखें आँसुओं से भर उठती हैं।
- She is forced to confront what she had long suspected but tried not to believe.
  उन्हें उस सत्य का सामना करना पड़ता है, जिसका उन्हें लंबे समय से संदेह था, किन्तु जिसे स्वीकारने से वह बचती रही थीं।
- Not a word is spoken, yet her **pain, humiliation, anger and resilience** surface.
  एक भी शब्द बोले बिना उनका **दर्द, अपमान, क्रोध और धैर्य** स्पष्ट रूप से सामने आ जाता है।
- She remains standing for the sake of her son.
  वह अपने पुत्र के लिए दृढ़ बनी रहती हैं।
- For those sensitive enough to hear it, her **silent, agonised scream** is deafening.
  जो लोग उसे समझ पाने की संवेदनशीलता रखते हैं, उनके लिए उसकी **मौन और पीड़ाभरी चीख** अत्यंत तीव्र प्रतीत होती है।
- For many others who have endured this betrayal themselves, or have witnessed loved ones suffer it, **Bala's silent scream** becomes their own.
  जो लोग स्वयं इस विश्वासघात को झेल चुके हैं या अपने प्रियजनों को इससे पीड़ित होते देख चुके हैं, उनके लिए **बाला की मौन चीख** उनकी अपनी चीख बन जाती है।
- Powerful as this portrayal of an invisible oppressive order is, life may well settle back into its old, abnormal normal.
  यद्यपि यह अदृश्य दमनकारी व्यवस्था का अत्यंत प्रभावशाली चित्रण है, फिर भी जीवन संभवतः पुनः अपनी पुरानी असामान्य सामान्यता में लौट जाएगा।
- Yet, for many, **Bala's silent scream** affirms that **Boong** is, at its heart, a desperate appeal for **social introspection**.
  फिर भी अनेक लोगों के लिए **बाला की मौन चीख** यह स्थापित करती है कि **बूंग** मूलतः **सामाजिक आत्ममंथन** के लिए की गई एक मार्मिक और गहन अपील है।

GS Paper II: Polity	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	**Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act** **टेलीग्राम की याचिका ने एक बार फिर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69A को चर्चा के केंद्र में ला दिया है।**

Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act

GS II: Polity

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Centre's move to block Telegram has once again drawn attention to Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, a provision that gives the government the power to direct intermediaries to block access to online information under specified circumstances.

The temporary ban on the platform, which was initially misused for the medical entrance examination paper leak and misinformation campaigns, was aimed at curbing another paper leak during the NEET-UG retest. Telegram has approached the Delhi High Court challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22, and the judgment has been reserved.

Section 69A of the IT Act authorises the Union government to block public access to any information via any computer resource, including applications and websites, if it is satisfied that such blocking is necessary "in the interest of India's sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence".

Telegram has approached the Delhi HC challenging the ban, which is set to last till June 22.

But the restriction may interfere with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, which protects freedom of speech and expression. Therefore, the orders under Section 69A must be issued with the procedural safeguards established by the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access to Information by the Public) Rules, 2009.

In *Anuradha Bhasin v Union of India*, the Supreme Court examined the validity of the indefinite blanket ban on internet services in the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, and the court held that freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business, or occupation over the internet, are protected by Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g). The court also concluded that orders restricting internet access must meet the proportionality test: they must be required, use the least restrictive measures available, and be open to judicial review.

Article 19(1)(g) provides the right to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, trade, or business. A ban on a platform that has about 150 million users in India will disrupt many creators, educators, and entrepreneurs running broadcast groups, and prevent them from maintaining communication with their subscribers. It thus limits one's ability to earn a living.

Section 79 of the IT Act also establishes intermediary safe harbour provision, which means platforms are not liable for third-party content if they exercise due diligence, follow the Information Technology Rules, 2021, and act quickly upon receiving knowledge of illegal content.

19J6. Telegram challenge once again puts spotlight on Section 69A of IT Act
टेलीग्राम की याचिका ने एक बार फिर सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69A को चर्चा के केंद्र में ला दिया है।

- **The Centre's move to block Telegram** has once again drawn attention to **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, a provision that gives the government the power to direct **intermediaries** to block access to online information under specified circumstances.
  केंद्र सरकार द्वारा टेलीग्राम पर प्रतिबंध लगाने के कदम ने एक बार फिर **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम, 2000 की धारा 69ए** की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। यह एक ऐसा प्रावधान है जो सरकार को निर्धारित परिस्थितियों में **मध्यस्थ मंचों** को ऑनलाइन सूचना तक पहुँच अवरुद्ध करने का निर्देश देने की शक्ति प्रदान करता है।
- **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act** authorises the **Union government** to block public access to any information via any computer resource, including applications and websites, if it is satisfied that such blocking is necessary in the interest of **India's sovereignty and integrity, defence of India, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign states, public order**, or for preventing incitement to the commission of any **cognizable offence**.

सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 69ए केंद्र सरकार को यह अधिकार देती है कि वह अनुप्रयोगों और वेबसाइटों सहित किसी भी संगणकीय संसाधन के माध्यम से उपलब्ध सूचना तक सार्वजनिक पहुँच को अवरुद्ध कर सकती है, यदि उसे यह संतोष हो कि ऐसा करना **भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता, भारत की रक्षा, राज्य की सुरक्षा, विदेशी राज्यों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध, लोक व्यवस्था** अथवा किसी **संज्ञेय अपराध** के लिए उकसावे को रोकने के हित में आवश्यक है।

- But the restriction may interfere with **Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution**, which protects **freedom of speech and expression**.
  किन्तु ऐसा प्रतिबंध **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19(1)(क)** से टकरा सकता है, जो **वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** की रक्षा करता है।
- Therefore, the orders under **Section 69A** must be issued with the procedural safeguards established by the **Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking Access to Information by the Public) Rules, 2009**.
  इसलिए **धारा 69ए** के अंतर्गत जारी आदेशों को **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (जनता द्वारा सूचना तक पहुँच अवरुद्ध करने की प्रक्रिया एवं सुरक्षा उपाय) नियम, 2009** में निर्धारित प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपायों का पालन करते हुए जारी किया जाना चाहिए।
- In **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India**, the **Supreme Court** examined the validity of the indefinite blanket ban on internet services in the erstwhile State of **Jammu and Kashmir**.
  अनुराधा भसीन बनाम भारत संघ मामले में **उच्चतम न्यायालय** ने पूर्ववर्ती **जम्मू और कश्मीर राज्य** में इंटरनेट सेवाओं पर लगाए गए अनिश्चितकालीन व्यापक प्रतिबंध की वैधता की समीक्षा की थी।
- The court held that **freedom of speech and expression**, as well as freedom to practice any profession or carry on any trade, business, or occupation over the internet, are protected by **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)**.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि **वाक् एवं अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता** तथा इंटरनेट के माध्यम से किसी व्यवसाय, व्यापार, पेशे या रोजगार को संचालित करने की स्वतंत्रता, **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(क) और अनुच्छेद 19(1)(ग)** द्वारा संरक्षित है।
- The court also concluded that orders restricting internet access must meet the **proportionality test**; they must be required, use the **least restrictive measures** available, and be open to **judicial review**.
  न्यायालय ने यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि इंटरनेट पहुँच को प्रतिबंधित करने वाले आदेशों को **आनुपातिकता परीक्षण** पर खरा उतरना चाहिए; वे आवश्यक हों, उपलब्ध **न्यूनतम प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों** का उपयोग करें तथा **न्यायिक समीक्षा** के लिए खुले हों।
- **Article 19(1)(g)** provides the right to practice any profession or to engage in any occupation, trade, or business.
  अनुच्छेद 19(1)(ग) प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को किसी भी पेशे का पालन करने अथवा किसी व्यवसाय, व्यापार या रोजगार में संलग्न होने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
- **Section 79 of the Information Technology Act** also establishes the **intermediary safe harbour provision**, which means platforms are not liable for **third-party content** if they exercise **due diligence**, follow the **Information Technology Rules, 2021**, and act quickly upon receiving knowledge of illegal content.
  सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी अधिनियम की धारा 79 में **मध्यस्थ सुरक्षित आश्रय प्रावधान** भी निहित है। इसके अनुसार यदि मंच **उचित सतर्कता** बरतते हैं, **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी नियम, 2021** का पालन करते हैं तथा अवैध सामग्री की जानकारी मिलने पर शीघ्र कार्रवाई करते हैं, तो उन्हें **तृतीय पक्ष सामग्री** के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं ठहराया जाएगा।

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	प्रधानमंत्री कल किसानों के लिए ₹18,880 करोड़ जारी करेंगे।
19J6	Assam NHM confirms seven Japanese encephalitis deaths असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनएचएम) ने जापानी एन्सेफलाइटिस से सात मौतों की पुष्टि की।
19J6	PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees प्रधानमंत्री कर्मचारियों को ₹2,400 करोड़ की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करेंगे।
19J6	NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges एनएफएचएस-6 पोषण संबंधी चुनौतियों के बीच प्रगति को दर्शाता है
19J6	What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah? निपाह के संदर्भ में केरल की जोखिम-प्रोफ़ाइल क्या है?

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the 23rd instalment of the PM-KISAN scheme on Saturday from Tarakeswar, West Bengal. Over 9.44 crore eligible farmers will receive ₹2,000 each, and ₹18,880 crore will be transferred directly into beneficiary accounts. "Over 2.18 crore women farmers will receive the benefit," the Union Agriculture Ministry said in a release. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh

PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will disburse ₹2,400 crore worth incentives under the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY) here on Friday. Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told presspersons here on Thursday that 15 lakh beneficiaries will receive the incentive as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

He added that Mr. Modi will interact with a few first-time employees and employers benefiting under PM-VBRY. The total outlay for the scheme is ₹99,446 crore, and is targeted to create 3.5 crore jobs in two years. He said first-time employees will get benefits worth ₹15,000 and employers will receive up to ₹3,000 per month per new employee. The scheme is to boost employment in the manufacturing sector, he said.

19J6. PM to release ₹18,880 crore for farmers tomorrow

प्रधानमंत्री कल किसानों के लिए ₹18,880 करोड़ जारी करेंगे।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will release the **23rd instalment** of the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme** on **Saturday** from **Tarakeswar, West Bengal**.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार को **पश्चिम बंगाल के तारकेश्वर** से **प्रधानमंत्री किसान सम्मान निधि योजना** की **23वीं किस्त** जारी करेंगे।

- Over **9.44 crore eligible farmers** will receive **₹2,000 each**, and **₹18,880 crore** will be transferred directly into **beneficiary accounts**.

इस अवसर पर **9.44 करोड़ से अधिक पात्र किसानों** को **प्रत्येक के खाते में 2,000 रुपये** प्रदान किए जाएंगे तथा कुल **18,880 करोड़ रुपये** सीधे **लाभार्थियों के बैंक खातों** में स्थानांतरित किए जाएंगे।

- Mr. Modi will also launch the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana** and the **Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme**.

प्रधानमंत्री **प्रधानमंत्री फसल बीमा योजना** तथा **पुनर्गठित मौसम आधारित फसल बीमा योजना** का भी शुभारंभ करेंगे।

19J6. Assam NHM confirms seven Japanese encephalitis deaths

असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन (एनएचएम) ने जापानी एन्सेफलाइटिस से सात मौतों की पुष्टि की।

- **Seven people** have died of **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** in **Assam** since the beginning of the year, while **32 others** have died of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** as of **June 17**, according to a statement issued by the **State unit of the National Health Mission (NHM)** on Thursday.

असम में वर्ष की शुरुआत से अब तक **जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर** के कारण **सात लोगों** की मृत्यु हो चुकी है, जबकि **17 जून** तक **तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम** के कारण **32 अन्य लोगों** की मृत्यु हुई है। यह जानकारी गुरुवार को **राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन की राज्य इकाई** द्वारा जारी एक वक्तव्य में दी गई।

- Almost **62% of all Japanese Encephalitis deaths in India** since **2018** have been reported from **Assam**, according to national data.

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राष्ट्रीय आँकड़ों के अनुसार, **वर्ष 2018** के बाद से भारत में **जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर से होने वाली कुल मृत्यु का लगभग 62 प्रतिशत** हिस्सा **असम** में दर्ज किया गया है।

- Outbreaks usually occur between **May and October**, with the peak period being **July and August**.
  इस रोग के प्रकोप सामान्यतः **मई से अक्टूबर** के बीच देखे जाते हैं, जबकि इसका सर्वाधिक प्रभाव **जुलाई और अगस्त** में होता है।
- Noting that the two distinct conditions are not interchangeable, **Assam NHM Executive Director Abhijit Sarma** clarified that **Japanese Encephalitis** is one cause of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome**, but not all **AES** cases are caused by **JE**.
  इन दोनों अलग-अलग चिकित्सीय अवस्थाओं को एक-दूसरे का पर्याय न मानने की आवश्यकता पर बल देते हुए **असम राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन के कार्यकारी निदेशक अभिजीत शर्मा** ने स्पष्ट किया कि **जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर**, **तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम** के कारणों में से एक है, किन्तु **तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ सिंड्रोम** के सभी मामले **जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर** के कारण नहीं होते हैं।

19J6. PM to hand over ₹2,400-cr. incentives to employees
प्रधानमंत्री कर्मचारियों को ₹2,400 करोड़ की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करेंगे।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will disburse **₹2,400 crore worth incentives** under the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana (PM-VBRY)** on **Friday**.
  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शुक्रवार को **प्रधानमंत्री विकसित भारत रोजगार योजना** के अंतर्गत **2,400 करोड़ रुपये की प्रोत्साहन राशि** वितरित करेंगे।
- The **total outlay** for the scheme is **₹99,446 crore**, and it is targeted to create **3.5 crore jobs** in **two years**.
  इस योजना का **कुल परिव्यय 99,446 करोड़ रुपये** है तथा इसका लक्ष्य **दो वर्षों** में **3.5 करोड़ रोजगार अवसरों** का सृजन करना है।
- **Employers** will receive up to **₹3,000 per month per new employee**.
  नियोक्ताओं को प्रत्येक नए कर्मचारी के लिए **प्रतिमाह 3,000 रुपये तक** की सहायता राशि प्रदान की जाएगी।
- The scheme is intended to boost **employment in the manufacturing sector**.
  इस योजना का उद्देश्य **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में रोजगार सृजन** को बढ़ावा देना है।

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NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

GS II: Governance

The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report presents a mixed progress card for India, offering reasons to cheer while also sending clear signals to pause and reflect. On the bright side, stunting levels (for children under five), which indicate long periods of sub-optimal food intake with other deprivations, have declined from 35.5% to 29.3%. Though a modest decline, any gain is welcome given the complexity of the task that involves strengthening women's access to knowledge and resources, improved water and sanitation, and ensuring access to healthy affordable diets. Wasting levels that indicate whether children have adequate weight for their height, show no change, except for severe forms of wasting. The pattern across indicators makes one thing clear: gains in child nutrition are due to better health-care access, immunisation coverage, maternal education and improvements in housing, water and sanitation, while feeding practices and access to quality diets remain weak and continue to limit progress.

Institutional births have reached 90%, with public health facilities accounting for 58% of births; 91% of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and 95% of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.

Equally gratifying is vaccination coverage for children – 87% of children between 12 and 23 months of age are now fully vaccinated. Since private facilities account for only about 3% of vaccinations, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers – Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM). These national averages hide regional disparities, but access to health services has improved across States.

Poor feeding practices

Despite the high rate of institutional births, only about 50% of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding. About 60% of children between the ages of six to eight months, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only 15% between six to 23 months receive an adequate diet. Improving the timely initiation of complementary feeding and ensuring that all children receive an adequate diet are key to reducing undernutrition. In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the annaprasana ritual, typically performed between six and 12 months – any delay will result in growth faltering.

A growing and under-explored determinant of child nutrition in India is maternal time poverty. Women perform multiple roles within and outside the home. NFHS-6 reports that about 30% of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden. A large proportion of women in informal economies engage in unpaid family labour, in farming/fisheries, livestock care, and domestic chores. There are no clear estimates of the percentage of young mothers with children between six-23 months who are in the work force and there is very little documentation on how women manage child feeding with their other work roles. In many rural areas, in the absence of crèches, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.

The processed food trap

Recent consumer expenditure survey results show that households are spending less on cereals and more on dairy, processed foods and beverages, with the latter two forming a large part of the expenditure. This creates an impression of diversity which is not the same as nutritional adequacy. A nutritionally adequate diet would have to follow the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) food-based dietary guidelines. Unfortunately, for a sizeable section of the population, a nutritious diet consisting of pulses, millets, fruits and vegetables, animal foods and nuts is unaffordable. Processed foods, in contrast, are easily available, ready to eat and packaged in affordable packs.

The first 1,000 days – from pregnancy to a child's second birthday – form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years). We need disaggregated data for the 0-2 age group, currently unavailable, as stunting typically peaks during the second year of life and growth faltering often begins much earlier. The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children. Prevention of growth faltering must receive greater priority. Early identification of stagnation in weight or length, with timely counselling and support to mothers, is central to prevention.

Empowering frontline nutrition workers

Monthly anthropometric data for young children is collected by AWWs. Strengthening their skills in data collection would improve data quality. The huge volume of collected data should be analysed locally and feedback provided to the ASHAs and AWWs for timely action.

For this task, recruitment of a nutritionist and a data analyst at the district level is needed. Where possible, digital tools can be used to supplement in person counselling, by providing both workers and mothers practical information on how, when and what to feed young children at different ages, based on locally available healthy foods.

Behaviour change communication efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as annaprasana to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding. Joint capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of undernutrition.

Multisectoral convergence is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak. Child nutrition should be a standing agenda item in Gram Sabha and Panchayat discussions. Local planning must prioritise improvements in Anganwadi infrastructure, safe drinking water, and sanitation facilities, as these foundational services directly influence child growth and health.

Engaging men in childcare, promoting shared domestic responsibilities, and strengthening support to mothers can significantly enhance feeding and caregiving behaviours. Many non-governmental organisations in India have developed crèche models that combine childcare, nutrition and early learning, and can be run by trained local women. From a gender perspective, crèches are not only child development interventions; they are social infrastructure that enables women's economic participation and reduces unpaid care burdens. With coordinated action across sectors and communities, meaningful and sustained progress in child nutrition is entirely achievable.

Soumya Swaminathan

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Better health care alone cannot overcome India's nutrition challenges

19J6. NFHS-6 reveals progress amid nutrition challenges

एनएफएचएस-6 पोषण संबंधी चुनौतियों के बीच प्रगति को दर्शाता है

- **Institutional births** have reached **90%**, with public health facilities accounting for **58%** of births; **91%** of deliveries were attended by skilled medical personnel and **95%** of mothers were visited at least once by health personnel during the antenatal period.
  संस्थागत प्रसव का स्तर **90%** तक पहुँच गया है, जिनमें से **58%** प्रसव सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में हुए; **91%** प्रसव कुशल स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की देखरेख में सम्पन्न हुए तथा **95%** माताओं से गर्भावस्था के दौरान कम-से-कम एक बार स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों ने संपर्क किया।
- Equally gratifying is **vaccination coverage** for children — **87%** of children between **12 and 23 months** of age are now fully vaccinated.
  इसी प्रकार बच्चों का **टीकाकरण कवरेज** भी संतोषजनक है — **12 से 23 माह** आयु वर्ग के **87%** बच्चे अब पूर्ण रूप से टीकाकृत हैं।
- Since private facilities account for only about **3%** of vaccinations, the high coverage reflects the strong outreach efforts of frontline workers — **Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), Anganwadi Workers (AWW), and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM)**.
  चूँकि निजी संस्थानों का योगदान केवल लगभग **3%** टीकाकरण तक सीमित है, इसलिए यह उच्च कवरेज अग्रिम पंक्ति के कार्यकर्ताओं — **मान्यता प्राप्त सामाजिक स्वास्थ्य कार्यकर्ता (ASHA), आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता (AWW) और सहायक नर्स दाई (ANM)** — के प्रभावी प्रयासों को दर्शाता है।

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Poor feeding practices
अपर्याप्त आहार संबंधी व्यवहार

- Despite the high rate of **institutional births**, only about **50%** of newborns are breastfed within the first hour of life, indicating that the health system must intensify efforts to support early initiation of breastfeeding.
  संस्थागत प्रसवों की उच्च दर के बावजूद, केवल लगभग **50%** नवजात शिशुओं को जन्म के पहले घंटे के भीतर स्तनपान कराया जाता है, जो दर्शाता है कि स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को शीघ्र स्तनपान प्रारम्भ कराने के लिए अपने प्रयास और तेज करने होंगे।
- About **60%** of children between the ages of **six to eight months**, receive solid/semi-solid food, while only **15%** between **six to 23 months** receive an adequate diet.
  छह से आठ माह आयु के लगभग **60%** बच्चों को ठोस अथवा अर्ध-ठोस आहार प्राप्त होता है, जबकि **छह से 23 माह** आयु वर्ग के केवल **15%** बच्चों को पर्याप्त आहार मिल पाता है।
- In India, complementary feeding is closely linked to the **annaprasana ritual**, typically performed between **six and 12 months** — any delay will result in growth faltering.
  भारत में पूरक आहार की शुरुआत **अन्नप्राशन संस्कार** से घनिष्ठ रूप से जुड़ी होती है, जो सामान्यतः **छह से 12 माह** की आयु के बीच सम्पन्न किया जाता है — इसमें किसी भी प्रकार की देरी बच्चे की वृद्धि में अवरोध उत्पन्न कर सकती है।
- **NFHS-6** reports that about **30%** of women engaged in paid work during the past 12 months, but this significantly underestimates their overall work burden.
  NFHS-6 के अनुसार, पिछले 12 महीनों के दौरान लगभग **30%** महिलाएँ वेतनभोगी कार्यों में संलग्न थीं, किंतु यह उनके कुल कार्यभार का वास्तविक आकलन नहीं दर्शाता।
- In many rural areas, in the absence of **crèches**, women leave their infants and young children with older family members or the child's older sibling (usually a girl), impacting both breastfeeding and complementary feeding, when they are out in the fields.
  अनेक ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में **शिशु देखभाल केंद्रों (Crèches)** के अभाव में महिलाएँ खेतों में कार्य करने जाते समय अपने शिशुओं और छोटे बच्चों को परिवार के बड़े सदस्यों या बच्चे के बड़े भाई-बहन (अधिकतर लड़की) के पास छोड़ देती हैं, जिससे स्तनपान और पूरक आहार दोनों प्रभावित होते हैं।

The processed food trap
प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों का जाल

- The first **1,000 days** — from pregnancy to a child's second birthday — form the most critical window for healthy physical and cognitive development (most brain growth occurs in the first five years).
  पहले **1,000 दिन** — अर्थात गर्भावस्था से लेकर बच्चे के दूसरे जन्मदिन तक — स्वस्थ शारीरिक और संज्ञानात्मक विकास के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अवधि होते हैं (मस्तिष्क का अधिकांश विकास जीवन के पहले पाँच वर्षों में होता है)।
- The **Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan** programme currently focuses on identification and rehabilitation of severely malnourished children.
  प्रधानमंत्री समग्र पोषण योजना (POSHAN Abhiyaan) वर्तमान में गंभीर रूप से कुपोषित बच्चों की पहचान और पुनर्वास पर केंद्रित है।

- Monthly **anthropometric data** for young children is collected by **AWWs**.
  छोटे बच्चों के मासिक **शारीरिक माप संबंधी आँकड़े (Anthropometric Data) आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं (AWWs)** द्वारा एकत्र किए जाते हैं।
- **Behaviour change communication** efforts should be culturally grounded, integrating practices such as **annaprasana** to reinforce timely and appropriate complementary feeding.

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व्यवहार परिवर्तन संचार (Behaviour Change Communication) के प्रयास सांस्कृतिक रूप से आधारित होने चाहिए तथा **अन्नप्राशन** जैसी परंपराओं को शामिल करना चाहिए, ताकि समय पर और उचित पूरक आहार को प्रोत्साहन मिल सके।

- Joint capacity building of **AWWs, ASHAs, and ANMs** in assessing feeding practices and advising families with effective communication materials on improving diets using locally available, affordable foods would enhance the quality of counselling and reduce the risk of **undernutrition**.

  AWWs, ASHAs और ANMs की संयुक्त क्षमता-वृद्धि, ताकि वे भोजन संबंधी व्यवहार का आकलन कर सकें और स्थानीय रूप से उपलब्ध किफायती खाद्य पदार्थों के माध्यम से आहार सुधार के लिए परिवारों को प्रभावी संचार सामग्री के साथ परामर्श दे सकें, परामर्श की गुणवत्ता को बेहतर बनाएगी तथा **कुपोषण** के जोखिम को कम करेगी।
- **Multisectoral convergence** is critical to addressing child malnutrition, yet it remains weak.

  बहु-क्षेत्रीय अभिसरण (Multisectoral Convergence) बाल कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, किन्तु यह अभी भी कमजोर बना हुआ है।

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What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?

How do ecological and human factors intersect in driving spillovers? Will it be possible to prevent recurrent spillovers events? What has Kerala learnt from the multiple outbreaks? What makes Kerala's Nipah response effective in containing outbreaks? Why is Nipah classified as a high-threat pathogen within Kerala's zoonotic landscape?

GS II: Governance

EXPLAINER

C. Maya

The story so far:

Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NiV) was in 2018, which identified 23 cases (including 18 lab-confirmed ones). The case fatality rate was 91% and there were two survivors. Since then, Kerala has recorded numerous spillovers of NiV.

In 2019, a lone case was identified in Ernakulam and the person survived the infection. In 2021, a 12 -year-old boy was detected with the infection in Malappuram. In 2023, Nipah resulted in a cluster of six cases in Kozhikode. Two single cases each were reported from separate spillover events from Malappuram, in July and September in 2024. In 2025, four cases of Nipah were reported from two districts, Malappuram and Palakkad and epidemiological investigations reported that none of these cases appeared to be linked to each other, suggesting independent spillover events from the natural reservoir.

NiV has resurfaced again in Kozhikode now and a 43-year-old, who tested positive for the virus, is battling for life at Kozhikode Medical College.

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?

Research has consistently identified the Indian flying fox bat (*Pteropus medius*) or the fruit bat as the natural reservoir of Nipah virus in Kerala. Serological studies and viral detection in bats have shown that the virus is circulating in bat colonies in the State, particularly in northern districts.

In the 2018 Kerala outbreak, about 25% of the sampled bats were found to be positive for Nipah viral RNA and in subsequent events too, bat samples had revealed the presence of NiV.

The Pteropus species are found across the State and very near human settlements. A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.

Why is Nipah spillover risk highest in Kerala between April and September?

The recurrent NiV spillovers in Kerala with fair regularity suggest that the virus has established itself in the environment. The peak Nipah virus spillover risk in the State is from April to September, when the abundance of seasonal fruit-laden trees, increased bat foraging activity, bat breeding season and viral shedding dynamics coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure. This pattern has not changed in Kerala since the very first outbreak.

Because of the perennial natural virus reservoir in the State, it might not be possible to prevent recurrent NiV spillover events in Kerala.

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?

It is the convergence of ecological, demographic, climatic factors and increased human-wildlife interface that makes Kerala a special lab for zoonotic diseases.

The Western Ghats, which stretches along the State's eastern flank, is one of the world's richest biodiversity spots and the tropical rainforest climate sustains several hundred species of birds, reptiles and mammals. But only about 1,60,000 sq. km of this rich biosphere is formally protected. The high population density in Kerala and the increased presence of human settlements, plantations, and agricultural lands immediately adjacent to and along the forest fringes increases the opportunities for human-wildlife interactions and facilitates exposure to novel pathogens.

Scientific literature links emerging zoonoses to deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification. When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources. Scientists also warn that climate-related ecological disruptions could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.

Nipah is just one among Kerala's broader zoonotic risk profile, which includes other pathogenic diseases like Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens (HTPs) – Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD – which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential. Nipah has been classified by the WHO as a priority pathogen because of its lethality, unpredictability and its alarming potential to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.

Renewed alert: Nipah virus has resurfaced in Kozhikode now, with a 43-year-old patient battling for life at the Government Medical College Hospital. A security guard installs a warning board outside Nipah isolation ward at the hospital on June 11, 2026. K.RAGESH

The WHO has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some high threat pathogens

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?

The recurrent spillover incidents in Kerala has primed the health system about the importance of sharp and coordinated disease surveillance, rapid pathogen identification and containment efforts to ensure that human-to-human transmissions do not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.

The 2018 brush with Nipah took the health system by surprise. Of the 23 cases identified in the outbreak, only the index case had contracted the infection in the community. All the remaining cases were due to nosocomial transmission (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities) in three different hospitals.

Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals. Clinicians in the State have become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion when they encounter unusual cases of acute encephalitis syndrome and to watch for clustering of cases.

The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology, screening of severe respiratory infections as well as early lab confirmation and detection of pathogens through its expanded Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) networks and intensive health emergency management measures.

In all its Nipah outbreaks, the health system's public health response has demonstrated that it can rapidly identify the index case and swiftly contain the event. After the initial event, human-to-human transmission has occurred only once in 2023.

How is Kerala strengthening its preparedness against recurring Nipah outbreaks?

The recurrence of Nipah in Kerala and the State's swift public health response every time has been a demonstration of the resilience of the State's health system. With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

As part of its 'One Health' strategies, it has developed a massive community-based surveillance network supported by over 2.5 lakh trained volunteers at the grassroots, who track and report unusual disease trends, including unusual animal or bird deaths, to enable early detection of zoonotic outbreaks such as Nipah and Mpox.

In 2023, the State set up the One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience at Kozhikode, which has been focusing on building community awareness, resilience and capacity to minimise spillover events and to mount a swift response to any such events.

It has documented every single outbreak in Kerala and prioritised Nipah research for the future, focusing on disease epidemiology, sero surveillance studies and host factors research.

The State government, along with National Institute of Virology (NIV), is also involved in a project to develop indigenous monoclonal antibodies against Nipah, specific to the Bangladesh strain of NiV circulating in Kerala.

THE GIST

- A mapping study of bat-roosting sites by Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of zoonotic exposure.
- Kerala used the 2018 experience as an opportunity to develop a clinical algorithm for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen diagnostic and research capacities and augment standard infection control practices in hospitals.
- With the State harbouring a natural reservoir of Nipah virus and a perennial risk of virus spillovers, the Health department's focus has been on creating community awareness about the situation so that the bat-human interface is reduced.

19J6. What is Kerala's risk profile for Nipah?
निपाह के संदर्भ में केरल की जोखिम-प्रोफ़ाइल क्या है?

- **Kerala's first encounter with Nipah virus (NiV)** was in **2018**, which identified **23 cases** (including **18 lab-confirmed** ones).
  केरल में **निपाह विषाणु** का पहला प्रकोप **वर्ष 2018** में सामने आया, जिसमें **23 मामलों** की पहचान की गई थी, जिनमें **18 प्रयोगशाला द्वारा पुष्ट मामले** शामिल थे।

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Website : patrioticias.in

- The **case fatality rate** was **91%** and there were **two survivors**.
  इस दौरान **मृत्यु दर 91%** थी और **दो व्यक्ति जीवित बचे** थे।

Why is Nipah recurring in Kerala?
केरल में निपाह संक्रमण बार-बार क्यों उभर रहा है?

- Research has consistently identified the **Indian flying fox bat (Pteropus medius)** or the **fruit bat** as the **natural reservoir** of **Nipah virus** in Kerala.
  अनुसंधानों ने लगातार यह स्थापित किया है कि **भारतीय उड़न लोमड़ी चमगादड़ (प्टेरोपस मेडियस)** अथवा **फलाहारी चमगादड़** केरल में **निपाह विषाणु का प्राकृतिक भंडार** है।
- **Serological studies** and **viral detection in bats** have shown that the virus is circulating in **bat colonies**, particularly in **northern districts** of the State.
  प्रतिरक्षी-विज्ञान संबंधी अध्ययनों तथा **चमगादड़ों में विषाणु की पहचान** से यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि यह विषाणु राज्य के **चमगादड़ समूहों**, विशेषकर **उत्तरी जिलों** में सक्रिय रूप से संचरित हो रहा है।
- The **Pteropus species** are found across the State and very near **human settlements**.
  प्टेरोपस प्रजाति के चमगादड़ पूरे राज्य में तथा **मानव बस्तियों** के अत्यंत निकट पाए जाते हैं।
- A mapping study of **bat-roosting sites** by **Kerala Forest Research Institute's Department of Wildlife Biology** had found that almost all of the roosts were near human habitats, increasing the risk of **zoonotic exposure**.
  केरल वन अनुसंधान संस्थान के वन्यजीव जीवविज्ञान विभाग द्वारा किए गए **चमगादड़ों के विश्राम स्थलों के मानचित्रण अध्ययन** में पाया गया कि लगभग सभी विश्राम स्थल मानव आवासों के निकट स्थित हैं, जिससे **पशुजन्य संक्रमण के जोखिम** में वृद्धि होती है।
- The peak **Nipah virus spillover risk** in the State is from **April to September**, when the abundance of **seasonal fruit-laden trees**, increased **bat foraging activity**, **bat breeding season** and **viral shedding dynamics** coincide, increasing the risk of human exposure.
  राज्य में **निपाह विषाणु संक्रमण-प्रसार का सर्वाधिक जोखिम अप्रैल से सितंबर** के बीच रहता है, जब **मौसमी फलों से लदे वृक्षों की अधिकता**, **चमगादड़ों की भोजन खोज गतिविधियों में वृद्धि**, **प्रजनन काल** तथा **विषाणु उत्सर्जन की प्रक्रियाएँ** एक साथ घटित होती हैं, जिससे मनुष्यों के संपर्क में आने का जोखिम बढ़ जाता है।

What makes Kerala particularly vulnerable to zoonotic diseases?
केरल को पशुजन्य रोगों के प्रति विशेष रूप से संवेदनशील क्या बनाता है?

- Scientific literature links emerging **zoonoses** to **deforestation, habitat fragmentation, urbanisation and agricultural intensification**.
  वैज्ञानिक साहित्य उभरते हुए **पशुजन्य रोगों** को **वनों की कटाई, आवास विखंडन, नगरीकरण तथा कृषि के तीव्रीकरण** से जोड़ता है।
- When wildlife habitats are disturbed, the animals are forced into closer contact with human settlements and cultivated food sources.
  जब वन्यजीवों के आवासों में व्यवधान उत्पन्न होता है, तो पशु मानव बस्तियों और कृषि-आधारित खाद्य स्रोतों के अधिक निकट आने के लिए विवश हो जाते हैं।
- Scientists also warn that **climate-related ecological disruptions** could be important contributors to future spillover risk in the case of Nipah.
  वैज्ञानिक यह भी चेतावनी देते हैं कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन से उत्पन्न पारिस्थितिकीय व्यवधान** भविष्य में निपाह संक्रमण-प्रसार के जोखिम को बढ़ाने वाले महत्वपूर्ण कारक हो सकते हैं।
- **Nipah** is just one among Kerala's broader **zoonotic risk profile**, which includes other pathogenic diseases like **Kyasanur Forest Disease, leptospirosis, scrub typhus, Japanese encephalitis, West Nile fever, rabies and avian influenza**.
  निपाह केरल के व्यापक **पशुजन्य रोग जोखिम परिदृश्य** का केवल एक हिस्सा है, जिसमें **क्यासानूर वन रोग,**

लेप्टोस्पायरोसिस, स्क्रब टाइफस, जापानी मस्तिष्क ज्वर, वेस्ट नाइल ज्वर, रेबीज़ तथा पक्षी इन्फ्लुएंजा जैसे अन्य रोग भी शामिल हैं।

- The **World Health Organisation (WHO)** has warned Kerala to be on the vigil about some **high threat pathogens (HTPs) — Nipah, Avian Influenza (H5N1) and KFD** — which have a high mortality profile and high transmissibility with pandemic potential.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन ने केरल को कुछ **उच्च-जोखिम रोगजनकों — निपाह, पक्षी इन्फ्लुएंजा (एच5एन1) और क्यासानूर वन रोग** — के प्रति सतर्क रहने की चेतावनी दी है, क्योंकि इनमें उच्च मृत्यु-दर, तीव्र संचरण क्षमता तथा महामारी उत्पन्न करने की संभावना होती है।
- **Nipah** has been classified by the **World Health Organisation** as a **priority pathogen** because of its **lethality, unpredictability and alarming potential** to cause widespread outbreaks or even the next pandemic.
  निपाह को **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन** ने एक **प्राथमिकता प्राप्त रोगजनक** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है, क्योंकि इसकी **घातकता, अप्रत्याशितता तथा व्यापक प्रकोप अथवा अगली महामारी उत्पन्न करने की चिंताजनक क्षमता** अत्यधिक है।

How is Kerala responding to the recurrent threat of zoonotic events like Nipah?
केरल निपाह जैसी बार-बार होने वाली पशुजन्य रोग घटनाओं के खतरे का सामना कैसे कर रहा है?

- The recurrent **spillover incidents** in Kerala has primed the **health system** about the importance of sharp and coordinated **disease surveillance**, rapid **pathogen identification** and **containment efforts** to ensure that **human-to-human transmission** does not occur, resulting in a wide outbreak.
  केरल में बार-बार होने वाली **संक्रमण-प्रसार घटनाओं** ने **स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था** को यह समझा दिया है कि प्रभावी और समन्वित **रोग निगरानी**, त्वरित **रोगजनक पहचान** तथा **नियंत्रण उपाय** कितने महत्वपूर्ण हैं, ताकि **मनुष्य से मनुष्य में संक्रमण** न फैल सके और व्यापक प्रकोप को रोका जा सके।
- All the remaining cases were due to **nosocomial transmission** (the spread of pathogens within healthcare facilities) in three different hospitals.
  शेष सभी मामले **अस्पतालजनित संक्रमण प्रसार** के कारण हुए थे, अर्थात् स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों के भीतर रोगजनकों के फैलाव के परिणामस्वरूप, और ये तीन अलग-अलग अस्पतालों से जुड़े थे।
- Kerala used the **2018 experience** as an opportunity to develop a **clinical algorithm** for all emerging viral infections at tertiary care levels, strengthen **diagnostic and research capacities** and augment **infection control practices** in hospitals.
  केरल ने **वर्ष 2018 के अनुभव** को अवसर के रूप में उपयोग करते हुए तृतीयक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में उभरते विषाणुजनित संक्रमणों के लिए **नैदानिक कार्य-पद्धति**, **निदान एवं अनुसंधान क्षमता** तथा अस्पतालों में **संक्रमण नियंत्रण व्यवस्थाओं** को सुदृढ़ किया।
- The State now has a stringent system for monitoring all **acute encephalitis cases of unknown etiology**, screening of **severe respiratory infections** as well as early **laboratory confirmation** and detection of pathogens through its expanded **Virus Research and Diagnostic Laboratory network** and intensive health emergency management measures.
  राज्य में अब **अज्ञात कारणों वाले तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ मामलों**, **गंभीर श्वसन संक्रमणों** की जाँच, शीघ्र **प्रयोगशाला पुष्टि** तथा विस्तारित **विषाणु अनुसंधान एवं निदान प्रयोगशाला नेटवर्क** के माध्यम से रोगजनकों की पहचान के लिए सुदृढ़ व्यवस्था स्थापित है।
- With the State harbouring a **natural reservoir of Nipah virus** and a perennial risk of **virus spillovers**, the Health Department's focus has been on creating **community awareness** so that the **bat-human interface** is reduced.
  राज्य में **निपाह विषाणु के प्राकृतिक भंडार** की उपस्थिति तथा **संक्रमण-प्रसार के स्थायी जोखिम** को देखते हुए स्वास्थ्य विभाग का ध्यान **सामुदायिक जागरूकता** बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित है, ताकि **चमगादड़-मानव संपर्क** को कम किया जा सके।

- As part of its **One Health strategy**, it has developed a massive **community-based surveillance network** supported by over **2.5 lakh trained volunteers** at the grassroots.
  अपनी **एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य रणनीति** के अंतर्गत राज्य ने **2.5 लाख से अधिक प्रशिक्षित स्वयंसेवकों** के सहयोग से एक विशाल **सामुदायिक निगरानी तंत्र** विकसित किया है।
- In **2023**, the State set up the **One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience** at **Kozhikode**.
  वर्ष 2023 में राज्य ने **कोझिकोड** में **निपाह अनुसंधान एवं सामुदायिक प्रत्यास्थता हेतु एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य केंद्र** की स्थापना की।
- It has documented **every single outbreak** in Kerala and prioritised **Nipah research** for the future, focusing on **disease epidemiology**, **sero-surveillance studies** and **host factor research**.
  इसने केरल में हुए **प्रत्येक प्रकोप का दस्तावेजीकरण** किया है तथा भविष्य के लिए **निपाह अनुसंधान** को प्राथमिकता दी है, जिसमें **रोग महामारी-विज्ञान**, **प्रतिरक्षी सर्वेक्षण अध्ययन** और **आश्रयदाता कारक अनुसंधान** पर विशेष ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।
- The State government, along with the **National Institute of Virology**, is also involved in a project to develop **indigenous monoclonal antibodies** against Nipah, specific to the **Bangladesh strain** of the virus circulating in Kerala.
  राज्य सरकार, **राष्ट्रीय विषाणु विज्ञान संस्थान** के साथ मिलकर, केरल में प्रचलित विषाणु की **बांग्लादेशीय उपप्रजाति** के विरुद्ध **स्वदेशी एकल-वंशीय प्रतिरक्षी प्रतिद्रव्यों** के विकास की परियोजना पर भी कार्य कर रही है।

GS Paper II: International Relations	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord ट्रम्प और पेज़ेश्कियन द्वारा शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने के बाद अमेरिका ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लगी नाकाबंदी हटा ली।

PATRIOTIC IAS

U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Thursday lifted a blockade of Iranian ports imposed during the West Asia war after President Donald Trump signed a deal to end the conflict, as uncertainty surrounded planned talks in Switzerland aiming to take the accord further.

Mr. Trump and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a deal on Wednesday meant to end the war, with Tehran agreeing to dilute its enriched uranium in return for large-scale economic relief. The signing of the deal set in motion a 60-day period for talks on wider issues between the two sides.

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Mojtab Khamenei endorsed the talks with the U.S. in a statement.

It remained unclear if the two sides, who have had no diplomatic relations following the 1979 Islamic revolution, would hold a signing ceremony and talks in Switzerland on Friday as announced.

The U.S. forces lifted their parallel naval blockade of Iranian ports that had prevented ships from sailing to or from the Islamic republic, the U.S. military said, noting that its warships "will remain in the general area".

The U.S. military, which had enforced its own blockade after Iran shut the Strait at the start of the war, has allowed at least 12 ships to pass through, Vice-President J.D. Vance said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Trump put his signature to the memorandum of understanding during a candle-lit dinner at the Palace of Versailles following a G7 summit, as host French President Emmanuel Macron and other guests applauded, a video posted by a Trump aide showed. "Just signed it," Mr. Trump told the media as he emerged from the palace.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said the document "was finalised with the signatures of the Presidents".

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan, who mediated the agreement, said on X that it "shall enter into force with immediate effect".

'OPENS DOOR FOR IRAN' » PAGE 12

Trump and Pezeshkian sign the agreement to end the war. @WHITEHOUSE/X/AFP

Trump defends Iran deal; calls critics 'fools'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump lashed out at critics of his agreement with Iran on Thursday, calling those who accused him of offering concessions to end the war "fools", ahead of negotiations in Switzerland on implementing the deal.

Oil prices tumbled after the U.S. President and his Iranian counterpart separately signed their accord to end the West Asia war, with the Strait of Hormuz to reopen but two months of negotiations lying ahead.

"These fools, who think I haven't been tough enough on Iran, when the Stock Market Just Hit A RECORD HIGH, and Oil prices are 'tumbling' down, are either jealous, bad people, or stupid," Mr. Trump posted on social media hours after signing the deal.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 14

19J6. U.S. lifts blockade of Iranian ports after Trump, Pezeshkian sign peace accord

ट्रम्प और पेज़ेश्कियन द्वारा शांति समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए जाने के बाद अमेरिका ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लगी नाकाबंदी हटा ली।

- Mr. Trump and **Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian** signed a deal on Wednesday meant to end the war, with **Tehran** agreeing to dilute its **enriched uranium** in return for **large-scale economic relief**.
  श्री ट्रंप और **ईरान के राष्ट्रपति मसूद पेजेशकियन** ने बुधवार को युद्ध समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसके अंतर्गत **तेहरान** ने **संवर्धित यूरेनियम** को कम करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की, जिसके बदले उसे **व्यापक आर्थिक राहत** प्रदान की जाएगी।

- It remained unclear if the two sides, who have had no diplomatic relations following the **1979 Islamic Revolution**, would hold a signing ceremony and talks in Switzerland on Friday as announced.
  यह स्पष्ट नहीं हो सका कि **1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति** के बाद से जिन दोनों देशों के बीच राजनयिक संबंध नहीं हैं, वे शुक्रवार को स्विट्जरलैंड में घोषित हस्ताक्षर समारोह और वार्ता आयोजित करेंगे या नहीं।
- The **U.S. forces** lifted their parallel **naval blockade of Iranian ports** that had prevented ships from sailing to or from the Islamic republic, the U.S. military said, noting that its warships "will remain in the general area".
  अमेरिकी सेनाओं ने ईरानी बंदरगाहों पर लागू अपनी समानांतर **नौसैनिक नाकेबंदी** भी समाप्त कर दी, जिसके कारण जहाजों का ईरान से आना-जाना बाधित था। अमेरिकी सेना ने कहा कि उसके युद्धपोत "सामान्य क्षेत्र में बने रहेंगे"।
- Earlier on Wednesday, Mr. Trump put his signature to the **memorandum of understanding** during a candle-lit dinner at the **Palace of Versailles** following a **G7 Summit**, as host **French President Emmanuel Macron** and other guests applauded, a video posted by a Trump aide showed.
  बुधवार को इससे पहले, **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** के बाद **वर्साय महल** में आयोजित दीपप्रकाशित रात्रिभोज के दौरान श्री ट्रंप ने **समझौता ज्ञापन** पर हस्ताक्षर किए। ट्रंप के एक सहयोगी द्वारा साझा किए गए वीडियो में मेजबान **फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों** तथा अन्य अतिथियों को तालियाँ बजाते हुए देखा गया।
- **Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of Pakistan**, who mediated the agreement, said on X that it "shall enter into force with immediate effect".
  समझौते में मध्यस्थता करने वाले **पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ़** ने सामाजिक माध्यम मंच पर कहा कि यह समझौता **"तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू होगा।"**

GS Paper III: Economy	**19 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	**Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26** **सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए ईपीएफ पर 8.25% ब्याज दर को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी है।**
19J6	**Essential upgrades** **आवश्यक उन्नयन**
19J6	**The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs** **व्यापार में वास्तविक बाधाएँ अब शुल्क (टैरिफ) नहीं रह गई हैं**
19J6	**Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?** **क्या भारत अर्थव्यवस्था द्वारा समाहित की जा सकने वाली संख्या से अधिक स्नातक तैयार कर रहा है**
19J6	**Revised pact with U.K. could save $500 million for Indians** **यू.के. के साथ संशोधित समझौता भारतीयों के लिए 500 मिलियन डॉलर की बचत कर सकता है**
19J6	**Iron ore sees a bright future, but green steel industry fades** **लौह अयस्क का भविष्य उज्ज्वल दिखता है, लेकिन हरित इस्पात उद्योग की चमक फीकी पड़ रही है**

Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government has ratified 8.25% rate of interest on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2025-26, which is likely to be credited to over seven crore contributing members this month.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) provides the rate of interest on EPF after it gets ratified by the government through the Finance Ministry. The Finance Ministry has given its concurrence to the 8.25% rate of interest fixed by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), the apex decision making body of the EPFO, a source said on Thursday.

On March 2, the CBT, in a meeting chaired by the Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, had decided to fix 8.25% rate of interest for FY 2025-26, marking the third consecutive year this rate has been maintained.

Under the new ecosystem developed by the EPFO, the interest on the EPF would be credited into subscribers' accounts immediately, the source said.

19J6. Govt. ratifies 8.25% EPF interest rate for FY26

सरकार ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए ईपीएफ पर 8.25% ब्याज दर को मंजूरी प्रदान कर दी है।

- **The government** has ratified an **8.25% rate of interest** on **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deposits** for the **financial year 2025-26**, which is likely to be credited to more than **seven crore contributing members** this month.

सरकार ने **वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26** के लिए **कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि जमा राशि** पर **8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर** को अनुमोदित कर दिया है, जिसे इस माह **सात करोड़ से अधिक अंशदायी सदस्यों** के खातों में जमा किए जाने की संभावना है।

- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** provides the rate of interest on EPF after it is ratified by the government through the **Finance Ministry**.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि पर ब्याज दर तभी लागू करता है, जब उसे **वित्त मंत्रालय** के माध्यम से सरकार की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो जाती है।

- The **Finance Ministry** has given its concurrence to the **8.25% interest rate** fixed by the **Central Board of Trustees (CBT)**, the apex decision-making body of the EPFO.

वित्त मंत्रालय ने कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन की सर्वोच्च निर्णयकारी संस्था **केंद्रीय न्यासी बोर्ड** द्वारा निर्धारित **8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर** को अपनी स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है।

- On **March 2**, the **Central Board of Trustees**, in a meeting chaired by **Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**, had decided to fix the **8.25% interest rate** for **financial year 2025-26**.

2 मार्च को **केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया** की अध्यक्षता में आयोजित **केंद्रीय न्यासी बोर्ड** की बैठक में **वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26** के लिए **8.25 प्रतिशत ब्याज दर** निर्धारित करने का निर्णय लिया गया था।

- This marks the **third consecutive year** that the same rate of interest has been maintained.

यह **लगातार तीसरा वर्ष** है जब समान ब्याज दर को बरकरार रखा गया है।

- Under the **new ecosystem** developed by the **EPFO**, the interest on EPF deposits will be credited into subscribers' accounts immediately.

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन द्वारा विकसित **नई प्रणाली** के अंतर्गत कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि पर देय ब्याज राशि अब अंशधारकों के खातों में **तत्काल जमा** कर दी जाएगी।

GS III: Economy

Essential upgrades

The updates to India's statistical system are welcome, albeit long overdue

The government has, in recent months, implemented several long-overdue but welcome upgrades to India's statistical databases. Wide-ranging, they cover the way the country measures Gross Domestic Product (GDP), industrial production, and price changes at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels. These updates have not only made India's key economic statistics more representative of reality, but have also brought them in line with international best practices. The most basic change across all indices has been the updating of base years. Until recently, the base years for GDP, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Wholesale Price Index (WPI), and Index of Industrial Production (IIP) were either 2011 or 2012. As such, these measures were significantly outdated and less reflective of reality with each passing year. In February, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the new series of national accounts data, including GDP, with a base year of 2022-23. The new series incorporates methodological improvements and new data sources, making it more granular and robust. Some of these, such as the double-deflator approach, have long been demanded by statisticians and international bodies, including the IMF.

Similarly, MoSPI had in February also released the new series of the CPI with an updated base year of 2024, a more inclusive basket of items measured, and more accurate weightages. This has enabled a more realistic reading of retail inflation, a key metric in interest-rate decisions. In early June, MoSPI then released the new series of the IIP as well. The base year was updated to 2022-23 and the index's data collection was strengthened. This, too, eventually feeds into more accurate GDP data. The other factor to be highlighted is that the data upgrades have not been limited to just MoSPI. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry also updated its WPI, releasing the new series on Monday. A more accurate WPI and CPI yield a more accurate GDP deflator, which strengthens the way that statisticians derive real GDP growth after having adjusted for inflation. The Commerce Ministry also released a new Producer Price Index (PPI), which is to replace the WPI in five years. A PPI is the standard among developed economies and provides more information about both goods and service price levels at the producer stage. With all these, the IMF is sure to improve the recurring 'C' grade it has given India's national accounts data. These, it is hoped, will also be capped off by a time-bound release of the new Census with no further delays.

19J6. Essential upgrades

आवश्यक उन्नयन

- The updates to **India's statistical system** are welcome, albeit **long overdue**.

भारत की सांख्यिकीय प्रणाली में किए गए अद्यतन स्वागतयोग्य हैं, यद्यपि वे **काफी विलंब से अपेक्षित** थे।

- The government has, in recent months, implemented several long-overdue but welcome upgrades to India's **statistical databases**.
  सरकार ने हाल के महीनों में भारत के **सांख्यिकीय डेटाबेस** में कई लंबे समय से अपेक्षित किंतु स्वागतयोग्य सुधार लागू किए हैं।
- Wide-ranging, they cover the way the country measures **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, industrial production, and price changes at the retail, wholesale, and producer levels.
  ये सुधार व्यापक हैं और इनमें देश द्वारा **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)**, औद्योगिक उत्पादन तथा खुदरा, थोक और उत्पादक स्तरों पर मूल्य परिवर्तनों को मापने की पद्धति शामिल है।
- These updates have not only made India's key economic statistics more representative of reality, but have also brought them in line with international best practices.
  इन अद्यतनों ने न केवल भारत के प्रमुख आर्थिक आँकड़ों को वास्तविकता के अधिक अनुरूप बनाया है, बल्कि उन्हें अंतरराष्ट्रीय सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं के अनुरूप भी कर दिया है।
- The most basic change across all indices has been the updating of **base years**.
  सभी सूचकांकों में सबसे मूलभूत परिवर्तन **आधार वर्ष** का अद्यतन करना रहा है।
- Until recently, the base years for **GDP**, the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**, and **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** were either 2011 or 2012.
  हाल तक **GDP**, **उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (CPI)**, **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI)** और **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP)** के आधार वर्ष 2011 या 2012 थे।
- As such, these measures were significantly outdated and less reflective of reality with each passing year.
  इस कारण ये मापदंड काफी पुराने हो चुके थे और प्रत्येक वर्ष के साथ वास्तविकता को कम दर्शा रहे थे।
- In February, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** released the new series of national accounts data, including **GDP**, with a base year of **2022-23**.
  फरवरी में **सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय (MoSPI)** ने **2022-23** को आधार वर्ष मानते हुए **GDP** सहित राष्ट्रीय आय लेखों की नई श्रृंखला जारी की।
- The new series incorporates methodological improvements and new data sources, making it more granular and robust.
  नई श्रृंखला में पद्धतिगत सुधारों और नए डेटा स्रोतों को शामिल किया गया है, जिससे यह अधिक विस्तृत और सुदृढ़ बन गई है।
- Some of these, such as the **double-deflator approach**, have long been demanded by statisticians and international bodies, including the **IMF**.
  इनमें से कुछ सुधार, जैसे **डबल-डिफ्लेटर दृष्टिकोण**, लंबे समय से सांख्यिकीविदों और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)** सहित अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं द्वारा माँगे जाते रहे हैं।
- Similarly, **MoSPI** had in February also released the new series of the **CPI** with an updated base year of **2024**, a more inclusive basket of items measured, and more accurate weightages.
  इसी प्रकार, **MoSPI** ने फरवरी में **CPI** की नई श्रृंखला भी जारी की, जिसमें **2024** को आधार वर्ष बनाया गया, अधिक समावेशी वस्तु-टोकरी को शामिल किया गया तथा अधिक सटीक भारांक निर्धारित किए गए।
- This has enabled a more realistic reading of retail inflation, a key metric in interest-rate decisions.
  इससे खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति का अधिक यथार्थवादी आकलन संभव हुआ है, जो ब्याज दर निर्धारण का एक प्रमुख संकेतक है।
- In early June, **MoSPI** then released the new series of the **IIP** as well.
  जून की शुरुआत में **MoSPI** ने **IIP** की नई श्रृंखला भी जारी की।
- The base year was updated to **2022-23** and the index's data collection was strengthened.
  इसका आधार वर्ष **2022-23** कर दिया गया तथा सूचकांक के डेटा संग्रह तंत्र को और मजबूत बनाया गया।

- This, too, eventually feeds into more accurate **GDP** data.
  यह भी अंततः अधिक सटीक **GDP** आँकड़ों में योगदान देता है।
- The other factor to be highlighted is that the data upgrades have not been limited to just **MoSPI**.
  उल्लेखनीय बात यह भी है कि डेटा सुधार केवल **MoSPI** तक सीमित नहीं रहे हैं।
- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** also updated its **WPI**, releasing the new series on Monday.
  वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय ने भी अपने **WPI** को अद्यतन करते हुए सोमवार को इसकी नई श्रृंखला जारी की।
- A more accurate **WPI** and **CPI** yield a more accurate **GDP deflator**, which strengthens the way that statisticians derive real GDP growth after having adjusted for inflation.
  अधिक सटीक **WPI** और **CPI**, अधिक सटीक **GDP डिफ्लेटर** प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे मुद्रास्फीति के समायोजन के बाद वास्तविक GDP वृद्धि का आकलन अधिक विश्वसनीय हो जाता है।
- The **Commerce Ministry** also released a new **Producer Price Index (PPI)**, which is to replace the **WPI** in five years.
  वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने एक नया **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक (PPI)** भी जारी किया है, जो अगले पाँच वर्षों में **WPI** का स्थान लेगा।
- A **PPI** is the standard among developed economies and provides more information about both goods and service price levels at the producer stage.
  PPI विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में मानक सूचकांक है और यह उत्पादक स्तर पर वस्तुओं तथा सेवाओं दोनों के मूल्य स्तरों के बारे में अधिक जानकारी प्रदान करता है।
- With all these, the **IMF** is sure to improve the recurring 'C' grade it has given India's national accounts data.
  इन सभी सुधारों के साथ **IMF** द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रीय आय आँकड़ों को दी जाने वाली बार-बार की 'C' ग्रेडिंग में सुधार होने की संभावना है।

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The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs

GS III: Economy

Recently, the CEO of a large multinational called to ask whether the upcoming visit of the United States Trade Representative to India could result in tariff rates returning to around 18% or settling at a different level.

Such conversations reflect the extent to which trade negotiations are often viewed through the prism of headline tariff numbers. Yet, in practice, tariff rates are only one part of the picture. The more significant determinants of market access and competitiveness frequently lie elsewhere. This presents an opportunity for India to move beyond a narrow focus on tariff bargaining and instead address the broader set of factors that shape trade outcomes.

When India and the U.S. issued a joint statement in February 2026 agreeing on a framework for an interim trade agreement, the headlines highlighted the obvious: the tariff numbers. The U.S. reciprocal rate cut to 18%. India's pledge to move toward zero duties on American goods. The "$500 billion" purchase commitment. But the White House fact sheet buried the more consequential admission – that both sides needed to negotiate the removal of non-tariff barriers. The U.S. deploys its own formidable non-tariff barriers arsenal while India has its quality regulations. The tariff headline was the press release. The NTBs on both sides are the actual problem.

For decades, trade diplomacy revolved around tariffs. Governments negotiated reductions in import duties, and success in trade talks was measured in percentage points shaved off customs rates. In today's hyper-regulated global economy, tariffs barely matter. The real obstacles are faced in the laboratory and the law offices through NTBs.

NTBs are the regulations, certifications, licensing rules, and product requirements that goods must meet before entering a market. They include technical regulations, environmental rules, health and safety requirements, packaging standards and testing procedures. Unlike tariffs, which are transparent and easy to measure, these regulatory hurdles operate within the system and exert a far-reaching influence on trade.

NTBs, the quiet trade weapon

Since the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, average tariff rates among its members have fallen by nearly half, yet governments have not abandoned protectionism. As tariffs declined, NTBs surged. Today, they affect around 90% of global trade – a sixfold increase over the past three decades.

Anuj Gupta
Managing Director of BowerGroupAsia

Tariffs dominate the headlines, but regulations increasingly determine trade outcomes

The regulatory landscape has expanded just as rapidly. More than half of the 20,000 global product and safety regulations introduced over the past 70 years have emerged since 2000, creating a dense web of overlapping rules that complicates cross-border commerce and raises compliance costs, particularly for smaller exporters. The WTO itself reflects this shift. In 2025 alone, governments submitted over 7,700 notifications of NTBs and health-related trade measures, 10 times more than in 1995.

Among major economies, the European Union (EU) is the most extensive user of these regulatory tools. According to the World Trade Organization and World Bank data, non-tariff measures cover roughly about 94% of imports entering the EU, compared with about 77% in the U.S. and nearly 45% in India. Each major economy deploys these barriers differently. The EU has built the world's most expansive regulatory architecture for trade, with NTBs concentrated in environmental rules, chemical safety regulations, product standards, packaging requirements and climate-related policies such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation. These rules are justified as protections, often acting as powerful filters on trade.

The American NTBs are driven by strategic competition, security concerns and technological dominance. Export controls, entity lists and restrictions on semiconductors, AI chips and advanced computing hardware increasingly limit rivals' access to critical technology supply chains. India has traditionally relied more on tariffs, but this is changing. As part of its industrial strategy, New Delhi is expanding quality regulations on imports of electronics, machinery and chemicals to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on external supply chains.

The Indian experience

India's own FTA record makes the point sharply. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India agreement has been in force since 2010, yet preferential tariff utilisation among Indian businesses remains below 50%, largely because non-tariff barriers (NTBs) make claiming these benefits commercially impractical. Indonesian registration requirements restrict Indian pharmaceutical exports, while Thai customs procedures force gems and jewellery exporters to reroute shipments through Hong Kong. Tariffs have fallen, but trade barriers remain.

Japan and South Korea tell a similar story. Despite an FTA with Japan since 2011, Indian pharmaceutical exports remain negligible because market approvals can take five to seven years and Japan has resisted recognising international testing standards. With South Korea, bilateral trade reached $27 billion in 2024-25, but India accounted for only $6.5 billion. Overall, India's FTA utilisation rate is about 25%, compared with 70%-80% for developed economies. The agreements existed on paper; the barriers remained in practice.

The next frontier of trade

This does not mean abandoning legitimate environmental or consumer protections, but regulatory systems must be transparent and proportionate. Otherwise, they risk fragmenting global markets at precisely the moment when supply chains are being re-organised.

India's newer agreements signal a genuine shift. The United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement explicitly mandates automatic recognition of medicines approved by major global regulators, and requires mutual acceptance of laboratory testing that eliminates duplicate compliance costs. The India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement, in force since October 2025, goes further with mutual recognition of standards, streamlined conformity assessment, and a dedicated sub-committee mandated to address NTBs on an ongoing basis. For the first time, NTB reduction is a legally binding obligation.

The politics of trade still talks about tariffs. The economics of trade has already moved on. In the 21st century, the real barriers are regulatory. If the West wants a serious economic pivot to the east, addressing those barriers will matter far more than cutting tariffs ever did.

The views expressed are personal

19J6. The real barriers to trade are no longer tariffs
व्यापार में वास्तविक बाधाएँ अब शुल्क (टैरिफ) नहीं रह गई हैं

- Recently, the CEO of a large multinational called to ask whether the upcoming visit of the **United States Trade Representative** to India could result in tariff rates returning to around 18% or settling at a different level.
  हाल ही में एक बड़ी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनी के मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी ने यह पूछने के लिए संपर्क किया कि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के व्यापार प्रतिनिधि** की भारत यात्रा के परिणामस्वरूप क्या शुल्क दरें पुनः लगभग 18% तक लौट सकती हैं या किसी अन्य स्तर पर स्थिर हो सकती हैं।
- The **U.S. reciprocal rate cut to 18%**.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने पारस्परिक शुल्क दर को 18% तक घटा दिया।
- But the White House fact sheet buried the more consequential admission — that both sides needed to negotiate the removal of **non-tariff barriers**.
  किन्तु व्हाइट हाउस के तथ्य-पत्र में एक अधिक महत्वपूर्ण स्वीकारोक्ति छिपी हुई थी — कि दोनों पक्षों को **गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं** को हटाने के लिए वार्ता करनी होगी।
- The U.S. deploys its own formidable non-tariff barriers arsenal while India has its quality regulations.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका अपनी शक्तिशाली गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं का उपयोग करता है, जबकि भारत के पास अपने गुणवत्ता संबंधी विनियम हैं।
- The tariff headline was the press release.
  शुल्क संबंधी घोषणा केवल समाचार शीर्षक थी।

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- The real obstacles are faced in the laboratory and the law offices through NTBs.
  वास्तविक बाधाएँ प्रयोगशालाओं और विधिक संस्थानों में **गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं** के रूप में सामने आती हैं।
- NTBs are the regulations, certifications, licensing rules, and product requirements that goods must meet before entering a market.
  गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ वे विनियम, प्रमाणन, अनुज्ञप्ति संबंधी नियम और उत्पाद आवश्यकताएँ हैं जिन्हें किसी बाजार में प्रवेश से पहले वस्तुओं को पूरा करना पड़ता है।
- They include technical regulations, environmental rules, health and safety requirements, packaging standards and testing procedures.
  इनमें तकनीकी विनियम, पर्यावरणीय नियम, स्वास्थ्य एवं सुरक्षा आवश्यकताएँ, पैकेजिंग मानक तथा परीक्षण प्रक्रियाएँ शामिल हैं।
- Unlike tariffs, which are transparent and easy to measure, these regulatory hurdles operate within the system and exert a far-reaching influence on trade.
  शुल्कों के विपरीत, जो पारदर्शी और आसानी से मापे जा सकते हैं, ये नियामकीय बाधाएँ व्यवस्था के भीतर कार्य करती हैं और व्यापार पर व्यापक प्रभाव डालती हैं।

NTBs, the quiet trade weapon
गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ : व्यापार का मौन हथियार

- Since the establishment of the **World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995**, average tariff rates among its members have fallen by nearly half, yet governments have not abandoned protectionism.
  1995 में **विश्व व्यापार संगठन** की स्थापना के बाद से इसके सदस्य देशों के बीच औसत शुल्क दरें लगभग आधी हो गई हैं, फिर भी सरकारों ने संरक्षणवाद का परित्याग नहीं किया है।
- As tariffs declined, NTBs surged.
  जैसे-जैसे शुल्क दरें घटीं, गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ बढ़ती गईं।
- Today, they affect around 90% of global trade — a sixfold increase over the past three decades.
  आज वे वैश्विक व्यापार के लगभग 90% हिस्से को प्रभावित करती हैं, जो पिछले तीन दशकों में छह गुना वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।
- The regulatory landscape has expanded just as rapidly.
  नियामकीय परिदृश्य भी उतनी ही तीव्र गति से विस्तृत हुआ है।
- More than half of the 20,000 global product and safety regulations introduced over the past 70 years have emerged since 2000, creating a dense web of overlapping rules that complicates cross-border commerce and raises compliance costs, particularly for smaller exporters.
  पिछले 70 वर्षों में लागू किए गए 20,000 वैश्विक उत्पाद एवं सुरक्षा विनियमों में से आधे से अधिक वर्ष 2000 के बाद अस्तित्व में आए हैं, जिससे परस्पर जुड़े नियमों का एक जटिल जाल निर्मित हो गया है जो सीमा-पार व्यापार को कठिन बनाता है तथा विशेष रूप से छोटे निर्यातकों के लिए अनुपालन लागत बढ़ाता है।
- The WTO itself reflects this shift.
  विश्व व्यापार संगठन स्वयं भी इस परिवर्तन को दर्शाता है।
- **In 2025 alone, governments submitted over 7,700 notifications of NTBs and health-related trade measures, 10 times more than in 1995.**
  केवल 2025 में ही सरकारों ने गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं और स्वास्थ्य-संबंधी व्यापार उपायों से संबंधित 7,700 से अधिक अधिसूचनाएँ प्रस्तुत कीं, जो 1995 की तुलना में दस गुना अधिक हैं।
- Among major economies, the European Union (EU) is the most extensive user of these regulatory tools.
  प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में **यूरोपीय संघ** इन नियामकीय उपकरणों का सबसे व्यापक उपयोगकर्ता है।
- According to the World Trade Organization and World Bank data, non-tariff measures cover roughly about 94% of imports entering the EU, compared with about 77% in the U.S. and nearly 45% in India.

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विश्व व्यापार संगठन और विश्व बैंक के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, यूरोपीय संघ में प्रवेश करने वाले लगभग 94% आयात गैर-शुल्कीय उपायों के अंतर्गत आते हैं, जबकि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में यह लगभग 77% और भारत में लगभग 45% है।

- Each major economy deploys these barriers differently.
  प्रत्येक प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्था इन बाधाओं का उपयोग अलग-अलग तरीके से करती है।
- The EU has built the world's most expansive regulatory architecture for trade, with NTBs concentrated in environmental rules, chemical safety regulations, product standards, packaging requirements and climate-related policies such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the EU Deforestation Regulation.
  यूरोपीय संघ ने व्यापार के लिए विश्व की सबसे व्यापक नियामकीय संरचना विकसित की है, जिसमें गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ पर्यावरणीय नियमों, रासायनिक सुरक्षा विनियमों, उत्पाद मानकों, पैकेजिंग आवश्यकताओं तथा कार्बन सीमा समायोजन तंत्र और वन-विनाश नियंत्रण संबंधी विनियम जैसी जलवायु-संबंधी नीतियों पर केंद्रित हैं।
- The American NTBs are driven by strategic competition, security concerns and technological dominance.
  अमेरिकी गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ रणनीतिक प्रतिस्पर्धा, सुरक्षा चिंताओं और प्रौद्योगिकीय प्रभुत्व से प्रेरित हैं।
- Export controls, entity lists and restrictions on semiconductors, AI chips and advanced computing hardware increasingly limit rivals' access to critical technology supply chains.
  निर्यात नियंत्रण, संस्थागत प्रतिबंध सूचियाँ तथा अर्धचालकों, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित चिपों और उन्नत संगणन उपकरणों पर प्रतिबंध प्रतिद्वंद्वियों की महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकी आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं तक पहुँच को लगातार सीमित कर रहे हैं।
- India has traditionally relied more on tariffs, but this is changing.
  भारत पारंपरिक रूप से शुल्कों पर अधिक निर्भर रहा है, किन्तु अब यह स्थिति बदल रही है।

The Indian experience
भारतीय अनुभव

- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India agreement** has been in force since 2010, yet preferential tariff utilisation among Indian businesses remains below 50%, largely because **non-tariff barriers** make claiming these benefits commercially impractical.
  दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई राष्ट्रों के संगठन-भारत समझौता वर्ष 2010 से लागू है, फिर भी भारतीय व्यवसायों द्वारा अधिमान्य शुल्क लाभों का उपयोग 50% से कम बना हुआ है, मुख्यतः इसलिए क्योंकि **गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाएँ** इन लाभों का व्यावसायिक उपयोग कठिन बना देती हैं।
- Overall, India's **FTA utilisation rate** is about 25%, compared with 70%-80% for developed economies.
  समग्र रूप से भारत की **मुक्त व्यापार समझौता उपयोग दर** लगभग 25% है, जबकि विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में यह 70% से 80% के बीच है।
- The agreements existed on paper; the barriers remained in practice.
  समझौते कागज़ों पर मौजूद थे, किन्तु व्यवहार में बाधाएँ बनी रहीं।

The next frontier of trade
व्यापार की अगली सीमा

- The **United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement** explicitly mandates automatic recognition of medicines approved by major global regulators, and requires mutual acceptance of laboratory testing that eliminates duplicate compliance costs.
  संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के साथ व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता प्रमुख वैश्विक नियामकों द्वारा स्वीकृत

औषधियों की स्वतः मान्यता का स्पष्ट प्रावधान करता है तथा प्रयोगशाला परीक्षणों की पारस्परिक स्वीकृति को अनिवार्य बनाता है, जिससे दोहराई जाने वाली अनुपालन लागत समाप्त होती है।

- The **India-European Free Trade Association Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement**, in force since October 2025, goes further with mutual recognition of standards, streamlined conformity assessment, and a dedicated sub-committee mandated to address **non-tariff barriers** on an ongoing basis.
  भारत-यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ व्यापार एवं आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता, जो अक्टूबर 2025 से लागू है, मानकों की पारस्परिक मान्यता, सरलीकृत अनुरूपता मूल्यांकन तथा **गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं** के निरंतर समाधान हेतु समर्पित उपसमिति जैसी व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से और आगे बढ़ता है।
- For the first time, **NTB reduction** is a legally binding obligation.
  पहली बार **गैर-शुल्कीय बाधाओं में कमी** एक विधिक रूप से बाध्यकारी दायित्व बनी है।
- The politics of trade still talks about tariffs.
  व्यापार की राजनीति आज भी शुल्कों की चर्चा करती है।
- The economics of trade has already moved on.
  किन्तु व्यापार का अर्थशास्त्र उससे आगे बढ़ चुका है।

Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb?

Rajan Wadhera
Former President, Automotive Sector, Mahindra & Mahindra

O. R. S. Rao
Chancellor, ICFAI University, Sikkim

PARLEY

India is witnessing an unprecedented expansion in higher education. Over the past decade, thousands of new colleges and universities have been established, producing millions of graduates every year. Yet unemployment of the educated remains a growing concern. Nearly one in three graduates are unemployed. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb? Rajan Wadhera and O.R.S. Rao discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **M. Kalyanaraman**. Edited excerpts:

Is India producing more graduates than the economy can absorb?

O.R.S. Rao: The numbers point to a widening gap between the growth in graduates and the growth in jobs. In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace. Earlier, the IT services sector was the principal employer of engineering graduates. Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment. The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.

A second issue is the nature of investment. Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive. As a result, large investments do not necessarily translate into proportionate job creation.

Has AI made the problem worse?

ORSR: We are in the middle of a major technological transition. AI is changing the nature of work much faster than how educational institutions can adapt. Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology. Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed. Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly.

As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.

Is employability more important than just job creation?

Keeping up: Candidates who came for a mega job fair at the Government Engineering College in Thrissur in 2025. NAJEEB K.K.

Rajan Wadhera: There is certainly a growing concern about employability, particularly among engineering graduates. The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires. Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving. When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively. Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap. This was far less common a few decades ago.

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?

RW: Manufacturing still has considerable potential, but it too is undergoing profound change. People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems. Historically, a large number of engineers were employed in supervisory and operational roles on factory floors. Today, many of those functions are automated. Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes. As a result, the number of engineering jobs generated by manufacturing is not increasing at the pace many people expected. Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?

RW: I would not go that far. India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence,

> Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving
> **RAJAN WADHERA**

aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities. There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging. The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow. Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth. This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together. Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?

ORSR: Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers. The real value lies in research, development and design. Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products. Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson. Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks. India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?

RW: It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base. Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities. Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere. The issue is not whether these capabilities exist. The issue is scale. The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

What role should entrepreneurship play?

ORSR: Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate. We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment. One major challenge is access to risk capital. Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams. Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage. India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.

What should India focus on in the AI era?

ORSR: India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products. There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access. Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment. The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets. We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader. UPI's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.

What needs to change in higher education?

ORSR: Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper. Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?

ORSR: Three priorities stand out. First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development. Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely. Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.

RW: I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing. The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace. The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.

To listen to the full interview
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19J6. Is India producing more graduates than what the economy can absorb? क्या भारत अर्थव्यवस्था द्वारा समाहित की जा सकने वाली संख्या से अधिक स्नातक तैयार कर रहा है?

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- In engineering alone, the number of graduates has risen sharply over the past few years while job creation has not kept pace.
  केवल अभियांत्रिकी क्षेत्र में ही पिछले कुछ वर्षों में स्नातकों की संख्या में तीव्र वृद्धि हुई है, जबकि रोजगार सृजन उसी गति से नहीं बढ़ पाया है।
- Earlier, the **IT services sector** was the principal employer of engineering graduates.
  पूर्व में **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा क्षेत्र** अभियांत्रिकी स्नातकों का प्रमुख नियोक्ता था।
- Today, hiring by IT services firms has slowed considerably, even though sectors such as banking and financial services, manufacturing, defence and space technologies have expanded their recruitment.
  आज सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवा कंपनियों द्वारा भर्ती में उल्लेखनीय कमी आई है, यद्यपि बैंकिंग एवं वित्तीय सेवाओं, विनिर्माण, रक्षा तथा अंतरिक्ष प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में भर्ती का विस्तार हुआ है।
- The challenge is that these new opportunities have not grown fast enough to absorb the increasing number of graduates entering the labour market.
  चुनौती यह है कि ये नए अवसर श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश करने वाले बढ़ते हुए स्नातकों की संख्या को समाहित करने के लिए पर्याप्त गति से नहीं बढ़े हैं।
- Much of the recent investment in sectors such as semiconductors, advanced manufacturing and technology has been capital-intensive rather than labour-intensive.
  अर्धचालकों, उन्नत विनिर्माण और प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में हाल के अधिकांश निवेश श्रम-प्रधान होने के बजाय पूंजी-प्रधान रहे हैं।

Has AI made the problem worse?
क्या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता ने समस्या को और गंभीर बना दिया है?

- Companies now want graduates who can work with AI systems, validate AI-generated outputs, understand responsible and ethical AI use, and solve complex problems using technology.
  अब कंपनियाँ ऐसे स्नातक चाहती हैं जो कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियों के साथ कार्य कर सकें, उसके द्वारा उत्पन्न परिणामों का सत्यापन कर सकें, उसके उत्तरदायी एवं नैतिक उपयोग को समझ सकें तथा प्रौद्योगिकी की सहायता से जटिल समस्याओं का समाधान कर सकें।
- Four years ago, when many of today's graduates entered college, these skills were not widely discussed.
  चार वर्ष पूर्व, जब आज के अनेक स्नातकों ने महाविद्यालय में प्रवेश लिया था, तब इन कौशलों पर व्यापक चर्चा नहीं होती थी।
- Universities cannot redesign programmes overnight, and students cannot acquire entirely new competencies instantly.
  विश्वविद्यालय अपने पाठ्यक्रमों को एक ही रात में पुनर्गठित नहीं कर सकते, और छात्र भी तुरंत नए कौशल अर्जित नहीं कर सकते।
- As a result, many graduates are entering a labour market that demands skills different from those they were trained for.
  परिणामस्वरूप, अनेक स्नातक ऐसे श्रम बाजार में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं जो उनसे उन कौशलों की अपेक्षा करता है जिनके लिए उन्हें प्रशिक्षित नहीं किया गया था।

Is employability more important than just job creation?
क्या केवल रोजगार सृजन की तुलना में रोजगार-योग्यता अधिक महत्वपूर्ण है?

- The problem is often a mismatch between what is taught and what the industry requires.
  समस्या प्रायः इस बात से उत्पन्न होती है कि जो पढ़ाया जाता है और उद्योगों को जिस प्रकार के कौशल की आवश्यकता होती है, उनमें असंगति होती है।

- Students may graduate with strong academic credentials but have limited exposure to laboratories, manufacturing environments, teamwork and real-world problem-solving.
  छात्र उत्कृष्ट शैक्षणिक उपलब्धियों के साथ स्नातक हो सकते हैं, किन्तु उन्हें प्रयोगशालाओं, विनिर्माण परिवेश, सामूहिक कार्य तथा वास्तविक जीवन की समस्याओं के समाधान का सीमित अनुभव होता है।
- When they enter the industry, employers frequently find that they need substantial additional training in order to contribute effectively.
  जब वे उद्योगों में प्रवेश करते हैं, तो नियोक्ताओं को प्रायः यह महसूस होता है कि प्रभावी योगदान देने के लिए उन्हें अतिरिक्त प्रशिक्षण की आवश्यकता है।
- Companies run their own training programmes to bridge this gap.
  इस अंतर को पाटने के लिए कंपनियाँ अपने स्वयं के प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम संचालित करती हैं।
- This was far less common a few decades ago.
  कुछ दशक पहले यह स्थिति बहुत कम देखने को मिलती थी।

Has manufacturing failed to create enough opportunities?
क्या विनिर्माण क्षेत्र पर्याप्त अवसर सृजित करने में विफल रहा है?

- People often focus on the impact of AI on software jobs, but manufacturing is also being transformed by automation, robotics, and Industry 4.0 systems.
  लोग प्रायः कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के सॉफ़्टवेयर क्षेत्र की नौकरियों पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं, किन्तु विनिर्माण क्षेत्र भी स्वचालन, रोबोटिक प्रौद्योगिकी और चौथी औद्योगिक क्रांति आधारित प्रणालियों द्वारा परिवर्तित हो रहा है।
- Digital manufacturing systems require fewer people to oversee production processes.
  डिजिटल विनिर्माण प्रणालियों में उत्पादन प्रक्रियाओं की निगरानी के लिए अपेक्षाकृत कम लोगों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- Even as factories expand output, they often require fewer workers and supervisors than before.
  कारखानों के उत्पादन में वृद्धि होने पर भी उन्हें पहले की तुलना में कम श्रमिकों और पर्यवेक्षकों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है।

Does that mean the future is one of permanent jobless growth?
क्या इसका अर्थ यह है कि भविष्य स्थायी रोजगारविहीन विकास का होगा?

- **RW:** I would not go that far.
  राजन वाधेरा: मैं इतना आगे नहीं जाऊँगा।
- India's push towards self-reliance in sectors such as defence, aerospace and advanced manufacturing is creating new opportunities.
  रक्षा, वैमानिकी तथा उन्नत विनिर्माण जैसे क्षेत्रों में भारत का आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ता प्रयास नए अवसरों का सृजन कर रहा है।
- There is increasing emphasis on domestic design and product development, and that is encouraging.
  घरेलू अभिकल्पना और उत्पाद विकास पर बढ़ता हुआ जोर उत्साहवर्धक है।
- The challenge is that automation and digitalisation are reducing labour requirements even as industries grow.
  चुनौती यह है कि उद्योगों के विस्तार के साथ-साथ स्वचालन और डिजिटलीकरण श्रम की आवश्यकता को कम कर रहे हैं।
- Therefore, employment growth may not automatically match economic growth.
  इसलिए रोजगार वृद्धि स्वतः ही आर्थिक वृद्धि के समान गति से नहीं हो सकती।
- This makes it even more important for educational institutions and industry to work together.
  इससे शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और उद्योगों के बीच सहयोग और अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है।

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- Curricula needs to be aligned much more closely with industry requirements.
  पाठ्यक्रमों को उद्योगों की आवश्यकताओं के साथ कहीं अधिक निकटता से समन्वित किया जाना चाहिए।

Has India focused too much on manufacturing and too little on innovation?
क्या भारत ने विनिर्माण पर अत्यधिक और नवाचार पर बहुत कम ध्यान दिया है?

- **ORSR:** Over many years, India became increasingly proficient at manufacturing products designed elsewhere; manufacturing alone does not create enough opportunities for highly trained engineers.
  ओ.आर.एस. राव: अनेक वर्षों में भारत उन उत्पादों के निर्माण में अधिक दक्ष हो गया जिनकी अभिकल्पना अन्य देशों में की गई थी; केवल विनिर्माण अत्यधिक प्रशिक्षित अभियंताओं के लिए पर्याप्त अवसर उत्पन्न नहीं करता।
- The real value lies in research, development and design.
  वास्तविक मूल्य अनुसंधान, विकास और अभिकल्पना में निहित है।
- Countries that control intellectual property and technology create far more opportunities for engineers than countries that simply manufacture products.
  जो देश बौद्धिक संपदा और प्रौद्योगिकी पर नियंत्रण रखते हैं, वे केवल उत्पाद निर्माण करने वाले देशों की तुलना में अभियंताओं के लिए कहीं अधिक अवसर सृजित करते हैं।
- Recent global developments have reinforced this lesson.
  हाल की वैश्विक घटनाओं ने इस तथ्य को और अधिक स्पष्ट किया है।
- Increasing restrictions on access to critical technologies such as semiconductors and strategic components have shown that excessive dependence on external technologies carries risks.
  अर्धचालकों और रणनीतिक घटकों जैसी महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियों तक पहुँच पर बढ़ते प्रतिबंधों ने यह दर्शाया है कि बाहरी प्रौद्योगिकियों पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता जोखिमपूर्ण है।
- India therefore needs to invest much more aggressively in indigenous research, innovation and product development.
  अतः भारत को स्वदेशी अनुसंधान, नवाचार और उत्पाद विकास में कहीं अधिक आक्रामक रूप से निवेश करने की आवश्यकता है।

Has India made progress in indigenous design capabilities?
क्या भारत ने स्वदेशी अभिकल्पना क्षमताओं में प्रगति की है?

- **RW:** It would be incorrect to say that India remains only a manufacturing base.
  राजन वाधेरा: यह कहना गलत होगा कि भारत केवल एक विनिर्माण केंद्र बनकर रह गया है।
- Over the last decade, companies such as Mahindra and Tata Motors have developed significant design and engineering capabilities.
  पिछले एक दशक में महिंद्रा और टाटा मोटर्स जैसी कंपनियों ने महत्वपूर्ण अभिकल्पना और अभियांत्रिकी क्षमताएँ विकसित की हैं।
- Indian engineers today are designing vehicles, platforms, transmissions and other complex systems that would previously have been developed elsewhere.
  आज भारतीय अभियंता वाहनों, संरचनात्मक मंचों, शक्ति-संचरण प्रणालियों तथा अन्य जटिल प्रणालियों की अभिकल्पना कर रहे हैं, जिन्हें पहले अन्य देशों में विकसित किया जाता था।
- The issue is not whether these capabilities exist.
  प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि ये क्षमताएँ मौजूद हैं या नहीं।
- The issue is scale.
  वास्तविक प्रश्न इनके विस्तार का है।
- The number of high-quality engineering graduates being produced is larger than the number of advanced R&D and design roles currently available.

उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले अभियांत्रिकी स्नातकों की संख्या वर्तमान में उपलब्ध उन्नत अनुसंधान, विकास और अभिकल्पना संबंधी पदों की संख्या से अधिक है।

What role should entrepreneurship play?
उद्यमिता की क्या भूमिका होनी चाहिए?

- **ORSR:** Neither government nor industry can create enough jobs for every graduate.
  ओ.आर.एस. राव: न तो सरकार और न ही उद्योग प्रत्येक स्नातक के लिए पर्याप्त रोजगार सृजित कर सकते हैं।
- We need more graduates to become creators of enterprises rather than only seekers of employment.
  हमें अधिक से अधिक स्नातकों को केवल रोजगार खोजने वाला नहीं, बल्कि उद्यमों का सृजनकर्ता बनने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करना होगा।
- One major challenge is access to risk capital.
  एक प्रमुख चुनौती जोखिम पूंजी तक पहुँच की है।
- Traditional lenders prefer established businesses and proven revenue streams.
  पारंपरिक ऋणदाता स्थापित व्यवसायों और प्रमाणित आय स्रोतों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- Innovation, however, requires investors willing to support ideas at an early stage.
  किन्तु नवाचार के लिए ऐसे निवेशकों की आवश्यकता होती है जो प्रारम्भिक चरण में ही नए विचारों का समर्थन करने को तैयार हों।
- India's startup ecosystem has made significant progress, but much more needs to be done to support deep-technology ventures.
  भारत के नवउद्यम पारितंत्र ने उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है, किन्तु गहन प्रौद्योगिकी आधारित उपक्रमों को समर्थन देने के लिए अभी बहुत कुछ किया जाना शेष है।

What should India focus on in the AI era?
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के युग में भारत को किस पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए?

- **ORSR:** India should focus not only on infrastructure but also on products.
  ओ.आर.एस. राव: भारत को केवल अवसंरचना पर ही नहीं, बल्कि उत्पादों के विकास पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए।
- There is a significant need for sovereign AI as nations with those systems seek to restrict access.
  संप्रभु कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियों की अत्यधिक आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि जिन देशों के पास ऐसी प्रणालियाँ हैं वे उन तक पहुँच को सीमित करने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं।
- Product companies create intellectual property, innovation and high-value employment.
  उत्पाद आधारित कंपनियाँ बौद्धिक संपदा, नवाचार और उच्च-मूल्य वाले रोजगार का सृजन करती हैं।
- The goal should be to develop products not only for India but for global markets.
  लक्ष्य केवल भारत के लिए ही नहीं, बल्कि वैश्विक बाजारों के लिए भी उत्पाद विकसित करना होना चाहिए।
- We should identify strategic areas where India can become a global leader.
  हमें उन रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों की पहचान करनी चाहिए जहाँ भारत वैश्विक नेतृत्वकर्ता बन सकता है।
- UPI's success demonstrates that India is capable of building world-class digital platforms.
  एकीकृत भुगतान प्रणाली की सफलता यह प्रदर्शित करती है कि भारत विश्वस्तरीय डिजिटल मंच विकसित करने में सक्षम है।

What needs to change in higher education?
उच्च शिक्षा में क्या परिवर्तन आवश्यक हैं?

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- **ORSR:** Industry-academia collaboration must become much deeper.
  ओ.आर.एस. राव: उद्योग और शिक्षाजगत के बीच सहयोग कहीं अधिक गहरा होना चाहिए।
- Universities cannot design relevant programmes without industry participation, and industry cannot expect job-ready graduates without contributing to curriculum, internships and skill development.
  उद्योग की सहभागिता के बिना विश्वविद्यालय प्रासंगिक पाठ्यक्रम तैयार नहीं कर सकते, और उद्योग भी पाठ्यक्रम निर्माण, प्रशिक्षण-अवधि तथा कौशल विकास में योगदान दिए बिना रोजगार-योग्य स्नातकों की अपेक्षा नहीं कर सकता।

Looking ahead, what are the priorities?
भविष्य की दृष्टि से प्राथमिकताएँ क्या हैं?

- **ORSR:** Three priorities stand out.
  ओ.आर.एस. राव: तीन प्राथमिकताएँ विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- First, India must significantly increase investment in research and development.
  प्रथम, भारत को अनुसंधान और विकास में निवेश को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ाना होगा।
- Second, industry and academia must work together much more closely.
  द्वितीय, उद्योग और शिक्षाजगत को कहीं अधिक निकटता से मिलकर कार्य करना होगा।
- Third, we need a stronger entrepreneurship ecosystem that encourages innovation and supports risk-taking.
  तृतीय, हमें ऐसा अधिक सशक्त उद्यमिता पारितंत्र विकसित करना होगा जो नवाचार को प्रोत्साहित करे और जोखिम उठाने का समर्थन करे।
- **RW:** I would add that India must continue building indigenous capabilities in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing.
  राजन वाधेरा: मैं यह भी जोड़ना चाहूँगा कि भारत को अभिकल्पना, अभियांत्रिकी और उन्नत विनिर्माण में अपनी स्वदेशी क्षमताओं का निरंतर विकास करना चाहिए।
- The opportunities are real, particularly in sectors such as defence and aerospace.
  अवसर वास्तव में उपलब्ध हैं, विशेषकर रक्षा और वैमानिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में।
- The challenge is ensuring that education, industry and policy move in the same direction.
  चुनौती यह सुनिश्चित करने की है कि शिक्षा, उद्योग और नीतियाँ एक ही दिशा में आगे बढ़ें।

Industrial Revolution	Key Feature
Industry 1.0	Mechanization using steam power
Industry 2.0	Mass production using electricity
Industry 3.0	Automation using computers and electronics
Industry 4.0	Smart, connected, data-driven systems

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Revised pact with U.K. could save $500 million for Indians

The agreement on social security, effective July 15, will save Indian firms and workers there about $500 million worth of social security payments they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K.

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The agreement on social security that India and the U.K. have signed and that will come into force on July 15 will save Indian companies and workers there about $500 million worth of social security payments that they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K., according to sources in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The original Agreement on Social Security, also referred to as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), was signed in July 2025. It exempted companies in the U.K. from paying social security for the temporary Indian workers they employed for a period of three years, as long as they paid social security in India during that period.

On Wednesday, both governments announced that the DCC would come into effect on July 15 along with the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the U.K.

As per the revised agreement, the social security exemption limit has now been increased to five years, which will cover about 90-95% of the Indian workers in the U.K. and stands to significantly reduce costs for Indian companies operating in the U.K. "We have more than 75,000 workers from India working in the U.K. and there are more than 900 Indian companies that are at present operational in the U.K.," a Commerce Ministry official explained on condition of anonymity since the matter is confidential until July 15.

Shot in the arm: There are more than 900 Indian companies at present operational in the U.K., an official said. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

"On the basis of their minimum salary levels, the savings to Indian companies in the U.K. employing temporary Indian workers will come to more than half a billion dollars," the official added.

Imbalances rectified

The issue that had arisen was that, in the absence of a DCC, companies employing Indian workers had to pay social security for these workers in India as well as in the U.K. Most of these workers were in the U.K. for up to a period of five years. However, the benefits from social security in the U.K. accrue only after 10 consecutive years of contribution.

"This meant that most of the Indian workers there were paying double social security, and also were not able to get any benefit from the U.K. social security system," the official added. "Now, with the exemption increased from three to five years, this covers about 90-95% of the temporary Indian workers in the U.K."

Companies will need to obtain a certificate from the Indian government confirming that social security was being paid here, which they can submit to the U.K. government in order to avail of the exemption.

The CETA was also signed in July last year and was supposed to be implemented by early May 2026.

However, a fresh U.K. regulation on steel import tariffs temporarily – which had not been part of the CETA negotiations – brought the trade deal proceedings to a halt as both countries scrambled to find a solution without having to redo the CETA itself.

"If you look at this steel measure in detail, 85% of our steel exports to the U.K. was out of this," a second official explained. "Out of about $890 million of steel export that we do to the U.K., only $137 million was getting affected."

"We have arrived at a deal on this steel measure, which has taken care of our concerns," they added. "It was finalised only yesterday afternoon [hours before the deal was announced]. India will not lose any market access, and will have a decent market access in the affected portions. We are satisfied with the overall deal. We are happy that our concerns on steel have been addressed."

The two officials would not reveal details of what concessions India has obtained regarding the steel tariffs as the matter was still extremely sensitive for the U.K., which was still negotiating with other countries on the matter.

However, they said that the leeway granted to India would be in the form of a mix of country-specific quotas, residual quotas and access under authorised-use schemes.

The details will be available on July 1, when the U.K.'s tariffs come into effect.

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19J6. Revised pact with U.K. could save $500 million for Indians
यू.के. के साथ संशोधित समझौता भारतीयों के लिए 500 मिलियन डॉलर की बचत कर सकता है

- The agreement on **social security**, effective **July 15**, will save Indian firms and workers there about **$500 million** worth of social security payments they otherwise would have had to pay in the **U.K.**
  15 जुलाई से प्रभावी होने वाला **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** समझौता भारतीय कंपनियों और वहां कार्यरत भारतीय श्रमिकों को लगभग **500 मिलियन डॉलर** के सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से बचाएगा, जो उन्हें अन्यथा **यू.के.** में चुकाने पड़ते।
- The agreement on social security that **India** and the **U.K.** have signed and that will come into force on **July 15** will save Indian companies and workers there about **$500 million** worth of social security payments that they otherwise would have had to pay in the U.K., according to sources in the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
  भारत और **यू.के.** द्वारा हस्ताक्षरित सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता, जो **15 जुलाई** से लागू होगा, भारतीय कंपनियों और वहां कार्यरत भारतीयों को लगभग **500 मिलियन डॉलर** के सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से बचाएगा, जो अन्यथा उन्हें यू.के. में देना पड़ता, ऐसा **वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय** के सूत्रों ने बताया।
- The original **Agreement on Social Security**, also referred to as the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, was signed in **July 2025**.
  मूल **सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता**, जिसे **डबल कंट्रीब्यूशन कन्वेंशन (DCC)** भी कहा जाता है, **जुलाई 2025** में हस्ताक्षरित किया गया था।
- It exempted companies in the U.K. from paying social security for the temporary Indian workers they employed for a period of three years, as long as they paid social security in India during that period.
  इस समझौते के तहत यू.के. की कंपनियों को तीन वर्ष की अवधि तक कार्यरत अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारियों के लिए सामाजिक सुरक्षा भुगतान से छूट दी गई थी, बशर्ते उस अवधि में भारत में सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान किया जा रहा हो।
- On Wednesday, both governments announced that the **DCC** would come into effect on **July 15** along with the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** between India and the U.K.
  बुधवार को दोनों सरकारों ने घोषणा की कि **DCC** और भारत-यू.के. के बीच **व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौता (CETA) 15 जुलाई** से लागू होंगे।
- As per the revised agreement, the social security exemption limit has now been increased to **five years**, which will cover about **90-95%** of the Indian workers in the U.K. and stands to significantly reduce costs for Indian companies operating in the U.K.
  संशोधित समझौते के अनुसार सामाजिक सुरक्षा छूट की सीमा अब **पांच वर्ष** कर दी गई है, जिससे यू.के. में कार्यरत लगभग **90-95%** भारतीय श्रमिकों को लाभ मिलेगा और वहां कार्यरत भारतीय कंपनियों की लागत में उल्लेखनीय कमी आएगी।
- "We have more than **75,000 workers** from India working in the U.K. and there are more than **900 Indian companies** that are at present operational in the U.K.," a Commerce Ministry official explained on condition of anonymity since the matter is confidential until July 15.
  "यू.के. में भारत के **75,000 से अधिक श्रमिक** कार्यरत हैं और वहां वर्तमान में **900 से अधिक भारतीय कंपनियां** संचालित हो रही हैं," वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने नाम न बताने की शर्त पर कहा क्योंकि मामला 15 जुलाई तक गोपनीय है।
- "On the basis of their minimum salary levels, the savings to Indian companies in the U.K. employing temporary Indian workers will come to more than **half a billion dollars**," the official

added.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "न्यूनतम वेतन स्तरों के आधार पर अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त करने वाली भारतीय कंपनियों की बचत **आधे अरब डॉलर से अधिक** होगी।"

Imbalances rectified
असंतुलन दूर किए गए

- The issue that had arisen was that, in the absence of a **DCC**, companies employing Indian workers had to pay social security for these workers in India as well as in the U.K.
समस्या यह थी कि **DCC** के अभाव में भारतीय कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त करने वाली कंपनियों को भारत और यू.के. दोनों जगह सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान करना पड़ता था।
- Most of these workers were in the U.K. for up to a period of **five years**.
इनमें से अधिकांश कर्मचारी यू.के. में अधिकतम **पांच वर्षों** तक रहते थे।
- However, the benefits from social security in the U.K. accrue only after **10 consecutive years** of contribution.
हालांकि यू.के. में सामाजिक सुरक्षा के लाभ केवल **लगातार 10 वर्षों** तक योगदान देने के बाद प्राप्त होते हैं।
- "This meant that most of the Indian workers there were paying double social security, and also were not able to get any benefit from the U.K. social security system," the official added.
अधिकारी ने कहा, "इसका अर्थ यह था कि अधिकांश भारतीय कर्मचारी दोहरी सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान कर रहे थे और फिर भी यू.के. की सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणाली से कोई लाभ प्राप्त नहीं कर पा रहे थे।"
- "Now, with the exemption increased from three to five years, this covers about **90-95%** of the temporary Indian workers in the U.K."
"अब छूट अवधि को तीन से बढ़ाकर पांच वर्ष करने से यू.के. में कार्यरत लगभग **90-95%** अस्थायी भारतीय कर्मचारी इसके दायरे में आ जाएंगे।"
- Companies will need to obtain a **certificate** from the Indian government confirming that social security was being paid here, which they can submit to the U.K. government in order to avail of the exemption.
कंपनियों को भारत सरकार से एक **प्रमाणपत्र** प्राप्त करना होगा, जो यह पुष्टि करेगा कि सामाजिक सुरक्षा का भुगतान भारत में किया जा रहा है, और इसे छूट प्राप्त करने के लिए यू.के. सरकार को प्रस्तुत किया जा सकेगा।
- The **CETA** was also signed in July last year and was supposed to be implemented by early **May 2026**.
CETA पर भी पिछले वर्ष जुलाई में हस्ताक्षर हुए थे और इसे **मई 2026** की शुरुआत तक लागू किया जाना था।
- However, a fresh U.K. regulation on **steel import tariffs** temporarily — which had not been part of the CETA negotiations — brought the trade deal proceedings to a halt as both countries scrambled to find a solution without having to redo the CETA itself.
हालांकि **इस्पात आयात शुल्क** से संबंधित यू.के. के एक नए नियम, जो CETA वार्ताओं का हिस्सा नहीं था, ने अस्थायी रूप से व्यापार समझौते की प्रक्रिया को रोक दिया क्योंकि दोनों देश CETA में बदलाव किए बिना समाधान खोजने में जुट गए।
- "If you look at this steel measure in detail, **85%** of our steel exports to the U.K. was out of this," a second official explained.
एक दूसरे अधिकारी ने कहा, "यदि इस इस्पात उपाय को विस्तार से देखें, तो यू.के. को होने वाले हमारे **85%** इस्पात निर्यात इससे बाहर थे।"
- "Out of about **$890 million** of steel export that we do to the U.K., only **$137 million** was getting affected."
"यू.के. को होने वाले लगभग **890 मिलियन डॉलर** के इस्पात निर्यात में से केवल **137 मिलियन डॉलर** प्रभावित हो रहे थे।"
- "We have arrived at a deal on this steel measure, which has taken care of our concerns," they added.

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उन्होंने कहा, "हम इस इस्पात उपाय पर एक समझौते पर पहुंच गए हैं, जिसने हमारी चिंताओं का समाधान कर दिया है।"

- "It was finalised only yesterday afternoon [hours before the deal was announced]. India will not lose any market access, and will have a decent market access in the affected portions. We are satisfied with the overall deal. We are happy that our concerns on steel have been addressed."
"इसे कल दोपहर ही अंतिम रूप दिया गया था। भारत किसी भी बाजार पहुंच को नहीं खोएगा और प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में भी पर्याप्त बाजार पहुंच बनाए रखेगा। हम इस समग्र समझौते से संतुष्ट हैं। हमें खुशी है कि इस्पात संबंधी हमारी चिंताओं का समाधान कर दिया गया है।"
- The two officials would not reveal details of what concessions India has obtained regarding the steel tariffs as the matter was still extremely sensitive for the U.K., which was still negotiating with other countries on the matter.
दोनों अधिकारियों ने इस्पात शुल्क पर भारत को मिली रियायतों का विवरण बताने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि यह विषय अभी भी यू.के. के लिए अत्यंत संवेदनशील है और वह इस मामले पर अन्य देशों से भी बातचीत कर रहा है।
- However, they said that the leeway granted to India would be in the form of a mix of **country-specific quotas**, **residual quotas** and access under **authorised-use schemes**.
हालांकि उन्होंने कहा कि भारत को दी गई छूट **देश-विशिष्ट कोटा**, **अवशिष्ट कोटा** तथा **अधिकृत उपयोग योजनाओं** के तहत पहुंच के मिश्रण के रूप में होगी।
- The details will be available on **July 1**, when the U.K.'s tariffs come into effect.
इन प्रावधानों का विवरण **1 जुलाई** को उपलब्ध होगा, जब यू.के. के शुल्क लागू होंगे।

Iron ore sees a bright future, but green steel industry fades

Higher exports: India exported 28.62 MT of iron ore in 2025 against imports of 13.87 MT. K.R. DEEPAK

GS III: Economy

Reuters
SINGAPORE

The most persistently bullish part of the commodities sector in recent years has been metals associated with the energy transition, such as copper, lithium and rare earth elements.

Iron ore miners want their product to be added to the list.

Strong demand growth for steel in South and Southeast Asia will keep demand for the raw material robust, and more than outweigh declining production in China and the Western world. That was the consensus view at this week's industry gathering in Singapore.

However, the optimism of iron ore miners wasn't replicated by advocates of decarbonising the industry, with a shift away from seeing green steel as the great hope due to the bitter realisation that it will be enormously costly.

Governments currently lack the will to legislate, regulate and incentivise a switch from making steel with coal to using renewable energies. The bullish mood in iron ore is largely built around forecasts that India will increase its steel production from around 168 million metric tons a year currently to around 400 million tons by 2035.

India is a small net exporter of iron ore, with exports of28.62 million tons in 2025 balanced against imports of 13.87 million tons, according to data compiled by commodity analysts Kpler.

If India does more than double steel production in the next10 years, it would almost certainly have to boost imports, as its domestic industry would be unable to mine sufficient quantities of ore with high enough iron content to be economically viable.

There is also optimism that Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand will build more steel capacity as their economies continue to industrialise, and these will largely depend on imported iron ore.

Rio Tinto Chief Commercial Officer Bold Baatar told the Singapore Iron Ore and Steel Forum that there is a looming supply gap of 650 million tons of iron ore by 2035.

The figure accounts for new mines such as the 120 million ton-per-year Simandou project in Guinea, which is in the process of starting up.

However, Rio expects that the pace of new mine development will not match the loss of tons as mines reach the end of life.

Another factor supporting miners such as Rio, which is the world's largest producer of iron ore, is that most of the new steel capacity being built in Asia uses the traditional blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF) method of production.

This method is proven and cost effective, but also highly polluting, as it relies on metallurgical coal. Steel-making accounts for about 8% of global carbon emissions, making decarbonisation vital to reach climate ambitions of net zero by 2050. But while miners and steel makers are keen to talk about decarbonising their operations, the reality is that they are really only going after some low-hanging fruit with plans to increase efficiencies and use higher-grade iron ore.

Green shoots fade

Any real effort to meaningfully reduce emissions involves switching from coal to hydrogen as a reductant, and renewable electricity as a power source. But so far very little capital has been allocated to producing green steel.

Zhong Shaoliang, the deputy secretary general of the World Steel Association, told the Singapore Green Steel Forum on Wednesday that only $20 billion has been invested in supporting green steel production.

This has led to an expected capacity of 70.8 million tons of green steel production by 2030, the bulk of it in Europe.

Given that global steel production is expected to be closingin on 2 billion tons a year by 2030, the planned green steel output is less than 4% of the total. The problem is that there is no global standard for green steel, and carbon taxes such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism in Europe aren't widespread enough to drive a meaningful shift to green steel.

The current cost of producing steel using the BF-BOF method is around $400 a ton, according to the World Steel Association data presented this week.

However, using renewable hydrogen and electricity lifts thecost to between $500 and $850 a ton, depending on the location of production.

The only way to close that gap is for governments to regulate in favour of green steel, either by taxing more polluting methods or by subsidising less carbon-intensive production.

19J6. Iron ore sees a bright future, but green steel industry fades

लौह अयस्क का भविष्य उज्ज्वल दिखता है, लेकिन हरित इस्पात उद्योग की चमक फीकी पड़ रही है

- The most persistently bullish part of the **commodities sector** in recent years has been metals associated with the **energy transition**, such as **copper**, **lithium** and **rare earth elements**.
हाल के वर्षों में **कमोडिटी क्षेत्र** का सबसे लगातार मजबूत बना रहने वाला हिस्सा **ऊर्जा संक्रमण** से जुड़े धातु रहे हैं, जैसे **तांबा**, **लिथियम** और **दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व**।
- Iron ore miners want their product to be added to the list.
लौह अयस्क खनिक चाहते हैं कि उनके उत्पाद को भी इस सूची में शामिल किया जाए।
- Strong demand growth for **steel** in **South and Southeast Asia** will keep demand for the raw material robust, and

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more than outweigh declining production in **China** and the **Western world**.
दक्षिण और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में **इस्पात** की मजबूत मांग वृद्धि कच्चे माल की मांग को सशक्त बनाए रखेगी और **चीन** तथा **पश्चिमी देशों** में घटते उत्पादन की भरपाई से भी अधिक प्रभाव डालेगी।

- That was the consensus view at this week's industry gathering in **Singapore**.
इस सप्ताह **सिंगापुर** में आयोजित उद्योग सम्मेलन में यही आम सहमति रही।
- However, the optimism of iron ore miners wasn't replicated by advocates of **decarbonising** the industry, with a shift away from seeing **green steel** as the great hope due to the bitter realisation that it will be enormously costly.
हालांकि लौह अयस्क खनिकों का यह आशावाद उद्योग के **कार्बनमुक्तिकरण** के समर्थकों में नहीं दिखा, क्योंकि **हरित इस्पात** को बड़ी उम्मीद के रूप में देखने का दृष्टिकोण इस कड़वी सच्चाई के कारण बदल रहा है कि यह अत्यधिक महंगा होगा।
- Governments currently lack the will to legislate, regulate and incentivise a switch from making steel with **coal** to using **renewable energies**.
वर्तमान में सरकारों में **कोयले** आधारित इस्पात उत्पादन से **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** आधारित उत्पादन की ओर बदलाव के लिए कानून बनाने, विनियमन करने और प्रोत्साहन देने की पर्याप्त इच्छा नहीं है।
- The bullish mood in iron ore is largely built around forecasts that **India** will increase its steel production from around **168 million metric tons** a year currently to around **400 million tons by 2035**.
लौह अयस्क को लेकर सकारात्मक माहौल मुख्य रूप से इस अनुमान पर आधारित है कि **भारत** अपना इस्पात उत्पादन वर्तमान के लगभग **168 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन** से बढ़ाकर **2035 तक 400 मिलियन टन** कर देगा।
- India is a small net exporter of iron ore, with exports of **28.62 million tons** in 2025 balanced against imports of **13.87 million tons**, according to data compiled by commodity analysts **Kpler**.
कमोडिटी विश्लेषक **क्प्लर** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत लौह अयस्क का एक छोटा शुद्ध निर्यातक है, जहां 2025 में **28.62 मिलियन टन** निर्यात के मुकाबले **13.87 मिलियन टन** आयात हुआ।
- If India does more than double steel production in the next **10 years**, it would almost certainly have to boost imports, as its domestic industry would be unable to mine sufficient quantities of ore with high enough iron content to be economically viable.
यदि भारत अगले **10 वर्षों** में इस्पात उत्पादन को दोगुने से अधिक बढ़ाता है, तो उसे लगभग निश्चित रूप से आयात बढ़ाना पड़ेगा, क्योंकि उसका घरेलू उद्योग पर्याप्त उच्च लौह-सामग्री वाले अयस्क का आर्थिक रूप से व्यवहार्य स्तर पर खनन नहीं कर पाएगा।
- There is also optimism that **Southeast Asian** countries such as **Vietnam**, **Indonesia** and **Thailand** will build more steel capacity as their economies continue to industrialise, and these will largely depend on imported iron ore.
यह भी उम्मीद है कि **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशियाई** देश जैसे **वियतनाम**, **इंडोनेशिया** और **थाईलैंड** औद्योगिकीकरण जारी रहने के साथ अधिक इस्पात क्षमता विकसित करेंगे और वे मुख्यतः आयातित लौह अयस्क पर निर्भर रहेंगे।
- **Rio Tinto Chief Commercial Officer Bold Baatar** told the **Singapore Iron Ore and Steel Forum** that there is a looming supply gap of **650 million tons** of iron ore by **2035**.
रियो टिंटो के मुख्य वाणिज्यिक अधिकारी **बोल्ड बातार** ने **सिंगापुर आयरन ओर एंड स्टील फोरम** में कहा कि **2035** तक लौह अयस्क की आपूर्ति में **650 मिलियन टन** की कमी आने वाली है।
- The figure accounts for new mines such as the **120 million ton-per-year Simandou project** in **Guinea**, which is in the process of starting up.
इस अनुमान में **गिनी** की **120 मिलियन टन प्रति वर्ष क्षमता वाली सिमांडू परियोजना** जैसी नई खदानों को भी शामिल किया गया है, जो शुरू होने की प्रक्रिया में हैं।
- However, Rio expects that the pace of new mine development will not match the loss of tons as mines reach the end of life.
हालांकि रियो का मानना है कि नई खदानों के विकास की गति, पुरानी खदानों के समाप्त होने से होने वाली उत्पादन हानि की भरपाई नहीं कर पाएगी।

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- Another factor supporting miners such as Rio, which is the world's largest producer of iron ore, is that most of the new steel capacity being built in Asia uses the traditional **blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace (BF-BOF)** method of production.
  रियो जैसे खनिकों के पक्ष में एक अन्य कारक यह है कि एशिया में विकसित की जा रही अधिकांश नई इस्पात क्षमता पारंपरिक **ब्लास्ट फर्नेस-बेसिक ऑक्सीजन फर्नेस (BF-BOF)** पद्धति का उपयोग करती है।
- This method is proven and cost effective, but also highly polluting, as it relies on **metallurgical coal**.
  यह पद्धति सिद्ध और लागत प्रभावी है, लेकिन **धातुकर्मीय कोयले** पर निर्भर होने के कारण अत्यधिक प्रदूषणकारी भी है।
- Steel-making accounts for about **8% of global carbon emissions**, making decarbonisation vital to reach climate ambitions of **net zero by 2050**.
  इस्पात उत्पादन वैश्विक **कार्बन उत्सर्जन** का लगभग **8%** हिस्सा है, इसलिए **2050 तक नेट-ज़ीरो** लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए कार्बनमुक्तिकरण अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- But while miners and steel makers are keen to talk about decarbonising their operations, the reality is that they are really only going after some low-hanging fruit with plans to increase efficiency and use higher-grade iron ore.
  हालांकि खनिक और इस्पात निर्माता अपने परिचालनों को कार्बनमुक्त बनाने की बात करते हैं, लेकिन वास्तविकता यह है कि वे अभी केवल दक्षता बढ़ाने और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले लौह अयस्क के उपयोग जैसे अपेक्षाकृत आसान उपायों पर ध्यान दे रहे हैं।

Green shoots fade
हरित संभावनाएं फीकी पड़ रही हैं

- Any real effort to meaningfully reduce emissions involves switching from **coal** to **hydrogen** as a reductant, and **renewable electricity** as a power source.
  उत्सर्जन में वास्तविक और सार्थक कमी लाने के लिए **कोयले** के स्थान पर **हाइड्रोजन** को अपचायक तथा **नवीकरणीय बिजली** को ऊर्जा स्रोत के रूप में अपनाना आवश्यक है।
- But so far very little capital has been allocated to producing **green steel**.
  लेकिन अब तक **हरित इस्पात** उत्पादन के लिए बहुत कम पूंजी आवंटित की गई है।
- **Zhong Shaoliang**, the deputy secretary general of the **World Steel Association**, told the **Singapore Green Steel Forum** on Wednesday that only **$20 billion** has been invested in supporting green steel production.
  विश्व इस्पात संघ के उप महासचिव **झोंग शाओलियांग** ने बुधवार को **सिंगापुर ग्रीन स्टील फोरम** में बताया कि हरित इस्पात उत्पादन को समर्थन देने के लिए अब तक केवल **20 अरब डॉलर** का निवेश हुआ है।
- This has led to an expected capacity of **70.8 million tons** of green steel production by **2030**, the bulk of it in **Europe**.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **2030** तक **70.8 मिलियन टन** हरित इस्पात उत्पादन क्षमता बनने की उम्मीद है, जिसका अधिकांश हिस्सा **यूरोप** में होगा।
- Given that global steel production is expected to be closing in on **2 billion tons a year by 2030**, the planned green steel output is less than **4%** of the total.
  चूंकि वैश्विक इस्पात उत्पादन **2030 तक 2 अरब टन प्रतिवर्ष** के करीब पहुंचने की उम्मीद है, इसलिए नियोजित हरित इस्पात उत्पादन कुल का **4% से भी कम** है।
- The problem is that there is no global standard for **green steel**, and carbon taxes such as the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism** in Europe aren't widespread enough to drive a meaningful shift to green steel.
  समस्या यह है कि **हरित इस्पात** के लिए कोई वैश्विक मानक नहीं है और यूरोप की **कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म** जैसी कार्बन कर प्रणालियां अभी इतनी व्यापक नहीं हैं कि हरित इस्पात की ओर सार्थक बदलाव ला सकें।

- The current cost of producing steel using the **BF-BOF method** is around **$400 a ton**, according to the World Steel Association data presented this week.
  इस सप्ताह प्रस्तुत विश्व इस्पात संघ के आंकड़ों के अनुसार **BF-BOF पद्धति** से इस्पात उत्पादन की वर्तमान लागत लगभग **400 डॉलर प्रति टन** है।
- However, using **renewable hydrogen** and **electricity** lifts the cost to between **$500 and $850 a ton**, depending on the location of production.
  हालांकि **नवीकरणीय हाइड्रोजन** और **बिजली** के उपयोग से उत्पादन लागत बढ़कर **500 से 850 डॉलर प्रति टन** के बीच पहुंच जाती है, जो उत्पादन स्थान पर निर्भर करती है।
- The only way to close that gap is for governments to regulate in favour of **green steel**, either by taxing more polluting methods or by subsidising less carbon-intensive production.
  इस लागत अंतर को कम करने का एकमात्र तरीका यह है कि सरकारें **हरित इस्पात** के पक्ष में नीतिगत हस्तक्षेप करें, या तो अधिक प्रदूषणकारी विधियों पर कर लगाकर अथवा कम कार्बन-गहन उत्पादन को सब्सिडी देकर।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	19 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
19J6	Telegram has evolved into a new dark web, govt. tells HC सरकार ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि टेलीग्राम एक नए डार्क वेब के रूप में विकसित हो गया है।
19J6	Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress 'अवसाद' और 'चिंता' से आगे: युवा आदिवासी अपनी मानसिक पीड़ा को किस प्रकार व्यक्त करते हैं
19J6	Children with vitiligo deserve freedom from stigma and the burden of misinformation विटिलिगो से प्रभावित बच्चों को कलंक और भ्रामक जानकारी के बोझ से मुक्ति मिलनी चाहिए
19J6	Lopsided solution असंतुलित समाधान
19J6	MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel डीज़ल वितरण पर प्रतिबंधों से MSMEs प्रभावित

PATRIOTIC IAS

Telegram has evolved into new dark web, govt. tells HC

Centre says the platform is used by cybercriminals, exam paper leak operators; Delhi High Court questions the platform-wide ban as it hears Telegram's challenge; it reserves judgment for Friday

GS III: S&T

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday submitted before the Delhi High Court that the messaging platform Telegram had evolved into the "new dark web", arguing that its architecture and privacy features had made it a preferred tool for cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist and terror groups, and operators involved in examination paper leaks.

The government's submissions relied heavily on an Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) assessment that the platform was a growing hub for illicit online activity. The government has restricted access to the platform ahead of the June 21 NEET re-examination.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre during the hearing on Telegram's petition challenging the temporary ban imposed till June 22 under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, told the court that the enterprise behind the messaging app had been repeatedly asked to proactively monitor and curb illegal and suspicious channels on the platform. However, the company failed to take any meaningful action, he said.

"Telegram has become the new dark web, linking threat actors. Criminals have rapidly adopted Telegram to post links on channels that connect to dark web forums through deep web links, making it hard for authorities to track and attribute criminals," he said.

Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta, appearing for Telegram, said the government had failed to justify the use of emergency powers and had not demonstrated why specific content could not be blocked, instead of disabling access to the entire platform. "The order says it is in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India. An examination like NEET will affect the sovereignty and integrity of India?" he asked.

A Bench of Justice Tejas Kataria scrutinised the government's justification for a platform-wide restriction, even as it acknowledged concerns about exam malpractice and cybercrime. "How can we stop the rights of 150 million people just because one set of citizens are appearing in examinations?" he said while hearing submissions from both sides.

The judgment has been reserved for Friday.

The Centre's affidavit also details how Telegram is allegedly used by cyber threat actors to coordinate attacks, distribute malware, and facilitate financial crime. It is alleged that Telegram channels host marketplaces for rented and mule bank accounts used in money laundering and cyber fraud. Such channels enable criminals to exchange information on bank accounts, UPI handles, and cryptocurrency conversion mechanisms while, due to the interface, it remains difficult for the police to track them because new channels emerge continuously.

To support its claims, the Centre pointed to a sharp rise in cybercrime complaints linked to Telegram. Data placed before the court show that complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal involving Telegram rose from 75,688 in 2023 to 2.75 lakh in 2025, with fraud amounts crossing ₹3,000 crore in 2025.

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Telegram on trial

The messaging platform contests restrictions imposed under Section 69A of the IT Act

Govt.'s stand

- Used by cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist groups, and exam leak operators
- Fails to act against illegal and suspicious channels despite repeated requests
- Features can be misused to falsely portray exam papers as leaked and trigger law-and-order concerns

Telegram's stand

- Centre fails to justify emergency powers or a platform-wide ban
- Specific content can be blocked instead of restricting the entire platform

19J6. Telegram has evolved into a new dark web, govt. tells HC
सरकार ने उच्च न्यायालय को बताया कि टेलीग्राम एक नए डार्क वेब के रूप में विकसित हो गया है।

- **The Union government** on Thursday submitted before the **Delhi High Court** that the messaging platform **Telegram** had evolved into the **"new dark web"**, arguing that its architecture and privacy features had made it a preferred tool for **cybercriminals, fraud networks, extremist and terror groups**, and operators involved in **examination paper leaks**.

  केंद्र सरकार ने गुरुवार को **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया कि संदेश सेवा मंच **टेलीग्राम** एक प्रकार से **"नया डार्क वेब"** बन गया है। सरकार का तर्क था कि इसकी संरचना और गोपनीयता संबंधी विशेषताओं ने इसे **साइबर अपराधियों, धोखाधड़ी नेटवर्कों, उग्रवादी एवं आतंकवादी समूहों** तथा **परीक्षा प्रश्नपत्र लीक** से जुड़े संचालकों का पसंदीदा माध्यम बना दिया है।
- The government's submissions relied heavily on an **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)** assessment that the platform was a growing hub for **illicit online activity**.

  सरकार की दलीलें मुख्य रूप से **भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र** के उस आकलन पर आधारित थीं, जिसमें इस मंच को **अवैध ऑनलाइन गतिविधियों के बढ़ते केंद्र** के रूप में चिन्हित किया गया था।

- "Telegram has become the **new dark web**, linking **threat actors**. Criminals have rapidly adopted Telegram to post links on channels that connect to dark web forums through deep web links, making it hard for authorities to track and attribute criminals," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, **"टेलीग्राम नया डार्क वेब बन गया है, जो विभिन्न खतरा उत्पन्न करने वाले तत्वों को जोड़ रहा है। अपराधी गहन वेब कड़ियों के माध्यम से डार्क वेब मंचों से जुड़ने वाले लिंक साझा करने के लिए इसका तेजी से उपयोग कर रहे हैं, जिससे अपराधियों का पता लगाना और उनकी पहचान स्थापित करना कठिन हो जाता है।"**
- **Senior advocate Dhruv Mehta**, appearing for Telegram, said the government had failed to justify the use of **emergency powers** and had not demonstrated why specific content could not be blocked, instead of disabling access to the entire platform.
  टेलीग्राम की ओर से उपस्थित **वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता ध्रुव मेहता** ने कहा कि सरकार **आपातकालीन शक्तियों** के उपयोग को उचित ठहराने में विफल रही है और यह नहीं बता सकी कि पूरे मंच को बंद करने के बजाय केवल विशिष्ट सामग्री को क्यों नहीं अवरुद्ध किया जा सकता था।
- "The order says it is in the interest of the **sovereignty and integrity of India**. An examination like **NEET** will affect the sovereignty and integrity of India?" he asked.
  उन्होंने प्रश्न किया, **"आदेश में कहा गया है कि यह भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता के हित में है। क्या राष्ट्रीय पात्रता सह प्रवेश परीक्षा जैसी परीक्षा भारत की संप्रभुता और अखंडता को प्रभावित करेगी?"**
- "How can we stop the rights of **150 million people** just because one set of citizens are appearing in examinations?" he said while hearing submissions from both sides.
  दोनों पक्षों की दलीलें सुनते हुए उन्होंने कहा, **"हम केवल इसलिए 15 करोड़ लोगों के अधिकारों को कैसे रोक सकते हैं क्योंकि नागरिकों का एक वर्ग परीक्षा में सम्मिलित हो रहा है?"**
- It is alleged that Telegram channels host marketplaces for **rented and mule bank accounts** used in **money laundering and cyber fraud**.
  यह आरोप लगाया गया है कि टेलीग्राम के माध्यमों पर **किराये पर उपलब्ध बैंक खातों और मुखौटा बैंक खातों** का व्यापार होता है, जिनका उपयोग **धन शोधन और साइबर धोखाधड़ी** में किया जाता है।
- Such channels enable criminals to exchange information on **bank accounts, UPI handles, and cryptocurrency conversion mechanisms** while, due to the interface, it remains difficult for the police to track them because new channels emerge continuously.
  ऐसे माध्यम अपराधियों को **बैंक खातों, एकीकृत भुगतान पहचान संकेतकों तथा आभासी मुद्रा रूपांतरण तंत्रों** से संबंधित जानकारी साझा करने में सक्षम बनाते हैं। मंच की संरचना के कारण पुलिस के लिए इनका पता लगाना कठिन बना रहता है, क्योंकि नए माध्यम लगातार उभरते रहते हैं।
- Data placed before the court show that complaints on the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** involving Telegram rose from **75,688 in 2023** to **2.75 lakh in 2025**, with **fraud amounts crossing ₹3,000 crore** in **2025**.
  न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत आँकड़ों के अनुसार, **राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल** पर टेलीग्राम से संबंधित शिकायतों की संख्या **वर्ष 2023 में 75,688** से बढ़कर **वर्ष 2025 में 2.75 लाख** हो गई, जबकि **धोखाधड़ी की राशि वर्ष 2025 में 3,000 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक** हो गई।

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Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand these expressions, the communities begin to appear 'silent'

Sachin Barbde
Christianez Ratna Kiruba

Dumbi, a tall, muscular teenager, walks silently outside his village, which consists of about 70 houses, mostly of the Adivasi Ho community, in Jharkhand. He lost his father when he was in Class 5. Now 16, and as an elder brother to three siblings, he has to both study and provide economic support to the family.

For Dumbi, football had earlier been a major source of joy. Friends regularly invited him to matches in nearby villages. But over time, he stopped playing almost entirely. The burden of caring for the family at the age of 15 made him sullen and withdrawn, and also led to his habit of drinking locally-brewed liquor, as a coping mechanism.

Mental health is gaining ground in our everyday conversations, thanks to increased awareness, battles to beat stigma and a growing number of people with lived experience who are talking about it. The people at the forefront of these conversations, however, remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations.

India has the largest population of indigenous communities in the world. And yet, information about the mental health of these communities is scarce.

Globally, mental health problems affect nearly one in seven adolescents aged 10-19 years, with anxiety, depression, and behavioural disorders among the most common conditions. India has one of the world's largest adolescent populations, but mental health support for young people remains deeply inadequate. The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems, though most are unlikely to receive any formal care.

The 2015-16 National Mental Health Survey estimated that 7% of adolescents aged 13-17 years, experience mental health problems. PHOTO: SETUWORKS

Deep inequities

Evidence from rural and Adivasi communities in mental health research remains remarkably limited despite these communities constituting around 9% of India's population. What makes this lacuna even more concerning is that Adivasi communities continue to face deep social, economic, environmental, and health inequities, with the most affected being young people.

The available research suggests that the burden may be substantial and widely neglected. A survey among Adivasi adolescents in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Meghalaya reported a 16% prevalence of mental disorders, more than double the national estimate for adolescents. Another survey among adolescent girls in rural Adivasi blocks of Jharkhand found that 12% experienced symptoms of emotional or behavioural distress.

These numbers, however, reveal only part of the story.

Poverty and mental health

For many young Adivasi people, family responsibilities begin at an early age. Financial insecurity is the norm rather than the exception. The most basic of needs including clothing and school costs are difficult to meet, a reality that Adivasi children understand from a very young age. But this premature awareness frequently comes at the cost of adolescence itself, quietly compressing what should be a carefree period with constant worry, restraint, and emotional burdens they are inadequately prepared for. When this is compounded by the loss of one or both parents, it often places adolescents under intense emotional and psychological stress.

What appears in these children externally as "maturity" is often chronic anxiety and emotional exhaustion. These experiences rarely enter formal mental health statistics and go unrecognised by the system, but they shape the emotional worlds of Adivasi adolescents every day.

Migration intensifies this burden. Seasonal migration has long existed among Adivasi communities as a response to chronic poverty and land insecurity. What often remains invisible are the emotional costs of this transition: loneliness, uncertainty, grief, interrupted education, substance use, fractured social ties, and a growing sense of disconnection from both village and city life.

Yet distress is not always expressed in ways recognised by formal mental health systems.

In recent work with Adivasi adolescents in rural Jharkhand, researchers found that young people, caregivers, teachers, and community health workers often described distress through local idioms, bodily complaints, silence, irritability, social withdrawal, or changes in behaviour rather than psychiatric labels such as "depression" or "anxiety".

This has important implications.

Expression of distress

Mental health systems frequently assume that emotional suffering will present itself in clinically recognisable forms. But in many Adivasi communities, distress may be communicated through stories, metaphors, behaviour, or withdrawal from social life. When professionals fail to understand the expressions, communities themselves begin to appear 'silent'.

The problem, therefore, is not merely that Adivasi youth do not seek help. It is also that systems often do not know how to hear them.

There is another quiet transformation taking place in villages: the erosion of intergenerational spaces. Ajay, a young community facilitator in one village from Jharkhand, reflected recently that earlier, evenings were spent sitting with elders, listening to stories and experiences. "That was our learning space," he said. "Now most young people spend time outside villages on their smartphones."

This reflects the weakening of informal spaces where emotions, identity, memory, and belonging were once shared collectively.

What is needed

India's response to mental health among Adivasi youth cannot be limited to expanding psychiatric services into rural areas, though accessible care remains essential. A more meaningful response requires strengthening community spaces, reducing social and economic precarity, listening to local languages of distress, and creating systems where they can speak without fear or shame.

Mental health among Adivasi youth is not only a medical concern. It is also a question of dignity, justice, cultural continuity, and whether young people are allowed to imagine a future beyond survival.

Until India learns to pay heed to these quiet forms of suffering, many a youth like Dumbi will continue walking silently at the margins of our collective attention.

With inputs from Yadav Leyangi, Pankaj Pan, Savitri Banra and Kamala Pan.

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THE GIST

People at the forefront of conversations on mental health remain primarily urban-centric and from privileged socio-economic groups. Young people from Adivasi communities remain missing from most of these conversations

For many young Adivasi people, family responsibilities begin at an early age. Financial insecurity is the norm rather than the exception. The most basic of needs including clothing and school costs are difficult to meet

A more meaningful response requires strengthening community spaces, reducing social and economic precarity, listening to local languages of distress, and creating systems where they can speak without fear or shame

19J6. Beyond 'depression' and 'anxiety': how young Adivasis describe distress

'अवसाद' और 'चिंता' से आगे: युवा आदिवासी अपनी मानसिक पीड़ा को किस प्रकार व्यक्त करते हैं

- Dumbi, a tall, muscular teenager, walks silently outside his village, which consists of about 70 houses, mostly of the **Adivasi Ho community**, in **Jharkhand**.
  डुम्बी, एक लंबा और मजबूत किशोर, **झारखंड** में स्थित अपने गाँव के बाहर चुपचाप चलता है, जिसमें लगभग 70 घर हैं और जहाँ अधिकांश लोग **आदिवासी हो समुदाय** से संबंध रखते हैं।
- The burden of caring for the family at the age of **15** made him sullen and withdrawn, and also led to his habit of drinking locally-brewed liquor, as a coping mechanism.
  15 वर्ष की आयु में परिवार की देखभाल का बोझ उसे उदास और अंतर्मुखी बना गया, और इससे उसमें परिस्थितियों से निपटने के लिए स्थानीय रूप से निर्मित शराब पीने की आदत भी विकसित हो गई।
- India has the largest population of **indigenous communities** in the world.
  भारत में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी **स्वदेशी समुदायों** की जनसंख्या निवास करती है।
- The **2015-16 National Mental Health Survey** estimated that **7%** of adolescents aged **13-17 years**, experience mental health problems, though most are unlikely to receive any formal care.
  2015-16 के राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार, **13-17 वर्ष** आयु वर्ग के **7%** किशोर मानसिक

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स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं का अनुभव करते हैं, यद्यपि उनमें से अधिकांश को किसी प्रकार की औपचारिक देखभाल मिलने की संभावना नहीं होती।

- A survey among **Adivasi adolescents** in **Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Meghalaya** reported a **16% prevalence** of mental disorders, more than double the national estimate for adolescents.
गुजरात, तमिलनाडु और मेघालय के **आदिवासी किशोरों** पर किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में मानसिक विकारों की **16% व्यापकता** दर्ज की गई, जो किशोरों के लिए राष्ट्रीय अनुमान से दोगुने से भी अधिक है।

19J6. Children with vitiligo deserve freedom from stigma and the burden of misinformation

विटिलिगो से प्रभावित बच्चों को कलंक और भ्रामक जानकारी के बोझ से मुक्ति मिलनी चाहिए

- Yet, for thousands of children living with **vitiligo** – a chronic condition where patches of skin tend to lose pigment – this is a reality.
फिर भी, **विटिलिगो** से पीड़ित हजारों बच्चों के लिए — जो एक दीर्घकालिक स्थिति है जिसमें त्वचा के कुछ हिस्सों का रंगद्रव्य कम हो जाता है — यह एक वास्तविकता है।
- **Vitiligo** is a medically harmless, non-contagious condition.
विटिलिगो चिकित्सकीय दृष्टि से हानिरहित और गैर-संक्रामक स्थिति है।
- Misunderstandings and **stigma** about it, however, persist.
हालाँकि, इसके बारे में भ्रांतियाँ और **कलंक** आज भी बने हुए हैं।
- Children suffering from **vitiligo** tend to be very conscious of their appearance at an early age.
विटिलिगो से पीड़ित बच्चे कम आयु से ही अपने बाहरी स्वरूप के प्रति अत्यधिक सजग हो जाते हैं।
- Adolescents are significantly more vulnerable as during their teenage years, they are more susceptible to concerns of appearances, belonging and acceptance.
किशोर विशेष रूप से अधिक संवेदनशील होते हैं क्योंकि किशोरावस्था में वे बाहरी रूप, अपनत्व और सामाजिक स्वीकृति से जुड़ी चिंताओं के प्रति अधिक प्रभावित होते हैं।

What needs to change
क्या बदलने की आवश्यकता है

- The condition is often assumed to be caused by poor hygiene or believed to be contagious: neither fact is true.
अक्सर यह माना जाता है कि यह स्थिति खराब स्वच्छता के कारण होती है या यह संक्रामक है, जबकि इनमें से कोई भी बात सत्य नहीं है।
- Simple initiatives inside the classroom can make a difference, as when children understand that **vitiligo** is an autoimmune disease and poses no health risk to others, the stigma and fear related to it will reduce substantially.
कक्षा के भीतर किए गए सरल प्रयास भी बड़ा परिवर्तन ला सकते हैं, क्योंकि जब बच्चे यह समझते हैं कि **विटिलिगो** एक स्व-प्रतिरक्षी रोग है और इससे दूसरों के स्वास्थ्य को कोई खतरा नहीं है, तो इससे जुड़ा कलंक और भय काफी हद तक कम हो जाएगा।
- Teachers and parents play an important role here in identifying signs of emotional distress, declining academic performances or reluctance to attend school.
भावनात्मक संकट के संकेतों, शैक्षणिक प्रदर्शन में गिरावट अथवा विद्यालय जाने में अनिच्छा की पहचान करने में शिक्षक और अभिभावक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- The true burden of **vitiligo** is rarely found in the skin itself: it is found in the silent stigma that children face. Our collective goal must be that no child feels different, or less worthy, due to the skin they live in.

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हमारा सामूहिक लक्ष्य यह होना चाहिए कि कोई भी बच्चा अपनी त्वचा के कारण स्वयं को अलग या कम मूल्यवान महसूस न करे। **विटिलिगो** का वास्तविक बोझ शायद ही कभी केवल त्वचा में दिखाई देता है; यह उस मौन कलंक में निहित होता है जिसका सामना बच्चे करते हैं।

Vitiligo

- **Vitiligo** is a chronic skin condition in which white patches appear on the skin due to the loss of **melanocytes**, the cells that produce the pigment **melanin** responsible for skin, hair, and eye color.

Why is it Called an Autoimmune Disease?

- In an autoimmune disorder, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks its own healthy cells.
- In vitiligo:
- The immune system wrongly identifies melanocytes as harmful.
- It attacks and destroys these pigment-producing cells.
- As melanocytes disappear, the affected areas lose their color and become white.

THE HINDU
GS III: S&T

Lopsided solution

In India, regulatory oversight for pharmaceuticals needs to improve

As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's pharmaceutical supply chain after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines. However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist. The Union Health Ministry has removed the term "syrup" from Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945, a change it had signalled when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies. These products were singled out after ethylene glycol (EG) and diethylene glycol (DEG) contamination in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022. The WHO's warnings in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently. But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used. Many over-the-counter (OTC) cough syrups are 'cocktails' of bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants, which can cause tremors and heart palpitations, extreme sedation or paradoxical agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects. The American Academy of Pediatrics has said that cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can mask underlying conditions such as pneumonia or asthma. Yet, India's entrenched OTC culture makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.

Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in manufacturing quality control, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access. Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place. The fundamental issue is that the government continues to tolerate the pharmaceutical lobby's argument that high-end testing requirements – for stronger quality control and ultimately better drugs – will bankrupt smaller manufacturers. Second, while the *Indian Pharmacopoeia* and the *Pharmacopoeia Internationalis* updated their analytical methods to detect EG/DEG following the deaths, failures in batch testing and enforcement persist. As a result, while India has around three dozen State drug controllers, they are chronically understaffed – so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas. In a globalised economy, subpar enforcement for medicines in even one country is dangerous; that is infinitely more so in a country aspiring to remain the world's pharmacy.

19J6. Lopsided solution
असंतुलित समाधान

- In India, **regulatory oversight** for **pharmaceuticals** needs to improve.

भारत में **औषधियों (फार्मास्यूटिकल्स)** के लिए **नियामकीय निगरानी** में सुधार किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

- As part of an overarching attempt to restore confidence in India's **pharmaceutical supply chain** after a series of deaths damaged the country's reputation as a drug exporter, the government has required a doctor's prescription for individuals to purchase syrup-based medicines.

दवा निर्यातक के रूप में देश की प्रतिष्ठा को क्षति पहुँचाने वाली कई मौतों के बाद भारत की **औषधि आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** में विश्वास बहाल करने के व्यापक प्रयास के अंतर्गत सरकार ने सिरप-आधारित दवाओं की खरीद के लिए चिकित्सकीय पर्चा अनिवार्य कर दिया है।

- However, while it seems like a credible measure, it is also defensive rather than reformist.

हालाँकि यह एक विश्वसनीय कदम प्रतीत होता है, परंतु यह सुधारात्मक की अपेक्षा रक्षात्मक अधिक है।

- The **Union Health Ministry** has removed the term "syrup" from **Schedule K of the Drugs Rules 1945**, a change it had signalled when it issued the draft notification in December 2025, thus requiring cough syrups to be sold only with a prescription, through licensed pharmacies.

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने **ड्रग्स रूल्स, 1945 की अनुसूची K** से "सिरप" शब्द को हटा दिया है। यह परिवर्तन दिसंबर 2025 में जारी मसौदा अधिसूचना में संकेतित किया गया था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप अब खाँसी की सिरप केवल चिकित्सकीय पर्चे पर और लाइसेंस प्राप्त फार्मेसियों के माध्यम से ही बेची जा सकेगी।

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- These products were singled out after **ethylene glycol (EG)** and **diethylene glycol (DEG)** contamination in India-made cough syrups killed over 300 children across several countries since 2022.
  इन उत्पादों को विशेष रूप से चिन्हित किया गया क्योंकि 2022 से भारत में निर्मित खाँसी की सिरपों में **एथिलीन ग्लाइकॉल (EG)** और **डाइएथिलीन ग्लाइकॉल (DEG)** के प्रदूषण के कारण कई देशों में 300 से अधिक बच्चों की मृत्यु हुई।
- The **WHO's warnings** in 2022 and 2023 also undermined assumptions that India's export quality controls were effective and functioning independently.
  2022 और 2023 में **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** की चेतावनियों ने इस धारणा को भी कमजोर कर दिया कि भारत की निर्यात गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण प्रणाली प्रभावी और स्वतंत्र रूप से कार्य कर रही है।
- But beyond contamination, doctors have long raised concerns about how cough syrups are formulated and used.
  किन्तु प्रदूषण से परे भी चिकित्सक लंबे समय से खाँसी की सिरपों की संरचना और उपयोग को लेकर चिंताएँ व्यक्त करते रहे हैं।
- Many over-the-counter (**OTC**) cough syrups are 'cocktails' of **bronchodilators, antihistamines, and decongestants**, which can cause tremors and heart palpitations, extreme sedation or paradoxical agitation in infants, and blood pressure effects.
  अनेक ओवर-द-काउंटर (**OTC**) खाँसी की सिरपें **ब्रोंकोडाइलेटर्स, एंटीहिस्टामिन्स और डीकंजेस्टेंट्स** का मिश्रण होती हैं, जो कंपन, हृदय की धड़कन बढ़ना, शिशुओं में अत्यधिक सुस्ती या विपरीत रूप से उत्तेजना तथा रक्तचाप संबंधी प्रभाव उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं।
- The **American Academy of Pediatrics** has said that cough suppressants are quite ineffective for children under six years and may even be dangerous, as they can mask underlying conditions such as pneumonia or asthma.
  अमेरिकन एकेडमी ऑफ पीडियाट्रिक्स ने कहा है कि छह वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के लिए खाँसी दबाने वाली दवाएँ काफी हद तक अप्रभावी हैं और खतरनाक भी हो सकती हैं, क्योंकि वे निमोनिया या अस्थमा जैसी अंतर्निहित स्थितियों को छिपा सकती हैं।
- Yet, India's entrenched **OTC culture** makes pharmacists de facto primary care providers in many rural and semi-urban areas.
  फिर भी, भारत की गहराई से जड़ें जमा चुकी **OTC संस्कृति** के कारण अनेक ग्रामीण और अर्ध-शहरी क्षेत्रों में फार्मासिस्ट वास्तविक प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाता बन गए हैं।
- Most importantly, however, the contamination was the result of failures in **manufacturing quality control**, testing of raw materials, and regulatory oversight rather than consumer access.
  सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह प्रदूषण उपभोक्ताओं की पहुँच के कारण नहीं, बल्कि **विनिर्माण गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण**, कच्चे माल की जाँच तथा नियामकीय निगरानी की विफलताओं का परिणाम था।
- Even now, requiring a prescription may reduce inappropriate use and push patients away from self-medication, but it could never prevent contaminated products from reaching the market in the first place.
  आज भी चिकित्सकीय पर्चा अनिवार्य करने से अनुचित उपयोग कम हो सकता है और रोगियों को स्वयं-चिकित्सा से दूर रखा जा सकता है, किन्तु यह दूषित उत्पादों को प्रारंभ में ही बाजार तक पहुँचने से नहीं रोक सकता।
- The fundamental issue is that the government continues to tolerate the **pharmaceutical lobby's** argument that high-end testing requirements — for stronger quality control and ultimately better drugs — will bankrupt smaller manufacturers.
  मूल समस्या यह है कि सरकार अभी भी **फार्मास्युटिकल लॉबी** के उस तर्क को स्वीकार करती है कि सख्त गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण और बेहतर दवाओं के लिए आवश्यक उन्नत परीक्षण मानक छोटे निर्माताओं को दिवालिया कर देंगे।
- Second, while the **Indian Pharmacopoeia** and the **Pharmacopoeia Internationalis** updated their analytical methods to detect **EG/DEG** following the deaths, failures in batch testing and

enforcement persist.
दूसरी ओर, यद्यपि **इंडियन फार्माकोपिया** और **फार्माकोपोइया इंटरनेशनलिस** ने इन मौतों के बाद **EG/DEG** की पहचान के लिए अपनी विश्लेषणात्मक विधियों को अद्यतन किया, फिर भी बैच परीक्षण और प्रवर्तन में विफलताएँ बनी हुई हैं।

- As a result, while India has around three dozen **State drug controllers**, they are chronically understaffed — so without a large increase in the inspectorate, the notification is likely to be ignored sans consequence in rural areas.
परिणामस्वरूप, यद्यपि भारत में लगभग तीन दर्जन **राज्य औषधि नियंत्रक** हैं, वे लंबे समय से कर्मियों की कमी से जूझ रहे हैं। इसलिए निरीक्षण तंत्र में पर्याप्त वृद्धि के बिना ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इस अधिसूचना की अनदेखी किए जाने की संभावना है और इसके कोई विशेष परिणाम भी नहीं होंगे।
- In a globalised economy, subpar enforcement for medicines in even one country is dangerous; that is infinitely more so in a country aspiring to remain the world's pharmacy.
वैश्वीकृत अर्थव्यवस्था में किसी एक देश में भी दवाओं के लिए कमजोर प्रवर्तन खतरनाक होता है; और यह खतरा उस देश के लिए कहीं अधिक बढ़ जाता है जो स्वयं को विश्व की औषधि आपूर्ति का केंद्र बनाए रखना चाहता है।

MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel

GS III: S&T

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that consume 200 to 600 litres of high speed diesel (HSD) a day have been hit by the recently imposed procurement ceiling.

According to V. Rangaswamy, president of the Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA), MSMEs in the manufacturing, healthcare, commercial, and educational sectors do not have space or resources for bulk purchase and storage of HSD. Hence, they make daily or weekly purchases from the local authorised retail outlets.

The present procurement ceiling of 200 litres a day introduced through a notification issued on June 11 is inadequate even for a single day, he said.

The government should introduce higher procurement limit for verified institutional consumers and permit registered MSMEs, and other essential service providers to procure up to 600 litres per day upon submission of GST registration certificate, factory licence, or Udyam registration certificate, he added.

19J6. MSMEs hit by curbs on dispensing diesel

डीज़ल वितरण पर प्रतिबंधों से MSMEs प्रभावित

- **Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** that consume **200 to 600 litres** of **high speed diesel (HSD)** a day have been hit by the recently imposed **procurement ceiling**.

प्रतिदिन **200 से 600 लीटर हाई स्पीड डीज़ल (HSD)** की खपत करने वाले **सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यम (MSMEs)** हाल ही में लागू की गई **खरीद सीमा** से प्रभावित हुए हैं।

HIGH-SPEED DIESEL (HSD)

High-Speed Diesel (HSD) is a refined petroleum fuel used in **high-speed diesel engines**, particularly those operating at speeds above about **750 revolutions per minute (RPM)**.

HSD is used in:

- Trucks and buses
- Cars and SUVs with diesel engines
- Tractors and agricultural machinery
- Diesel generators (DG sets)
- Construction equipment

• Railways (many diesel locomotives)

• Industrial machinery

Why is it Called "High-Speed" Diesel?

The term refers to the **engine speed**, not the speed of the vehicle.

Example

• A modern truck engine may operate between 1,000 and 2,500 RPM.

• A tractor engine may operate around 1,500–2,000 RPM.

These are classified as high-speed diesel engines and therefore use HSD.

Characteristics of HSD

- **High Energy Content:** Provides substantial power and fuel efficiency.
- **Higher Flash Point:** Usually above 35°C. Safer to store and transport than petrol.
- **Good Lubricating Properties:** Helps reduce wear and tear in diesel engines.
- **Better Fuel Economy:** Diesel engines generally provide higher mileage than petrol engines.

HSD vs Petrol

Feature	HSD	Petrol
Engine Type	Diesel Engine	Petrol Engine
Fuel Efficiency	Higher	Lower
Torque	Higher	Lower
Flash Point	Higher	Lower
Common Use	Trucks, buses, tractors	Cars, motorcycles

HSD vs Light Diesel Oil (LDO)

Many students confuse HSD and LDO.

Feature	HSD	LDO
Use	Vehicles and high-speed engines	Industrial low-speed engines
Engine Speed	Above ~750 RPM	Below ~750 RPM
Quality	Better	Relatively lower

Environmental Concerns

Burning HSD releases:

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x)
- Particulate Matter (PM)
- Sulphur compounds (depending on fuel quality)

To reduce pollution, India has adopted **BS-VI (Bharat Stage VI)** diesel standards with very low sulphur content.

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PCS Special:		18 June 2026
18J6	Manpreet scales a new peak मनप्रीत ने नई ऊँचाई हासिल की	

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Manpreet scales a new peak

Press Trust of India

PCS

Manpreet Singh, with his 413th appearance, became India's most-capped hockey player during the FIH Pro League match against Germany here on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old midfield star surpassed former captain and current Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, who represented the country 412 times. In recognition of his achievement, Hockey India announced a cash reward of ₹10 lakh for Manpreet.

The day was made more special as India defeated Germany 3-1 through goals from Mandeep Singh (seventh minute), Shilanand Lakra (13th) and Nilakanta Sharma (35th).

Raphael Hartkopf (45th) scored for Germany.

18J6. Manpreet scales a new peak
मनप्रीत ने नई ऊँचाई हासिल की

- **Manpreet Singh**, with his **413th appearance**, became India's most-capped hockey player during the **FIH Pro League** match against **Germany** here on Wednesday.

मनप्रीत सिंह ने अपने **413वें मैच** के साथ बुधवार को **जर्मनी** के खिलाफ **FIH प्रो लीग** मुकाबले के दौरान भारत के लिए सर्वाधिक मैच खेलने वाले हॉकी खिलाड़ी बनने का गौरव हासिल किया।

- The **33-year-old midfield star** surpassed former captain and current **Hockey India** president **Dilip Tirkey**, who represented the country **412 times**.

33 वर्षीय मिडफील्ड स्टार ने पूर्व कप्तान और वर्तमान **हॉकी इंडिया** अध्यक्ष **दिलीप तिर्की** को पीछे छोड़ दिया, जिन्होंने भारत का प्रतिनिधित्व **412 बार** किया था।

GS Paper 1: Society	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	Step forward एक सकारात्मक कदम
18J6	Why A.P.'s incentive for having more children is misplaced आंध्र प्रदेश में अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने हेतु प्रोत्साहन योजना क्यों अनुचित है

PATRIOTIC IAS

GS I: Society

Step forward

The top court has given an economic value to unpaid domestic work

The Supreme Court's judgment in *Shishupal @Shish Ram vs Surjeet* by a Division Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N.K. Singh, is likely a landmark. The ruling originated as the Court revised compensation granted by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) for a road accident in 2001. The first MACT awarded the family of Reshma, the accident victim, ₹2.42 lakh, which the Punjab and Haryana High Court revised in 2024 to ₹8.43 lakh. But in its order, the Court revised it to ₹62.78 lakh after attaching a sum of ₹30,000 a month to Ms. Reshma's 'economic value', for the service she rendered as a homemaker. The ruling is not surprising. In *Lata Wadhwa* (2001), the Court valued a homemaker's services at a modest ₹3,000. In *Kirti vs Oriental Insurance* (2021), it said the economic value of a homemaker's work cannot be discounted simply because it is unpaid or performed by women. However, the 'official' value attached to that work has suffered from inconsistent quantification. The Bench's value of ₹30,000 a month is itself notional and a floor; it added that the floor must be hiked by 10% every three years and a woman's salary, where applicable, has to be added to the floor, in the context of MACT's claims. The judgment does not create a salary, wage entitlement, pension scheme or employment relationship for homemakers, and applies to compensation calculations in MACT cases only. That said, the now-normalised societal tendency to undervalue women's work means that any advance is valuable and will likely have ripple effects.

The connection between unpaid domestic labour and suppressed female labour force participation is a major theme in contemporary Indian labour economics. Now, for example, homemakers seeking maintenance under the Hindu Marriage Act, say, have judicial reasoning supporting the economic value of their domestic work. Rural women who "assist in sowing, harvesting, and cattle-tending", as the Court noted, can now invoke the Court's reasoning to pitch to have their labour, which is often treated as being incidental to household work, valued higher. The additive rule may encourage litigants to invoke similar reasoning in employment disputes *vis-à-vis* 'work from home' arrangements and domestic responsibilities. Future litigation may test whether male homemakers can claim equivalent treatment. Motor insurance is already a low-margin segment for many insurers, and a large increase in the average claim size – likely applied retrospectively as well – may force companies to reassess their risk models and render them more inclined to settle claims quickly in Lok Adalats. All said, the Shishupal judgment is a vital corrective to decades of economic erasure.

18J6. Step forward
एक सकारात्मक कदम

- **The top court has given an economic value to unpaid domestic work**
- **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य को आर्थिक मूल्य प्रदान किया है**

- The **Supreme Court's judgment** in **Shishupal @ Shish Ram vs Surjeet** by a Division Bench of Justices **Sanjay Karol** and **N.K. Singh**, is likely a landmark.

न्यायमूर्ति **संजय करोल** और **एन.के. सिंह** की खंडपीठ द्वारा दिए गए **शिशुपाल @ शिश राम बनाम सुरजीत** मामले में **उच्चतम न्यायालय का निर्णय** एक ऐतिहासिक निर्णय सिद्ध हो सकता है।

- The ruling originated as the Court revised compensation granted by the **Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT)** for a road accident in 2001.

यह निर्णय वर्ष 2001 में हुई एक सड़क दुर्घटना के लिए **मोटर दुर्घटना दावा अधिकरण** द्वारा प्रदान किए गए मुआवज़े में न्यायालय द्वारा संशोधन किए जाने के संदर्भ में उत्पन्न हुआ।

- The first MACT awarded the family of **Reshma**, the accident victim, **₹2.42 lakh**, which the **Punjab and Haryana High Court** revised in 2024 to **₹8.43 lakh**.

प्रारंभिक रूप से अधिकरण ने दुर्घटना पीड़िता **रेशमा** के परिवार को **2.42 लाख रुपये** का मुआवज़ा प्रदान किया था, जिसे **पंजाब एवं हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय** ने वर्ष 2024 में बढ़ाकर **8.43 लाख रुपये** कर दिया।

- But in its order, the Court revised it to **₹62.78 lakh** after attaching a sum of **₹30,000 a month** to Ms. Reshma's **economic value**, for the service she rendered as a **homemaker**.

किन्तु न्यायालय ने अपने आदेश में रेशमा द्वारा **गृहिणी** के रूप में प्रदान की गई सेवाओं के **आर्थिक मूल्य** को प्रतिमाह **30,000 रुपये** मानते हुए मुआवज़े की राशि बढ़ाकर **62.78 लाख रुपये** कर दी।

- In **Lata Wadhwa (2001)**, the Court valued a homemaker's services at a modest **₹3,000**.

लता वाधवा (2001) मामले में न्यायालय ने गृहिणी की सेवाओं का मूल्य मात्र **3,000 रुपये** निर्धारित किया था।

- In **Kirti vs Oriental Insurance (2021)**, it said the economic value of a homemaker's work cannot be discounted simply because it is unpaid or performed by women.

कीर्ति बनाम ओरिएंटल बीमा (2021) मामले में न्यायालय ने कहा था कि गृहिणी के कार्य के आर्थिक मूल्य को केवल इसलिए कम नहीं आँका जा सकता क्योंकि वह अवैतनिक है अथवा महिलाओं द्वारा किया जाता है।

- It added that the floor must be hiked by **10% every three years** and a woman's salary, where applicable, has to be added to the floor, in the context of MACT's claims.

पीठ ने यह भी कहा कि इस न्यूनतम मानक में **प्रत्येक तीन वर्ष पर 10 प्रतिशत** की वृद्धि की जानी चाहिए तथा जहाँ लागू हो, महिला की वास्तविक आय को भी इसमें जोड़ा जाना चाहिए।

- The judgment does not create a salary, wage entitlement, pension scheme or employment relationship for homemakers, and applies to compensation calculations in MACT cases only.

यह निर्णय गृहिणियों के लिए वेतन, मजदूरी अधिकार, पेंशन योजना अथवा रोजगार संबंध स्थापित नहीं करता है और इसका प्रयोग केवल मुआवज़े की गणना से संबंधित मामलों में होगा।

- The connection between **unpaid domestic labour** and suppressed **female labour force participation** is a major theme in contemporary Indian labour economics.
  अवैतनिक घरेलू श्रम और महिलाओं की कम **श्रमबल भागीदारी** के बीच संबंध समकालीन भारतीय श्रम अर्थशास्त्र का एक प्रमुख विषय है।
- Now, for example, homemakers seeking maintenance under the **Hindu Marriage Act**, say, have judicial reasoning supporting the economic value of their domestic work.
  अब उदाहरण के लिए, **हिन्दू विवाह अधिनियम** के अंतर्गत भरण-पोषण की मांग करने वाली गृहिणियों के पास अपने घरेलू कार्य के आर्थिक मूल्य के समर्थन में न्यायिक तर्क उपलब्ध हैं।
- Rural women who "assist in sowing, harvesting, and cattle-tending", as the Court noted, can now invoke the Court's reasoning to pitch to have their labour, which is often treated as being incidental to household work, valued higher.
  जैसा कि न्यायालय ने उल्लेख किया है, ग्रामीण महिलाएँ जो बुआई, कटाई तथा पशुपालन में योगदान देती हैं, अब न्यायालय के तर्क का उपयोग करते हुए अपने श्रम का अधिक मूल्यांकन कराने की मांग कर सकती हैं, जबकि अब तक इसे प्रायः घरेलू कार्य का सहायक हिस्सा माना जाता रहा है।
- The additive rule may encourage litigants to invoke similar reasoning in employment disputes vis-à-vis 'work from home' arrangements and domestic responsibilities.
  यह अतिरिक्त मूल्यांकन का सिद्धांत रोजगार संबंधी विवादों में भी ऐसे तर्कों के उपयोग को प्रोत्साहित कर सकता है, विशेषकर घर से कार्य करने की व्यवस्था तथा घरेलू दायित्वों के संदर्भ में।
- Future litigation may test whether **male homemakers** can claim equivalent treatment.
  भविष्य में न्यायिक विवाद यह भी परख सकते हैं कि क्या **पुरुष गृहस्थ प्रबंधक** समान व्यवहार का दावा कर सकते हैं।
- **Motor insurance** is already a low-margin segment for many insurers, and a large increase in the average claim size — likely applied retrospectively as well — may force companies to reassess their risk models and render them more inclined to settle claims quickly in **Lok Adalats**.
  मोटर बीमा पहले से ही अनेक बीमा कंपनियों के लिए कम लाभ वाला क्षेत्र है, और औसत दावा राशि में बड़ी वृद्धि — जो संभवतः पूर्व प्रभाव से भी लागू हो सकती है — कंपनियों को अपने जोखिम आकलन मॉडल का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करने के लिए बाध्य कर सकती है तथा उन्हें **लोक अदालतों** में दावों का शीघ्र निपटारा करने के लिए अधिक प्रेरित कर सकती है।

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Why A.P.'s incentive for having more children is misplaced

The recently announced cash incentives in Andhra Pradesh cannot offset the economic barriers faced by people to have larger families

GS I: Society

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

On May 16, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced a one-time incentive of ₹30,000 for the third child and ₹40,000 for the fourth. He said that these incentives were a part of the State's new population management policy to encourage population growth.

On the surface, the incentives to have bigger families may sound sensible with the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) report for the year 2023-24 placing the **State's fertility level at 1.8**, which is below the replacement level of 2.1. However, a closer look warrants questions on at least three fronts: whether such an incentive is adequate for families to have more children; what the key reasons are for the dropping fertility rate; and whether such an intervention is necessary now.

A comparison of this one-time cash incentive against basic expenditures shows that it cannot offset the childcare costs, a concern that is prompting families to rethink having more children **(Chart 1)**.

The government's incentive is about twice the average cost of hospitalisation for childbirth in India, and a far smaller multiple of the cost in Andhra Pradesh. In fact, it is almost the same as the cost of hospitalisation for childbirth in the State's urban area. In a State where more than 50% of births happen in private hospitals and about 52% of all deliveries happen through Caesarean sections, this incentive will just offset the hospitalisation cost in rural areas **(Chart 2)**. It is also inadequate to cover the cost of C-sections in private hospitals in urban areas.

For a family of five (assuming there are two adults and three children), this incentive is about 1.5 times their Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) in rural areas and almost similar to the MPCE in urban areas, as per the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2023-24. This means that the incentive could just help the families meet their consumption needs for one month, provided the same was not already spent in hospital during childbirth.

Cannot afford children

Moreover, the question around family planning has moved from whether families 'should' have more children to whether they can afford to. The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) 'State of World Population Report 2025' shows that financial limitations are the prime barrier to having children **(Chart 3)**.

Other barriers included housing limitations, followed by unemployment (or job insecurity), and the lack of quality and affordable childcare options. In many of these indicators, the share of Indians pointing to these concerns was much higher than the average share across the 14 countries that were surveyed for the report.

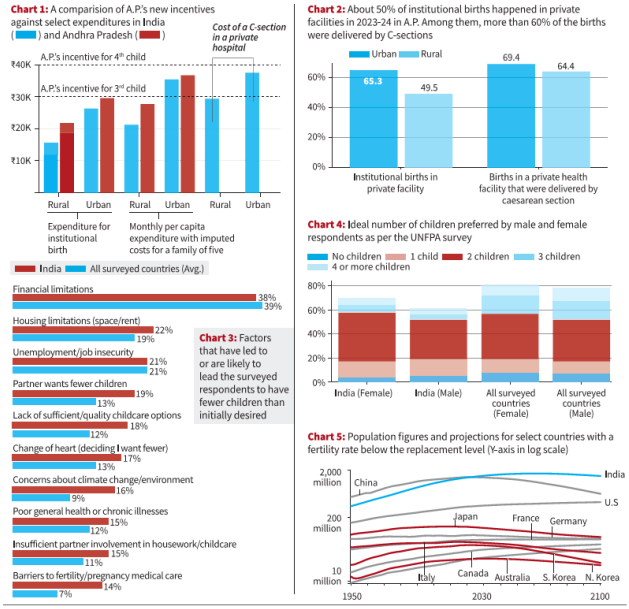
The survey further pointed out that a larger share of Indian men and women preferred having either one or two children **(Chart 4)**. Less than 10% of Indian respondents said they would prefer to have three, four or more children, which is almost on a par with the share of Indians who preferred having no children.

It is noteworthy that the below-replacement fertility rate in Andhra Pradesh and across India does not mean that the population decline is imminent. The population will continue to increase, then stabilise and eventually begin to decline, which, for India, is likely to happen only in 2063 as per estimates **(Chart 5)**.

For instance, although Japan and South Korea's fertility rates dropped below the replacement level in the late 1970s and the early 1980s respectively, their populations – which are less than 10% of India's – began to decline only around 2010 and 2020.

Wrong incentives

The data for the charts were sourced from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24, Household Social Consumption: Health 2025, NFHS-6, Our World in Data and the UNFPA



18J6. Why A.P.'s incentive for having more children is misplaced
आंध्र प्रदेश में अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने हेतु प्रोत्साहन योजना क्यों अनुचित है

Population Incentives and Fertility Trends
जनसंख्या प्रोत्साहन और प्रजनन दर की प्रवृत्तियाँ

- On May 16, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** announced a one-time incentive of **₹30,000 for the third child** and **₹40,000 for the fourth**.
  16 मई को **आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने **तीसरे बच्चे के लिए 30,000 रुपये** तथा **चौथे बच्चे के लिए 40,000 रुपये** की एकमुश्त प्रोत्साहन राशि की घोषणा की।
- On the surface, the incentives to have bigger families may sound sensible with the latest **National Family Health Survey** report for the year **2023-24** placing the State's fertility level at **1.8**, which is below the **replacement level of 2.1**.
  प्रथम दृष्टया बड़े परिवारों को प्रोत्साहित करने वाली यह योजना उचित प्रतीत हो सकती है, क्योंकि वर्ष **2023-24** के नवीनतम **राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार राज्य की **प्रजनन दर 1.8** है, जो **2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर** से कम है।
- In a State where more than **50% of births happen in private hospitals** and about **52% of all deliveries happen through Caesarean sections**, this incentive will just offset the hospitalisation cost in rural areas.
  ऐसे राज्य में जहाँ **50 प्रतिशत से अधिक प्रसव निजी अस्पतालों में** होते हैं और लगभग **52 प्रतिशत प्रसव**

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शल्यक्रिया द्वारा संपन्न होते हैं, यह प्रोत्साहन राशि केवल ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के अस्पताल व्यय की भरपाई कर पाएगी।

- For a family of five (assuming there are two adults and three children), this incentive is about **1.5 times their Monthly Per Capita Expenditure** in rural areas and almost similar to the monthly expenditure in urban areas, as per the **Household Consumption Expenditure Survey for 2023-24**.
  वर्ष **2023-24 के घरेलू उपभोग व्यय सर्वेक्षण** के अनुसार पाँच सदस्यीय परिवार (दो वयस्क और तीन बच्चों वाला) के लिए यह प्रोत्साहन राशि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में उनके **मासिक प्रति व्यक्ति उपभोग व्यय** की लगभग डेढ़ गुना तथा शहरी क्षेत्रों में लगभग समान है।
- Moreover, the question around family planning has moved from whether families 'should' have more children to whether they can **afford** to.
  इसके अतिरिक्त परिवार नियोजन से जुड़ा प्रश्न अब इस बात से आगे बढ़ चुका है कि परिवारों को अधिक बच्चे पैदा करने चाहिए या नहीं; अब मुख्य प्रश्न यह है कि क्या वे ऐसा करने का **सामर्थ्य** रखते हैं।
- The **United Nations Population Fund's State of World Population Report 2025** shows that **financial limitations** are the prime barrier to having children.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष की विश्व जनसंख्या स्थिति रिपोर्ट 2025 दर्शाती है कि **आर्थिक सीमाएँ** बच्चों के जन्म में सबसे बड़ी बाधा हैं।
- Other barriers included **housing limitations**, followed by **unemployment or job insecurity**, and the lack of **quality and affordable childcare options**.
  अन्य प्रमुख बाधाओं में **आवास संबंधी सीमाएँ**, **बेरोजगारी अथवा रोजगार असुरक्षा**, तथा **गुणवत्तापूर्ण और सुलभ बाल देखभाल सुविधाओं की कमी** शामिल हैं।
- The survey further pointed out that a larger share of Indian men and women preferred having either **one or two children**.
  सर्वेक्षण ने यह भी बताया कि भारतीय पुरुषों और महिलाओं का बड़ा वर्ग **एक या दो बच्चे** ही पसंद करता है।
- Less than **10% of Indian respondents** said they would prefer to have three, four or more children, which is almost on a par with the share of Indians who preferred having no children.
  10 प्रतिशत से भी कम भारतीय उत्तरदाताओं ने कहा कि वे तीन, चार या उससे अधिक बच्चे पसंद करेंगे, जो लगभग उन लोगों के बराबर है जो कोई बच्चा नहीं चाहते।
- The population will continue to increase, then stabilise and eventually begin to decline, which, for India, is likely to happen only in **2063** as per estimates.
  अनुमानों के अनुसार जनसंख्या पहले बढ़ेगी, फिर स्थिर होगी और अंततः घटनी शुरू होगी, तथा भारत में यह स्थिति संभवतः **2063** के आसपास उत्पन्न होगी।
- For instance, although **Japan** and **South Korea's** fertility rates dropped below the replacement level in the late 1970s and the early 1980s respectively, their populations — which are less than **10% of India's** — began to decline only around **2010 and 2020**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, यद्यपि **जापान** और **दक्षिण कोरिया** की प्रजनन दर क्रमशः 1970 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध और 1980 के दशक के प्रारंभ में प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से नीचे चली गई थी, फिर भी उनकी जनसंख्या — जो भारत की जनसंख्या के **10 प्रतिशत से भी कम** है — में गिरावट क्रमशः **2010** और **2020** के आसपास ही प्रारंभ हुई।

GS Paper 1: Geography	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	QUIZ
18J6	South Korea to ease civilian curbs along border with North Korea दक्षिण कोरिया उत्तर कोरिया की सीमा के पास नागरिकों पर लगे प्रतिबंधों में ढील देगा

Moving to safety

Water world: Villagers lead their bu• aloes across the Brahmaputra in **Assam's Majuli district** on Wednesday to safer areas amid heavy rain and rising water levels.

GS I: Geography

Water world: Villagers lead their buffaloes across the Brahmaputra in Assam's Majuli district on Wednesday to safer areas amid heavy rain and rising water levels. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Business as usual

Striking it rich: Artisanal miners use shovels to extract gold-bearings from an open pit in Mongbwalu, **Ituri province**, on Wednesday. The latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, declared on May 15, has mainly affected the remote, conflict-weary northeastern province of Ituri. AFP

GS I: Geography

Striking it rich: Artisanal miners use shovels to extract gold-bearing sand from an open pit in Mongbwalu, Ituri province, on Wednesday. The latest Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, declared on May 15, has mainly affected the remote, conflict-weary northeastern province of Ituri. AFP

18J6. South Korea to ease civilian curbs along border with North Korea

दक्षिण कोरिया उत्तर कोरिया की सीमा के पास नागरिकों पर लगे प्रतिबंधों में ढील देगा

- **38 Degree Parallele divide North Korea from South Korea.**

South Korea to ease civilian curbs along border with North Korea

GS I: Geography

REUTERS

Civilians in South Korea will be able to get several kilometres nearer North Korea under new rules broadening public access to the highly militarised border zone, Seoul's Defence Ministry said on Wednesday. The Civilian Control Line will be shrunk to an average of six km starting 2027, Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back said. AFP

GS Paper II: Polity	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	Nicobarese tribal councils oppose draft election rules निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदों ने मसौदा निर्वाचन नियमों का विरोध किया

Nicobarese tribal councils oppose draft election rules

GS II: Polity

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The councils said the existing forms of self-governance align more closely with democratic values

Nicobarese tribal councils from three different island groups have written to the local administration turning down the idea of Election Commission-conducted polls to their self-governance system, saying it could introduce "election rivalry, division, and conflict" in their society. The councils said the existing forms of self-governance "more closely align with democratic values", and said a new system would interfere with their existing ways which have been "traditional, time-tested, and consensus-based" and in practice for thousands of years.

This comes even as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI) administration on Wednesday notified a public meeting on June 30 in Sri Vijaya Puram to discuss the draft rules for elections to Nicobarese tribal councils.

The tribal councils in Little and Great Nicobar, Kamorta (Nancowry), and Katchal Island have written objections to the draft rules published by the A&NI administration in May. They have sought the withdrawal of this draft.

The draft rules aimed to reorganise Nicobarese villages into constituencies that would be represented by elected leaders, who would then constitute a larger tribal council. It would involve delimitation, preparation of voter rolls, and reservation of leadership positions for women. The draft also prescribes five-yearly elections. They outlined the polling process, the structure of the new representative system, the delimitation method, the rules for candidature, nomination, and withdrawal, their duties and responsibilities, and the administrative set-up for conducting these elections.

The draft rules were notified on May 15. The 30-day window for objections and suggestions closed this week. The administration has received letters of objection from the Congress party in the islands and the tribal councils.

18J6. Nicobarese tribal councils oppose draft election rules

निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदों ने मसौदा निर्वाचन नियमों का विरोध किया

- **Nicobarese tribal councils** from three different island groups have written to the local administration turning down the idea of **Election Commission-conducted polls** to their self-governance system, saying it could introduce "election rivalry, division, and conflict" in their society.

तीन अलग-अलग द्वीप समूहों की **निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदों** ने स्थानीय प्रशासन को पत्र लिखकर अपनी स्वशासन व्यवस्था के लिए **निर्वाचन आयोग द्वारा संचालित चुनावों** के प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार कर दिया है। उनका कहना है कि इससे समाज में "चुनावी प्रतिस्पर्धा, विभाजन और संघर्ष" उत्पन्न हो सकता है।

- The councils said the existing forms of self-governance "more closely align with democratic values", and said a new system would interfere with their existing ways which have been "traditional, time-tested, and consensus-based" and in practice for thousands of years.

परिषदों ने कहा कि वर्तमान स्वशासन व्यवस्था "लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों के अधिक निकट" है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि नई व्यवस्था उनकी उन परंपरागत, समय की कसौटी पर खरी उतरी और सर्वसम्मति आधारित प्रणालियों में हस्तक्षेप करेगी, जो हजारों वर्षों से प्रचलित हैं।

- This comes even as the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration** on Wednesday notified a public meeting on **June 30** in **Sri Vijaya Puram** to discuss the draft rules for elections to Nicobarese tribal councils.

यह घटनाक्रम ऐसे समय में सामने आया है जब **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप प्रशासन** ने बुधवार को **30 जून** को **श्री विजयापुरम** में निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदों के चुनाव संबंधी मसौदा नियमों पर चर्चा हेतु एक सार्वजनिक बैठक की अधिसूचना जारी की है।

- The tribal councils in **Little Nicobar**, **Great Nicobar**, **Kamorta (Nancowry)**, and **Katchal Island** have written objections to the draft rules published by the administration in May.
  लिटिल निकोबार, **ग्रेट निकोबार**, **कमोर्टा (नानकोवरी)** और **कच्छल द्वीप** की जनजातीय परिषदों ने मई में प्रशासन द्वारा प्रकाशित मसौदा नियमों पर आपत्तियाँ दर्ज कराई हैं।
- The draft rules aimed to reorganise Nicobarese villages into constituencies that would be represented by elected leaders, who would then constitute a larger tribal council.
  मसौदा नियमों का उद्देश्य निकोबारी गाँवों को निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में पुनर्गठित करना था, जिनका प्रतिनिधित्व निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधि करेंगे और वे मिलकर एक व्यापक जनजातीय परिषद का गठन करेंगे।
- It would involve **delimitation**, preparation of **voter rolls**, and reservation of leadership positions for **women**.
  इस व्यवस्था में **निर्वाचन क्षेत्र परिसीमन**, **मतदाता सूची तैयार करना**, तथा नेतृत्व पदों में **महिलाओं के लिए आरक्षण** शामिल होगा।
- The draft also prescribes **five-yearly elections**.
  मसौदे में **प्रत्येक पाँच वर्ष में चुनाव** कराने का प्रावधान भी किया गया है।
- They outlined the polling process, the structure of the new representative system, the delimitation method, the rules for candidature, nomination, and withdrawal, their duties and responsibilities, and the administrative setup for conducting these elections.

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इन नियमों में मतदान प्रक्रिया, नई प्रतिनिधिक व्यवस्था की संरचना, परिसीमन की पद्धति, उम्मीदवारों के नामांकन और नाम वापसी के नियम, उनके कर्तव्य और उत्तरदायित्व तथा चुनावों के संचालन हेतु प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था का विस्तृत विवरण दिया गया है।

GS Paper II: Governance	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	Water security is central for a Viksit Bharat विकसित भारत के लिए जल सुरक्षा केंद्रीय महत्व रखती है

Water security is central for a Viksit Bharat

GS II: Governance

Did you know that the Jal Jeevan Mission is the world's largest rural drinking water supply programme? Or that the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is the most significant rural sanitation movement in the world? Together, these initiatives represent not merely government schemes, but a re-imagination of how a nation of 1.45 billion people is building a water-secure future.

Few sectors shape human dignity, economic growth, public health, agriculture and environmental sustainability as profoundly as water. Yet, for decades, India's water challenges were addressed in fragmented ways. What has changed in recent years is the focus and integrated nature of the response led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The scale of investment and execution in the water sector in the last 12 years has been unparalleled. Water is now viewed as a shared national priority, cutting across departments, States, and communities. While earlier water was relegated to the side, under Prime Minister Modi, the Government of India has assumed responsibility for filling the long-standing gaps in planning, management, and delivery in the water sector.

A complete turnaround

The most prominent example of this transformation is the Jal Jeevan Mission. When the programme was launched, only about 3.23 crore rural households, roughly 17% of rural Indian households, had tap water connections. Today, more than 15.8 crore rural households, covering over 81% of rural India, have access to tap water at home. The government is moving towards achieving 100% coverage by 2028. For millions of families, this is not merely a utility service; it is a change in their way of life.

Studies indicate that earlier, rural women in India spent billions of hours each year fetching water. The expansion of household tap water supply has helped save more than 5.5 crore person-hours daily; that time is now being invested in education, livelihoods, childcare and economic activity. Across households, access to safe drinking water has also reduced out-of-pocket health expenditure arising from water-borne diseases.

C. R. Patil

Union Minister of Jal Shakti

Access to drinking water, sanitation, river conservation, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse and climate resilience must all be viewed as parts of a connected ecosystem

Equally transformative is the SBM. India's sanitation movement demonstrated that behavioural change, public participation and political commitment can work together at scale. According to the World Health Organisation's assessment of health gains, SBM-Grameen is estimated to have averted more than 3 lakh diarrhoea deaths between 2014 and October 2019. The construction of household toilets also brought dignity, privacy and safety to millions of rural women. Beyond making villages open defecation-free, the country has moved towards sustainable solid and liquid waste management under SBM-Grameen 2.0.

India has also undertaken one of the largest water conservation and groundwater recharge initiatives anywhere in the world. Under the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative, more than 1.55 crore rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures have been created across the country by May 31, 2026. The impact of these efforts is visible in groundwater trends as well. Recent assessments indicate improvement in groundwater recharge and a reduction in the number of over-exploited assessment units in several parts of the country. It also showcases that sustained conservation efforts, when combined with community participation, can reverse environmental stress.

Parallelly, India has advanced long-pending national water projects. The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project, the country's first major river interlinking initiative to bring water to the arid region of Bundelkhand, is moving ahead at an accelerated pace.

Under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the Namami Gange programme has demonstrated that environmental restoration and development can advance together. Over the past decade, the government has created 4,260 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage treatment capacity; reduced the Biochemical Oxygen Demand from 26 tonnes per day (TPD) in 2017 to 10.75 TPD in 2024; and brought down effluent discharge from 349 MLD to 265.56 MLD. Today, monitoring shows that pH and dissolved oxygen levels in the Ganga meet bathing criteria at all monitored locations.

India's water journey over these years offers an important global lesson. Water challenges in the 21st century cannot be addressed through isolated interventions. Drinking water, sanitation, river conservation, irrigation efficiency, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse and climate resilience must all be viewed as parts of a connected ecosystem.

The road ahead

This integrated approach becomes even more critical in the face of climate change. For India, the challenge is unique. The country is home to nearly 18% of the world's population, but has access to only about 4% of global freshwater resources. Rapid urbanisation and changing weather patterns will place increasing pressure on these resources in the coming decades.

Today's investments, therefore, are not merely developmental expenditures; they are long-term investments in national resilience. The progress achieved over the past decade demonstrates the immense potential unlocked when selfless leadership, responsive governance, and active public participation come together in pursuit of a shared national vision.

The road ahead requires sustained effort. The government will strive to improve water-use efficiency, promote recycling, strengthen water governance, and encourage citizen participation.

18J6. Water security is central for a Viksit Bharat
विकसित भारत के लिए जल सुरक्षा केंद्रीय महत्व रखती है

- Did you know that the **Jal Jeevan Mission** is the world's largest rural drinking water supply programme?
  क्या आप जानते हैं कि **जल जीवन मिशन** विश्व का सबसे बड़ा ग्रामीण पेयजल आपूर्ति कार्यक्रम है?
- Or that the **Swachh Bharat Mission** is the most significant rural sanitation movement in the world?
  क्या आप जानते हैं कि **स्वच्छ भारत मिशन** विश्व का सबसे बड़ा ग्रामीण स्वच्छता अभियान है?
- Few sectors shape **human dignity, economic growth, public health, agriculture and environmental sustainability** as profoundly as water.
  बहुत कम क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जो **मानवीय गरिमा, आर्थिक विकास, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य, कृषि तथा पर्यावरणीय सततता** को जल जितनी गहराई से प्रभावित करते हैं।

A complete turnaround
एक व्यापक परिवर्तन

- The most prominent example of this transformation is the **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
  इस परिवर्तन का सबसे प्रमुख उदाहरण **जल जीवन मिशन** है।
- When the programme was launched, only about **3.23 crore rural households**, roughly **17% of rural Indian households**, had tap water connections.
  जब यह कार्यक्रम प्रारम्भ किया गया था, तब केवल लगभग **3.23 करोड़ ग्रामीण परिवारों**, अर्थात् ग्रामीण भारत के लगभग **17 प्रतिशत परिवारों**, के पास नल जल कनेक्शन उपलब्ध था।
- Today, more than **15.8 crore rural households**, covering over **81% of rural India**, have access to tap water at home.
  आज **15.8 करोड़ से अधिक ग्रामीण परिवारों**, अर्थात् ग्रामीण भारत के **81 प्रतिशत से अधिक परिवारों**, को घर पर नल से जल उपलब्ध है।
- The government is moving towards achieving **100% coverage by 2028**.
  सरकार **वर्ष 2028 तक शत-प्रतिशत कवरेज** प्राप्त करने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।
- Across households, access to safe drinking water has also reduced **out-of-pocket health expenditure** arising from water-borne diseases.
  परिवारों को सुरक्षित पेयजल उपलब्ध होने से जलजनित रोगों के कारण होने वाले **व्यक्तिगत स्वास्थ्य व्यय** में भी कमी आई है।
- India's sanitation movement demonstrated that **behavioural change, public participation and political commitment** can work together at scale.
  भारत के स्वच्छता अभियान ने यह प्रदर्शित किया कि **व्यवहार परिवर्तन, जनभागीदारी और राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता** बड़े पैमाने पर मिलकर प्रभावी परिणाम दे सकते हैं।
- According to the **World Health Organization's** assessment of health gains, **स्वच्छ भारत मिशन-ग्रामीण** is estimated to have averted more than **3 lakh diarrhoea deaths** between 2014 and October 2019.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के स्वास्थ्य लाभ संबंधी आकलन के अनुसार, **स्वच्छ भारत मिशन-ग्रामीण** ने वर्ष 2014 से अक्टूबर 2019 के बीच **दस्त से होने वाली 3 लाख से अधिक मौतों** को रोकने में योगदान दिया।
- The construction of household toilets also brought **dignity, privacy and safety** to millions of rural women.
  घरेलू शौचालयों के निर्माण ने लाखों ग्रामीण महिलाओं को **गरिमा, निजता और सुरक्षा** प्रदान की।
- Beyond making villages **open defecation-free**, the country has moved towards sustainable **solid and liquid waste management** under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen 2.0**.

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गाँवों को **खुले में शौच से मुक्त** बनाने से आगे बढ़ते हुए देश **स्वच्छ भारत मिशन-ग्रामीण 2.0** के अंतर्गत **ठोस एवं तरल अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन** की सतत व्यवस्था की दिशा में अग्रसर हुआ है।

- Under the **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari** initiative, more than **1.55 crore rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures** have been created across the country by May 31, 2026.
  जल संचय जन भागीदारी पहल के अंतर्गत 31 मई 2026 तक देशभर में **1.55 करोड़ से अधिक वर्षा जल संचयन एवं भूजल पुनर्भरण संरचनाओं** का निर्माण किया गया है।
- The **Ken-Betwa River Linking Project**, the country's first major river interlinking initiative to bring water to the arid region of **Bundelkhand**, is moving ahead at an accelerated pace.
  केन-बेतवा नदी जोड़ो परियोजना, जो **बुंदेलखंड** के शुष्क क्षेत्र तक जल पहुँचाने की देश की पहली प्रमुख नदी जोड़ो पहल है, तीव्र गति से आगे बढ़ रही है।
- Under the guidance of **Prime Minister Modi**, the **Namami Gange programme** has demonstrated that environmental restoration and development can advance together.
  प्रधानमंत्री मोदी के मार्गदर्शन में **नमामि गंगे कार्यक्रम** ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि पर्यावरणीय पुनर्स्थापन और विकास एक साथ आगे बढ़ सकते हैं।
- Over the past decade, the government has created **4,260 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity**.
  पिछले एक दशक में सरकार ने **4,260 मिलियन लीटर प्रतिदिन मलजल शोधन क्षमता** का सृजन किया है।
- It has reduced the **Biochemical Oxygen Demand** from **26 tonnes per day in 2017** to **10.75 tonnes per day in 2024**.
  इसने **जैव-रासायनिक ऑक्सीजन मांग** को **2017 में 26 टन प्रतिदिन** से घटाकर **2024 में 10.75 टन प्रतिदिन** कर दिया है।
- Today, monitoring shows that **pH** and **dissolved oxygen levels** in the Ganga meet bathing criteria at all monitored locations.
  वर्तमान निगरानी से यह ज्ञात होता है कि गंगा में **अम्ल-क्षार स्तर** तथा **घुलित ऑक्सीजन का स्तर** सभी निगरानी स्थलों पर स्नान योग्य मानकों को पूरा करता है।
- **Drinking water, sanitation, river conservation, irrigation efficiency, groundwater recharge, wastewater reuse and climate resilience** must all be viewed as parts of a connected ecosystem.
  पेयजल, स्वच्छता, नदी संरक्षण, सिंचाई दक्षता, भूजल पुनर्भरण, अपशिष्ट जल का पुनः उपयोग तथा जलवायु सहनशीलता को एक परस्पर जुड़े पारितंत्र के अंग के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

The road ahead
आगे की राह

- The country is home to nearly **18% of the world's population**, but has access to only about **4% of global freshwater resources**.
  देश विश्व की लगभग **18 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या** का निवास स्थान है, किन्तु इसके पास वैश्विक **मीठे जल संसाधनों का केवल लगभग 4 प्रतिशत** ही उपलब्ध है।

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TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	Framework deal outlines Tehran's pledge on nuclear weapons, $300-bn U.S. relief रूपरेखा समझौते में परमाणु हथियारों पर तेहरान की प्रतिबद्धता तथा 300 अरब डॉलर की अमेरिकी राहत का उल्लेख
18J6	Dhaka's new Padma barrage will reshape water power in the region

	ढाका का नया पद्मा बैराज क्षेत्रीय जल शक्ति संतुलन को पुनर्परिभाषित करेगा
18J6	What does the India-Russia logistics agreement allow? भारत-रूस लॉजिस्टिक्स समझौता क्या अनुमति प्रदान करता है?
18J6	Oil prices tumble on likely U.S.-Iran deal संभावित अमेरिका-ईरान समझौते से तेल कीमतों में गिरावट
18J6	Putin hosts ASEAN leaders as West mounts pressure on Ukraine war यूक्रेन युद्ध पर पश्चिमी दबाव बढ़ने के बीच पुतिन ने आसियान नेताओं की मेजबानी की
18J6	U.S. drops 'Indo' from name of its military's Pacific Command अमेरिका ने अपनी सैन्य 'इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड' के नाम से 'इंडो' शब्द हटाया

Framework deal outlines Tehran's pledge on nuclear weapons, $300-bn U.S. relief

GS II, IR

Stanly Johny

The United States has agreed to facilitate the release of frozen Iranian assets, contingent on progress in negotiations towards a final agreement, and create a plan for Iran's economic development, involving $300 billion, according to a leaked text of the 14-point framework agreement reached between Tehran and Washington.

The draft, published by Saudi Arabia's *Al Arabiya* network and the Bloomberg news agency, states that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons. On its part, the U.S. will lift sanctions on the sale of Iranian crude oil, petrochemical products, and financial services, including banking, during the negotiation period.

The memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed in Geneva on Friday. The draft stated that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons and, pending a final agreement, maintain a status quo on its nuclear programme. However, the *AP* reported later that unnamed U.S. officials read out the draft to pressperson, according to which Iran has agreed to downblend (dilute) its highly enriched uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The draft, which has not been released officially, calls for an "immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon" – a key Iranian demand.

While the U.S. and Iran announced a ceasefire on April 8 after 40 days of bombing, Lebanon, where Israel occupies parts of the country, has remained a flashpoint. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his troops would not withdraw from Lebanon. Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia group that has close ties with Iran, has also said it will continue to resist Israel's military occupation.

Under the agreement, the U.S. and Iran have pledged to "respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other's internal affairs".

The U.S. also commits itself to lifting all sanctions against Iran, both primary and secondary, as part of a final agreement.

After launching the war on February 28, U.S. President Donald Trump had indirectly called for regime change in Tehran, asking Iranians to take over their institutions and telling them that they had a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" on their hands. After announcing the MoU on June 15, Mr. Trump said he did not believe in regime change. But on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said that the MoU is only a preliminary agreement, adding that if Iran did not honour its obligations, he would resume the war.

Once the MoU is signed, Iran and the U.S. will start negotiations on core issues.

Strait to reopen

The U.S. will immediately lift its naval blockade and Iran will allow traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to reach pre-war volumes within 30 days, "taking into account the need for the removal of technical obstacles and the neutralization of mines by Iran".

Mr. Trump has said that traffic through the Strait will be toll-free. According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, however, Tehran will not impose a toll but ships will have to pay a fee to Iran's newly created Persian Gulf Strait Authority, for environmental upkeep and other services.

"Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons. Iran and the U.S. have agreed that the fate of enriched material and the fate of all other mutually agreed nuclear-related issues, including Iran's nuclear needs, will be adequately addressed in a final agreement," the leaked text says.

Iran has hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium, which the U.S. and Israel want to take out of the country and dilute or destroy. Tehran has also maintained that nuclear enrichment is a right which it will not surrender, while Mr. Trump has called for zero enrichment on Iranian soil. These contentious issues will be discussed in the next phase.

MORE REPORTS
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18J6. Framework deal outlines Tehran's pledge on nuclear weapons, $300-bn U.S. relief
रूपरेखा समझौते में परमाणु हथियारों पर तेहरान की प्रतिबद्धता तथा 300 अरब डॉलर की अमेरिकी राहत का उल्लेख

- The **United States** has agreed to facilitate the release of **frozen Iranian assets**, contingent on progress in negotiations towards a final agreement, and create a plan for Iran's economic development, involving **300 billion dollars**, according to a leaked text of the **14-point framework agreement** reached between **Tehran** and **Washington**.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका ने **ईरान की अवरुद्ध परिसंपत्तियों** को मुक्त कराने में सहयोग करने तथा ईरान के आर्थिक विकास के लिए **300 अरब डॉलर** की योजना तैयार करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है। यह व्यवस्था **तेहरान** और **वाशिंगटन** के बीच हुए **14 सूत्रीय रूपरेखा समझौते** के लीक हुए मसौदे में उल्लिखित है और अंतिम समझौते की दिशा में वार्ताओं की प्रगति पर निर्भर करेगी।

- The draft, published by **Saudi Arabia's Al Arabiya network** and the **Bloomberg news agency**, states that **Iran** has pledged never to produce **nuclear weapons**.

सऊदी अरब के अल अरबीया नेटवर्क और **ब्लूमबर्ग समाचार एजेंसी** द्वारा प्रकाशित मसौदे के अनुसार **ईरान** ने कभी भी **परमाणु हथियार** विकसित न करने का वचन दिया है।

- On its part, the U.S. will lift sanctions on the sale of **Iranian crude oil**, **petrochemical products**, and **financial services**, including banking, during the negotiation period.

इसके बदले अमेरिका वार्ता अवधि के दौरान **ईरानी कच्चे तेल**, **पेट्रो-रासायनिक उत्पादों** तथा **वित्तीय सेवाओं**, जिनमें बैंकिंग सेवाएँ भी शामिल हैं, पर लगे प्रतिबंधों को हटाएगा।

- Iran has agreed to **downblend its highly enriched uranium** under the supervision of the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.

हालाँकि बाद में **एसोसिएटेड प्रेस** ने बताया कि अमेरिकी अधिकारियों ने पत्रकारों को मसौदे की जानकारी देते हुए कहा कि ईरान **अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी** की निगरानी में अपने **उच्च संवर्धित यूरेनियम** को कम संवर्धित रूप में परिवर्तित करने पर सहमत हुआ है।

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- The draft, which has not been released officially, calls for an **immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon** — a key Iranian demand.
  यह मसौदा, जिसे आधिकारिक रूप से जारी नहीं किया गया है, **लेबनान सहित सभी मोर्चों पर युद्ध की तत्काल और स्थायी समाप्ति** की मांग करता है, जो ईरान की प्रमुख मांगों में से एक है।
- According to Iran's Foreign Ministry, however, Tehran will not impose a toll but ships will have to pay a fee to Iran's newly created **Persian Gulf Strait Authority** for environmental upkeep and other services.
  हालाँकि ईरान के विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार कोई मार्ग शुल्क नहीं लगाया जाएगा, लेकिन जहाज़ों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण और अन्य सेवाओं के लिए ईरान की नवगठित **फारस की खाड़ी जलडमरूमध्य प्राधिकरण** को शुल्क देना होगा।
- "Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons. Iran and the U.S. have agreed that the fate of enriched material and all other mutually agreed nuclear-related issues, including Iran's nuclear needs, will be adequately addressed in a final agreement," the leaked text says.
  लीक हुए मसौदे में कहा गया है कि "ईरान पुनः दोहराता है कि वह कभी परमाणु हथियार नहीं बनाएगा। ईरान और अमेरिका इस बात पर सहमत हैं कि संवर्धित सामग्री तथा परमाणु कार्यक्रम से जुड़े अन्य सभी सहमत विषयों, जिनमें ईरान की परमाणु आवश्यकताएँ भी शामिल हैं, का समाधान अंतिम समझौते में किया जाएगा।"
- Iran has **hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium**, which the U.S. and Israel want to remove from the country and dilute or destroy.
  ईरान के पास **सैकड़ों किलोग्राम उच्च संवर्धित यूरेनियम** है, जिसे अमेरिका और इज़राइल देश से बाहर ले जाकर कम संवर्धित या नष्ट करना चाहते हैं।

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Dhaka's new Padma barrage will reshape water power in the region

The new barrage will lie just 180 km downstream of the Farakka barrage in Bengal — which Bangladesh has blamed for its periodic water scarcity; the Farakka, one of India's largest with a feeder canal, was built to divert water from the Ganga to the Bhagirathi-Hoogly, and flush the Kolkata Port

GS II R

Sonikka S. Loganathan

CHENNAI

Bangladesh recently signed off on the new Padma barrage to control the Padma river, which is the Ganga in Bangladesh, and abate the country's seasonal water scarcity.

The 2.1-km-long structure will store 2,900 million cu. m of water to serve 6.5 crore people across southwestern and northern Bangladesh. It is estimated to cost Tk 50,443 crore (Rs 39,170 crore) over seven years.

The barrage will lie just 180 km downstream of the Farakka barrage in West Bengal – which Bangladesh has increasingly viewed as an impediment. The Farakka barrage is one of India's largest with a feeder canal and was built to divert water from the Ganga to the Bhagirathi-Hoogly and flush the Kolkata Port.

Under the 1996 Ganges Water Treaty, Bangladesh will receive half the water from the Farakka barrage when the flow is under 70,000 cusecs. But during the dry season between March and May, each country has to receive at least 35,000 cusecs of water in three alternating 10-day periods.

Treaties past and future

A 2019 review by a team of experts in *Water Policy* found that there were "repeated occurrences of low flow at Farakka during the drier years in the post-Treaty period," including in 1997, 2008, 2010 and 2016. They concluded that the 1996 Treaty couldn't account for rising unpredictability in the flows.

The agreement is set to expire in December 2026.

But Dhaka has also said the Farakka barrage is responsible for the country's periodic water scarcity. To add to the anxiety, several river-sharing agreements between India and Bangladesh also remain unsigned, including the Teesta River Treaty.

According to S. Janakarajan, president of the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, "All transboundary water issues centre around the lack of timely flow of water," implying the barrage will be a way for the lower riparian state to exert some control over its water resources.

But this equity will come at a considerable environmental cost.

Effects of Farakka barrage

The Farakka barrage has altered the Ganga river's character and ecology in Bangladesh. About a third of the country's population relies on the Ganga basin, mostly to irrigate crops. But by redirecting the river and reducing flow, the barrage has diminished groundwater recharge, reduced the extent of waterways for navigation, increased salinity, eroded riverbanks, and has left less freshwater flowing to the Sundarbans.

According to Mr. Janakarajan, "a substantial part of Bangladesh" is less than 10 m above sea level.

"In the near future, sea-level rise will lead to the disappearance of 17% of the territory of Bangladesh," researchers wrote in the *Journal of Marine Science and Engineering* in 2022.

This, they added, will "create 20 million refugees, and 2,20,000 km² of land will be submerged following a projected sea-level rise of 1,500 mm to take place within 150 years."

A view of the Padma river from space in 2016. NASA

Bangladesh also drew around 520 litres of groundwater per person per day in 2008 (the latest year for which the UN FAO Aquastat database provides national figures for withdrawals by source). While this is not particularly high, the country's dependence on groundwater is a matter of concern.

Because the Farakka barrage also reduces flow in the Padma, the Padma is less able to transport silt, which sinks to the riverbed and piles up. When the monsoons arrive, the river overflows quickly and floods.

The sediments are also crucial to maintaining ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them.

For example, the Sundarbans region hosts the world's largest contiguous mangrove forest and depends on water from the Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers. Mr. Janakarajan said less sediment and freshwater flowing from these barrages will cause water in the Sundarbans to become saline whereas the ecosystem requires brackish water, which is less salty.

These changes will also lead to fewer fish, affecting the lives and livelihoods of fisherfolk in the area.

Fondness for concrete

South Asia is currently on a dam-building spree. There are more than 160 hydroelectric power projects underway in the region, per a 2023 review in *Water*. China is also building what will be the world's largest dam over the upper course of the Brahmaputra, just before the river enters India. In response, India has initiated a Rs 6.4 lakh crore hydroelectric power project, including building over 200 dams in its Northeast.

Dams – of which barrages are a type – are generally designed to operate for a century. Climate change is breaking this guarantee.

To ensure a barrage doesn't overflow under heavy bursts of rain, for instance, engineers have to drain water from behind it using canals, Omair Ahmad, former South Asia managing editor at *Dialogue Earth*, said. However, this will require building extensive water diversion infrastructure that would likely be made of cement.

"Creating greater pondage here in a cement thing means water is not going into your groundwater. It cannot," Mr. Ahmad said. "It is robbing a much larger area around that barrage of the regular flow of water that would seep in from a river basin."

Given the adverse environmental consequences, experts said building another barrage is not the most rational choice.

"We think big projects will actually manage [water] despite historical evidence that they do not," Mr. Ahmad said. "It is rare for big projects to be able to manage this because ecosystems are a bit too complex."

Mr. Ahmad and Mr. Janakarajan also suggested that instead of one large barrage, Bangladesh should consider building a series of smaller check-dams, which don't dramatically alter a river's flow.

But this has the downside of requiring cross-country planning and maintenance, whereas a barrage will be 'confined' to a specific area.

"Water sharing is always going to be a political issue," Sreeradha Datta, an international affairs professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, said. "The more we try to tame the river, the more we fall into other issues [with] long-term consequences which we cannot see now. But in the immediate context, it looks beneficial, and we are always pandering to the constituency."

The Daily Star has reported Bangladeshi officials saying the government will build the Padma barrage with its own money. Experts, however, said the country lacks the engineering resources for a project of this scale and likely has help from China.

Working on a project so close to the border alongside India's scepticism towards Bangladesh's new Tarique Rahman administration could make India uncomfortable, Prof. Datta added.

"China gets to be seen more and more as a dominant water manager in South Asia, as it has already become in the Mekong," Mr. Ahmad said. "India becomes a less relevant actor within its own neighbourhood."

So far, India has not directly commented on the Padma barrage. Dhaka has said its relationship with India depends on what they agree about sharing the Ganga's waters – and New Delhi that all river-sharing issues will be handled within the existing bilateral framework.

The treaty's renewal process is underway.

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18J6. Dhaka's new Padma barrage will reshape water power in the region
ढाका का नया पद्मा बैराज क्षेत्रीय जल शक्ति संतुलन को पुनर्परिभाषित करेगा

- The new **barrage** will lie just **180 km downstream** of the **Farakka barrage** in **Bengal** — which **Bangladesh** has blamed for its periodic **water scarcity**; the **Farakka**, one of **India's**

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largest with a **feeder canal**, was built to divert water from the **Ganga** to the **Bhagirathi-Hoogly**, and flush the **Kolkata Port**.

- नया **बैराज बंगाल** स्थित **फरक्का बैराज** से मात्र **180 किमी डाउनस्ट्रीम** स्थित होगा — जिसके लिए **बांग्लादेश** समय-समय पर उत्पन्न होने वाली **जल कमी** को जिम्मेदार ठहराता रहा है; **फरक्का**, जो **भारत** के सबसे बड़े बैराजों में से एक है तथा जिसमें एक **फीडर नहर** है, का निर्माण **गंगा** के जल को **भागीरथी-हुगली** की ओर मोड़ने तथा **कोलकाता बंदरगाह** की सफाई (फ्लशिंग) हेतु किया गया था।
- **Bangladesh recently signed off on the new Padma barrage to control the Padma river, which is the Ganga in Bangladesh, and abate the country's seasonal water scarcity.**
  बांग्लादेश ने हाल ही में **पद्मा बैराज** को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है, जिसका उद्देश्य **पद्मा नदी** (जो बांग्लादेश में **गंगा** कहलाती है) को नियंत्रित करना तथा देश में होने वाली **मौसमी जल-संकट** की समस्या को कम करना है।
- The **2.1-km-long structure** will store **2,900 million cu. m of water** to serve **6.5 crore people** across southwestern and northern Bangladesh.
  यह **2.1 किमी लंबी संरचना 2,900 मिलियन घन मीटर जल** का भंडारण करेगी, जिससे दक्षिण-पश्चिमी और उत्तरी बांग्लादेश के **6.5 करोड़ लोगों** को लाभ मिलेगा।
- Under the **1996 Ganges Water Treaty**, Bangladesh will receive half the water from the Farakka barrage when the flow is under **70,000 cusecs**.
  1996 गंगा जल संधि के अंतर्गत, जब जलप्रवाह **70,000 क्यूसेक** से कम होता है, तब बांग्लादेश को **फरक्का बैराज** से उपलब्ध जल का आधा भाग प्राप्त होगा।
- But during the **dry season** between March and May, each country has to receive at least **35,000 cusecs of water** in three alternating 10-day periods.
  किन्तु **मार्च से मई** के मध्य आने वाले **शुष्क मौसम** में, दोनों देशों को तीन वैकल्पिक 10-दिवसीय अवधियों में कम-से-कम **35,000 क्यूसेक जल** प्राप्त होना अनिवार्य है।

- The agreement is set to expire in **December 2026**.
  यह समझौता **दिसम्बर 2026** में समाप्त होने वाला है।
- But **Dhaka** has also said the **Farakka barrage** is responsible for the country's periodic water scarcity.
  किन्तु **ढाका** ने यह भी कहा है कि देश में समय-समय पर उत्पन्न होने वाली **जल कमी** के लिए **फरक्का बैराज** उत्तरदायी है।
- To add to the anxiety, several **river-sharing agreements** between India and Bangladesh also remain unsigned, including the **Teesta River Treaty**.
  चिंता को और बढ़ाते हुए, भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच कई **नदी-जल साझाकरण समझौते** अब भी हस्ताक्षरित नहीं हुए हैं, जिनमें **तीस्ता नदी संधि** भी शामिल है।

- The **Farakka barrage** has altered the **Ganga river's character and ecology** in Bangladesh.
  फरक्का बैराज ने बांग्लादेश में **गंगा नदी के स्वरूप और पारिस्थितिकी** को परिवर्तित कर दिया है।
- About a third of the country's population relies on the **Ganga basin**, mostly to irrigate crops.
  देश की लगभग एक-तिहाई जनसंख्या **गंगा बेसिन** पर निर्भर है, मुख्यतः फसलों की सिंचाई के लिए।
- But by redirecting the river and reducing flow, the barrage has diminished **groundwater recharge**, reduced the extent of waterways for navigation, increased **salinity**, eroded riverbanks, and has left less **freshwater** flowing to the **Sundarbans**.
  किन्तु नदी की धारा को मोड़ने और प्रवाह कम करने के कारण इस बैराज ने **भूजल पुनर्भरण** को घटाया है, नौवहन हेतु जलमार्गों के विस्तार को कम किया है, **लवणता** बढ़ाई है, नदी तटों का कटाव बढ़ाया है तथा **सुंदरबन** तक पहुँचने वाले **मीठे जल** की मात्रा कम कर दी है।
- "In the near future, **sea-level rise** will lead to the disappearance of **17% of the territory of Bangladesh**," researchers wrote in the **Journal of Marine Science and Engineering** in 2022.

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2022 में **जर्नल ऑफ मरीन साइंस एंड इंजीनियरिंग** में प्रकाशित शोधकर्ताओं ने लिखा कि निकट भविष्य में **समुद्र-स्तर में वृद्धि** के कारण **बांग्लादेश के 17% भूभाग** के लुप्त होने की संभावना है।

- This, they added, will "create **20 million refugees**, and **2,20,000 km² of land** will be submerged following a projected sea-level rise of **1,500 mm** to take place within **150 years**."
  उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इससे **2 करोड़ शरणार्थी** उत्पन्न होंगे तथा आगामी **150 वर्षों** में अनुमानित **1,500 मिमी समुद्र-स्तर वृद्धि** के परिणामस्वरूप **2,20,000 वर्ग किमी भूमि** जलमग्न हो जाएगी।
- Bangladesh also drew around **520 litres of groundwater per person per day** in 2008 (the latest year for which the **UN FAO Aquastat database** provides national figures for withdrawals by source).
  बांग्लादेश ने वर्ष **2008** में प्रति व्यक्ति प्रतिदिन लगभग **520 लीटर भूजल** का उपयोग किया था (यह नवीनतम वर्ष है जिसके लिए **यूएन एफएओ एक्वास्टेट डेटाबेस** स्रोतवार राष्ट्रीय आँकड़े उपलब्ध कराता है)।
- Because the **Farakka barrage** also reduces flow in the **Padma**, the Padma is less able to transport **silt**, which sinks to the riverbed and piles up.
  चूँकि **फरक्का बैराज पद्मा नदी** में भी प्रवाह को कम करता है, इसलिए पद्मा **गाद (सिल्ट)** को पर्याप्त मात्रा में बहाकर नहीं ले जा पाती, जिससे वह नदी तल में जमा होने लगती है।
- The **sediments** are also crucial to maintaining ecosystems and the livelihoods that depend on them.
  अवसाद (सेडिमेंट) पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों तथा उन पर निर्भर आजीविकाओं को बनाए रखने के लिए भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।
- For example, the **Sundarbans region** hosts the world's largest contiguous **mangrove forest** and depends on water from the **Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna rivers**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **सुंदरबन क्षेत्र** विश्व के सबसे बड़े सतत **मैंग्रोव वन** का निवास स्थान है और यह **गंगा, ब्रह्मपुत्र तथा मेघना नदियों** के जल पर निर्भर करता है।
- Mr. Janakarajan said less **sediment** and **freshwater** flowing from these barrages will cause water in the Sundarbans to become saline whereas the ecosystem requires **brackish water**, which is less salty.
  श्री जनकराजन ने कहा कि इन बैराजों से कम **अवसाद** और **मीठा जल** पहुँचने के कारण सुंदरबन का जल अधिक **लवणीय** हो जाएगा, जबकि वहाँ के पारिस्थितिक तंत्र को **खारा-मिश्रित जल (Brackish Water)** की आवश्यकता होती है, जो अपेक्षाकृत कम लवणीय होता है।
- These changes will also lead to fewer **fish**, affecting the lives and livelihoods of **fisherfolk** in the area.
  इन परिवर्तनों के कारण **मछलियों** की संख्या भी घटेगी, जिससे क्षेत्र के **मछुआरा समुदायों** के जीवन और आजीविका पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ेगा।

Fondness for concrete
कंक्रीट संरचनाओं के प्रति बढ़ती रुचि

- There are more than **160 hydroelectric power projects** underway in the region, per a **2023 review in Water**.
  Water में प्रकाशित **2023 की समीक्षा** के अनुसार, इस क्षेत्र में **160 से अधिक जलविद्युत परियोजनाएँ** निर्माणाधीन हैं।
- **China** is also building what will be the world's largest **dam** over the upper course of the **Brahmaputra**, just before the river enters India.
  चीन भी **ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी** के ऊपरी प्रवाह पर विश्व के सबसे बड़े **बांध** का निर्माण कर रहा है, ठीक उस स्थान से पहले जहाँ यह नदी भारत में प्रवेश करती है।
- In response, **India** has initiated a **Rs 6.4 lakh crore hydroelectric power project**, including building over **200 dams** in its Northeast.

इसके प्रत्युत्तर में **भारत** ने **6.4 लाख करोड़ रुपये की जलविद्युत परियोजना** आरम्भ की है, जिसमें पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में **200 से अधिक बांधों** का निर्माण शामिल है।

- **Dams** — of which **barrages** are a type — are generally designed to operate for a **century**.
  बांध, जिनमें **बैराज** भी एक प्रकार हैं, सामान्यतः **एक शताब्दी** तक संचालन हेतु डिज़ाइन किए जाते हैं।
- "Creating greater pondage here in a cement thing means water is not going into your **groundwater**. It cannot," Mr. Ahmad said.
  श्री अहमद ने कहा, "सीमेंट आधारित संरचना में अधिक जल भंडारण का अर्थ है कि जल **भूजल** में नहीं जा रहा है। यह संभव नहीं है।"
- "It is robbing a much larger area around that barrage of the regular flow of water that would seep in from a **river basin**."
  "यह उस बैराज के आसपास के एक बहुत बड़े क्षेत्र को उस नियमित जल प्रवाह से वंचित कर रहा है, जो सामान्यतः **नदी बेसिन** से रिसकर पहुँचता।"
- Mr. Ahmad and Mr. Janakarajan also suggested that instead of one large barrage, Bangladesh should consider building a series of smaller **check-dams**, which don't dramatically alter a river's flow.
  श्री अहमद और श्री जनकराजन ने सुझाव दिया कि एक बड़े बैराज के स्थान पर बांग्लादेश को छोटे-छोटे **चेक डैमों** की श्रृंखला के निर्माण पर विचार करना चाहिए, जो नदी के प्रवाह को अत्यधिक प्रभावित नहीं करते।
- **Dhaka** has said its relationship with India depends on what they agree about sharing the **Ganga's waters** — and **New Delhi** that all river-sharing issues will be handled within the existing bilateral framework.
  ढाका ने कहा है कि भारत के साथ उसके संबंध **गंगा के जल बंटवारे** पर सहमति पर निर्भर करते हैं, जबकि **नई दिल्ली** का कहना है कि सभी नदी-जल साझाकरण मुद्दों का समाधान वर्तमान द्विपक्षीय ढाँचे के अंतर्गत किया जाएगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Rubio's remarks and the limits of strategic empathy

GS II: IR

A day after the United States and Iran struck an interim deal on June 14, 2026, to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, it remains unclear whether the agreement will be implemented at all. Not only have details not been made public, but negotiators have, by all accounts, pushed the difficult issues down the road. There is no mention in the interim agreement of Iran's nuclear programme, its missile programme, or even ending Tehran's support for regional groups. Iran's top officials maintain that a final deal for a lasting truce is yet to take shape.

Washington's troubling response

These developments, though significant, are unlikely to make headlines in India, where policymakers and the public are still smarting over the deaths of three Indian sailors in a U.S. strike in the Strait of Hormuz on June 10.

Particularly galling are the remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, who told External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar last week that "violations of the American blockade and the illicit transport of Iranian oil would not be tolerated and that commercial vessels must immediately comply with US forces". There was reportedly no expression of condolence for the deaths of the sailors, nor any indication that the incident would prompt a broader reassessment of the risks now confronting civilian shipping in the Gulf.

The implication was unmistakable: Washington does not view the episode principally as a humanitarian tragedy requiring accountability, but as a compliance problem arising from the failure of merchant vessels to obey American directives.

That framing has implications for New Delhi. It suggests that for Washington, the safety of neutral shipping and the interests of partner countries during a conflict are secondary to the enforcement of U.S. strategic objectives.

Abhijit Singh

Retired naval officer and former Head of the Maritime Policy Initiative at the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

The U.S. Secretary of State's comments reveal the human cost of American strategic objectives

Merchant vessels are expected simply to comply with American instructions; should they become collateral victims of the increasingly militarised environment in the Strait of Hormuz, the costs are expected to be borne by the countries that own the ships and by the sailors who crew them.

Indian sailors stand alone

For a nation such as India, whose economic interests are deeply tied to the free flow of commerce through the Strait of Hormuz and whose citizens make up a significant share of the global maritime workforce, this should be unacceptable. Great power competition inevitably imposes costs on third parties with little say in the decisions that create or sustain crises. But those costs cannot simply be externalised onto partner countries and civilian mariners in the expectation that they will quietly acquiesce.

India's predicament is particularly stark because it supplies roughly a fifth of the world's maritime workforce but possesses few realistic means of ensuring the safety of its seafarers. The Indian Navy's escort operations in the Gulf are valuable but necessarily limited. They cannot protect the more than 18,000 Indian sailors in the region, many of whom serve aboard vessels registered under flags of convenience such as Palau, Guinea-Bissau and the Marshall Islands. Such flags offer little meaningful diplomatic protection in times of crisis. When things go wrong, Indian sailors are often left effectively stateless from a protection standpoint. The three deaths aboard the *MT Settebello* have exposed a structural vulnerability that New Delhi has long recognised but never adequately addressed.

Whether or not this will fundamentally alter the trajectory of India-U.S. relations is hard to say. The bilateral relationship possesses too many load-bearing elements – defence cooperation, critical technologies, the Indo-Pacific and the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, U.S..) – for one incident to trigger a rupture. Even so, Mr. Rubio's remarks seem to have done real damage at the level of trust and political optics. New Delhi's summoning of the U.S. Chargé d'Affaires twice within three days last week signals genuine anger. Many in India view Washington's response not as an aberration but as evidence of a deeper pattern: when the interests of partner states conflict with American strategic objectives, the U.S. invariably chooses itself.

Seeking accountability and answers

From an Indian standpoint, accountability for the incident has yet to be established. India must push for a credible, independent fact-finding investigation into the circumstances surrounding the strike. Beyond bilateral protest, New Delhi should consider taking the issue to multilateral forums, including the International Maritime Organization and consultations with other crewing and flag states. A lone démarche simply does not carry the weight of a coordinated international position. Importantly, Indian officials must articulate a principled and consistent position on maritime norms, one that applies irrespective of how powerful the state violating them may be.

For the Narendra Modi government, this episode is about more than the tragic deaths of three Indian sailors. Mr. Rubio's remarks have inadvertently laid bare an uncomfortable truth about great-power partnerships: strategic empathy has limits. The United States may regard India as an indispensable partner in the Indo-Pacific, but it will not subordinate its priorities in the Gulf to Indian sensitivities. That is not a reason for New Delhi to distance itself from Washington. It is, however, a reminder that close partnerships do not eliminate divergences of interest. India must continue to engage the U.S. with clear eyes and defend its maritime interests without assuming that others will do so on its behalf.

18J6. Rubio's remarks and the limits of strategic empathy
रुबियो की टिप्पणियाँ और रणनीतिक सहानुभूति की सीमाएँ

- India's predicament is particularly stark because it supplies roughly a **fifth of the world's maritime workforce** but possesses few realistic means of ensuring the safety of its seafarers.
  भारत की स्थिति विशेष रूप से गंभीर है क्योंकि वह विश्व के **समुद्री श्रमबल का लगभग पाँचवाँ भाग** उपलब्ध कराता है, किन्तु अपने नाविकों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उसके पास सीमित व्यावहारिक साधन हैं।
- They cannot protect the more than **18,000 Indian sailors** in the region, many of whom serve aboard vessels registered under **flags of convenience** such as **Palau, Guinea-Bissau and the Marshall Islands**.
  वे क्षेत्र में कार्यरत **18,000 से अधिक भारतीय नाविकों** की सुरक्षा नहीं कर सकते, जिनमें से अनेक ऐसे जहाज़ों पर कार्यरत हैं जो **पलाऊ, गिनी-बिसाउ और मार्शल द्वीपसमूह** जैसे देशों के तथाकथित **सुविधा-आधारित ध्वज पंजीकरण** के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत हैं।
- The **three deaths aboard the MT Settebello** have exposed a structural vulnerability that New Delhi has long recognised but never adequately addressed.
  एमटी सेटेबेलो जहाज़ पर हुई तीन मौतों ने उस संरचनात्मक कमजोरी को उजागर कर दिया है जिसे नई दिल्ली लंबे समय से पहचानती रही है, किन्तु जिसका पर्याप्त समाधान नहीं किया गया।
- The bilateral relationship possesses too many load-bearing elements — **defence cooperation, critical technologies, the Indo-Pacific and the Quad** — for one incident to trigger a rupture.
  द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में **रक्षा सहयोग, महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियाँ, हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र तथा चतुष्पक्षीय समूह** जैसे अनेक महत्वपूर्ण स्तंभ हैं, इसलिए किसी एक घटना से संबंधों में गंभीर टूटन की संभावना कम है।
- Beyond bilateral protest, New Delhi should consider taking the issue to multilateral forums, including the **International Maritime Organization** and consultations with other crewing and flag states.

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द्विपक्षीय विरोध से आगे बढ़ते हुए नई दिल्ली को इस मुद्दे को **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन** सहित बहुपक्षीय मंचों तथा अन्य नाविक-आपूर्ति और ध्वजधारी देशों के साथ विचार-विमर्श में उठाने पर विचार करना चाहिए।

What does the India-Russia logistics agreement allow?

What is RELOS, and does it allow India and Russia to station troops on each other's territory?

GS II, III

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

The India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement (LSA), termed the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS), which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year. There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of 3,000 Russian troops on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance. However, it is like any LSA, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.

What are Logistics Support Agreements?

A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel. The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief situations. As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.

For instance, the agreement with the U.S., Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) signed in 2016, the first such, provides a framework for reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services for activities such as joint exercises, training, or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. "It does not provide for the establishment of any bases or basing arrangements," Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre said in a written reply in the Parliament in February 2017.

If the hyperbole is to be believed, India and Russia can station troops on each other's territory, then by convention, it also means that India and the U.S. can do the same under the LEMOA. But that is grossly incorrect, as clarified by the Minister, and is so for any LSA.

What are the existing agreements?

India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the LEMOA in 2016. Currently, India has similar agreements with nine countries – the U.S., the U.K., France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia – concluded on similar lines, which provide logistics support and technical aid. The basic template and purpose for all these remain the same. There is also one with Oman covered under the overarching defence cooperation agreement.

What is the agreement with Russia?

Like other agreements, RELOS defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airspace and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries and the organisation of logistics and technical support of military formations of warships, military aircraft, and other equipment.

The agreement was signed in Moscow on February 18, 2025, and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the federal law ratifying it on December 15, 2025. According to the Kremlin, the purpose of the agreement is to define the procedures for the deployment of military formations, port calls by warships, and the use of airspace and airfield infrastructure by military aircraft of the two countries.

Broadly, RELOS covers joint military exercises, training, HADR missions, port and repair services, medical support, as well as delivery of food and technical resources and reciprocal access to military facilities, including airbases and ports, to support ship and aircraft personnel.

The agreement stipulates a maximum of 3,000 troops, representing a broad upper limit that takes into account the size of contingents and the number of ships or aircraft that may visit during engagements mutually agreed upon by both sides. It is valid for a period of five years, allowing for revisions later to reflect changing circumstances and requirements. The time frame for positioning of assets and personnel would be subject to the visit mutually agreed upon by both parties, one official said.

In fact, the scale of bilateral and multilateral relations between India and other countries is much larger. Indian armed forces exercise with the U.S. now.

Also, the agreement does not confer any provision for permanent basing of assets, and the agreement shall be exercised during joint exercises, port calls, or visits mutually agreed by both nations based on provisions of the agreement, officials clarified. "No permanent or long-term stationing has been agreed upon as part of the Agreement."

One important aspect is that RELOS gives access to Russian military facilities in the Arctic as both countries expand cooperation there, as new navigation routes open up, a fallout of global warming.

(Dinakar Peri is Fellow, Security Studies at Carnegie India)

18J6. What does the India-Russia logistics agreement allow?
भारत-रूस लॉजिस्टिक्स समझौता क्या अनुमति प्रदान करता है?

India-Russia Logistics Support Agreement (RELOS)
भारत-रूस रसद सहयोग समझौता (रेलोस)

- The **India-Russia bilateral Logistics Support Agreement**, termed the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement**, which had been dragging on for several years, was operationalised in January this year.
  भारत-रूस द्विपक्षीय रसद सहयोग समझौता, जिसे **पारस्परिक रसद विनिमय समझौता** कहा जाता है, कई वर्षों से लंबित रहने के बाद इस वर्ष जनवरी में लागू किया गया।
- There was a flutter on social media recently with claims that it allows the stationing of **3,000 Russian troops** on Indian soil or vice versa, painting it as a military alliance.
  हाल ही में सामाजिक माध्यमों पर यह दावा किया गया कि यह समझौता भारत में **3,000 रूसी सैनिकों** अथवा रूस में भारतीय सैनिकों की तैनाती की अनुमति देता है, और इसे सैन्य गठबंधन के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया।
- However, it is like any Logistics Support Agreement, the likes of which India has signed with other countries.
  किन्तु यह अन्य **रसद सहयोग समझौतों** की ही तरह है, जिन पर भारत ने कई देशों के साथ हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।

What are Logistics Support Agreements?
रसद सहयोग समझौते क्या हैं?

- A logistics agreement is a foundational military cooperation agreement between countries for administrative purposes that enables the reciprocal use of each other's bases and ports for supplies, repair, and fuel.
  रसद सहयोग समझौता देशों के बीच प्रशासनिक उद्देश्यों के लिए किया जाने वाला एक मूलभूत सैन्य सहयोग समझौता है, जो एक-दूसरे के अड्डों और बंदरगाहों का उपयोग आपूर्ति, मरम्मत तथा ईंधन भरने के लिए संभव बनाता है।
- The agreement also stipulates the occasions on which this can be utilised, generally for exercises, joint training, port calls, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief situations.

यह समझौता उन परिस्थितियों को भी निर्धारित करता है जिनमें इसका उपयोग किया जा सकता है, जैसे सैन्य अभ्यास, संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण, बंदरगाह यात्राएँ तथा मानवीय सहायता एवं आपदा राहत अभियान।

- As defence cooperation and military-to-military engagement become vital in international relations, the agreement simplifies essential administrative procedures and reduces bureaucracy.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों में रक्षा सहयोग और सैन्य संपर्कों के बढ़ते महत्व के कारण यह समझौता आवश्यक प्रशासनिक प्रक्रियाओं को सरल बनाता है और नौकरशाही बाधाओं को कम करता है।
- For instance, the agreement with the **United States**, called the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement**, signed in 2016, was the first such arrangement.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के साथ वर्ष 2016 में हस्ताक्षरित **रसद विनिमय ज्ञापन समझौता** इस प्रकार की पहली व्यवस्था थी।
- It provides a framework for reciprocal provision of logistic support, supplies and services for activities such as joint exercises, training, or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
  यह संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यासों, प्रशिक्षण तथा मानवीय सहायता एवं आपदा राहत गतिविधियों के लिए पारस्परिक रसद सहायता, आपूर्ति और सेवाएँ उपलब्ध कराने का ढाँचा प्रदान करता है।
- "It does not provide for the establishment of any bases or basing arrangements," Minister of State for Defence **Subhash Bhamre** said in a written reply in Parliament in February 2017.
  रक्षा राज्य मंत्री **सुभाष भामरे** ने फरवरी 2017 में संसद में लिखित उत्तर देते हुए स्पष्ट किया था कि यह किसी सैन्य अड्डे की स्थापना अथवा स्थायी तैनाती की व्यवस्था प्रदान नहीं करता।
- If the hyperbole is to be believed, India and Russia can station troops on each other's territory, then by convention, it also means that India and the United States can do the same under the logistics exchange agreement.
  यदि अतिरंजित दावों को सही माना जाए, तो भारत और रूस एक-दूसरे के क्षेत्र में सैनिक तैनात कर सकते हैं, और उसी तर्क के अनुसार भारत तथा अमेरिका भी ऐसा कर सकते हैं।
- But that is grossly incorrect, as clarified by the Minister, and is so for any logistics support agreement.
  किन्तु मंत्री द्वारा स्पष्ट किया गया कि यह पूर्णतः गलत व्याख्या है और यही स्थिति सभी रसद सहयोग समझौतों पर लागू होती है।

What are the existing agreements?
वर्तमान समझौते कौन-कौन से हैं?

- India has signed a series of logistics support agreements since the logistics exchange agreement in 2016.
  भारत ने वर्ष 2016 के बाद से अनेक रसद सहयोग समझौतों पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं।
- Currently, India has similar agreements with **the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Vietnam, Japan, Australia, Singapore, and Russia**.
  वर्तमान में भारत के **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, फ्रांस, वियतनाम, जापान, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, सिंगापुर तथा रूस** के साथ ऐसे समझौते हैं।
- These agreements provide logistics support and technical assistance.
  ये समझौते रसद सहायता तथा तकनीकी सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।
- There is also one with **Oman** covered under the overarching defence cooperation agreement.
  ओमान के साथ भी व्यापक रक्षा सहयोग समझौते के अंतर्गत ऐसी व्यवस्था मौजूद है।

What is the agreement with Russia?
रूस के साथ समझौता क्या है?

- Like other agreements, the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement** defines procedures for supporting military formations, port calls of warships, and the use of airspace and airfield facilities by military aircraft of both countries.

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अन्य समझौतों की तरह **पारस्परिक रसद विनिमय समझौता** सैन्य टुकड़ियों के समर्थन, युद्धपोतों की बंदरगाह यात्राओं तथा दोनों देशों के सैन्य विमानों द्वारा वायुक्षेत्र और हवाई अड्डा सुविधाओं के उपयोग की प्रक्रियाएँ निर्धारित करता है।

- It also covers logistics and technical support for warships, military aircraft, and other defence equipment.
  यह युद्धपोतों, सैन्य विमानों तथा अन्य रक्षा उपकरणों के लिए रसद एवं तकनीकी सहायता की व्यवस्था भी करता है।
- The agreement was signed in **Moscow** on **February 18, 2025**, and **President Vladimir Putin** signed the federal law ratifying it on **December 15, 2025**.
  इस समझौते पर **18 फरवरी 2025** को **मॉस्को** में हस्ताक्षर किए गए थे और **राष्ट्रपति व्लादिमीर पुतिन** ने **15 दिसंबर 2025** को इसके अनुमोदन संबंधी संघीय कानून पर हस्ताक्षर किए।
- According to the Kremlin, the purpose of the agreement is to define procedures for the deployment of military formations, port calls by warships, and the use of airspace and airfield infrastructure by military aircraft of the two countries.
  क्रेमलिन के अनुसार इस समझौते का उद्देश्य सैन्य टुकड़ियों की तैनाती, युद्धपोतों की बंदरगाह यात्राओं तथा दोनों देशों के सैन्य विमानों द्वारा वायुक्षेत्र और हवाई अड्डा अवसंरचना के उपयोग की प्रक्रियाओं को निर्धारित करना है।
- Broadly, the agreement covers **joint military exercises, training, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, port and repair services, medical support, food supplies, technical resources, and reciprocal access to military facilities**.
  व्यापक रूप से यह समझौता **संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यास, प्रशिक्षण, मानवीय सहायता एवं आपदा राहत अभियान, बंदरगाह एवं मरम्मत सेवाएँ, चिकित्सीय सहायता, खाद्य आपूर्ति, तकनीकी संसाधन तथा सैन्य सुविधाओं तक पारस्परिक पहुँच** को सम्मिलित करता है।
- The agreement stipulates a maximum of **3,000 troops**, representing a broad upper limit that takes into account the size of contingents and the number of ships or aircraft that may visit during mutually agreed engagements.
  समझौते में **3,000 सैनिकों** की अधिकतम सीमा का उल्लेख है, जो केवल एक व्यापक उच्चतम सीमा है और इसमें संयुक्त गतिविधियों के दौरान आने वाले सैन्य दलों, जहाज़ों और विमानों की संख्या को ध्यान में रखा गया है।
- It is valid for a period of **five years**, allowing for revisions later to reflect changing circumstances and requirements.
  यह समझौता **पाँच वर्षों** के लिए वैध है और भविष्य में बदलती आवश्यकताओं के अनुसार इसमें संशोधन किया जा सकता है।
- Also, the agreement does not confer any provision for **permanent basing of assets**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त यह समझौता **स्थायी सैन्य तैनाती** का कोई प्रावधान प्रदान नहीं करता।
- The agreement shall be exercised during joint exercises, port calls, or visits mutually agreed upon by both nations.
  इसका उपयोग केवल संयुक्त सैन्य अभ्यासों, बंदरगाह यात्राओं अथवा दोनों देशों द्वारा स्वीकृत अन्य दौरों के दौरान किया जाएगा।
- Officials clarified that **no permanent or long-term stationing has been agreed upon as part of the agreement**.
  अधिकारियों ने स्पष्ट किया है कि **इस समझौते के अंतर्गत किसी स्थायी अथवा दीर्घकालिक तैनाती पर सहमति नहीं बनी है**।
- One important aspect is that the agreement gives access to **Russian military facilities in the Arctic** as both countries expand cooperation there, especially as new navigation routes open due to **global warming**.
  एक महत्वपूर्ण पहलू यह है कि यह समझौता **आर्कटिक क्षेत्र में रूसी सैन्य सुविधाओं** तक पहुँच प्रदान करता है, जहाँ **वैश्विक तापवृद्धि** के कारण नए समुद्री मार्ग खुलने के साथ दोनों देश अपना सहयोग बढ़ा रहे हैं।

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U.S. drops 'Indo' from name of its military's Pacific Command

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is restoring the name of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command to the U.S. Pacific Command, it said on Tuesday, reversing a 2018 decision.

The renaming will not change the command's area of responsibility, which stretches from the western part of India to America's Pacific coastline, the Department of War said in a statement.

Its "fundamental mission and its unwavering commitment to maintaining a free and open theatre alongside regional allies and partners" also remain unchanged, it added. The name change "honours the command's deep historical roots, fostering a sense of pride and collective spirit among all who serve in the Pacific," the department said.

The U.S. Pacific Command was established after the Second World War. It was renamed as the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in 2018, in a nod to the growing importance of the Indian Ocean in U.S. strategic thinking.

18J6. U.S. drops 'Indo' from name of its military's Paci• c Command

अमेरिका ने अपनी सैन्य 'इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड' के नाम से 'इंडो' शब्द हटाया

- The **Pentagon** is restoring the name of the **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command** to the **U.S. Pacific Command**, it said on Tuesday, reversing a **2018** decision.

पेंटागन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि वह **यू.एस. इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड** का नाम बदलकर फिर से **यू.एस. पैसिफिक कमांड** कर रहा है, जिससे **2018** का निर्णय पलट दिया गया है।

- The renaming will not change the command's **area of responsibility**, which stretches from the western part of **India** to **America's Pacific coastline**, the **Department of War** said in a statement.

डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ वॉर ने एक बयान में कहा कि इस नाम परिवर्तन से कमांड के **उत्तरदायित्व क्षेत्र** में कोई बदलाव नहीं होगा, जो **भारत** के पश्चिमी भाग से लेकर **अमेरिका के प्रशांत तट** तक फैला हुआ है।

- Its "**fundamental mission** and its unwavering commitment to maintaining a **free and open theatre** alongside regional allies and partners" also remain unchanged, it added.

बयान में कहा गया कि इसका "**मूल मिशन** और क्षेत्रीय सहयोगियों तथा साझेदारों के साथ एक **मुक्त और खुला क्षेत्र** बनाए रखने की अटूट प्रतिबद्धता" भी अपरिवर्तित रहेगी।

- The **U.S. Pacific Command** was established after the **Second World War**.

यू.एस. पैसिफिक कमांड की स्थापना **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद की गई थी।

- It was renamed as the **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command** in **2018**, in a nod to the growing importance of the **Indian Ocean** in **U.S. strategic thinking**.

इसे **2018** में **यू.एस. इंडो-पैसिफिक कमांड** नाम दिया गया था, जो **अमेरिकी रणनीतिक सोच** में **हिन्द महासागर** के बढ़ते महत्व को दर्शाता था।

GS Paper III: Economy	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	The RBI and its growing fiscal role आरबीआई और उसकी बढ़ती राजकोषीय भूमिका
18J6	RBI allows banks to offer higher interest to NRIs/PIOs RBI ने बैंकों को NRI/PIO जमाकर्ताओं को अधिक ब्याज देने की अनुमति दी
18J6	India, U.K. announce July 15 as trade deal implementation date भारत और ब्रिटेन ने 15 जुलाई को व्यापार समझौते के क्रियान्वयन की तिथि घोषित किया

The RBI and its growing fiscal role

RBI's record ₹2.87 lakh crore surplus transfer to the Centre shows its growing fiscal significance, as earnings from reserve management and foreign assets support govt. finances; the trend raises questions about central bank independence, fiscal centralisation, and exclusion of such transfers from fiscal devolution to States

GS III: Economy

ECONOMIC NOTES

Deepanshu Mohan
Ankur Singh

The Reserve Bank of India continues to operate within a well-defined framework. REUTERS

Central banks occupy a peculiar position in modern democracies. Governments spend, tax, and borrow. Central banks manage inflation, preserve confidence in the currency, and safeguard financial stability. Their credibility rests on maintaining a degree of distance from the fiscal compulsions of the governments they serve.

Recent developments surrounding the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invite a closer examination of that relationship.

Much of the recent discussion has focused on the RBI's management of foreign exchange reserves, interventions with respect to managing the rupee, including instances of reserve-rebalancing through gold sales, and increased foreign-currency holdings.

Yet, the more consequential story surrounding this is the extent to which the institution may be seen to be becoming more executive or fiscalised in its role to support the government.

In May, the RBI approved a record surplus transfer of ₹2.87 lakh crore to the Union government for FY26. While fully consistent with the Economic Capital Framework, its scale raises questions about the evolving role of the central bank within India's fiscal architecture.

A structural shift

Surplus transfers have been around the ₹30,000 crore to ₹65,000 crore level for the past few years. The tipping point was reached in 2019 after the implementation of the revised Economic Capital Framework.

The transfer is now at a record high of ₹2.87 lakh crore for FY26.

This move coincides with the phenomenal growth of the RBI's balance sheet. It increased by 20.6% in one year to ₹91.97 lakh crore by March 2026. Gross income increased by over 26% during the same period.

Traditionally, governments fund expenditure through taxation, borrowing, and revenue growth. Political consent is needed for taxation. Borrowing is disciplined by markets and future repayment obligations. Economic growth requires real growth in productive capacity.

Central-bank transfers are different. They generate fiscal space without new taxes, new borrowing, or commensurate growth in economic production. The latest transfer alone is bigger than the annual budgets of several Indian States.

This is not a bad practice to make such transfers. However, it does pose an interesting question. When does a stabilising institution start to act as a fiscal instrument?

The evolution of the RBI's reserve management is a good example.

The RBI may have sold almost $12 billion worth of gold and bought foreign-currency assets by about $7.5 billion in the face of rupee pressures, according to recent reports.

These are standard reserve-management decisions when looked at superficially. Central banks are constantly adjusting their portfolios based on market conditions. Gold is a strategic reserve asset. Foreign-currency assets are the source of liquidity for intervening in exchange-rate markets.

However, the management of reserves has become a financial issue.

The recent surplus transfer included a significant portion of gains from foreign assets, foreign exchange transactions, and interest earned on securities holdings. The activities are mainly being carried out to ensure monetary and financial stability, but are also producing increasingly significant fiscal revenues for the sovereign.

This is where the discussion transcends accounting. The RBI's balance sheet is now at ₹92 lakh crore. The composition of reserves, intervention in the exchange rate, and asset allocation decisions now impact not just monetary stability, but also the economy's overall health. They are becoming more and more important for fiscal results as well.

The experience of India is different from that of the advanced economies, where central banks became entangled with fiscal policy by engaging in quantitative easing and buying a large number of bonds. In this case, the link has come about because of the increasing significance of the fiscal value of central-bank earnings.

The federal blind spot

The least talked about part of this debate is fiscal federalism.

The total amount of ₹2.87 lakh crore transfer is non-tax revenue and hence it is a Union government gain. It is not part of the divisible pool of income tax collections or GST revenues which are subject to Finance Commission formulas. There is no automatic share to the States.

States still have significant spending obligations. Concurrently, they have restrictions on borrowing under Article 293 and have much less fiscal flexibility than the Union government.

However, one of the biggest transfers of resources from the public sector in recent years is still not part of fiscal devolution.

The point isn't whether States have a legal claim to RBI profits. They do not. The question is whether a central institution acting on behalf of the monetary union as a whole should indirectly support fiscal centralisation, without any mention of accountability, transparency or federal balance.

Dividend transfers, cesses, surcharges and borrowing restrictions are all considered to be individual policy instruments when viewed individually. Together, they show a progressive shift in the fiscal landscape of India towards the centre.

An evolving institution

The debate over the RBI's record surplus transfer is therefore not ultimately about the dividend itself. It is about how modern states finance themselves.

The central bank has evolved from being primarily a guardian of monetary stability into an increasingly important source of fiscal capacity. The latest transfer may have eased borrowing pressures and strengthened the government's fiscal position, but it also underscores how closely monetary institutions and fiscal outcomes have become intertwined.

The RBI continues to operate within a well-defined framework and retains substantial operational autonomy. Yet central bank independence is not merely a matter of legal design. It is also a question of institutional distance.

As surplus transfers become larger and fiscal pressures intensify, preserving that distance may become more difficult. It may also become more important.

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THE GIST

- The RBI's balance sheet increased by 20.6% in one year to ₹91.97 lakh crore by March 2026, while gross income rose by over 26% during the same period.
- The RBI may have sold almost $12 billion worth of gold and bought foreign-currency assets by about $7.5 billion in the face of rupee pressures, with the recent surplus transfer including gains from foreign assets, foreign exchange transactions and interest earned on securities holdings.

18J6. The RBI and its growing fiscal role
आरबीआई और उसकी बढ़ती राजकोषीय भूमिका

- **RBI's record ₹2.87 lakh crore surplus transfer to the Centre shows its growing fiscal significance, as earnings from reserve management and foreign assets support govt. finances; the trend raises questions about central bank independence, fiscal centralisation, and exclusion of such transfers from fiscal devolution to States**
- **केंद्र को आरबीआई द्वारा किए गए रिकॉर्ड ₹2.87 लाख करोड़ के अधिशेष हस्तांतरण से उसकी बढ़ती राजकोषीय महत्ता स्पष्ट होती है, क्योंकि आरक्षित निधियों के प्रबंधन तथा विदेशी परिसंपत्तियों से प्राप्त आय सरकार के वित्त को समर्थन प्रदान करती है; यह प्रवृत्ति केंद्रीय बैंक की स्वतंत्रता, राजकोषीय केंद्रीकरण तथा राज्यों को होने वाले राजकोषीय हस्तांतरण से ऐसी राशि को बाहर रखने संबंधी प्रश्न भी उठाती है।**
- Central banks manage **inflation**, preserve confidence in the **currency**, and safeguard **financial stability**.
  केंद्रीय बैंक **मुद्रास्फीति** का प्रबंधन करते हैं, **मुद्रा** में विश्वास बनाए रखते हैं तथा **वित्तीय स्थिरता** सुनिश्चित करते हैं।

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A structural shift
एक संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन

- Surplus transfers have been around the **₹30,000 crore to ₹65,000 crore** level for the past few years.
  पिछले कुछ वर्षों में अधिशेष हस्तांतरण की राशि सामान्यतः **30,000 करोड़ रुपये से 65,000 करोड़ रुपये** के बीच रही है।
- The tipping point was reached in **2019** after the implementation of the revised **Economic Capital Framework**.
  संशोधित **आर्थिक पूंजी ढाँचे** के लागू होने के बाद **2019** में एक निर्णायक मोड़ आया।
- The transfer is now at a record high of **₹2.87 lakh crore** for FY26.
  वित्तीय वर्ष 2026 के लिए यह हस्तांतरण अब बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड **2.87 लाख करोड़ रुपये** तक पहुँच गया है।
- The latest transfer alone is bigger than the annual budgets of several Indian States.
  हालिया हस्तांतरण अकेले ही भारत के अनेक राज्यों के वार्षिक बजट से अधिक है।
- This is not a bad practice to make such transfers.
  ऐसे हस्तांतरण करना स्वयं में कोई अनुचित प्रथा नहीं है।
- However, it does pose an interesting question.
  किन्तु यह एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न अवश्य उत्पन्न करता है।
- When does a stabilising institution start to act as a fiscal instrument?
  एक स्थिरता प्रदान करने वाली संस्था कब राजकोषीय साधन के रूप में कार्य करने लगती है?
- The evolution of the RBI's **reserve management** is a good example.
  भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के **भंडार प्रबंधन** का विकास इसका एक अच्छा उदाहरण है।
- The RBI may have sold almost **12 billion डॉलर** worth of gold and bought foreign-currency assets by about **7.5 billion डॉलर** in the face of rupee pressures, according to recent reports.
  हालिया रिपोर्टों के अनुसार रुपये पर दबाव की स्थिति में भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने लगभग **12 अरब डॉलर मूल्य का स्वर्ण** बेचा तथा लगभग **7.5 अरब डॉलर मूल्य की विदेशी मुद्रा परिसंपत्तियाँ** खरीदीं।
- These are standard reserve-management decisions when looked at superficially.
  सतही दृष्टि से देखें तो ये सामान्य भंडार प्रबंधन संबंधी निर्णय हैं।
- Central banks are constantly adjusting their portfolios based on market conditions.
  केंद्रीय बैंक बाजार परिस्थितियों के अनुसार निरंतर अपने निवेश पोर्टफोलियो में परिवर्तन करते रहते हैं।
- Gold is a strategic reserve asset.
  स्वर्ण एक रणनीतिक आरक्षित परिसंपत्ति है।
- Foreign-currency assets are the source of liquidity for intervening in exchange-rate markets.
  विदेशी मुद्रा परिसंपत्तियाँ विनिमय दर बाजारों में हस्तक्षेप हेतु आवश्यक तरलता का स्रोत होती हैं।
- However, the management of reserves has become a fiscal issue.
  किन्तु अब भंडार प्रबंधन एक राजकोषीय विषय भी बन गया है।
- The recent surplus transfer included a significant portion of gains from **foreign assets**, **foreign exchange transactions**, and interest earned on securities holdings.
  हालिया अधिशेष हस्तांतरण में **विदेशी परिसंपत्तियों**, **विदेशी मुद्रा लेन-देन**, तथा प्रतिभूतियों पर अर्जित ब्याज से प्राप्त लाभ का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा शामिल था।
- The activities are mainly being carried out to ensure monetary and financial stability, but are also producing increasingly significant fiscal revenues for the sovereign.
  यद्यपि ये गतिविधियाँ मुख्य रूप से मौद्रिक और वित्तीय स्थिरता बनाए रखने के लिए की जाती हैं, फिर भी इनके माध्यम से सरकार को लगातार बढ़ता हुआ महत्वपूर्ण राजकोषीय राजस्व प्राप्त हो रहा है।
- This is where the discussion transcends **accounting**.
  यहीं पर यह चर्चा केवल **लेखांकन** के दायरे से आगे बढ़ जाती है।
- The RBI's **balance sheet** is now at **₹92 lakh crore**.
  भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की **तुलन पत्र** अब **92 लाख करोड़ रुपये** तक पहुँच चुकी है।

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- The composition of reserves, intervention in the exchange rate, and asset allocation decisions now impact not just monetary stability, but also the economy's overall health.
  भंडार की संरचना, विनिमय दर में हस्तक्षेप तथा परिसंपत्ति आवंटन से संबंधित निर्णय अब केवल मौद्रिक स्थिरता ही नहीं, बल्कि समग्र अर्थव्यवस्था की स्थिति को भी प्रभावित करते हैं।
- They are becoming more and more important for **fiscal outcomes** as well.
  ये निर्णय **राजकोषीय परिणामों** के लिए भी लगातार अधिक महत्वपूर्ण होते जा रहे हैं।
- The experience of India is different from that of the **advanced economies**, where central banks became entangled with fiscal policy by engaging in **quantitative easing** and buying a large number of bonds.
  भारत का अनुभव **विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं** से भिन्न है, जहाँ केंद्रीय बैंक **मात्रात्मक सहजता** की नीति अपनाकर तथा बड़ी मात्रा में बांड खरीदकर राजकोषीय नीति से गहराई से जुड़ गए थे।
- In this case, the link has come about because of the increasing significance of the fiscal value of **central-bank earnings**.
  भारत के मामले में यह संबंध **केंद्रीय बैंक की आय के राजकोषीय महत्व** में बढ़ोतरी के कारण विकसित हुआ है।

The federal blind spot
संघीय व्यवस्था की उपेक्षित चुनौती

- The least talked about part of this debate is **fiscal federalism**.
  इस बहस का सबसे कम चर्चित पक्ष **राजकोषीय संघवाद** है।
- The total amount of **₹2.87 lakh crore transfer** is non-tax revenue and hence it is a Union government gain.
  2.87 लाख करोड़ रुपये का यह हस्तांतरण करेतर राजस्व है और इसलिए इसका लाभ केंद्र सरकार को प्राप्त होता है।
- It is not part of the divisible pool of **income tax collections** or **goods and services tax revenues** which are subject to Finance Commission formulas.
  यह **आयकर संग्रह** अथवा **वस्तु एवं सेवा कर राजस्व** के उस विभाज्य कोष का हिस्सा नहीं है, जिसका वितरण वित्त आयोग के सूत्रों के अनुसार किया जाता है।
- There is no automatic share to the States.
  इसमें राज्यों के लिए कोई स्वचालित हिस्सा निर्धारित नहीं है।
- States still have significant spending obligations.
  राज्यों पर अब भी महत्वपूर्ण व्यय संबंधी दायित्व हैं।
- Concurrently, they have restrictions on borrowing under **Article 293** and have much less fiscal flexibility than the Union government.
  साथ ही, उन पर **अनुच्छेद 293** के अंतर्गत उधारी संबंधी प्रतिबंध लागू हैं तथा उनके पास केंद्र सरकार की तुलना में कहीं कम राजकोषीय लचीलापन है।
- **Dividend transfers**, **cesses**, **surcharges** and borrowing restrictions are all considered to be individual policy instruments when viewed individually.
  लाभांश हस्तांतरण, **उपकर**, **अधिभार** तथा उधारी संबंधी प्रतिबंधों को अलग-अलग देखने पर स्वतंत्र नीतिगत साधन माना जाता है।

GS III: Economy

RBI allows banks to offer higher interest to NRIs/PIOs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to temporarily withdraw the interest rate ceiling on fresh Foreign Currently Non-Resident-Bank [FCNR(B)] deposits of 3-5 year tenors and the restriction on interest rates on Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits of three-year and above tenors, including deposits that are renewed upon maturity. The move, a review of its 2025 direction, is to boost forex reserves and will be in effect till September 30, 2026. The central bank issued amendment directions to this effect on Wednesday. As per the directions, banks will be able to offer higher interest rates to this specific category of depositors and interest rates on NRE/NRO deposits will not be higher than those offered by the bank on comparable domestic rupee term deposits.

18J6. RBI allows banks to offer higher interest to NRIs/PIOs
RBI ने बैंकों को NRI/PIO जमाकर्ताओं को अधिक ब्याज

देने की अनुमति दी

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to temporarily withdraw the **interest rate ceiling** on fresh **Foreign Currency Non-Resident-Bank [FCNR(B)] deposits** of **3-5 year tenors** and the restriction on interest rates on **Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits** of **three-year and above tenors**, including deposits that are renewed upon maturity.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने **3-5 वर्ष की अवधि वाले नए विदेशी मुद्रा अनिवासी बैंक [FCNR(B)] जमा** पर **ब्याज दर की ऊपरी सीमा** तथा **तीन वर्ष और उससे अधिक अवधि वाले अनिवासी बाह्य (NRE) जमा** पर ब्याज दर संबंधी प्रतिबंध को अस्थायी रूप से हटाने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसमें परिपक्वता के बाद नवीनीकृत जमा भी शामिल हैं।

- The move, a review of its **2025 direction**, is to boost **forex reserves** and will be in e• ect till **September 30, 2026**.

यह कदम **2025 के निर्देश** की समीक्षा के तहत उठाया गया है, जिसका उद्देश्य **विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार (Forex Reserves)** को बढ़ाना है, और यह **30 सितंबर 2026** तक प्रभावी रहेगा।

- And interest rates on **NRE/NRO deposits** will not be higher than those offered by the bank on comparable **domestic rupee term deposits**.

और **NRE/NRO जमा** पर ब्याज दरें बैंक द्वारा समान **घरेलू रुपये की सावधि जमाओं** पर दी जाने वाली ब्याज दरों से अधिक नहीं होंगी।

India, U.K. announce July 15 as trade deal implementation date

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

PM Modi with his British counterpart Keir Starmer during the G7 Summit.

India and the United Kingdom have overcome last-minute differences over steel import duties to finally announce July 15 as the implementation date for the trade deal between the two countries, the two governments announced on Wednesday.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed by the two countries in July 2025 and was all set to be implemented by April or early May 2026.

However, a fresh regulation by the U.K. announced in May and applicable to all countries cut the quota for duty-free steel imports by 60% and doubled the tariff on above-quota imports to 50%. These new rules are to come into effect from July 1, 2026.

These tariffs and quotas were not part of the trade deal negotiations and suddenly halted the implementation process.

According to Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, a team from India has been in the U.K. over the last few days to move things along.

"Delighted to note that the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will enter into force on 15th July 2026," Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X following the announcement. "This agreement will significantly boost our bilateral trade and investment."

The implementation of the trade deal, under which the U.K. will remove tariffs on 99% of its product lines, will be accompanied by the implementation of the Agreement on Social Security, also referred to as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), on July 15. It further said that such protections would be through a mix of country-specific quotas, residual quotas and access under an Authorised Use Scheme (AUS).

'Landmark consensus'

"Demonstrating the collaborative strength of the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CETA), India and the United Kingdom have successfully reached a landmark consensus to safeguard and promote bilateral steel trade," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release.

Without revealing details on what exactly the solution to the U.K. steel tariff issue would entail, the release added that "both sides mutually agreed to protect commercial interests, minimise market disruptions, and ensure an overall balanced and stable trading environment for exporters".

18J6. India, U.K. announce July 15 as trade deal implementation date

भारत और ब्रिटेन ने 15 जुलाई को व्यापार समझौते के क्रियान्वयन की तिथि घोषित किया

- The **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** was signed by the two countries in **July 2025** and was all set to be implemented by April or early May 2026.

व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौते (CETA) पर दोनों देशों ने **जुलाई 2025** में हस्ताक्षर किए थे और इसे अप्रैल या मई 2026 की शुरुआत तक लागू किया जाना था।

- However, a fresh regulation by the **U.K.** announced in May and applicable to all countries cut the quota for **duty-free steel imports** by **60%** and doubled the tariff on above-quota imports to **50%**.

हालाँकि, **ब्रिटेन** द्वारा मई में घोषित एक नए नियम, जो सभी देशों पर लागू है, ने **शुल्क-मुक्त इस्पात आयात** के कोटे में **60%** की कटौती कर दी और कोटे से अधिक आयात पर शुल्क को बढ़ाकर **50%** कर दिया।

- These tariffs and quotas were not part of the trade deal negotiations and suddenly halted the implementation process.

ये शुल्क और कोटा व्यापार समझौते की वार्ताओं का हिस्सा नहीं थे और इन्होंने अचानक क्रियान्वयन प्रक्रिया को रोक दिया।

- "Delighted to note that the **India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement** will enter into force on **15th July 2026**," **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** posted on X

following the announcement.

"यह जानकर प्रसन्नता हुई कि **भारत-यूके व्यापक आर्थिक एवं व्यापार समझौता 15 जुलाई 2026** से प्रभावी होगा," घोषणा के बाद **प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी** ने X पर पोस्ट किया।

- The implementation of the trade deal, under which the **U.K.** will remove tariffs on **99% of its product lines**, will be accompanied by the implementation of the **Agreement on Social Security**, also referred to as the **Double Contribution Convention (DCC)**, on **July 15**.

इस व्यापार समझौते के क्रियान्वयन के साथ, जिसके तहत **ब्रिटेन** अपनी **99% उत्पाद श्रेणियों** पर शुल्क समाप्त करेगा, **सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौता**, जिसे **डबल कंट्रीब्यूशन कन्वेंशन (DCC)** भी कहा जाता है, भी **15 जुलाई** से लागू होगा।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	The universe's expansion still accelerating: researchers शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार ब्रह्मांड का विस्तार अभी भी तीव्र गति से बढ़ रहा है
18J6	QUIZ
18J6	Innovate or be eaten नवाचार करें या पीछे छूट जाएँ

The universe's expansion still accelerating: researchers

GS III: S&T

Reuters

Taking a fresh look at data involving a type of exploding stars, a team of researchers says it has confirmed the notion that the universe is expanding at an accelerated rate – the very observation that led to the identification in the 1990s of an enigmatic cosmic force called dark energy.

The study's results rebut research published last year that concluded that this cosmic expansion is no longer speeding up – a finding that had challenged the basic understanding of the universe. "The universe is still accelerating," said astrophysicist Brodie Popovic of the University of Southampton in England, one of the leaders of the study published this month in the journal *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society. The study's findings, by a team that included two Nobel Prize recipients, were guided by observations in two different datasets of a type of stellar explosion called a Type Ia supernova in order to calculate vast cosmic distances. These supernovae cause the destruction of an object called a white dwarf, the dense remnant of a low- to intermediate-mass star at the end of its lifecycle. This type of supernova has proven valuable in investigating the universe's structure based on evidence that all of these explosions have roughly the same luminosity. Their observed brightness differs depending upon their distance from earth, making them useful as cosmic mile markers.

By measuring the brightness of these supernovae as seen from earth, scientists can gauge the universe's expansion rate and its change over time. The Big Bang event roughly 13.8 billion years ago initiated the universe, and it has been expanding ever since. Scientists in 1998 disclosed that this expansion is accelerating, with an invisible force called dark energy as the hypothesised reason.

The universe's contents include ordinary matter – stars, planets, gas, dust and all the familiar stuff on earth – and dark matter and dark energy. Ordinary matter represents an estimated 5% of the contents. Dark matter, which is known from its gravitational influences on galaxies and stars, makes up an estimated 27%. Dark energy makes up an estimated 68%. The authors of the 2025 study, which was published in the same journal as the new study, concluded that dark energy is weakening and has stopped accelerating the universe's expansion.

"Over the past decade, a group at Yonsei University has argued that supernova distances should be calibrated differently by accounting for the ages of the stars that eventually explode, and that this 'age effect' could substantially alter the evidence for acceleration. In our study, we found no evidence for the claimed 'age effect' in the largest calibrated supernova samples used by the cosmology community over the last decade," astrophysicist Adam Riess of Johns Hopkins said. Astrophysicist Young-Wook Lee of Yonsei University, located in Seoul, was one of the leaders of the 2025 study. He defended the findings of his team, and said the main arguments made by the researchers in the new study have "serious methodological flaws or lead to conclusions that are internally inconsistent by their own logic."

The researchers in the new study expressed confidence in their methodology and their conclusions confirming acceleration.

18J6. The universe's expansion still accelerating: researchers

शोधकर्ताओं के अनुसार ब्रह्मांड का विस्तार अभी भी तीव्र गति से बढ़ रहा है

Universe still expanding at an accelerated rate

ब्रह्मांड अब भी त्वरित गति से विस्तार कर रहा है

- Taking a fresh look at data involving a type of **exploding stars**, a team of researchers says it has confirmed the notion that the **universe is expanding at an accelerated rate** — the very observation that led to the identification in the 1990s of an enigmatic cosmic force called **dark energy**.

एक प्रकार के **विस्फोटित होने वाले तारों** से संबंधित आँकड़ों का पुनः विश्लेषण करते हुए शोधकर्ताओं की एक टीम ने पुष्टि की है कि **ब्रह्मांड त्वरित गति से विस्तार कर रहा है** — यही वह अवलोकन था जिसके आधार पर 1990 के दशक में **डार्क एनर्जी (अदृश्य ऊर्जा)** नामक रहस्यमयी ब्रह्मांडीय बल की पहचान की गई थी।

- The study's findings, by a team that included **two Nobel Prize recipients**, were guided by observations in two different datasets of a type of stellar

explosion called a **Type Ia supernova** in order to calculate vast cosmic distances.
इस अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष, जिसमें **दो नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता** भी शामिल थे, **टाइप Ia सुपरनोवा** नामक तारकीय विस्फोट के दो अलग-अलग आँकड़ा-संग्रहों के अवलोकनों पर आधारित थे, जिनका उपयोग विशाल ब्रह्मांडीय दूरियों की गणना के लिए किया गया।

- These supernovae cause the destruction of an object called a **white dwarf**, the dense remnant of a low- to intermediate-mass star at the end of its lifecycle.
ये सुपरनोवा **श्वेत बौने (White Dwarf)** नामक पिंड को नष्ट कर देते हैं, जो अपने जीवनचक्र के अंत में निम्न या मध्यम द्रव्यमान वाले तारे का घना अवशेष होता है।
- This type of supernova has proven valuable in investigating the universe's structure based on evidence that all of these explosions have roughly the same **luminosity**.
इस प्रकार के सुपरनोवा ब्रह्मांड की संरचना के अध्ययन में अत्यंत उपयोगी सिद्ध हुए हैं, क्योंकि प्रमाण बताते हैं कि इन सभी विस्फोटों की **दीप्तिमानता (Luminosity)** लगभग समान होती है।
- By measuring the brightness of these supernovae as seen from earth, scientists can gauge the universe's **expansion rate** and its change over time.
पृथ्वी से दिखाई देने वाली इन सुपरनोवा की चमक को मापकर वैज्ञानिक ब्रह्मांड की **विस्तार दर** और समय के साथ उसमें होने वाले परिवर्तनों का आकलन कर सकते हैं।
- The **Big Bang** event roughly 13.8 billion years ago initiated the universe, and it has been expanding ever since.
लगभग **13.8 अरब वर्ष पूर्व हुए बिग बैंग** ने ब्रह्मांड की उत्पत्ति की थी और तब से यह निरंतर विस्तार कर रहा है।
- Scientists in 1998 disclosed that this expansion is accelerating, with an invisible force called **dark energy** as the hypothesised reason.
वर्ष **1998** में वैज्ञानिकों ने बताया कि यह विस्तार तेज़ हो रहा है, जिसका संभावित कारण **डार्क एनर्जी** नामक अदृश्य बल माना गया।
- The universe's contents include **ordinary matter** — stars, planets, gas, dust and all the familiar stuff on earth — and **dark matter** and **dark energy**.
ब्रह्मांड में **सामान्य पदार्थ**, जैसे तारे, ग्रह, गैस, धूल और पृथ्वी पर उपस्थित अन्य परिचित पदार्थों के साथ-साथ **डार्क मैटर** और **डार्क एनर्जी** भी शामिल हैं।
- Ordinary matter represents an estimated **5%** of the contents.
सामान्य पदार्थ ब्रह्मांड की कुल सामग्री का लगभग **5%** भाग है।
- Dark matter, which is known from its **gravitational influences** on galaxies and stars, makes up an estimated **27%**.
डार्क मैटर, जिसकी पहचान आकाशगंगाओं और तारों पर उसके **गुरुत्वीय प्रभावों** से होती है, लगभग **27%** भाग का निर्माण करता है।
- Dark energy makes up an estimated **68%**.
डार्क एनर्जी ब्रह्मांड की कुल सामग्री का लगभग **68%** भाग बनाती है।
- The authors of the **2025 study**, which was published in the same journal as the new study, concluded that dark energy is weakening and has stopped accelerating the universe's expansion.
उसी पत्रिका में प्रकाशित **2025 के अध्ययन** के लेखकों ने निष्कर्ष निकाला था कि **डार्क एनर्जी** कमजोर हो रही है और उसने ब्रह्मांड के विस्तार को तीव्र करना बंद कर दिया है।

Answers to June 16 quiz:
1. Light you still see in a perfectly dark room – Ans: **Eigengrau**
2. Organelles that synthesise melanin – Ans: **Melanosomes**
3. Structural components of Vantablack – Ans: **Carbon nanotubes**
4. Radiation thought to be emitted by black holes – Ans: **Hawking radiation**
Visual: **Peacock spider**

First contact
Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Swati Yadav | Stuti Jain | Pankaj Gharde

18J6. QUIZ

1. Eigengrau: Light you still see in a perfectly dark room

- **Eigengrau**, a German term meaning “intrinsic gray” or “own gray,” refers to the dark gray colour perceived by the human eye in conditions of complete darkness.
- Even when no external light enters the eye, people do not usually see absolute black.
- This phenomenon occurs because retinal cells and neurons in the visual system continue to generate spontaneous electrical activity.
- As a result, the brain interprets these signals as a faint gray shade.
- Eigengrau demonstrates that human vision depends not only on external light but also on internal neural processes within the visual system.

2. Melanosomes: Organelles that synthesise melanin

- **Melanosomes** are specialized organelles found within melanocytes, the cells responsible for producing melanin in the skin, hair, and eyes.
- These membrane-bound structures serve as sites where the pigment melanin is synthesized, stored, and transported.
- **Melanin** plays a crucial role in **determining skin and hair colour** and helps **protect tissues from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation by absorbing and dispersing solar energy**.
- Variations in the size, number, and distribution of melanosomes contribute to differences in pigmentation among individuals. Defects in melanosome formation can lead to pigmentation disorders such as **albinism**.

PATRIOTIC IAS

3. Carbon Nanotubes: Structural components of Vantablack

- **Vantablack** is one of the **darkest artificial materials ever created** and is composed primarily of vertically aligned **carbon nanotubes**.
- These nanotubes are extremely thin, measuring only a few nanometres in diameter, and are arranged densely on a surface. When light enters the nanotube structure, it becomes trapped through repeated reflections and is almost entirely absorbed rather than reflected back.

- As a result, Vantablack absorbs more than 99.9% of visible light, making objects coated with it appear almost two-dimensional.
- It has applications in astronomy, optical instruments, and advanced scientific research.

GS III: S&T

Innovate or be eaten

India must realise the importance of innovating up to the frontier

There is no question that Indian professionals are capable of pathbreaking innovation. As evidenced by the strong representation of Indian and Indian-origin technology industry leaders, Indian executives have displayed extraordinary talent in both the managerial and technical work that goes into building and advancing complex businesses at the forefront of the global economy's most important engines. 'Bharat Innovates 2026', the event in Nice, France, supported by the Ministry of Education, has shown that many of these innovations are possible in India, and that patient incubation of startups in key strategic areas can lead to exceptional results that are competitive with the best-in-class globally. India's potential to be a global home for innovation is real, especially with the kind of middle power collaboration that French President Emmanuel Macron advocated for at the event. The innovation question is key to processing the aftermath of Anthropic's most powerful AI models, Claude Mythos and Fable, being banned for non-Americans, a move that has already affected some Indian entities and users.

Perhaps it is not possible to brute-force frontier AI or semiconductor technology, given the tens of billions of dollars even a single player requires to make incremental advances in these fields. Becoming an AI deployment superpower, as many tech policymakers advocate, may also be a pursuit of a losing battle; India, after all, is not alone in seeking knowledge economy efficiencies from AI. But the field of opportunities remains nonetheless vast: deep tech in areas such as space exploration, defence, and even material sciences remain an open contest. For India to pursue innovation, two ingredients are important: India must be a stable and attractive home for capital and talent. For the former, the swashbuckling rent-seeking of the successful must be reined in to keep innovators from dreading success on Indian soil; venture capital must be in a position to assess exploratory and cutting-edge pitches on the same footing as they do in other countries; and tax policies must be clear and predictable. To be an attractive home for talent, what is required is quite simple: the top talent must look forward to their future in India, instead of running into a dead end for their potential and the life they feel greener pastures may afford them. For this, investments in public goods such as clean air, abundant urban green spaces, and affordable and reliable public transport can go a long way. These are, after all, what returnees miss the most. Some of India's oldest and most stubborn problems are in the way of a truly innovative ecosystem. The good news is that these problems need political capital, not risk capital.

4. Hawking Radiation: Radiation thought to be emitted by black holes

- **Hawking radiation** is a theoretical form of radiation proposed in 1974 by the physicist Stephen Hawking. According to quantum mechanics, particle-antiparticle pairs constantly form near the event horizon of a black hole.
- If one particle falls into the black hole while the other escapes, the escaping particle appears as radiation emitted by the black hole.
- This process gradually causes the black hole to lose mass and energy over extremely long periods.
- Hawking radiation was a groundbreaking concept because it combined principles of quantum physics, thermodynamics, and Einstein's theory of gravity, transforming scientific understanding of black holes.

18J6. Innovate or be eaten
नवाचार करें या पीछे छूट जाएँ

- **'Bharat Innovates 2026'**, the event in **Nice, France**, supported by the **Ministry of Education**, has shown that many of these innovations are possible in India, and that patient incubation of startups in key strategic areas can lead to exceptional results that are competitive with the best-in-class globally.

शिक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा समर्थित **फ्रांस के नीस शहर** में आयोजित **'भारत इनोवेट्स 2026'** कार्यक्रम ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि ऐसे अनेक नवाचार भारत में संभव हैं तथा रणनीतिक क्षेत्रों में स्टार्टअप्स के धैर्यपूर्ण संवर्धन से ऐसे उत्कृष्ट परिणाम प्राप्त किए जा सकते हैं जो वैश्विक स्तर पर सर्वश्रेष्ठ के समकक्ष हों।

- India's potential to be a global home for **innovation** is real, especially with the kind of **middle power collaboration** that French President **Emmanuel Macron** advocated for at the event.

भारत की **वैश्विक नवाचार केंद्र** बनने की क्षमता वास्तविक है, विशेषकर उस प्रकार के **मध्यम शक्ति सहयोग (Middle Power Collaboration)** के साथ जिसका समर्थन फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रों** ने इस कार्यक्रम में किया।

- The innovation question is key to processing the aftermath of **Anthropic's** most powerful AI models, **Claude Mythos** and **Fable**, being banned for non-Americans, a move that has already affected some Indian entities and users.

Anthropic के सबसे शक्तिशाली एआई मॉडल **Claude Mythos** और **Fable** को गैर-अमेरिकियों के लिए प्रतिबंधित किए जाने के बाद उत्पन्न परिस्थितियों को समझने में नवाचार का प्रश्न अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि इस निर्णय का प्रभाव कुछ भारतीय संस्थाओं और उपयोगकर्ताओं पर भी पड़ा है।

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- But the field of opportunities remains nonetheless vast: **deep tech** in areas such as **space exploration, defence, and material sciences** remain an open contest.
  फिर भी अवसरों का क्षेत्र अत्यंत व्यापक बना हुआ है; **अंतरिक्ष अन्वेषण, रक्षा तथा पदार्थ विज्ञान** जैसे क्षेत्रों में **डीप टेक** अभी भी खुली प्रतिस्पर्धा का क्षेत्र है।
- For India to pursue innovation, two ingredients are important: India must be a stable and attractive home for **capital** and **talent**.
  भारत को नवाचार के मार्ग पर आगे बढ़ाने के लिए दो तत्व अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं: भारत को **पूंजी** और **प्रतिभा** दोनों के लिए एक स्थिर तथा आकर्षक केंद्र बनना होगा।
- **Venture capital** must be in a position to assess exploratory and cutting-edge pitches on the same footing as they do in other countries.

GS Paper III: Environment	18 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
18J6	Scheme for crocodile sanctuaries मगरमच्छ अभयारण्यों के लिए योजना
18J6	Oil pollution तेल प्रदूषण
18J6	'India to meet 3% compressed biogas blending goal for FY27' 'भारत FY27 तक 3% संपीड़ित बायोगैस मिश्रण लक्ष्य हासिल करेगा'

Scheme for crocodile sanctuaries

GS III: Environment

Dr. H.R. Bustard, an expert on crocodiles and an officer of the FAO (UNDP), was deputed by the Government of India to advise the Andhra Pradesh Government on the conservation and farming of crocodiles in various parts of the State.

It is stated that three species of crocodiles namely gharial (found in the Ganga, Brahmaputra and Mahanadi), the maggar or freshwater crocodile (found generally in rivers and reservoirs) and the estuarian or salt-water crocodiles (found in the estuaries of major rivers) were facing extinction owing to large-scale and indiscriminate killing for meat. The eggs are also eaten and so the species face the problem of survival.

Dr. Bustard inspected the Corangi mangrove forest in the Kakinada Forest Division last week accompanied by Mr. T.V. Subba Rao, Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. Pushpalumar, Director Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad and Mr. B. Bhomarajam, Conservator of Forests, L.P. Circle, Rajamundry. Dr. Bustard stated the area was eminently suitable for farming the salt-water crocodiles. A scheme would be prepared for the purpose and submitted to the Government shortly.

They inspected the Godavari river area from Devipatnam to Peramtapalli.

Dr. Bustard found the region between the Papi Hills and Peramtapalli was an excellent habitat for crocodiles and has prepared a scheme for the conservation and farming of crocodiles there.

He wanted these two areas to be declared as sanctuaries for the preservation and farming of crocodiles.

18J6. Scheme for crocodile sanctuaries
मगरमच्छ अभयारण्यों के लिए योजना

- **Dr. H.R. Bustard**, an expert on crocodiles and an o• cer of the **FAO (UNDP)**, was deputed by the **Government of India** to advise the **Andhra Pradesh Government** on the conservation and farming of crocodiles in various parts of the State.

डॉ. एच.आर. बस्टर्ड, जो मगरमच्छों के विशेषज्ञ तथा **FAO (UNDP)** के एक अधिकारी थे, उन्हें **भारत सरकार** द्वारा **आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार** को राज्य के विभिन्न भागों में मगरमच्छों के संरक्षण और पालन के संबंध में सलाह देने के लिए नियुक्त किया गया था।

- It is stated that three species of crocodiles namely **gharial** (found in the **Ganga, Brahmaputra and Mahanadi**), the **maggar** or freshwater crocodile (found generally in rivers and reservoirs) and the **estuarian or salt-water crocodiles** (found in the estuaries of major rivers) were facing extinction owing to large-scale and indiscriminate killing for meat.

यह बताया गया कि मगरमच्छों की तीन प्रजातियाँ, अर्थात् **घड़ियाल** (जो **गंगा, ब्रह्मपुत्र और महानदी** में पाया जाता है), **मगर** या मीठे पानी का मगरमच्छ (जो सामान्यतः नदियों और जलाशयों में पाया जाता है) तथा **मुहाना या खारे पानी का मगरमच्छ** (जो प्रमुख नदियों के मुहानों में पाया जाता है), मांस के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर और अंधाधुंध शिकार के कारण विलुप्ति के खतरे का सामना कर रहे थे।

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- The eggs are also eaten and so the species face the problem of survival.
  इनके अंडे भी खाए जाते हैं और इसलिए इन प्रजातियों के अस्तित्व पर संकट उत्पन्न हो गया है।
- They inspected the **Godavari river area** from **Devipatnam** to **Peramtapalli**.
  उन्होंने **देवीपटनम** से **पेरमटपल्ली** तक के **गोदावरी नदी क्षेत्र** का निरीक्षण किया।

18J6. Oil pollution

Oil pollution

GS III: Environment

Washington, June 17: The International Oil Pollution Conferences has passed a resolution which recommends the establishment of a limit of fifty to one hundred and fifty miles from the coasts of maritime nations, within which the discharge of oils or mixtures constituting nuisance, should be prohibited and that each Government would require ships flying its flags to refrain from discharging oil near the shores of other countries.

तेल प्रदूषण

- **Washington, June 17:** The **International Oil Pollution Conferences** has passed a resolution which recommends the establishment of a limit of **• fty to one hundred and fifty miles** from the coasts of maritime nations, within which the discharge of oils or mixtures constituting nuisance, should be prohibited.

वाशिंगटन, 17 जून: अंतरराष्ट्रीय तेल प्रदूषण सम्मेलन ने एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया है जिसमें समुद्री देशों के तटों से **पचास से एक सौ पचास मील** की सीमा निर्धारित करने की सिफारिश की गई है, जिसके भीतर तेल अथवा प्रदूषणकारी मिश्रणों के निर्वहन पर प्रतिबंध लगाया जाना चाहिए।

'India to meet 3% compressed biogas blending goal for FY27'

GS III: Environment

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Centre is on track to meet the goal of blending 3% compressed biogas (CBG) with CNG and domestic piped natural gas for FY27 with the blending percentage having already nearly doubled to about 2% at present, officials told *The Hindu*.

They added with more CBG plants under varied stages of construction, this would provide a fillip towards achieving the target.

India's present consumption of natural gas for domestic PNG and CNG in transport combined is about 34-35 million metric standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD).

A biogas Plant at Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka.

"In April, CBG sales were approximately 0.66 mmscmd and about 0.63 mmscmd in May," they stated, explaining that at the present rate of consumption they amount to nearly 2% of blending.

More plants

According to the Petroleum Ministry's Gobardhan portal, construction of 324 CBG/bio-CNG plants are under progress while construction work is yet to start on 1,261 plants.

Suresh N.S., senior research scientist, Strategic Initiatives Group at think-tank CSTEP said geopolitical developments underscore urgency of boosting India's domestic energy security and reducing dependence on imported fuels.

18J6. 'India to meet 3% compressed biogas blending goal for FY27'

'भारत FY27 तक 3% संपीड़ित बायोगैस मिश्रण लक्ष्य हासिल करेगा'

- The Centre is on track to meet the goal of blending **3% compressed biogas (CBG)** with **CNG** and domestic **piped natural gas (PNG)** for **FY27** with the blending percentage having already nearly doubled to about **2%** at present, officials told **The Hindu**.

अधिकारियों ने **द हिंदू** को बताया कि केंद्र सरकार **FY27** तक **CNG** और घरेलू **पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (PNG)** में **3% संपीड़ित बायोगैस (CBG)** मिश्रण के लक्ष्य को हासिल करने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रही है, क्योंकि वर्तमान में मिश्रण का प्रतिशत लगभग दोगुना होकर **2%** तक पहुँच चुका है।

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PCS Special:	17 June 2026
17J6	QUIZ: Anthropic
17J6	Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record अस्था ने 17 वर्ष पुराना 200 मीटर बटरफ्लाई रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

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Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. This U.S. AI firm temporarily disabled top-tier model access after a government order on foreign use. **Ans: Anthropic**
2. This country announced plans for a social media ban for under-16s last week. **Ans: Britain**
3. This initiative was launched by Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron in France? **Ans: Bharat Innovates 2026**
4. Elon Musk achieved this milestone following SpaceX's IPO on June 12? **Ans: He became world's first trillionaire**
5. This external AI ecosystem powers Apple's rebuilt Siri. **Ans: Google Gemini**
6. This Indian fintech firm confidentially filed papers for a $600 million IPO. **Ans: Razorpay**
8. This Indian edtech founder got some relief from a Singapore court in a contempt case. **Ans:Byju Raveendran**

Visual: At Nintendo's June Direct, the long-rumoured remake of this beloved N64-era video game was announced. **Ans: The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time**

17J6. QUIZ

1. Anthropic

- **Anthropic**, the U.S.-based artificial intelligence company behind the Claude AI models, temporarily disabled access to its most advanced models after the U.S. government ordered restrictions on foreign access, citing national security concerns.
- The directive affected the newly launched **Claude Fable 5** and **Claude Mythos 5** models. Anthropic stated that, because it could not selectively block only foreign users, it suspended access more broadly while discussions with U.S. authorities continued.

2. Britain

- **Britain (United Kingdom)** announced plans to prohibit children under the age of 16 from accessing major social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and X.

3. Bharat Innovates 2026

- **Bharat Innovates 2026** was jointly inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** in **Nice, France**, on June 14, 2026.
- The initiative is part of the **India–France Year of Innovation** and seeks to strengthen cooperation in deep technology, startups, artificial intelligence, research, and innovation ecosystems.
- The event brings together entrepreneurs, researchers, investors, policymakers, and industry leaders from both countries.

4. Elon Musk became the world's first trillionaire

- Following the reported **SpaceX IPO** and the continued rise in the valuation of his businesses, **Elon Musk** was widely reported to have become the world's first **trillionaire**. Musk's wealth is linked primarily to his stakes in **SpaceX**, **Tesla**, **xAI**, and other technology ventures.

5. Google Gemini

- **Google Gemini**, developed by **Google DeepMind**, powers the rebuilt version of **Apple's Siri** through an external AI partnership.
- Gemini is a multimodal AI system capable of understanding and generating text, images, code, and other forms of data.

6. Razorpay

- **Razorpay**, one of India's leading fintech companies, reportedly filed confidential documents for an Initial Public Offering (**IPO**) valued at around **$600 million**.
- Founded in 2014, Razorpay provides digital payment solutions, payment gateways, banking services, and financial management tools for businesses.

7. Byju Raveendran

- **Byju Raveendran**, founder of the edtech company **BYJU'S**, received temporary relief from a Singapore court in a contempt-related legal matter.

Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record

PCS

NATIONAL AQUATICS

Sports Bureau

Railways swimmer Astha Choudhury clocked 2:18.37s to break the 17-year-old women's 200m butterfly record on the opening day of the National aquatics championships in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

Vinayak Vijay (men's 200m medley, 2:04.13) and Aditi Hegde (women's 1500m freestyle, 17:20.82) rewrote two new individual records, while Karnataka women registered 3:53.45 to shatter the two-year-old 4x100m relay.

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m freestyle: Akash Mani (Kar) 50.40; **100m backstroke:** Rishabh Das (Mah) 55.44.
200m medley: Vinayak Vijay (SSCB) 2:04.13 (NMR, Old 2:04.34, Shoan Ganguly, 2025).
Women: 1500m freestyle: Aditi Hegde (Mah) 17:20.82 (NMR, Old 17:35.07, Bhavya Sachdeva, 2025).
50m breaststroke: Lineysha A.K. (Kar) 33.51; **200m butterfly:** Astha Choudhury (RSPB) 2:18.37 (NMR, Old 2:19.59, Arhatha Maghavi, 2009).
4x100m freestyle relay: Karnataka 3:53.45 (NMR, Old 4:01.83, RSPB, 2024).

17J6. Astha breaks 17-year-old 200m butterfly record

अस्था ने 17 वर्ष पुराना 200 मीटर बटरफ्लाई रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

- **Railways** swimmer **Astha Choudhury** clocked **2:18.37s** to break the **17-year-old** women's **200m butterfly** record on the opening day of the **National Aquatics Championships** in **Ahmedabad** on Tuesday.

रेलवे की तैराक **अस्था चौधरी** ने मंगलवार को **अहमदाबाद** में आयोजित **राष्ट्रीय तैराकी चैंपियनशिप** के उद्घाटन दिवस पर **2:18.37 सेकंड** का समय निकालकर महिलाओं की **200 मीटर बटरफ्लाई** स्पर्धा का **17 वर्ष पुराना** रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया।

- **Vinayak Vijay** (men's **200m medley**, **2:04.13**) and **Aditi Hegde** (women's **1500m freestyle**, **17:20.82**) rewrote two new **individual records**.

विनायक विजय (पुरुष **200 मीटर मेडले**, **2:04.13**) और **अदिति हेगड़े** (महिला **1500 मीटर फ्रीस्टाइल**, **17:20.82**) ने दो नए **व्यक्तिगत रिकॉर्ड** बनाए।

- Meanwhile, **Karnataka women** registered **3:53.45** to shatter the **two-year-old 4x100m relay** record.

वहीं, **कर्नाटक महिला टीम** ने **3:53.45** का समय दर्ज कर **दो वर्ष पुराने 4x100 मीटर रिले** रिकॉर्ड को तोड़ दिया।

GS Paper 1: History	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court सावरकर ने ब्रिटिश शासन के समक्ष 10 दया याचिकाएँ दायर की थीं, प्रपौत्र ने न्यायालय को बताया

PATRIOTICIAS

Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court

GS I: History

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, told a special MP/MLA court in Pune that the right-wing ideologue had submitted 10 clemency petitions to the British government seeking reduction of his sentence. The testimony was part of a criminal defamation case Mr. Satyaki has filed against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

During the hearing of the case in the court of special judge Amol Shinde, Mr. Satyaki said Savarkar was referred to as "veer" in a periodical run by the Gadar Organisation before he was transferred to the Andaman Islands.

Asked about incarcerations of other revolutionaries from the same period, Mr. Satyaki said the likes of Rajguru, Batukeshwar Dutt, and Ashfaqulla Khan did not file clemency petitions. But Savarkar submitted a mercy petition within the first month after receiving his sentence, he said. Mr. Satyaki told the court that he was not aware of Bhagat Singh and Dutt petitioning the British government to demand treatment as prisoners of war, and to refuse concessions or leniency. He agreed that Singh and Dutt stood by their ideology until the end of their lives.

V.D. Savarkar

Mr. Satyaki informed the court that records of Savarkar's 10 petitions exist in government archives. He said the language in these petitions did not indicate loyalty to the British regime and were forwarded by prison authorities for approval.

He said language used in clemency petitions followed official protocol.

Mr. Satyaki said he was not aware that Savarkar signed each petition with the phrase, "I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar." He denied that Savarkar was released after these 10 pleas were filed.

According to him, the British government had the authority to commute or alter sentences in mercy petitions. The reduction or remission of sentences depended on the government's policy.

'All pleas rejected'

Mr. Satyaki said the colonial government had rejected all of Savarkar's clemency petitions. In their replies, the authorities expressed apprehension that Savarkar would rejoin the revolutionary movement if released, he said.

Savarkar's grandnephew said that filing clemency petitions were standard procedures under the British government, adding that other prisoners had filed such petitions and the practice was neither exceptional nor illegal.

The court recorded excerpts from one mercy petition in which Savarkar stated that others sent to the Andaman jail with him be released and he be kept incarcerated and classified as a Class D prisoner facing harsh punishment. The witness said he did not have a report comparing the mercy petitions filed by Savarkar with those made by other prisoners. Mr. Satyaki testified that no prisoner was obligated to submit a mercy petition. The decision to file such petitions depended on the prisoner's preference.

17J6. Savarkar filed 10 mercy pleas before the British, grandnephew tells court

सावरकर ने ब्रिटिश शासन के समक्ष 10 दया याचिकाएँ दायर की थीं, प्रपौत्र ने न्यायालय को बताया

- **Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, told a special MP/MLA court in Pune that the right-wing ideologue had submitted 10 clemency petitions to the British government seeking reduction of his sentence.**

विनायक दामोदर सावरकर के प्रपौत्र **सात्यकि सावरकर** ने पुणे की एक विशेष **सांसद/विधायक न्यायालय** को बताया कि इस दक्षिणपंथी विचारक ने अपनी सजा में कमी की मांग करते हुए **ब्रिटिश सरकार** को **10 दया याचिकाएं (Clemency Petitions)** प्रस्तुत की थीं।

- The testimony was part of a **criminal defamation case** Mr. Satyaki has filed against **Congress leader Rahul Gandhi**.

यह गवाही **कांग्रेस नेता राहुल गांधी** के विरुद्ध श्री सात्यकि द्वारा दायर **आपराधिक मानहानि मामले** का हिस्सा थी।

- During the hearing of the case in the court of special judge **Amol Shinde**, Mr. Satyaki said Savarkar was referred to as "**veer**" in a periodical run by the **Gadar Organisation** before he was transferred to the **Andaman Islands**.

विशेष न्यायाधीश **अमोल शिंदे** की अदालत में सुनवाई के दौरान श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि **अंडमान द्वीपसमूह** भेजे जाने से पूर्व **गदर संगठन** द्वारा प्रकाशित एक पत्रिका में सावरकर को "**वीर**" कहा गया था।

- Asked about incarcerations of other revolutionaries from the same period, Mr. Satyaki said the likes of **Rajguru, Batukeshwar Dutt, and Ashfaqulla Khan** did not file clemency petitions.

उसी कालखंड के अन्य क्रांतिकारियों के कारावास के बारे में पूछे जाने पर श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि **राजगुरु**, **बटुकेश्वर दत्त** और **अशफाकउल्ला खान** ने दया याचिकाएं दायर नहीं की थीं।

- But Savarkar submitted a mercy petition within the first month after receiving his sentence, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि सावरकर ने सजा प्राप्त होने के **पहले महीने** के भीतर ही एक **दया याचिका** प्रस्तुत कर दी थी।

- Mr. Satyaki told the court that he was not aware of **Bhagat Singh** and **Dutt** petitioning the British government to demand treatment as prisoners of war, and to refuse concessions or

leniency.
श्री सात्यकि ने न्यायालय को बताया कि उन्हें इस बात की जानकारी नहीं है कि **भगत सिंह** और **दत्त** ने स्वयं को **युद्धबंदी** के रूप में व्यवहार दिए जाने तथा किसी भी प्रकार की रियायत या नरमी को अस्वीकार करने हेतु ब्रिटिश सरकार को याचिका दी थी।

- He agreed that **Singh and Dutt** stood by their ideology until the end of their lives.
उन्होंने इस बात से सहमति व्यक्त की कि **सिंह और दत्त** अपने जीवन के अंतिम समय तक अपनी विचारधारा पर अडिग रहे।
- Mr. Satyaki informed the court that records of Savarkar's **10 petitions** exist in government archives.
श्री सात्यकि ने न्यायालय को बताया कि सावरकर की **10 याचिकाओं** के अभिलेख सरकारी अभिलेखागारों में उपलब्ध हैं।
- He said the language in these petitions did not indicate loyalty to the British regime and were forwarded by prison authorities for approval.
उन्होंने कहा कि इन याचिकाओं की भाषा से **ब्रिटिश शासन** के प्रति निष्ठा का संकेत नहीं मिलता था तथा इन्हें जेल अधिकारियों द्वारा अनुमोदन के लिए अग्रेषित किया गया था।
- He said language used in clemency petitions followed official protocol.
उन्होंने कहा कि दया याचिकाओं में प्रयुक्त भाषा **आधिकारिक प्रोटोकॉल** के अनुरूप थी।
- Mr. Satyaki said he was not aware that Savarkar signed each petition with the phrase, "**I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar.**"
श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि उन्हें यह जानकारी नहीं थी कि सावरकर प्रत्येक याचिका पर "**I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, V.D. Savarkar.**" वाक्यांश के साथ हस्ताक्षर करते थे।
- He denied that Savarkar was released after these **10 pleas** were filed.
उन्होंने इस बात से इनकार किया कि इन **10 याचिकाओं** के दायर होने के बाद सावरकर को रिहा कर दिया गया था।
- According to him, the British government had the authority to **commute or alter sentences** in mercy petitions.
उनके अनुसार, **ब्रिटिश सरकार** को दया याचिकाओं के आधार पर **सजा को परिवर्तित या कम करने** का अधिकार प्राप्त था।

'All pleas rejected'
'सभी याचिकाएं अस्वीकृत'

- Mr. Satyaki said the colonial government had rejected all of Savarkar's **clemency petitions**.
श्री सात्यकि ने कहा कि औपनिवेशिक सरकार ने सावरकर की सभी **दया याचिकाओं** को अस्वीकार कर दिया था।
- In their replies, the authorities expressed apprehension that Savarkar would rejoin the revolutionary movement if released, he said.
उन्होंने कहा कि अपने उत्तरों में अधिकारियों ने आशंका व्यक्त की थी कि रिहा किए जाने पर सावरकर पुनः **क्रांतिकारी आंदोलन** में शामिल हो सकते हैं।
- Savarkar's grandnephew said that filing clemency petitions were standard procedures under the British government, adding that other prisoners had filed such petitions and the practice was neither exceptional nor illegal.
सावरकर के प्रपौत्र ने कहा कि **ब्रिटिश शासन** के अंतर्गत दया याचिका दायर करना एक **मानक प्रक्रिया** थी। उन्होंने जोड़ा कि अन्य कैदियों ने भी ऐसी याचिकाएं दायर की थीं और यह न तो असाधारण था और न ही अवैध।
- The court recorded excerpts from one mercy petition in which Savarkar stated that others sent to the Andaman jail with him be released and he be kept incarcerated and classified as a **Class D prisoner** facing harsh punishment.

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न्यायालय ने एक दया याचिका के अंश दर्ज किए, जिसमें सावरकर ने कहा था कि उनके साथ **अंडमान जेल** भेजे गए अन्य लोगों को रिहा कर दिया जाए और उन्हें स्वयं कारावास में रखा जाए तथा **क्लास D कैदी** के रूप में कठोर दंड दिया जाए।

GS Paper 1: Geography	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls मानसून के ठहराव के कारण भारत में वर्षा की कमी 35% हुई

India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls

Central India faces a 61% rain deficit as monsoon falters; govt. directs crop-wise contingency plans

Centre places around 200 districts under priority monitoring; weekly reviews of El Niño ordered

Deficit is significant in a year forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year

GS I: Geography

Jacob Koshy
A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Over a week past the monsoon's normal arrival date, the rain clouds have yet to reach Mumbai, driving India's nationwide monsoon deficit to 35% as of Tuesday.

The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover – Maharashtra, the Konkan coast, and the adjoining regions of central India – where its northward progress has been stalled for several days.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) statistics show that apart from northwest India, which has received 5% more rain than normal for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red, including east and northeast India (-43%), central India (-61%), and the southern peninsula (-14%).

Meanwhile, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, chairing a review of kharif preparations on Tuesday, directed States to identify districts facing low or uneven rainfall and to draw up crop-wise contingency plans, so that affected farmers could be "immediately provided with alternatives, advice, and assistance."

The Union government has placed 150 to 200 districts under priority monitoring, ordered weekly El Niño reviews, and is encouraging a shift towards cotton and pulses.

'Better placed'

Mr. Chouhan has maintained that seed and fertilizer stocks are adequate and that reservoir storage – at 30.4% of capacity in May, against a 25.1% average in previous El Niño years – leaves the country better placed than in earlier seasons with rainfall deficiency.

While a rainfall deficit in June, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a 'Super El Niño' year.

An analysis of the IMD's all-India June rainfall departures for El Niño years since 2000 shows no consistent early-season signal. In June 2015, during one of the strongest El Niño events on record, rainfall was 14% above normal. June 2002 and June 2004, both years that ended in drought, recorded near-normal June rainfall of around 2% and 1% above normal respectively, with the deficits arriving only in July and later.

Only in 2009 (47% below normal) and 2014 (44% below normal) did June rainfall fail as sharply as it has this year. In 2023, the most recent El Niño year, June closed about 8% below normal, within the IMD's normal range.

An El Niño event – the periodic warming of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean that tends to suppress the Indian monsoon – establishes itself only in the spring and exerts its influence mainly in the middle and later part of the season.

"June rainfall and the pace of onset, by contrast, are governed largely by local and regional factors," according to D.S. Pai, chief forecaster at the IMD's Regional Meteorological Centre in Chennai.

First pulse weakened

This year, the monsoon set in over Kerala on June 4, just three days behind its normal date, but its advance up the west coast has since lost momentum. Dr. Pai explained that the monsoon moves in pulses, and the first pulse, having reached the outskirts of Mumbai, did not sustain itself. Instead, an "anticyclonic circulation" to the city's north, combined with a westerly push from mid-latitude weather systems, has prevented the monsoon from establishing itself, he told *The Hindu*.

The Madden-Julian Oscillation, a travelling band of atmospheric activity that can strengthen or weaken the monsoon, is currently in an "unfavourable phase". This implies that the onset over Mumbai is likely to be delayed by a further five to six days, until the next pulse strengthens, possibly aided by a low-pressure system forming over the Bay of Bengal, he reckoned.

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued an El Niño advisory on June 11, confirming the event had formed and placing the odds of it becoming "very strong" by winter at 63%. The World Meteorological Organization had earlier put the probability of El Niño emerging between June and August at 80%. The IMD's own June bulletin states that El Niño conditions are present and that the ocean and atmosphere have coupled, with no positive Indian Ocean Dipole expected to offset it this season.

The warnings have been building. IMD's first-stage forecast in April pegged seasonal rainfall at 92% of the long-period average; its May-end update lowered this to 90% and assigned a 60% probability to a deficient year – the agency's most pessimistic pre-season call since 2015.

Hanging clouds

While a monsoon deficit in June is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year which has been globally forecast to witness a 'Super El Nino'

Rainfall departures for El Niño years since 2000:

	June	Whole southwest monsoon
2002	+2%	19% below LPA*
2004	+1%	13% below LPA
2009	- 47%	22% below LPA
2014	- 44%	12% below LPA
2015	+14%	14% below LPA
2023	- 8%	6% below LPA

*LPA: Long Period Average

Source: IMD

17J6. India's rainfall deficit 35% as monsoon stalls
मानसून के ठहराव के कारण भारत में वर्षा की कमी 35% हुई

- The shortfall in rainfall is concentrated in the regions the monsoon has failed to cover — **Maharashtra**, the **Konkan coast**, and the adjoining regions of **central India** — where its northward progress has been stalled for several days.
  वर्षा की कमी मुख्यतः उन क्षेत्रों में केंद्रित है जहाँ मानसून अभी तक नहीं पहुँच पाया है — **महाराष्ट्र**, **कोंकण तट**, तथा **मध्य भारत** के समीपवर्ती क्षेत्र — जहाँ इसका उत्तर की ओर बढ़ना कई दिनों से रुका हुआ है।
- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** statistics show that apart from **northwest India**, which has received **5% more rain than normal** for this time of the year, all other regions are in the red.
  भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के आँकड़ों के अनुसार **उत्तर-पश्चिम भारत** को छोड़कर, जहाँ इस अवधि में सामान्य से **5% अधिक वर्षा** हुई है, देश के सभी अन्य क्षेत्र वर्षा घाटे की स्थिति में हैं।
- This includes **east and northeast India (-43%)**, **central India (-61%)**, and the **southern peninsula (-14%)**.
  इनमें **पूर्व एवं उत्तर-पूर्व भारत (-43%)**, **मध्य भारत (-61%)**, तथा **दक्षिणी प्रायद्वीप (-14%)** शामिल हैं।
- The **Union government** has placed **150 to 200 districts** under priority monitoring, ordered weekly **El Niño** reviews, and is encouraging a shift towards **cotton** and **pulses**.

केंद्र सरकार ने **150 से 200 जिलों** को प्राथमिक निगरानी के अंतर्गत रखा है, साप्ताहिक **एल नीनो** समीक्षा के निर्देश दिए हैं तथा **कपास** और **दलहनों** की ओर फसल परिवर्तन को प्रोत्साहित किया है।

'Better placed'
'बेहतर स्थिति में'

- While a **rainfall deficit** in **June**, the first of the monsoon months, is not unusual, it assumes additional significance in a year that forecasters globally have warned will likely be a **'Super El Niño'** year.
  यद्यपि मानसून के प्रथम माह **जून** में **वर्षा की कमी** असामान्य नहीं है, किन्तु यह उस वर्ष विशेष महत्व रखती है जिसे वैश्विक मौसम पूर्वानुमानकर्ताओं ने संभावित **'सुपर एल नीनो'** वर्ष बताया है।
- An **El Niño event** — the periodic warming of the **central and eastern Pacific Ocean** that tends to suppress the **Indian monsoon** — establishes itself only in the spring and exerts its influence mainly in the middle and later part of the season.
  एल नीनो घटना — अर्थात् **मध्य एवं पूर्वी प्रशांत महासागर** के जल का आवधिक ऊष्मीकरण, जो सामान्यतः **भारतीय मानसून** को कमजोर करता है — वसंत ऋतु में विकसित होती है और इसका प्रभाव मुख्यतः मानसून के मध्य तथा अंतिम चरणों में दिखाई देता है।
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)**, a travelling band of atmospheric activity that can strengthen or weaken the monsoon, is currently in an **"unfavourable phase"**.
  मैडेन-जूलियन ऑस्सिलेशन (MJO), जो वायुमंडलीय गतिविधियों का एक गतिशील क्षेत्र है और मानसून को मजबूत या कमजोर कर सकता है, वर्तमान में **"प्रतिकूल अवस्था"** में है।
- This implies that the onset over **Mumbai** is likely to be delayed by a further **five to six days**, until the next pulse strengthens, possibly aided by a **low-pressure system** forming over the **Bay of Bengal**, he reckoned.
  इसका अर्थ है कि **मुंबई** में मानसून का आगमन और **पाँच से छह दिन** विलंबित हो सकता है, जब तक कि अगला मानसूनी चरण मजबूत न हो जाए, जिसे **बंगाल की खाड़ी** में बनने वाली **निम्न दाब प्रणाली** से सहायता मिल सकती है।
- The **U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** issued an **El Niño advisory** on **June 11**, confirming the event had formed and placing the odds of it becoming **"very strong"** by winter at **63%**.
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय महासागरीय एवं वायुमंडलीय प्रशासन (NOAA) ने **11 जून** को **एल नीनो परामर्श** जारी करते हुए पुष्टि की कि यह घटना विकसित हो चुकी है तथा इसके शीतकाल तक **"अत्यंत प्रबल"** बनने की संभावना **63%** है।
- The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** had earlier put the probability of **El Niño** emerging between **June and August** at **80%**.
  विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (WMO) ने पहले ही **जून से अगस्त** के बीच **एल नीनो** विकसित होने की संभावना **80%** बताई थी।
- **IMD's first-stage forecast** in **April** pegged **seasonal rainfall** at **92% of the long-period average**.
  IMD के **अप्रैल** में जारी प्रथम चरण के पूर्वानुमान में **मौसमी वर्षा** को **दीर्घकालिक औसत का 92%** आँका गया था।
- Its **May-end update** lowered this to **90%** and assigned a **60% probability** to a **deficient year** — the agency's most pessimistic **pre-season forecast** since **2015**.
  इसके **मई अंत के अद्यतन पूर्वानुमान** में इसे घटाकर **90%** कर दिया गया तथा **वर्षा-घाटे वाले वर्ष** की संभावना **60%** बताई गई — जो **2015** के बाद एजेंसी का सबसे निराशावादी **पूर्व-मानसून पूर्वानुमान** है।

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17J6	Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HCआपराधिक अभियोजन से पूर्व न्यायालयों को दीवानी विवादों पर विचार करना चाहिए: उच्च न्यायालय
17J6	What does the Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers? दसवीं अनुसूची दलों के विलय के संबंध में क्या प्रावधान करती है?

Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HC

GS II: Polity: Judiciary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has said that trial courts cannot ignore the pendency of civil proceedings while assessing whether criminal prosecution is being used as a weapon of harassment, and are duty-bound to scrutinise, even at the stage of framing of charges, whether the evidence genuinely discloses a strong suspicion and a reasonable prospect of conviction.

"The criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest," it said, citing Supreme Court observations that criminal law cannot be invoked against citizens, in the absence of legally tenable material, merely because a civil dispute subsists between the parties.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing the criminal cases against several persons and their advocate by the Bengaluru city police in connection with a complaint lodged against them in relation to a dispute over transactions of certain properties, the sale deeds of which were registered two decades ago.

A simmering land dispute between the parties has been artfully clothed in the robes of criminal prosecution in the complete absence of even an iota of criminality, the court said while pointing out that the criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest.

The criminal justice system, it said, must operate through two filters – first, at the stage of investigation and filing of a chargesheet, and next, at the stage of framing of charge by the trial court. At both stages, the law vests ample power in trial courts to terminate proceedings that amount to abuse of process, subject always to the peculiar facts of each case.

17J6. Courts must weigh civil disputes before criminal prosecution: HC आपराधिक अभियोजन से पूर्व न्यायालयों को दीवानी विवादों पर विचार करना चाहिए: उच्च न्यायालय

- **The Karnataka High Court has said that trial courts cannot ignore the pendency of civil proceedings while assessing whether criminal prosecution is being used as a weapon of harassment, and are duty-bound to scrutinise, even at the stage of framing of charges, whether the evidence genuinely discloses a strong suspicion and a reasonable prospect of conviction.**
  कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय ने कहा है कि यह आकलन करते समय कि कहीं **आपराधिक अभियोजन** का उपयोग **उत्पीड़न के साधन** के रूप में तो नहीं किया जा रहा है, **विचारण न्यायालय** (Trial Courts) **दीवानी कार्यवाहियों**

के लंबित होने की उपेक्षा नहीं कर सकते तथा उन पर यह दायित्व है कि वे आरोप तय करने के चरण में भी यह जांच करें कि क्या साक्ष्य वास्तव में **मजबूत संदेह** और **दोषसिद्धि की युक्तिसंगत संभावना** को प्रकट करते हैं।

- "**The criminal law cannot be permitted to degenerate into a weapon of oppression in aid of a civil contest,**" it said, citing Supreme Court observations that criminal law cannot be invoked against citizens, in the absence of legally tenable material, merely because a civil dispute subsists between the parties.
  न्यायालय ने कहा, "**आपराधिक कानून को किसी दीवानी विवाद में दमन के हथियार के रूप में परिवर्तित होने की अनुमति नहीं दी जा सकती।**" इस संदर्भ में उसने **उच्चतम न्यायालय** की उन टिप्पणियों का उल्लेख किया, जिनमें कहा गया था कि केवल पक्षकारों के बीच **दीवानी विवाद** विद्यमान होने के कारण, विधिक रूप से टिकाऊ सामग्री के अभाव में, नागरिकों के विरुद्ध **आपराधिक कानून** का सहारा नहीं लिया जा सकता।
- **Justice M. Nagaprasanna** made these observations while quashing the criminal cases against several persons and their advocate by the Bengaluru city police in connection with a complaint lodged against them in relation to a dispute over transactions of certain properties, the sale deeds of which were registered two decades ago.
  न्यायमूर्ति एम. नागप्रसन्ना ने ये टिप्पणियां उस समय कीं जब उन्होंने **बेंगलुरु शहर पुलिस** द्वारा कई व्यक्तियों तथा उनके अधिवक्ता के विरुद्ध दर्ज आपराधिक मामलों को निरस्त कर दिया। यह शिकायत कुछ संपत्तियों के लेन-देन से संबंधित विवाद के संदर्भ में दर्ज की गई थी, जिनकी **विक्रय विलेख (Sale Deeds)** लगभग दो दशक पूर्व पंजीकृत हुई थीं।
- The criminal justice system, it said, must operate through two filters — first, at the stage of investigation and filing of a chargesheet, and next, at the stage of framing of charge by the trial court.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि **आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली** को दो स्तरों पर कार्य करना चाहिए — पहला, **जांच** और **आरोपपत्र (Chargesheet)** दाखिल करने के चरण में, तथा दूसरा, **विचारण न्यायालय** द्वारा **आरोप तय करने** के चरण में।

What does Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers?

Why has the misuse of the merger provision increased after the deletion of paragraph 3?

GS II: Polity
LETTER AND SPIRIT

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

As many as 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs met the Lok Sabha Speaker and announced their decision to merge with Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI). This has raised issues about the interpretation of Tenth Schedule with respect to merger of political parties.

What is the origin of Tenth Schedule?

The defections of legislators during 1960s and 70s from their parent parties created political instability in many States bringing down elected governments. This prompted the 52nd constitutional amendment to introduce the 'anti-defection' law through the Tenth Schedule in 1985. This Schedule provides that a member of a House of Parliament or State legislature who voluntarily gives up the membership of their 'political party' or votes against the instructions of their party in a House are liable for disqualification from such House. The 'political party' is the entire organisation of a party, while the 'legislature party' is all the members of a political party in a House of Parliament or State legislature.

The Tenth Schedule originally had two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification viz., one-third of members of the 'legislature party' splitting to form a separate group (paragraph 3), or a merger of their 'political party' with another party that is approved by two-thirds of the members of its 'legislature party' (paragraph 4). However, considering the need to strengthen the 'anti-defection' law, paragraph 3 was omitted in 2003.

With the deletion of paragraph 3, there have been instances of two-third members of a legislature party 'practically' defecting but claiming to be the original political party in order to escape disqualification. This happened in the case of Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party in June 2022 and July 2023 respectively.

There have also been instances where more than two-third members of a 'legislature party' in a house have merged themselves with another political party to escape disqualification. This happened in September 2019 (in Rajasthan) when all 6 Bahujan Samajwadi Party MLAs merged themselves with the Congress and in September 2022 (in Goa) when 8 out of the 11 Congress MLAs merged themselves with the BJP. The Bombay High Court upheld the merger of Goa's Congress Legislature Party with the BJP, though an appeal is pending in the apex court. A similar move occurred in April 2026 when 7 of 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs merged with the BJP.

What is the present case in Bengal?

After the recent West Bengal polls, around 60 of the 80 MLAs elected from Trinamool Congress formed a separate faction led by Ritabrata Banerjee, who was recognised as the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly even after the party expelled him. Meanwhile, 20 of the 28 Lok Sabha MPs have submitted their decision to the Lok Sabha Speaker to merge themselves with the NCPI. Their claim is that they constitute two-thirds of the legislature party and are hence authorised to take this step under the provisions of the Tenth Schedule without attracting disqualification.

What may be way forward?

A plain reading of the Tenth Schedule allows only for merger of a political party with another party that is approved by two-thirds of its legislature party. It does not authorise two-thirds of the legislature party in a house to merge itself with another political party to claim immunity from defection. However, in the recent instance with respect to proposed merger of Trinamool Lok Sabha MPs with NCPI as well as the merger of Rajya Sabha MPs of AAP with the BJP, this is what has happened. It is also subject to interpretation whether a merger of an 'original political party' can happen only with another political party that already has members in the legislative house. Moreover, the authority to decide on the disqualification of members is vested in the Speaker or Chairman. While they are expected to perform this constitutional role impartially, the presiding officers have often favoured the ruling dispensation. The Supreme Court in K. M. Singh case in 2020, recommended that the Parliament amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an independent tribunal headed by judges.

An authoritative Supreme Court judgement in the matters of merger and setting up of an independent tribunal to decide on disqualification may reduce the ambiguities surrounding the Tenth Schedule. However, it may not prevent the ingenious methods adopted by political parties to circumvent the Tenth Schedule. Any such manoeuvres may be viewed as a betrayal of the electorate by the elected representatives. A stricter measure, as recommended by the Law commission in 1999, could be to amend the Tenth Schedule and delete paragraph 4 that provides exemption from disqualification for merger of political parties. Any action by elected members of a legislature party against their political party should lead to disqualification that results in seeking fresh mandate from the people.

Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

17J6. What does the Tenth Schedule provide on party mergers?
दसवीं अनुसूची दलों के विलय के संबंध में क्या प्रावधान करती है?

- This prompted the **52nd Constitutional Amendment** to introduce the **Anti-Defection Law** through the **Tenth Schedule** in **1985**.
  इसी के परिणामस्वरूप **1985** में **52वें संविधान संशोधन** द्वारा **दसवीं अनुसूची** के माध्यम से **दल-बदल विरोधी कानून (Anti-Defection Law)** लागू किया गया।
- This Schedule provides that a member of a House of **Parliament** or **State Legislature** who voluntarily gives up the membership of their **political party** or votes against the instructions of

their party in a House is liable for **disqualification** from such House.
इस अनुसूची के अनुसार, **संसद** या **राज्य विधानमंडल** का कोई सदस्य यदि स्वेच्छा से अपनी **राजनीतिक पार्टी** की सदस्यता छोड़ देता है या सदन में पार्टी के निर्देशों के विरुद्ध मतदान करता है, तो वह **अयोग्यता (Disqualification)** का पात्र होगा।

- The **political party** is the entire organisation of a party, while the **legislature party** is all the members of a political party in a House of Parliament or State Legislature.
राजनीतिक पार्टी से तात्पर्य किसी दल के सम्पूर्ण संगठन से है, जबकि **विधायी दल (Legislature Party)** से तात्पर्य संसद या विधानमंडल के भीतर उस राजनीतिक दल के सभी निर्वाचित सदस्यों से है।
- The **Tenth Schedule** originally had two exceptions that would not render the members liable for disqualification viz., one-third of members of the **legislature party** splitting to form a separate group (**Paragraph 3**), or a merger of their **political party** with another party that is approved by **two-thirds** of the members of its legislature party (**Paragraph 4**).
प्रारंभिक रूप से **दसवीं अनुसूची** में दो अपवाद थे जिनके अंतर्गत सदस्य अयोग्यता से बच सकते थे, अर्थात् **विधायी दल** के एक-तिहाई सदस्यों द्वारा अलग समूह बनाना (**अनुच्छेद 3**) अथवा **राजनीतिक दल** का किसी अन्य दल में विलय, जिसे उसके विधायी दल के **दो-तिहाई सदस्यों** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो (**अनुच्छेद 4**)।
- However, considering the need to strengthen the **Anti-Defection Law**, **Paragraph 3** was omitted in **2003**.
हालाँकि, **दल-बदल विरोधी कानून** को सुदृढ़ बनाने की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए **2003** में **अनुच्छेद 3** को हटा दिया गया।
- With the deletion of **Paragraph 3**, there have been instances of **two-thirds members** of a legislature party 'practically' defecting but claiming to be the original political party in order to escape disqualification.
अनुच्छेद 3 हटाए जाने के बाद ऐसे उदाहरण सामने आए जहाँ किसी विधायी दल के **दो-तिहाई सदस्य** व्यावहारिक रूप से दल-बदल करते हुए भी स्वयं को मूल राजनीतिक दल बताकर अयोग्यता से बचने का प्रयास करते रहे।
- This happened in the case of **Shiv Sena** and **Nationalist Congress Party (NCP)** in **June 2022** and **July 2023** respectively.
ऐसा **शिवसेना** और **राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (NCP)** के मामलों में क्रमशः **जून 2022** और **जुलाई 2023** में हुआ।
- There have also been instances where more than **two-thirds members** of a legislature party in a House have merged themselves with another political party to escape disqualification.
ऐसे मामले भी सामने आए हैं जहाँ किसी सदन में विधायी दल के **दो-तिहाई से अधिक सदस्य** अयोग्यता से बचने के लिए स्वयं को किसी अन्य राजनीतिक दल में विलय कर लेते हैं।
- This happened in **September 2019** in **Rajasthan** when all **6 BSP MLAs** merged themselves with the **Congress** and in **September 2022** in **Goa** when **8 out of 11 Congress MLAs** merged themselves with the **BJP**.
ऐसा **सितंबर 2019** में **राजस्थान** में हुआ, जब **बहुजन समाज पार्टी (BSP)** के सभी **6 विधायक कांग्रेस** में शामिल हो गए, तथा **सितंबर 2022** में **गोवा** में हुआ, जब **कांग्रेस के 11 में से 8 विधायक भाजपा** में शामिल हो गए।
- The **Bombay High Court** upheld the merger of Goa's **Congress Legislature Party** with the **BJP**, though an appeal is pending in the **Supreme Court**.
बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय ने गोवा की **कांग्रेस विधायी दल** के **भाजपा** में विलय को वैध माना, हालांकि इस संबंध में **उच्चतम न्यायालय** में अपील लंबित है।
- A similar move occurred in **April 2026** when **7 of 10 AAP Rajya Sabha MPs** merged with the **BJP**.
इसी प्रकार की घटना **अप्रैल 2026** में हुई जब **आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP)** के **10 में से 7 राज्यसभा सांसद भाजपा** में शामिल हो गए।

- A plain reading of the **Tenth Schedule** allows only for the merger of a **political party** with another party that is approved by **two-thirds** of its legislature party.

दसवीं अनुसूची का सामान्य अध्ययन यह दर्शाता है कि केवल **राजनीतिक दल** का किसी अन्य दल में विलय ही मान्य है, बशर्ते उसे उसके विधायी दल के **दो-तिहाई सदस्यों** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त हो।

- It does not authorise **two-thirds of the legislature party** in a House to merge itself with another political party and claim immunity from defection.
  यह किसी सदन में **विधायी दल के दो-तिहाई सदस्यों** को स्वयं किसी अन्य दल में विलय होकर दल-बदल से प्रतिरक्षा प्राप्त करने की अनुमति नहीं देता।
- It is also subject to interpretation whether a merger of an **original political party** can occur only with another political party that already has members in the legislative House.
  यह भी व्याख्या का विषय है कि किसी **मूल राजनीतिक दल** का विलय केवल ऐसे दल में ही हो सकता है जिसके पहले से ही उस विधायी सदन में सदस्य हों।
- The **Supreme Court**, in the **K. M. Singh case (2020)**, recommended that **Parliament** amend the Constitution to vest these powers in an **independent tribunal** headed by judges.
  उच्चतम न्यायालय ने **के. एम. सिंह मामला (2020)** में अनुशंसा की थी कि **संसद** संविधान में संशोधन कर इन शक्तियों को न्यायाधीशों की अध्यक्षता वाले **स्वतंत्र न्यायाधिकरण** को सौंपे।
- An authoritative **Supreme Court judgement** on matters of merger and the establishment of an independent tribunal may reduce the ambiguities surrounding the **Tenth Schedule**.
  विलय संबंधी मामलों पर एक प्रामाणिक **उच्चतम न्यायालय निर्णय** तथा स्वतंत्र न्यायाधिकरण की स्थापना **दसवीं अनुसूची** से जुड़ी अस्पष्टताओं को कम कर सकती है।
- A stricter measure, as recommended by the **Law Commission (1999)**, could be to amend the **Tenth Schedule** and delete **Paragraph 4**, which provides exemption from disqualification for merger of political parties.
  विधि आयोग (1999) की अनुशंसा के अनुसार एक अधिक कठोर उपाय यह हो सकता है कि **दसवीं अनुसूची** में संशोधन कर **अनुच्छेद 4** को हटा दिया जाए, जो राजनीतिक दलों के विलय की स्थिति में अयोग्यता से छूट प्रदान करता है।

GS Paper II: Governance	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने पर: उच्च न्यायालय प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित
17J6	Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt. बिना चिकित्सकीय पर्चे के कफ सिरप नहीं बेचा जा सकता: सरकार
17J6	Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse' उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आधार के 'दुरुपयोग' पर केंद्र और राज्यों से जवाब माँगा
17J6	Primed to treat उपचार के लिए तैयार
17J6	Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week भारतीय शहरों को बार-बार जल संकट से जूझने से रोकने के लिए पाँच समाधान आवश्यक

An employee of the Terratis company releases sterile male tiger mosquitoes in Montpellier, southern France, on June 5, 2026. With global warming, 80% of the world's population now runs the risk of being exposed to one or more infectious diseases long considered tropical, which cause more than a million deaths a year, according to the WHO.

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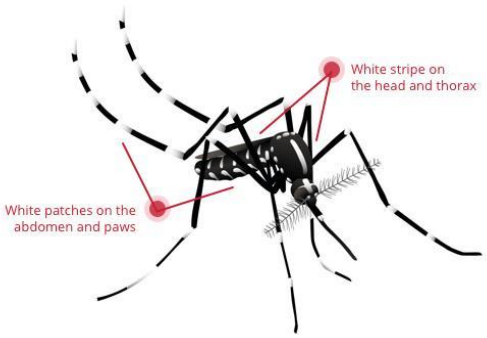
TIGER MOSQUITOES

6

Tiger mosquitoes are mosquitoes belonging mainly to the genus **Aedes**, especially:

- Aedes aegypti
- Aedes albopictus



They are called **"tiger mosquitoes"** because of their distinctive **black body with white stripes**, resembling a tiger's markings.

Identification

Aedes aegypti

- Black body
- White markings on legs
- Lyre-shaped white pattern on thorax

Aedes albopictus (Asian Tiger Mosquito)

- Black body
- Single white stripe running down the center of the thorax
- Prominent white bands on legs

Why Are They Important?

Tiger mosquitoes are among the world's most important disease vectors.

They transmit:

Disease	Pathogen
Dengue Fever	Dengue virus
Chikungunya	Chikungunya virus
Zika Virus Disease	Zika virus
Yellow Fever	Yellow fever virus
Rift Valley Fever	Rift Valley fever virus

PATRIOTIC

MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Expressing serious concern over the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the sinking of the ship *MSC Elsa 3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre and other agencies.

The court sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Director-General of Shipping on the marine and coastal ecological impacts caused by the wreckage.

They have been asked to detail the manner in which the EIA would be carried out, the institutions or agencies considered competent to undertake the exercise, and the scope of the study. In addition, the court must be informed whether any interim measures have been contemplated to address the environmental and navigational concerns due to the sinking of the vessel along with the containers aboard, said a Division Bench of Justice Raja Vijayaraghavan V. and Justice K.V. Jayakumar, while considering public interest litigation petitions filed by T.N. Pratapan and others.

Many of the containers were carrying hazardous cargo, including 339.20 tonnes of calcium carbide. An estimated 475 containers remain sunk with the ship. The court sought details of whether steps had been taken to engage an independent expert agency, scientific institution, or technical consultant to verify the findings contained in the reports relied upon by the ship's owners.

17J6. MSC Elsa 3 sinking: HC concerned over impact
MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने पर: उच्च न्यायालय प्रभाव को लेकर चिंतित

- **Expressing serious concern over the absence of an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on the sinking of the ship MSC Elsa 3 off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025, the Kerala High Court on Tuesday sought the response of the Centre and other agencies.**

मई 2025 में **अलप्पुझा तट** के निकट **MSC Elsa 3** जहाज के डूबने पर **पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन (EIA)** के अभाव को लेकर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए **केरल उच्च न्यायालय** ने मंगलवार को **केंद्र सरकार** तथा अन्य एजेंसियों से जवाब मांगा।

- The court sought the response of the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change** and the **Director-General of Shipping** on the marine and coastal ecological impacts caused by the wreckage.

न्यायालय ने मलबे के कारण उत्पन्न **समुद्री** एवं **तटीय पारिस्थितिकीय प्रभावों** के संबंध में **पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय** तथा **नौवहन महानिदेशक (Director-General of Shipping)** से जवाब मांगा।

- Many of the containers were carrying **hazardous cargo**, including **339.20 tonnes of calcium carbide**.

कई कंटेनरों में **खतरनाक माल (hazardous cargo)** था, जिसमें **339.20 टन कैल्शियम कार्बाइड** भी शामिल था।

Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt.

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Medicinal syrups, including those used to treat coughs, can no longer be bought without a doctor's prescription, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday. This means that over-the-counter sales of these syrups will no longer be allowed.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945, which laid out the regulations pertaining to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Tuesday's notification directed that the word 'syrups' be removed from the list of items that had been exempted from the provisions of the Act.

The rules had earlier specified that "Syrups, lozenges, pills and tablets for cough" would be exempted, meaning that cough lozenges, pills, and tablets will still be available over the counter.

The amendment follows a draft notification in December 2025 to which the Centre invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders and the public.

The government said all comments received on the draft rules were considered before the final notification was issued.

The Union Health Ministry notified the change to the Drugs Rules, 1945.

Many fatalities

The move comes after fatalities due to cough syrups adulterated with industrial solvents, including the deaths of 24 children in Madhya Pradesh last September. Cough syrups exported from India have been linked to the deaths of more than 140 children in Africa and Central Asia since 2022.

17J6. Cough syrup can't be sold without prescription: govt.
बिना चिकित्सकीय पर्चे के कफ सिरप नहीं बेचा जा सकता: सरकार

- **Medicinal syrups, including those used to treat coughs, can no longer be bought without a doctor's prescription, according to a government notification issued on Tuesday.**

मंगलवार को जारी एक सरकारी अधिसूचना के अनुसार, **खांसी के उपचार** में प्रयुक्त सिरप सहित **औषधीय सिरप** अब **डॉक्टर के पर्चे (Prescription)** के बिना नहीं खरीदे जा सकेंगे।

- This means that **over-the-counter sales** of these syrups will no longer be allowed.

इसका अर्थ है कि इन सिरपों की **ओवर-द-काउंटर (OTC) बिक्री** अब अनुमत नहीं होगी।

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** notified the change to the **Drugs Rules, 1945**, which laid out the regulations pertaining to the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**.

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय ने **औषधि नियम,**

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1945 (Drugs Rules, 1945) में इस परिवर्तन को अधिसूचित किया, जो **औषधि एवं प्रसाधन सामग्री अधिनियम, 1940 (Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940)** से संबंधित विनियमों को निर्धारित करता है।

- Tuesday's notification directed that the word '**syrups**' be removed from the list of items that had been exempted from the provisions of the Act.
  मंगलवार की अधिसूचना में निर्देश दिया गया कि '**सिरप (Syrups)**' शब्द को उन वस्तुओं की सूची से हटाया जाए जिन्हें अधिनियम के प्रावधानों से छूट प्राप्त थी।
- The rules had earlier specified that "**Syrups, lozenges, pills and tablets for cough**" would be exempted, meaning that **cough lozenges, pills, and tablets** will still be available over the counter.
  नियमों में पहले यह निर्दिष्ट था कि "**खांसी के लिए सिरप, लॉजेंज, गोलियां और टैबलेट**" छूट प्राप्त होंगे, जिसका अर्थ है कि **खांसी के लॉजेंज, गोलियां और टैबलेट** अब भी बिना पर्चे के उपलब्ध रहेंगे।

Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse'

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as proof of citizenship, domicile and residence.

The petition claimed that "infiltrators and illegal immigrants" are able to obtain the cards and project themselves as "lawful residents", thereby availing benefits to which they are not legally entitled.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana issued notice on the plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The petition contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond identity verification is contrary to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016, which expressly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile.

It also relied on an August 2023 UIDAI notification clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity and cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence or date of birth.

Electoral integrity

The plea also questioned the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in Form-6, the application form for fresh voter registration.

Mr. Upadhyay argued that allowing Aadhaar to be used for this purpose could undermine the integrity of the electoral process.

"Aadhaar is not only being used as proof of age, citizenship & domicile for school admission, property purchase, and to obtain birth certificate, ration card, driving licence, but also being used in the application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as proof of date of birth & proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators & illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using the Aadhaar," the plea stated.

The petition claimed "infiltrators and illegal immigrants" are able to obtain the cards and project themselves as "lawful residents".

The plea contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond identity verification is contrary to Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016

Referring to what he described as the presence of a "huge number of illegal migrants" occupying "vast tracts of land, particularly along sensitive international borders", Mr. Upadhyay contended that the ease with which such persons can obtain Aadhaar cards enables them to secure other identity documents and eventually seek inclusion in electoral rolls.

"Infiltration is a weapon of political parties to subvert the electoral process for their benefit. West Bengal, Assam and other Northeastern States have been afflicted by cheap political tactics. The infiltrators are helped by either the party in power or the Opposition parties, and are also helped with identity documents such as Aadhaar/ration card. Once they have a plethora of documents, they enrol themselves in the voting list. Thus, the sacrosanct nature of the election process is compromised," the plea stated.

'Complete overhaul'

Accordingly, the petition sought an complete overhaul of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a high-powered monitoring committee comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

It also prayed for a direction "to declare that the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in the application form for new voter registration" is contrary to statutory provisions and therefore liable to be declared "void and inoperative".

The plea also prayed for a direction to declare the use of Aadhaar for voter date-of-birth and residence verification as "void and inoperative".

17J6. Supreme Court seeks response from Centre, States on Aadhaar 'misuse' उच्चतम न्यायालय ने आधार के 'दुरुपयोग' पर केंद्र और राज्यों से जवाब माँगा

- **The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre and States on a plea alleging misuse of Aadhaar cards issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) as proof of citizenship, domicile and residence.**

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने मंगलवार को **भारतीय विशिष्ट पहचान प्राधिकरण (UIDAI)** द्वारा जारी **आधार कार्ड** के **नागरिकता**, **अधिवास (Domicile)** तथा **निवास** के प्रमाण के रूप में कथित दुरुपयोग संबंधी याचिका पर **केंद्र** और **राज्य सरकारों** से जवाब मांगा।

- The petition contended that the continued use of Aadhaar for purposes beyond **identity verification** is contrary to **Section 9 of the Aadhaar Act, 2016**, which expressly states that Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or domicile.
  याचिका में तर्क दिया गया कि **पहचान सत्यापन (Identity Verification)** से परे उद्देश्यों के लिए आधार का निरंतर उपयोग **आधार अधिनियम, 2016 की धारा 9** के विपरीत है, जिसमें स्पष्ट रूप से कहा गया है कि आधार **नागरिकता** या **अधिवास** का प्रमाण नहीं है।
- It also relied on an **August 2023 UIDAI notification** clarifying that Aadhaar serves only as proof of identity and cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence or date of birth.
  याचिका में **अगस्त 2023 की UIDAI अधिसूचना** का भी उल्लेख किया गया, जिसमें स्पष्ट किया गया था कि आधार केवल **पहचान का प्रमाण** है और इसे **नागरिकता**, **निवास** अथवा **जन्म तिथि** के प्रमाण के रूप में नहीं माना जा सकता।

Electoral integrity
निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया की अखंडता

- The plea also questioned the use of Aadhaar as proof of date of birth and residence in **Form-6**, the application form for fresh voter registration.
  याचिका में नए मतदाता पंजीकरण हेतु प्रयुक्त **फॉर्म-6** में आधार को **जन्म तिथि** और **निवास प्रमाण** के रूप में स्वीकार किए जाने पर भी प्रश्न उठाया गया।
- "**Aadhaar is not only being used as proof of age, citizenship & domicile for school admission, property purchase, and to obtain birth certificate, ration card, driving licence, but also being used in the application form for new voter registration (Form-6) as proof of date of birth & proof of residence. And thus, infiltrators & illegal immigrants are obtaining various documents using the Aadhaar,**" the plea stated.
  याचिका में कहा गया कि "**आधार का उपयोग केवल स्कूल प्रवेश, संपत्ति खरीद, जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र, राशन कार्ड और ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने के लिए आयु, नागरिकता एवं अधिवास के प्रमाण के रूप में ही नहीं किया जा रहा है, बल्कि नए मतदाता पंजीकरण (फॉर्म-6) में जन्म तिथि और निवास प्रमाण के रूप में भी किया जा रहा है। इस प्रकार, घुसपैठिए और अवैध प्रवासी आधार के माध्यम से विभिन्न दस्तावेज प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।**"
- "**Infiltration is a weapon of political parties to subvert the electoral process for their benefit. West Bengal, Assam and other Northeastern States have been afflicted by cheap political tactics. The infiltrators are helped by either the party in power or the Opposition parties, and are also helped with identity documents such as Aadhaar/ration card. Once they have a plethora of documents, they enrol themselves in the voting list. Thus, the sacrosanct nature of the election process is compromised,**" the plea stated.
  याचिका में कहा गया कि "**घुसपैठ राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा अपने लाभ के लिए निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित करने का एक साधन बन गई है। पश्चिम बंगाल, असम और अन्य पूर्वोत्तर राज्य सस्ती राजनीतिक रणनीतियों से प्रभावित हुए हैं। घुसपैठियों को सत्तारूढ़ या विपक्षी दलों द्वारा सहायता दी जाती है तथा उन्हें आधार और राशन कार्ड जैसे पहचान दस्तावेज उपलब्ध कराए जाते हैं। एक बार पर्याप्त दस्तावेज प्राप्त हो जाने पर वे स्वयं को मतदाता सूची में दर्ज करा लेते हैं। इस प्रकार चुनाव प्रक्रिया की पवित्रता प्रभावित होती है।**"

'Complete overhaul'
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GS II: Governance

Primed to treat

The Kerala story in containing Nipah has lessons for pandemic preparedness

The emergence of a case of the Nipah virus in Kerala and the subsequent control in the State is indicative of two things: first, Kerala's own mix of ecological factors and anthropogenic activity that makes it vulnerable every monsoon season to the possibility of Nipah spreading, the hosts being fruit bats. Second, the fact that there has been just a single case so far is testament to the robustness of the health systems in place in Kerala. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified Nipah a priority pathogen, accounting for its lethality, potential to cause outbreaks, even a pandemic. It is just one of several pathogens that WHO has flagged for Kerala – including avian influenza and Kyasanur Forest Disease. Kerala has, at the moment, one active case of 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara in Kozhikode. He remains on ventilator support at the Kozhikode Government Hospital. No fresh cases have come up since then, after intensive contact tracing and screening. The 2018 Nipah outbreak, immortalised in film and art, which caused 17 deaths, and affected 23 people (18 lab confirmed), spread primarily on person-to-person contact, with the index patient reportedly transmitting the virus to 15 others, including healthcare workers. Since then it has had cases/outbreaks in 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025. Historically in India, a devastating outbreak was noted in 2001 in West Bengal, and later, a few cases were detected again, in 2007. Earlier this year, on January 26, 2026, two laboratory-confirmed cases of Nipah virus infection were reported from West Bengal, both health-care workers. This was also contained and no further cases were reported.

It is clear that human activity on the fringes of forest zones, encroaching into traditional habitats of the fruit bats, has a central role to play in the transmission of the virus; in time, this originally zoonotic infection jumped to humans. Repeatedly, the source of infection has been traced to consuming contaminated fruits, or contact with water sources contaminated by bats. This also indicates that the overall approach should be from a One Health perspective, considering environmental and animal interplays with humans, and not a mere health-care angle. The State's history of Nipah outbreaks and its learnings have enabled it to prime its health system to meet such health emergencies, at the primary and secondary hospitals itself. This is the other lesson from Kerala for pandemic preparedness. Its system has become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion for cases of acute encephalitis; watching out for clusters, and with clinical efficiency, deploying protocols to control further spread and reach all those who need medical assistance.

- Accordingly, the petition sought a **complete overhaul** of the verification framework used in electoral processes and proposed the establishment of a **high-powered monitoring committee** comprising a retired Supreme Court judge along with cybersecurity and forensic experts to oversee reforms.

तदनुसार, याचिका में निर्वाचन प्रक्रियाओं में प्रयुक्त **सत्यापन ढांचे के पूर्ण पुनर्गठन** की मांग की गई तथा सुधारों की निगरानी के लिए एक **उच्चस्तरीय निगरानी समिति** गठित करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया, जिसमें एक सेवानिवृत्त **उच्चतम न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश**, **साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ** तथा **फॉरेंसिक विशेषज्ञ** शामिल हों।

17J6. Primed to treat
उपचार के लिए तैयार

- The emergence of a case of the **Nipah virus** in **Kerala** and the subsequent control in the State is indicative of two things: first, Kerala's own mix of **ecological factors** and **anthropogenic activity** that makes it vulnerable every monsoon season to the possibility of Nipah spreading, the hosts being **fruit bats**.

केरल में **निपाह वायरस** के एक मामले का सामने आना और उसके बाद राज्य में उस पर नियंत्रण स्थापित किया जाना दो बातों का संकेत देता है: पहली, केरल में मौजूद **पारिस्थितिकीय कारकों** और **मानवजनित गतिविधियों** का ऐसा मिश्रण, जो प्रत्येक मानसून ऋतु में **फलाहारी चमगादड़ों** द्वारा निपाह के प्रसार की संभावना के प्रति इसे संवेदनशील बनाता है।

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has classified **Nipah** a **priority pathogen**, accounting for its lethality, potential to cause outbreaks, even a pandemic.

विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) ने **निपाह** को एक **प्राथमिकता प्राप्त रोगजनक** के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया है, क्योंकि यह अत्यधिक घातक है तथा प्रकोप और यहाँ तक कि महामारी उत्पन्न करने की क्षमता रखता है।

- It is just one of several pathogens that **WHO** has flagged for Kerala — including **avian influenza** and **Kyasanur Forest Disease**.

यह उन अनेक रोगजनकों में से एक है जिनके प्रति **WHO** ने केरल को सतर्क किया है, जिनमें **एवियन इन्फ्लुएंजा** और **क्यासानूर वन रोग** भी शामिल हैं।

- It is clear that **human activity** on the fringes of **forest zones**, encroaching into traditional habitats of the **fruit bats**, has a central role to play in the transmission of the virus; in time, this originally **zoonotic infection** jumped to humans.

यह स्पष्ट है कि **वन क्षेत्रों** की सीमाओं पर होने वाली **मानवीय गतिविधियाँ**, जो **फलाहारी चमगादड़ों** के पारंपरिक आवासों में अतिक्रमण करती हैं, वायरस के प्रसार में केंद्रीय भूमिका निभाती हैं; समय के साथ यह मूलतः **जन्तुजन्य संक्रमण** मनुष्यों में फैल गया।

- Repeatedly, the source of infection has been traced to consuming **contaminated fruits**, or contact with **water sources** contaminated by bats.

बार-बार संक्रमण के स्रोत को **दूषित फलों** के सेवन अथवा चमगादड़ों द्वारा दूषित किए गए **जल स्रोतों** के संपर्क से जोड़ा गया है।

- This also indicates that the overall approach should be from a **One Health perspective**, considering **environmental** and **animal** interplays with humans, and not a mere **health-care** angle.

यह भी इंगित करता है कि समग्र दृष्टिकोण **वन हेल्थ परिप्रेक्ष्य** पर आधारित होना चाहिए, जिसमें मनुष्यों के साथ **पर्यावरणीय** और **पशु-संबंधी** अंतःक्रियाओं को भी ध्यान में रखा जाए, न कि केवल **स्वास्थ्य सेवा** के दृष्टिकोण को।

- Its system has become adept at maintaining a high index of suspicion for cases of **acute encephalitis**; watching out for **clusters**, and with **clinical efficiency**, deploying protocols to control further spread and reach all those who need medical assistance.
  इसकी प्रणाली **तीव्र मस्तिष्कशोथ (Acute Encephalitis)** के मामलों के प्रति उच्च स्तर की सतर्कता बनाए रखने, संभावित **समूहगत मामलों (Clusters)** पर निगरानी रखने तथा **नैदानिक दक्षता** के साथ ऐसे प्रोटोकॉल लागू करने में सक्षम हो गई है, जो संक्रमण के आगे प्रसार को नियंत्रित करें और चिकित्सा सहायता की आवश्यकता वाले सभी लोगों तक पहुँच सुनिश्चित करें।

Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and Kyasanur Forest Disease

- These are both **zoonotic diseases** (diseases transmitted from animals to humans), but they differ significantly in their causative agents, reservoirs, transmission, and geographical distribution.

Feature	Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)	Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD)
Causative Agent	Influenza A virus (commonly H5N1, H5N8, H7N9)	Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV), a Flavivirus
Disease Type	Viral respiratory disease	Viral hemorrhagic fever
Reservoir	Wild aquatic birds (ducks, geese, migratory birds)	Small mammals, rodents, shrews; monkeys act as amplifying hosts
Vector	No vector; direct transmission from infected birds	Tick-borne disease (mainly *Haemaphysalis* ticks)
Transmission to Humans	Contact with infected birds, poultry, droppings, contaminated surfaces	Bite of infected ticks or contact with infected animals
Human-to-Human Transmission	Very rare	Not known to occur
Main Symptoms	Fever, cough, sore throat, pneumonia, respiratory distress	High fever, headache, muscle pain, bleeding tendencies, weakness
Mortality	**Can be high in severe strains like H5N1**	**Around 3–10%**

Geographical Distribution	Worldwide, especially along migratory bird routes	Endemic mainly in Western Ghats region of India
Vaccine Availability	Poultry vaccines available; limited human vaccines	KFD vaccine available in endemic areas of India

Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week

Water-secure cities require a combination of clear and transparent emergency planning, systematic reduction of water losses through leak repairs, collective efforts to curb demand, strong safeguards to ensure water quality during shortages, and better management and reuse of wastewater

GS II: Governance

Manish Dubey
K.V. Santhosh Ragavan

Urban India's water emergency is no longer a future risk. It has become the normal of our summers. From high-rises anxiously tracking tanker schedules to informal settlements queuing at a single standpost, every year brings the same mix of dry taps, frayed tempers, and quiet resignation.

This summer, residents in parts of New Delhi have already faced days without piped water supply and large families have had to make do with just one 20-litre water can for a day. The Delhi Jal Board has reportedly planned to deploy more than 1,000 tankers to manage the crisis. Similar scenes have played out in other major cities, including Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, over the last few summers.

Unfortunately, India still treats this as a seasonal inconvenience to endure until the clouds arrive.

Most cities source their water from reservoirs, groundwater or a combination of both. The annual summer water shortage however is the result of choices made over years. Cities have grown faster than their systems. Lakes and tanks have been built over. People are consuming groundwater faster than it can be replenished.

Cities often focus on finding new water sources instead of fixing and maintaining existing networks. Choices around development planning and control, enforcement of groundwater regulations, water use and wastewater management, made by all – from every individual to service providers to policymakers – shape the experience each summer.

Many cities have moved from nearby rivers and lakes to distant sources and rapidly depleting groundwater, sinking more borewells and laying longer pipelines. What looks like a sudden shortage is often the result of this slow erosion of local buffers. At the same time, lakes, tanks, ponds and stormwater channels that once softened both floods and droughts have been encroached upon or converted, so a few hours of intense rain can flood streets and, a few weeks later, the same city is again queuing for tankers.

Beyond short-term coping

For many residents, especially in poorer settlements and smaller towns, the crisis is also about quality. Intermittent supply, leaky pipes, and unsafe storage mean that even when water arrives, it may not be safe to drink. The familiar scenes of tankers, angry protests, and frantic borewell drilling are therefore not one-offs. They are symptoms of a chronic condition that shows up in illness, lost workdays and mounting bills.

If we accept this, we will also realise that coping from week to week is no longer enough.

First, every city needs an honest and public emergency water plan. Residents should not have to rely on rumours to know what is happening. A basic plan would identify the most vulnerable wards and critical facilities, set simple rules for how water will be prioritised when supplies are tight such as duration and frequency of supply to enable better tail end distribution, and commit to regular public updates on storage levels and expected supply. Where such information is shared clearly, it manages expectations and reduces grievances; this is less about technology than about treating information as part of the service.

Second, a concerted effort must be made to recover water that is already in the system but never reaches the taps. Instead of announcing distant, expensive new sources, cities can launch a time-bound 'leak hunt' in the worst-affected zones: walk key stretches of the network, fix visible leaks quickly, use simple tools to detect hidden ones, and set a short-term target for cutting losses. In systems where a large share – nearly 30% – of water is lost before it reaches users, even modest reductions in a few high-loss areas is equivalent to creating a new local source without building a new pipeline.

Third, government buildings, big campuses and commercial complexes are among the steadiest consumers of water. And a quick internal audit, basic leak repairs, and simple efficiency measures over the next month can free up meaningful volumes and set an example. Neighbourhoods and resident groups can agree on clear norms for peak months, limiting non-essential uses, tracking weekly consumption and asking tanker suppliers where they draw their water from – while local leaders in low-income areas help authorities see how supply actually reaches their lanes.

Fourth, any emergency response must include water quality: rapid testing in high-risk neighbourhoods and tanker water supply, temporary support for basic treatment where problems are found, and simple communication about safe storage.

Finally, water security cannot be achieved without improving how we manage used-water. Measures to reduce leaks in water pipelines should also be used on sewer networks to identify and stop major sewage exfiltration and prevent contamination.

Not a single solution

Quick, low-cost upgrades to used-water treatment plants such as, optimising aeration, de-weeding, and desludging, can further reduce pollution and help augment available surface- and ground-water resources.

No single measure will pull Indian cities out of their water emergency. Together, however, they can directly address the summer's pain points: unpredictability, waste, inequity, and illness.

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17J6. Five solutions Indian cities need, to stop fighting for water week after week

भारतीय शहरों को बार-बार जल संकट से जूझने से रोकने के लिए पाँच समाधान आवश्यक

- **Water-secure cities** require a combination of clear and transparent **emergency planning**, systematic reduction of **water losses** through **leak repairs**, collective efforts to curb **demand**, strong safeguards to ensure **water quality** during shortages, and better management and reuse of **wastewater**.
  Fourth, any emergency response must include water quality: rapid testing in high-risk neighbourhoods and tanker water supply, temporary support for basic treatment where problems are found, and simple communication about safe storage.

चतुर्थ, किसी भी आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया में जल गुणवत्ता को शामिल करना आवश्यक है; उच्च जोखिम वाले क्षेत्रों तथा टैंकर जलापूर्ति का त्वरित परीक्षण, समस्या मिलने पर मूलभूत उपचार के लिए अस्थायी सहायता तथा सुरक्षित भंडारण के संबंध में सरल जनसंचार किया जाना चाहिए।

- **Finally, water security cannot be achieved without improving how we manage used-water.**
  अंततः, उपयोग किए गए जल के प्रबंधन में सुधार किए बिना जल सुरक्षा प्राप्त नहीं की जा सकती।

- Quick, low-cost upgrades to **used-water treatment plants** such as optimising **aeration**, **de-weeding**, and **desludging**, can further reduce pollution and help augment available **surface-water** and **groundwater resources**.
  अपशिष्ट जल शोधन संयंत्रों में **वातन (Aeration)** का अनुकूलन, **खरपतवार निष्कासन (De-weeding)** तथा **गाद निष्कासन (Desludging)** जैसे त्वरित और कम लागत वाले उन्नयन प्रदूषण को और कम कर सकते हैं तथा उपलब्ध **सतही जल** एवं **भूजल संसाधनों** को बढ़ाने में सहायता कर सकते हैं।

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TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	**IORA examining Canada's request to be observer** **हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) कनाडा के पर्यवेक्षक बनने के अनुरोध की समीक्षा कर रहा है**
17J6	**Limits of America** **अमेरिका की सीमाएँ**
17J6	**A nation determined to endure and overcome** **एक राष्ट्र जो दृढ़तापूर्वक टिके रहने और चुनौतियों पर विजय प्राप्त करने के लिए संकल्पित है**
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PATRIOTIC IAS

IORA examining Canada's request to be observer

GS II: IR

Saptaparno Ghosh
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Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told *The Hindu* on Monday.

"Canada has made an application to become a dialogue partner of the organisation, and it is being examined at this meeting," he said.

Mr. Ranjan added member states could benefit from Canada's potential inclusion into the fold considering its expertise in varied maritime domains.

"They [Canada] are a big maritime power because of the huge coastal zones they have, they also have various initiatives and expertise in maritime safety, security and connectivity, among other areas, which would be of help to other member states of the organisation," he said.

Sanjiv Ranjan

Mr. Ranjan welcomed the potential peace deal between Iran and the U.S. that could end more than 100 days of hostilities in the Strait of Hormuz.

"It is a welcome thing that we may have an agreement by the end of this week as has been reported," he said.

Listing out priorities in the Indian Ocean, Mr. Ranjan said disaster response and mitigation remain a priority for IORA. He said the adverse impact of climate change would be "disproportionate" in the Indian Ocean. "Therefore, we must be ready in dealing with that," he said.

17J6. IORA examining Canada's request to be observer

हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) कनाडा के पर्यवेक्षक बनने के अनुरोध की समीक्षा कर रहा है

- **Canada's application to become an observer in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) "is being examined" at the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials being held in New Delhi, Sanjiv Ranjan, IORA's Secretary-General, told The Hindu on Monday.**

हिंद महासागर रिम संघ (IORA) में **पर्यवेक्षक (Observer)** बनने के लिए **कनाडा** के आवेदन की "जांच की जा रही है", यह जानकारी **IORA के महासचिव संजीव रंजन** ने सोमवार को *द हिंदू* को दी। यह विषय **नई दिल्ली** में आयोजित **वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की समिति (Committee of Senior Officials)** की **28वीं बैठक** में विचाराधीन है।

- "**Canada has made an application to become a dialogue partner of the organisation, and it is being examined at this meeting,**" he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "**कनाडा ने संगठन का संवाद भागीदार (Dialogue Partner) बनने के लिए आवेदन किया है और इस बैठक में उस पर विचार किया जा रहा है।**"

- Mr. Ranjan added member states could benefit from Canada's potential inclusion into the fold considering its expertise in varied **maritime domains**.

श्री रंजन ने कहा कि विभिन्न **समुद्री क्षेत्रों (Maritime Domains)** में कनाडा की विशेषज्ञता को देखते हुए उसके संभावित शामिल होने से सदस्य देशों को लाभ हो सकता है।

- "**They [Canada] are a big maritime power because of the huge coastal zones they have, they also have various initiatives and expertise in maritime safety, security and connectivity, among other areas, which would be of help to other member states of the organisation,**" he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "**कनाडा एक प्रमुख समुद्री शक्ति है क्योंकि उसके पास विशाल तटीय क्षेत्र हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त, उसके पास समुद्री सुरक्षा, संरक्षा, संपर्कता तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में अनेक पहलें और विशेषज्ञता हैं, जो संगठन के अन्य सदस्य देशों के लिए उपयोगी सिद्ध होंगी।**"

- Mr. Ranjan welcomed the potential **peace deal** between **Iran** and the **U.S.** that could end more than **100 days of hostilities** in the **Strait of Hormuz**.

श्री रंजन ने **ईरान** और **अमेरिका** के बीच संभावित **शांति समझौते** का स्वागत किया, जिससे **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य (Strait of Hormuz)** में **100 दिनों से अधिक समय से जारी शत्रुता** समाप्त हो सकती है।

- "**It is a welcome thing that we may have an agreement by the end of this week as has been reported,**" he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "**यह स्वागतयोग्य बात है कि रिपोर्टों के अनुसार इस सप्ताह के अंत तक एक समझौता हो सकता है।**"

- Listing out priorities in the **Indian Ocean**, Mr. Ranjan said **disaster response and mitigation** remain a priority for IORA.
  हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र की प्राथमिकताओं का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री रंजन ने कहा कि **आपदा प्रतिक्रिया (Disaster Response)** और **आपदा शमन (Mitigation)** IORA की प्रमुख प्राथमिकताओं में बने हुए हैं।
- He said the adverse impact of **climate change** would be "**disproportionate**" in the Indian Ocean.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **जलवायु परिवर्तन** का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र में "**असमानुपातिक रूप से अधिक (Disproportionate)**" होगा।
- "**Therefore, we must be ready in dealing with that,**" he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**इसलिए हमें उससे निपटने के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।**"

GS II: IR

Limits of America

Iran won the war by merely denying the United States a victory

Israel and the U.S. launched their war on Iran on February 28 to bring about regime change in Tehran, destroy its nuclear and missile capabilities and end its support for non-state actors such as Hamas, Hezbollah and Houthis. More than 100 days later, on June 15, the U.S. reached a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran to end fighting, lift the blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman – disruptions that did not exist before the war – and pave the way for more substantive talks on the nuclear question, while Israel, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines. That U.S. President Donald Trump pushed ahead despite Israeli objection underscores how dramatically the region's strategic landscape has shifted. Left with few viable military options to make Iran submit to America's maximalist demands, or to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, Mr. Trump ultimately turned to a phased diplomatic approach: a preliminary agreement now, followed by negotiations on a final deal. Iranian officials say the arrangement would include the release of some frozen assets and reparations for Tehran as part of a broader regional ceasefire agreement. Core issues such as Iran's nuclear programme and western sanctions would be discussed next.

The MoU is only the first step on a long and difficult road to peace and stability. Mr. Trump's immediate challenge is to prevent a fresh outbreak of hostilities between the U.S. and Iran, or Israel and Iran, while nuclear negotiations remain under way. His biggest strategic mistake was his belief, shared by Israel, that there was a military solution to the Iranian nuclear issue. Washington underestimated Iran's resolve, strategic depth and geographical advantages. As Henry Kissinger put it, "the guerrilla wins if he does not lose". Iran won this war by not losing while the U.S., the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals. With the nuclear talks set to resume, Mr. Trump finds himself in a weaker position today than the one Barack Obama occupied when he held talks with Iran in 2013-15. Nevertheless, the prospects for a negotiated outcome are still real as Iran urgently needs long-term economic relief. One potential disruptor, however, could be Israel, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied Southern Lebanon. Iran and the U.S. should rein in their respective allies, Hezbollah and Israel; Tehran should also take measures to instil confidence in the process. It has already demonstrated its deterrence by taking control of the Strait of Hormuz. It must now reopen the waterway in exchange for the U.S. removing its blockade. Iran and the U.S. should remain focused on diplomacy, resist potential Israeli efforts to sabotage the process, and work towards restoring stability in West Asia.

17J6. Limits of America
अमेरिका की सीमाएँ

- **Israel** and the **U.S.** launched their war on **Iran** on February 28 to bring about **regime change** in **Tehran**, destroy its **nuclear** and **missile capabilities** and end its support for **non-state actors** such as **Hamas**, **Hezbollah** and **Houthis**.

इज़राइल और **अमेरिका** ने 28 फरवरी को **ईरान** के विरुद्ध युद्ध प्रारम्भ किया, जिसका उद्देश्य **तेहरान** में **शासन परिवर्तन** लाना, उसकी **परमाणु** एवं **मिसाइल क्षमताओं** को नष्ट करना तथा **हमास**, **हिज़्बुल्लाह** और **हूती** जैसे **गैर-राज्यीय अभिनेताओं** को दिए जा रहे उसके समर्थन को समाप्त करना था।

- More than **100 days** later, on June 15, the **U.S.** reached a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Iran** to end fighting, lift the blockades in the **Strait of Hormuz** and the **Gulf of Oman** — disruptions that did not exist before the war — and pave the way for more substantive talks on the **nuclear question**, while **Israel**, frustrated and isolated, is watching from the sidelines.

100 दिनों से अधिक समय बाद, 15 जून को, **अमेरिका** ने **ईरान** के साथ एक **समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** किया, जिसका उद्देश्य संघर्ष समाप्त करना, **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** और **ओमान की खाड़ी** में लगाए गए अवरोधों को हटाना — जो युद्ध से पूर्व अस्तित्व में नहीं थे — तथा **परमाणु मुद्दे** पर अधिक सार्थक वार्ताओं का मार्ग प्रशस्त करना था, जबकि निराश और अलग-थलग पड़ा **इज़राइल** किनारे से यह सब देख रहा है।

- **Iranian officials** say the arrangement would include the release of some **frozen assets** and **reparations** for **Tehran** as part of a broader regional **ceasefire agreement**.

ईरानी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि इस व्यवस्था में **तेहरान** के लिए कुछ **जमे हुए परिसंपत्तियों** की रिहाई और **क्षतिपूर्ति** भी शामिल होगी, जो एक व्यापक क्षेत्रीय **युद्धविराम समझौते** का हिस्सा होगी।

- **Washington** underestimated **Iran's** resolve, strategic depth and geographical advantages.

वॉशिंगटन ने **ईरान** के संकल्प, रणनीतिक गहराई और भौगोलिक लाभों को कम करके आँका।

- As **Henry Kissinger** put it, "the guerrilla wins if he does not lose".

जैसा कि **हेनरी किसिंजर** ने कहा था, "गुरिल्ला तब जीतता है जब वह हारता नहीं है।"

- **Iran** won this war by not losing while the **U.S.**, the most powerful country, lost it by failing to achieve its goals.

ईरान ने यह युद्ध हारने से बचकर जीता, जबकि विश्व की सबसे शक्तिशाली शक्ति **अमेरिका** अपने उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहकर हार गया।

- One potential disruptor, however, could be **Israel**, which has said it would not withdraw from occupied **Southern Lebanon**.
  हालाँकि, एक संभावित बाधा **इज़राइल** हो सकता है, जिसने कहा है कि वह कब्जे वाले **दक्षिणी लेबनान** से पीछे नहीं हटेगा।
- **Iran** and the **U.S.** should rein in their respective allies, **Hezbollah** and **Israel**; **Tehran** should also take measures to instil confidence in the process.
  ईरान और **अमेरिका** को अपने-अपने सहयोगियों, **हिज़्बुल्लाह** और **इज़राइल**, को नियंत्रित करना चाहिए; साथ ही **तेहरान** को भी इस प्रक्रिया में विश्वास उत्पन्न करने हेतु कदम उठाने चाहिए।
- It has already demonstrated its **deterrence** by taking control of the **Strait of Hormuz**.
  वह **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** पर नियंत्रण स्थापित करके अपनी **निरोधक क्षमता** का प्रदर्शन पहले ही कर चुका है।

A nation determined to endure and overcome

GS II: IR: West Asia

Hamid Ansari
Former Vice-President of India

The history of Iran is replete with paradoxes and exceptions. It is a land of great contrasts both in climate and geography and is inhabited by, in the words of an ancient historian, "a poor people with a proud spirit." Given its location, the Iranian people and its rulers have interacted with its neighbouring states throughout history both as their oppressors and as victims.

Over the past two centuries, Iran has oscillated between extremes as the country searched for a viable response to the multiple challenges of Western style modernity. Under the Qajar and Pahlavi dynasties, it sought for an emulation of all things Western until the Islamic Revolution of 1979 reversed the trend and brought forth a new prototype.

The decline of the Shah

The discovery of oil in the country in 1901 had led to the formation of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC) with the British government holding almost half its shares. However, post World War II, its nationalisation in 1953 resulted in tensions with Western powers, which led to the active involvement of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) in overthrowing the then Mosaddeq government. The U.S. then became the deciding factor in resolving the Anglo-Iranian nationalisation dispute.

Developments in the global oil market saw Iranian oil revenues increase from $2 billion to $20 billion in 1974. This resulted in poorly conceived and badly implemented programmes of socio-economic and military modernisation by the Shah; his so-called White Revolution (a series of reforms to modernise Iran) and 'Great Civilisation' projects (highlighted by the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy) were not successful and were widely resented within Iran. The major sources of opposition were political organisations from both the left and the right; pro-democracy reformists; merchants and bazaaris; and the *ulema* (recognised scholars of Islam).

In addition, and despite "parallelism of interests" between the two countries, the presence of Americans everywhere was resented by the Iranian public. As James Bill put it in his book *The Eagle and the Lion*, "the very best and very worst of America were on display in the cities of Iran." In the 1970s, according to a contemporary observer, "the political culture of the Shah's regime both became more repressive and hardened on the one hand, and more remote and attenuated on the other." The subsequent 'progress' in U.S.-Iran relations emanated from wrong policies, misunderstandings and cultural misperceptions. These together contributed to the U.S. becoming in the eyes of Iran, the 'Great Satan'.

In the 1970s, the U.S. actually encouraged Iran to develop nuclear power arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil

Also in the 1970s, the U.S. encouraged Iran to develop nuclear power arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil. The Shah also periodically hinted that he wanted Iran to build nuclear weapons and, in response to official denials, said Iran "has no intention of acquiring [them] but if small states began building them, then Iran might to reconsider its policy." U.S. documents of that period suggest that it was in the U.S.'s national interest, both with respect to the economy and security, to have Iran acquire nuclear power.

However, by the end of 1977, the Shah had alienated the *ulema*, estranged the merchants, and created a poor and deracinated working class in Tehran. He had also alienated many of the educated middle-class through his oppressive policies and human rights abuses. As alternatives, radical intellectuals such as Ali Shariati propagated the ideology of 'Red Shiism' (a reinterpretation of Shi'a Islam as an active, classless movement for social justice). The Marxists were also active as the Tudeh party before being suppressed. But separately, and with greater impact and influence, Ayatollah Khomeini was advocating for the *Vilayat-e-Faqih* (Regency of the Islamic Jurist).

The revolution of 1979 was not primarily a religious event though it drew strength from its Shia form. It was sustained by middle-class disillusionment with corruption and economic stagnation. The process of Islamisation of the state and society commenced with a national referendum in March 1979 and gradually enveloped the institutions and practices of the state.

Post the revolution

In November 1979, prompted by news that the former Shah was being given asylum in the U.S., students broke into the U.S. embassy in Tehran and took the diplomats hostage. A laudatory account of that episode, which had far-reaching consequences, was written by one of its women student leaders Massoumeh Ebtekar. In an interview to a U.S. scholar about the hostages, Ms. Ebtekar said "it is very difficult to compare the suffering that the Iranian nation felt during fifty years of foreign domination and comparing that to the suffering or pain that may have faced during these 444 days."

Final resolution: An Iranian man rides a scooter past anti-U.S. banners placed outside the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, Iran on June 15. AFP

This sudden and sharp decline in U.S.-Iran relations changed the global picture as seen from Washington. Regional tranquillity was further shattered when Iraq disowned the 1975 Algiers Treaty and invaded Iran in 1980 at different points of their common border. The seven-year war, from 1980 to 1987, unleashed by Iraq became for Iran a defence of its national territory. It transformed from a border war on Iran's western borders in the first two years to becoming a full-fledged war extending into the interior cities. It became an inescapable fact of life in Iran and merged into the consciousness of the public.

Iraq was assisted in the war by most Arab countries as well as by the U.S. Each had its own reasons to be apprehensive of Iran's revolutionary agenda emphasised in Khomeini's pronouncement that "there is only one way to save this revolution and that is to rapidly export the revolution, mobilise the world's Muslims and, later on all oppressed masses against the oppressors and governments related to them".

The role of Israel

Israel covertly assisted Iran, viewing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as the more severe, existential threat. This pragmatism overrode the ideological hostility against the newly established Islamic Republic and resulted in a crucial, multi-faceted role for Israel. The country became one of Iran's primary sources of military equipment, covertly providing desperately needed spare parts, ammunition, and heavy weapons. In 1980, it secretly supplied Iran with hundreds of spare tires to keep its grounded American-made F-4 Phantom fighter jets operational. In exchange for covert arms sales, Israel received Iranian crude oil. This helped Israel bypass the severe energy shortages caused by the 1979 oil crisis, while allowing Iran to sustain its war effort. It also provided Israel's domestic defence industry with valuable combat-testing data for its weapons.

Israeli policymakers believed that a strong and well-supplied Iran would successfully bog down Saddam Hussein's military, preventing Iraq from posing a threat to its neighbours or Israel itself. By ensuring that the two most hostile regional powers spent eight years depleting each other's military, economic, and human resources, the conflict provided Israel with a highly valuable "strategic breather". It also, at times, helped facilitate the safe and unhindered emigration of the Persian Jewish community out of Iran.

The war gave the revolutionary authorities of Iran an opportunity to weaken the Iranian national army of the Shah's period and to create instead the 'Sepahe-e-Pasdaran' or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It went from strength to strength during the war, numbering around 1 million while the regular armed forces numbered around 3,55,000.

Iran's determination

Iran showed considerable ingenuity in meeting the challenge of Iraq-Iran war. It reduced the import of non-essentials and managed to keep its oil flowing despite periodic air attacks. It diversified sources of arms supply and capitalised on the support of the masses for the war while squeezing the well to do and the bazaaris. The war to all intents and purposes became the sole criterion for judging the Islamic Republic.

There was some public opposition to the conduct of the war such as from the Islamic Liberation Movement, co-founded by former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, which labelled the continuation of the war as 'un-Islamic'. Separately, reports indicative of 'chronic disorder of governance' have appeared in publications close to the establishment, suggesting 'prolonged ambiguity' in decision-making.

The Iranian tenacity during the Iraq war, and in the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict, is evidence enough of its capacity and determination to endure and overcome adversity. Iran has asserted its place in the region and is not oblivious of it in the world of tomorrow.

17J6. A nation determined to endure and overcome
एक राष्ट्र जो दृढ़तापूर्वक टिके रहने और चुनौतियों पर विजय प्राप्त करने के लिए संकल्पित है

- It is a land of great contrasts both in **climate** and **geography** and is inhabited by, in the words of an ancient historian, "a poor people with a proud spirit."
  यह **जलवायु** और **भूगोल** दोनों दृष्टियों से अत्यधिक विविधताओं वाला देश है और, एक प्राचीन इतिहासकार के शब्दों में, यहाँ "गरीब किन्तु गौरवशाली आत्मा वाले लोग" निवास करते हैं।
- Under the **Qajar** and **Pahlavi dynasties**, it sought for an emulation of all things Western until the **Islamic Revolution of 1979** reversed the trend and brought forth a new prototype.
  क़ाजार और **पहलवी वंशों** के शासनकाल में उसने पश्चिमी जीवनशैली और संस्थाओं का अनुकरण करने का

प्रयास किया, जब तक कि **1979 की इस्लामी क्रांति** ने इस प्रवृत्ति को उलटकर एक नए प्रतिमान को जन्म नहीं दिया।

The decline of the Shah
शाह का पतन

- The discovery of **oil** in the country in **1901** had led to the formation of the **Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC)** with the **British government** holding almost half its shares.
  1901 में देश में **तेल** की खोज के परिणामस्वरूप **एंग्लो-ईरानियन ऑयल कंपनी (AIOC)** की स्थापना हुई, जिसमें **ब्रिटिश सरकार** की लगभग आधी हिस्सेदारी थी।
- However, post **World War II**, its **nationalisation** in **1953** resulted in tensions with **Western powers**, which led to the active involvement of the **CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)** in overthrowing the then **Mosaddeq government**.
  किन्तु **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद **1953** में इसके **राष्ट्रीयकरण** से **पश्चिमी शक्तियों** के साथ तनाव उत्पन्न हुआ, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **CIA (केंद्रीय गुप्तचर एजेंसी)** ने तत्कालीन **मोसद्देक सरकार** को अपदस्थ करने में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई।
- The **U.S.** then became the deciding factor in resolving the **Anglo-Iranian nationalisation dispute**.
  इसके बाद **अमेरिका एंग्लो-ईरानियन राष्ट्रीयकरण विवाद** के समाधान में निर्णायक कारक बन गया।
- This resulted in poorly conceived and badly implemented programmes of **socio-economic** and **military modernisation** by the **Shah**; his so-called **White Revolution** (a series of reforms to modernise Iran) and **'Great Civilisation' projects** (highlighted by the 2,500th anniversary of the Iranian monarchy) were not successful and were widely resented within Iran.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **शाह** द्वारा **सामाजिक-आर्थिक** और **सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण** के ऐसे कार्यक्रम शुरू किए गए जो कमजोर योजना और खराब क्रियान्वयन से ग्रस्त थे; उनकी तथाकथित **श्वेत क्रांति (White Revolution)** तथा **'ग्रेट सिविलाइजेशन' परियोजनाएँ** (जिन्हें ईरानी राजशाही की 2500वीं वर्षगांठ के अवसर पर विशेष रूप से प्रदर्शित किया गया) सफल नहीं रहीं और ईरान में व्यापक असंतोष का कारण बनीं।
- The major sources of opposition were **political organisations** from both the left and the right; **pro-democracy reformists**; **merchants and bazaaris**; and the **ulema** (recognised scholars of Islam).
  विरोध के प्रमुख स्रोतों में वामपंथी और दक्षिणपंथी **राजनीतिक संगठन**, **लोकतंत्र समर्थक सुधारवादी**, **व्यापारी और बाज़ारी वर्ग**, तथा **उलेमा** (इस्लाम के मान्यता प्राप्त विद्वान) शामिल थे।
- In the **1970s**, according to a contemporary observer, "the **political culture** of the Shah's regime both became more **repressive** and hardened on the one hand, and more remote and attenuated on the other."
  1970 के दशक में, एक समकालीन पर्यवेक्षक के अनुसार, शाह शासन की **राजनीतिक संस्कृति** एक ओर अधिक **दमनकारी** और कठोर होती गई, जबकि दूसरी ओर जनता से अधिक दूर और कमजोर पड़ती गई।
- The subsequent 'progress' in **U.S.-Iran relations** emanated from wrong policies, misunderstandings and **cultural misperceptions**.
  इसके बाद **अमेरिका-ईरान संबंधों** में जो तथाकथित 'प्रगति' हुई, वह गलत नीतियों, भ्रांतियों और **सांस्कृतिक गलत धारणाओं** से प्रभावित थी।
- These together contributed to the **U.S.** becoming in the eyes of **Iran**, the **'Great Satan'**.
  इन सभी कारणों ने मिलकर **ईरान** की दृष्टि में **अमेरिका** को **'महान शैतान' (Great Satan)** बना दिया।
- Also in the **1970s**, the **U.S.** encouraged **Iran** to develop **nuclear power** arguing that the country would eventually run out of oil.
  1970 के दशक में ही **अमेरिका** ने **ईरान** को **परमाणु ऊर्जा** विकसित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया, यह तर्क देते हुए कि भविष्य में देश का तेल समाप्त हो सकता है।

- The **Shah** also periodically hinted that he wanted **Iran** to build **nuclear weapons** and, in response to official denials, said Iran "has no intention of acquiring [them] but if small states began building them, then Iran might reconsider its policy."
  शाह समय-समय पर यह संकेत भी देते थे कि वे **ईरान** को **परमाणु हथियार** संपन्न बनाना चाहते हैं और आधिकारिक खंडनों के उत्तर में उन्होंने कहा था कि ईरान "उन्हें प्राप्त करने का कोई इरादा नहीं रखता, किन्तु यदि छोटे राष्ट्र उनका निर्माण प्रारंभ करते हैं, तो ईरान अपनी नीति पर पुनर्विचार कर सकता है।"
- **U.S. documents** of that period suggest that it was in the **U.S.'s national interest**, both with respect to the **economy** and **security**, to have **Iran acquire nuclear power**.
  उस समय के **अमेरिकी दस्तावेज़** संकेत देते हैं कि **अर्थव्यवस्था** और **सुरक्षा** दोनों दृष्टियों से **ईरान को परमाणु ऊर्जा क्षमता प्राप्त करना अमेरिका के राष्ट्रीय हित** में माना जाता था।
- However, by the end of **1977**, the **Shah** had alienated the **ulema**, estranged the **merchants**, and created a poor and **deracinated working class** in **Tehran**.
  हालाँकि, **1977** के अंत तक **शाह** ने **उलेमा** को अपने से दूर कर दिया था, **व्यापारियों** को अलग-थलग कर दिया था और **तेहरान** में एक गरीब तथा **जड़ों से कटे हुए श्रमिक वर्ग** का निर्माण कर दिया था।
- As alternatives, radical intellectuals such as **Ali Shariati** propagated the ideology of **'Red Shiism'** (a reinterpretation of **Shi'a Islam** as an active, classless movement for **social justice**).
  वैकल्पिक विचारधारा के रूप में **अली शरियती** जैसे क्रांतिकारी बुद्धिजीवियों ने **'रेड शियावाद (Red Shiism)'** की विचारधारा का प्रचार किया, जिसमें **शिया इस्लाम** की पुनर्व्याख्या **सामाजिक न्याय** के लिए सक्रिय और वर्गहीन आंदोलन के रूप में की गई।
- But separately, and with greater impact and influence, **Ayatollah Khomeini** was advocating for the **Vilayat-e-Faqih** (**Regency of the Islamic Jurist**).
  किन्तु अलग रूप से और अधिक प्रभाव तथा प्रभावशीलता के साथ **आयतुल्लाह खुमैनी विलायत-ए-फ़क़ीह** (**इस्लामी न्यायविद् की संरक्षकता**) की अवधारणा का समर्थन कर रहे थे।
- The **revolution of 1979** was not primarily a religious event though it drew strength from its **Shia** form.
  1979 की क्रांति मुख्य रूप से धार्मिक घटना नहीं थी, यद्यपि उसे अपने **शिया स्वरूप** से शक्ति प्राप्त हुई थी।
- It was sustained by **middle-class disillusionment** with **corruption** and **economic stagnation**.
  इसे **भ्रष्टाचार** और **आर्थिक ठहराव** के प्रति **मध्यवर्गीय मोहभंग** से निरंतर समर्थन मिला।
- The process of **Islamisation** of the state and society commenced with a **national referendum** in **March 1979** and gradually enveloped the institutions and practices of the state.
  राज्य और समाज के **इस्लामीकरण** की प्रक्रिया **मार्च 1979** में आयोजित **राष्ट्रीय जनमत-संग्रह** से प्रारम्भ हुई और धीरे-धीरे राज्य की संस्थाओं तथा कार्यप्रणालियों को अपने प्रभाव में लेती गई।

- Regional tranquillity was further shattered when **Iraq** disowned the **1975 Algiers Treaty** and invaded **Iran** in **1980** at different points of their common border.
  क्षेत्रीय शांति को और अधिक आघात तब पहुँचा जब **इराक** ने **1975 की अल्जीयर्स संधि** को अस्वीकार कर दिया और **1980** में साझा सीमा के विभिन्न बिंदुओं पर **ईरान** पर आक्रमण कर दिया।
- The seven-year war, from **1980 to 1987**, unleashed by **Iraq** became for **Iran** a defence of its national territory.
  1980 से 1987 तक चला सात वर्षीय युद्ध, जिसे **इराक** ने प्रारम्भ किया था, **ईरान** के लिए अपने राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र की रक्षा का युद्ध बन गया।
- It transformed from a **border war** on Iran's western borders in the first two years to becoming a **full-fledged war** extending into the interior cities.
  यह प्रारंभिक दो वर्षों में ईरान की पश्चिमी सीमाओं तक सीमित **सीमावर्ती युद्ध** से विकसित होकर आंतरिक नगरों तक फैलने वाला **पूर्ण विकसित युद्ध** बन गया।

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- It became an inescapable fact of life in **Iran** and merged into the consciousness of the public.
  यह **ईरान** के जीवन का एक अपरिहार्य तथ्य बन गया और जनता की सामूहिक चेतना का हिस्सा बन गया।
- **Iraq** was assisted in the war by most **Arab countries** as well as by the **U.S.**
  युद्ध में **इराक** को अधिकांश **अरब देशों** तथा **अमेरिका** का समर्थन प्राप्त था।
- Each had its own reasons to be apprehensive of **Iran's revolutionary agenda** emphasised in **Khomeini's** pronouncement that "there is only one way to save this revolution and that is to rapidly **export the revolution**, mobilise the world's **Muslims** and, later on all **oppressed masses** against the oppressors and governments related to them."
  प्रत्येक के पास **ईरान के क्रांतिकारी एजेंडे** को लेकर चिंतित होने के अपने कारण थे, जिसे **खुमैनी** के इस कथन में रेखांकित किया गया था कि "इस क्रांति को बचाने का केवल एक ही तरीका है, और वह है शीघ्रता से **क्रांति का निर्यात**, विश्व के **मुसलमानों** तथा बाद में सभी **उत्पीड़ित जनसमूहों** को उत्पीड़कों और उनसे संबंधित सरकारों के विरुद्ध संगठित करना।"

- **Israel** covertly assisted **Iran**, viewing **Iraqi President Saddam Hussein** as the more severe, **existential threat**.
  इज़राइल ने गुप्त रूप से **ईरान** की सहायता की, क्योंकि वह **इराकी राष्ट्रपति सद्दाम हुसैन** को अधिक गंभीर **अस्तित्वगत खतरा** मानता था।
- This **pragmatism** overrode the **ideological hostility** against the newly established **Islamic Republic** and resulted in a crucial, multi-faceted role for Israel.
  इस **व्यावहारिक दृष्टिकोण** ने नवस्थापित **इस्लामी गणराज्य** के प्रति मौजूद **वैचारिक शत्रुता** को पीछे छोड़ दिया और इज़राइल के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण तथा बहुआयामी भूमिका का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया।
- The country became one of **Iran's primary sources of military equipment**, covertly providing desperately needed **spare parts**, **ammunition**, and **heavy weapons**.
  यह देश **ईरान के प्रमुख सैन्य उपकरण आपूर्तिकर्ताओं** में से एक बन गया और उसने गुप्त रूप से अत्यंत आवश्यक **स्पेयर पार्ट्स**, **गोला-बारूद** तथा **भारी हथियार** उपलब्ध कराए।
- In **1980**, it secretly supplied Iran with hundreds of **spare tires** to keep its grounded American-made **F-4 Phantom fighter jets** operational.
  1980 में इसने ईरान को सैकड़ों **स्पेयर टायर** गुप्त रूप से उपलब्ध कराए ताकि उसके अमेरिकी निर्मित **एफ-4 फैंटम लड़ाकू विमान** संचालन योग्य बने रहें।
- In exchange for covert **arms sales**, Israel received **Iranian crude oil**.
  गुप्त **हथियार बिक्री** के बदले इज़राइल को **ईरानी कच्चा तेल** प्राप्त हुआ।
- This helped Israel bypass the severe **energy shortages** caused by the **1979 oil crisis**, while allowing Iran to sustain its **war effort**.
  इससे इज़राइल को **1979 के तेल संकट** से उत्पन्न गंभीर **ऊर्जा संकट** से उबरने में सहायता मिली, जबकि ईरान अपनी **युद्ध क्षमता** को बनाए रखने में सफल रहा।
- It also provided Israel's domestic **defence industry** with valuable **combat-testing data** for its weapons.
  इससे इज़राइल के घरेलू **रक्षा उद्योग** को अपने हथियारों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण **युद्ध-परीक्षण संबंधी आंकड़े** भी प्राप्त हुए।
- **Israeli policymakers** believed that a strong and well-supplied **Iran** would successfully bog down **Saddam Hussein's military**, preventing Iraq from posing a threat to its neighbours or Israel itself.
  इज़राइली नीति-निर्माताओं का मानना था कि एक मजबूत और पर्याप्त संसाधनों से युक्त **ईरान**, **सद्दाम हुसैन की सेना** को लंबे समय तक उलझाए रखेगा, जिससे इराक अपने पड़ोसियों अथवा स्वयं इज़राइल के लिए खतरा नहीं बन सकेगा।
- By ensuring that the two most hostile regional powers spent eight years depleting each other's **military**, **economic**, and **human resources**, the conflict provided Israel with a highly valuable **"strategic breather"**.
  यह सुनिश्चित करके कि क्षेत्र की दो सबसे शत्रुतापूर्ण शक्तियाँ आठ वर्षों तक एक-दूसरे के **सैन्य**, **आर्थिक** और

मानवीय संसाधनों को समाप्त करती रहें, इस संघर्ष ने इज़राइल को एक अत्यंत मूल्यवान **"रणनीतिक विराम"** प्रदान किया।

- It also, at times, helped facilitate the safe and unhindered **emigration** of the **Persian Jewish community** out of Iran.
  इसने समय-समय पर **फ़ारसी यहूदी समुदाय** के ईरान से सुरक्षित और निर्बाध **प्रवास** को भी सुगम बनाया।
- The war gave the **revolutionary authorities** of Iran an opportunity to weaken the **Iranian national army** of the Shah's period and to create instead the **'Sepahe-e-Pasdaran'** or the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)**.
  इस युद्ध ने ईरान के **क्रांतिकारी नेतृत्व** को शाह काल की **ईरानी राष्ट्रीय सेना** को कमजोर करने और उसके स्थान पर **'सिपाह-ए-पासदारान'** अथवा **इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC)** की स्थापना का अवसर प्रदान किया।
- It went from strength to strength during the war, numbering around **1 million** while the regular armed forces numbered around **3,55,000**.
  युद्ध के दौरान यह संगठन निरंतर मजबूत होता गया और इसकी संख्या लगभग **10 लाख** तक पहुँच गई, जबकि नियमित सशस्त्र बलों की संख्या लगभग **3,55,000** थी।

- It reduced the import of **non-essentials** and managed to keep its **oil** flowing despite periodic **air attacks**.
  उसने **गैर-आवश्यक वस्तुओं** के आयात को कम किया और समय-समय पर होने वाले **हवाई हमलों** के बावजूद अपने **तेल उत्पादन और निर्यात** को जारी रखा।
- It diversified sources of **arms supply** and capitalised on the support of the **masses** for the war while squeezing the **well-to-do** and the **bazaaris**.
  उसने **हथियारों की आपूर्ति** के स्रोतों में विविधता लाई और युद्ध के लिए **जनसमर्थन** का लाभ उठाया, साथ ही **समृद्ध वर्ग** और **बाज़ारी व्यापारियों** पर आर्थिक दबाव डाला।

Why was Trump's H-1B fee struck down?

What is the H-1B visa programme and who uses it? Why did the Trump administration impose the $100,000 fee? What impact was the policy expected to have on States and employers? Did the President have the authority to impose the fee? Why did the court classify the charge as a tax rather than a penalty?

GS II, IR

EXPLAINER

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On June 8, in a 42-page ruling with nationwide effect, U.S. District Judge Leo T. Sorokin struck down President Donald Trump's policy imposing a $100,000 fee on H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers. Upholding a challenge brought by California and 19 other States (plaintiffs), the court held that the fee amounted to an unlawful tax that the President could not impose without Congressional delegation.

What is an H-1B Visa?

The H-1B visa, created by the Immigration Act of 1990, is the backbone of the United States' high-skilled immigration architecture. Building on the broader framework of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA), which established the "H" category of temporary worker visas, the 1990 law carved out a distinct H-1B classification for highly educated professionals. It permits U.S. employers to hire foreign nationals in "specialty occupations", which require (i) theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, typically in sectors such as technology, engineering, healthcare, research, finance, and higher education. Notably, H-1B workers can generally remain in the U.S. for up to six years and often use the visa as a pathway to permanent residency.

To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees. However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these numerical limits.

Policy change: On September 19, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a $100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions. GETTY IMAGES

Why did Trump impose a $100,000 fee?

On September 19, 2025, Mr. Trump signed Proclamation 10973, requiring a $100,000 supplemental payment for all H-1B visa petitions – a substantial increase over the pre-existing filing costs of roughly $960 to $7,595. The proclamation reasoned that the H-1B programme had been "deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers" with lower-paid foreign labour, harming U.S. economic and national security interests, particularly in critical STEM sectors. Mr. Trump's proclamation relied on Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. Section 212(f) empowers the President to restrict or suspend the entry of any class of aliens (non-citizens) when he finds their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States." Additionally, Section 215(a), which also concerns the President's authority to regulate entry into the U.S., allows him to subject alien entry to "such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders, and such limitations and exceptions as the President may prescribe."

While alleging that the proclamation violated the 'separation-of-powers' principle as it "usurps Congress's exclusive constitutional authority to set immigration policy and to levy taxes", the plaintiff States argued before the U.S. District Court that the $100,000 H-1B fee would undermine their ability to recruit and retain essential skilled workers. They argued it would worsen teacher shortages, hamper hiring in higher education, disrupt research, and deepen healthcare staffing gaps – raising costs and straining public systems.

Simultaneously, the measure also carried significant implications for India. Indians account for roughly 70% of H-1B visa approvals, followed by Chinese nationals at about 12%, and are heavily represented in the STEM professions targeted by the proclamation. By raising the cost of an H-1B petition, the policy effectively created a prohibitive barrier for thousands of Indian software engineers, doctors, researchers, and other skilled professionals, many of whom already face years-long green card backlogs.

Did the President have the power to impose the fee?

The threshold issue before the court was whether the $100,000 charge was a 'tax' or a 'penalty', because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises" under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

To answer this question, the judge, an appointee of President Barack Obama, relied on two landmark Supreme Court precedents. In *Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co.* (1922), the court invalidated the Child Labour Tax Law, holding that its "heavy exaction" was a 'penalty' rather than a 'tax' because it was designed to prohibit the employment of child labour. By contrast, in *National Federation of Independent Business* v. *Sebelius* (2012), the court found that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that individuals pay an additional fee to the Internal Revenue Service for not obtaining health insurance amounted to a 'tax', not a 'penalty', explaining that a penalty ordinarily constitutes "punishment for an unlawful act or omission." Applying this framework, Judge Sorokin concluded that the $100,000 H-1B charge was a 'tax', as hiring workers under the H-1B programme is plainly lawful, and the payment did not operate as punishment for any unlawful conduct.

Further, the court examined whether Congress had delegated taxing authority to the President through Sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA. It found no such delegation.

While those provisions empower the President to impose "restrictions", "rules", "regulations", "orders", "limitations", and "exceptions" governing the entry of non-citizens, Judge Sorokin held that their ordinary meaning does not encompass the power over the public purse. The court also found multiple violations of the Administrative Procedure Act. Accordingly, Judge Sorokin ruled that "the Policy implementing the Proclamation is declared unlawful and is vacated in its entirety".

Kartikey Singh, lawyer, and currently working as a Law Clerk-cum-Research Associate at the Supreme Court of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- To balance employers' demand for skilled talent with protection of the domestic workforce, Congress capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at 65,000 visas annually, with an additional 20,000 visas reserved for holders of advanced degrees.
- However, universities, affiliated non-profit entities, and governmental or non-profit research organisations are exempt from these numerical limits.
- The issue before the court was whether the $100,000 charge was a 'tax' or a 'penalty', because only Congress possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises" under Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.

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17J6. Why was Trump's H-1B fee struck down?
ट्रम्प का H-1B शुल्क क्यों निरस्त कर दिया गया?

- The **H-1B visa**, created by the **Immigration Act of 1990**, is the backbone of the **United States' high-skilled immigration architecture**.
  1990 के इमिग्रेशन एक्ट के अंतर्गत निर्मित **एच-1बी वीज़ा**, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की उच्च-कौशल आप्रवासन व्यवस्था** की आधारशिला है।
- Building on the broader framework of the **Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (INA)**, which established the **"H" category** of temporary worker visas, the **1990 law** carved out a distinct **H-1B classification** for highly educated professionals.
  1952 के इमिग्रेशन एंड नेशनलिटी एक्ट (INA), जिसने अस्थायी श्रमिक वीज़ा की **"H" श्रेणी** स्थापित की थी, के व्यापक ढाँचे पर आधारित **1990 के कानून** ने उच्च शिक्षित पेशेवरों के लिए एक पृथक **एच-1बी श्रेणी** का निर्माण किया।
- It permits **U.S. employers** to hire foreign nationals in **"specialty occupations"**, which require (i) theoretical and practical application of a body of specialised knowledge and (ii) at least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field, typically in sectors such as **technology**, **engineering**, **healthcare**, **research**, **finance**, and **higher education**.
  यह **अमेरिकी नियोक्ताओं** को विदेशी नागरिकों को **"विशेषज्ञ व्यवसायों (Specialty Occupations)"** में नियुक्त करने की अनुमति देता है, जिनमें (i) विशेष ज्ञान का सैद्धांतिक एवं व्यावहारिक उपयोग तथा (ii) संबंधित क्षेत्र में कम-से-कम स्नातक डिग्री आवश्यक होती है। ये क्षेत्र सामान्यतः **प्रौद्योगिकी**, **अभियांत्रिकी**, **स्वास्थ्य सेवा**, **अनुसंधान**, **वित्त** तथा **उच्च शिक्षा** से संबंधित होते हैं।
- Notably, **H-1B workers** can generally remain in the **U.S.** for up to **six years** and often use the visa as a pathway to **permanent residency**.
  विशेष रूप से, **एच-1बी धारक** सामान्यतः **छह वर्षों** तक **अमेरिका** में रह सकते हैं और प्रायः इस वीज़ा का उपयोग **स्थायी निवास (Permanent Residency)** प्राप्त करने के मार्ग के रूप में करते हैं।
- To balance employers' demand for **skilled talent** with protection of the **domestic workforce**, **Congress** capped H-1B approvals for most private employers at **65,000 visas annually**, with an additional **20,000 visas** reserved for holders of advanced degrees.
  कुशल प्रतिभाओं की नियोक्ताओं की मांग और **घरेलू श्रमबल** की सुरक्षा के बीच संतुलन बनाए रखने हेतु **कांग्रेस** ने अधिकांश निजी नियोक्ताओं के लिए **प्रति वर्ष 65,000 एच-1बी वीज़ा** की सीमा निर्धारित की है, जबकि उच्च डिग्रीधारकों के लिए अतिरिक्त **20,000 वीज़ा** आरक्षित हैं।
- However, **universities**, affiliated **non-profit entities**, and governmental or non-profit **research organisations** are exempt from these numerical limits.
  हालाँकि, **विश्वविद्यालय**, संबद्ध **गैर-लाभकारी संस्थाएँ**, तथा सरकारी अथवा गैर-लाभकारी **अनुसंधान संगठन** इन संख्यात्मक सीमाओं से मुक्त हैं।

Why did Trump impose a $100,000 fee?
ट्रंप ने 100,000 डॉलर का शुल्क क्यों लगाया?

- On **September 19, 2025**, **Donald Trump** signed **Proclamation 10973**, requiring a **$100,000 supplemental payment** for all **H-1B visa petitions** — a substantial increase over the pre-existing filing costs of roughly **$960 to $7,595**.
  19 सितंबर 2025 को **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने **प्रोक्लेमेशन 10973** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसके अंतर्गत सभी **एच-1बी वीज़ा आवेदनों** पर **100,000 डॉलर का अतिरिक्त शुल्क** लगाया गया। यह पहले की लगभग **960 डॉलर से 7,595 डॉलर** तक की आवेदन लागत की तुलना में अत्यधिक वृद्धि थी।
- The proclamation reasoned that the **H-1B programme** had been "deliberately exploited to replace, rather than supplement, American workers" with lower-paid foreign labour, harming

U.S. economic and **national security interests**, particularly in critical **STEM sectors**.
इस घोषणा में तर्क दिया गया कि **एच-1बी कार्यक्रम** का उपयोग अमेरिकी श्रमिकों की पूरकता के बजाय उन्हें कम वेतन वाले विदेशी श्रमिकों से प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए किया गया है, जिससे **अमेरिकी आर्थिक** और **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा हितों**, विशेषकर महत्वपूर्ण **STEM क्षेत्रों**, को नुकसान पहुँचा है।

- Mr. Trump's proclamation relied on **Sections 212(f) and 215(a)** of the **INA**.
ट्रंप की यह घोषणा **INA** की **धारा 212(f)** और **215(a)** पर आधारित थी।
- **Section 212(f)** empowers the President to restrict or suspend the entry of any class of **aliens (non-citizens)** when he finds their entry "would be detrimental to the interests of the United States."
धारा 212(f) राष्ट्रपति को यह अधिकार देती है कि यदि किसी **विदेशी नागरिक (Alien)** के प्रवेश को अमेरिका के हितों के प्रतिकूल माना जाए, तो वह उसके प्रवेश को सीमित या निलंबित कर सकता है।
- Additionally, **Section 215(a)**, which also concerns the President's authority to regulate entry into the **U.S.**, allows him to subject alien entry to "such reasonable rules, regulations, and orders, and such limitations and exceptions as the President may prescribe."
इसके अतिरिक्त, **धारा 215(a)** राष्ट्रपति को अमेरिका में प्रवेश को विनियमित करने का अधिकार देती है तथा विदेशी नागरिकों के प्रवेश पर ऐसे नियम, विनियम, आदेश, सीमाएँ और अपवाद लागू करने की अनुमति देती है जिन्हें राष्ट्रपति उचित समझे।
- While alleging that the proclamation violated the **'separation-of-powers' principle** as it "usurps Congress's exclusive constitutional authority to set immigration policy and to levy taxes", the plaintiff States argued before the **U.S. District Court** that the **$100,000 H-1B fee** would undermine their ability to recruit and retain essential **skilled workers**.
वादी राज्यों ने **अमेरिकी जिला न्यायालय** में तर्क दिया कि यह घोषणा **'शक्तियों के पृथक्करण' (Separation of Powers)** के सिद्धांत का उल्लंघन करती है क्योंकि यह **आप्रवासन नीति निर्धारित करने** और **कर लगाने** की कांग्रेस की विशिष्ट संवैधानिक शक्ति का अतिक्रमण करती है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि **100,000 डॉलर का एच-1बी शुल्क** आवश्यक **कुशल श्रमिकों** की भर्ती और उन्हें बनाए रखने की उनकी क्षमता को कमजोर करेगा।
- They argued it would worsen **teacher shortages**, hamper hiring in **higher education**, disrupt **research**, and deepen **healthcare staffing gaps** — raising costs and straining public systems.
उनका तर्क था कि इससे **शिक्षकों की कमी** बढ़ेगी, **उच्च शिक्षा** संस्थानों में नियुक्तियाँ प्रभावित होंगी, **अनुसंधान कार्य** बाधित होगा तथा **स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में कर्मचारियों की कमी** और अधिक गंभीर हो जाएगी, जिससे लागत बढ़ेगी और सार्वजनिक प्रणालियों पर दबाव पड़ेगा।
- Simultaneously, the measure also carried significant implications for **India**.
साथ ही, इस उपाय के **भारत** के लिए भी महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव थे।
- **Indians** account for roughly **70% of H-1B visa approvals**, followed by **Chinese nationals** at about **12%**, and are heavily represented in the **STEM professions** targeted by the proclamation.
भारतीय नागरिक लगभग **70% एच-1बी वीज़ा स्वीकृतियों** का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं, जबकि **चीनी नागरिकों** की हिस्सेदारी लगभग **12%** है। ये दोनों समूह विशेष रूप से उन **STEM व्यवसायों** में बड़ी संख्या में मौजूद हैं जिन्हें इस घोषणा ने प्रभावित किया।
- By raising the cost of an **H-1B petition**, the policy effectively created a prohibitive barrier for thousands of Indian **software engineers**, **doctors**, **researchers**, and other **skilled professionals**, many of whom already face years-long **green card backlogs**.
एच-1बी आवेदन की लागत बढ़ाकर इस नीति ने हजारों भारतीय **सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरों**, **डॉक्टरों**, **शोधकर्ताओं** तथा अन्य **कुशल पेशेवरों** के लिए एक गंभीर बाधा उत्पन्न कर दी, जिनमें से अनेक पहले से ही वर्षों लंबे **ग्रीन कार्ड लंबित मामलों** का सामना कर रहे हैं।

Did the President have the power to impose the fee?
क्या राष्ट्रपति के पास यह शुल्क लगाने की शक्ति थी?

- The threshold issue before the **court** was whether the **$100,000 charge** was a **'tax'** or a **'penalty'**, because only **Congress** possesses the constitutional power to "lay and collect **Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises**" under **Article I, Section 8** of the **U.S. Constitution**, unless it clearly delegates that authority to the executive.
  न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रारंभिक प्रश्न यह था कि **100,000 डॉलर का शुल्क** एक **'कर (Tax)'** था या **'दंड (Penalty)'**, क्योंकि **अमेरिकी संविधान** के **अनुच्छेद I, धारा 8** के अंतर्गत केवल **कांग्रेस** को ही "**कर, शुल्क, आयात शुल्क तथा उत्पाद शुल्क**" लगाने और वसूलने की संवैधानिक शक्ति प्राप्त है, जब तक कि वह स्पष्ट रूप से यह अधिकार कार्यपालिका को न सौंप दे।
- To answer this question, the judge, an appointee of President **Barack Obama**, relied on two landmark **Supreme Court precedents**.
  इस प्रश्न का उत्तर देने के लिए न्यायाधीश, जिन्हें राष्ट्रपति **बराक ओबामा** ने नियुक्त किया था, ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** के दो ऐतिहासिक निर्णयों पर भरोसा किया।
- In **Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co. (1922)**, the court invalidated the **Child Labour Tax Law**, holding that its "heavy exaction" was a **'penalty'** rather than a **'tax'** because it was designed to prohibit the employment of **child labour**.
  Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Co. (1922) मामले में न्यायालय ने **बाल श्रम कर कानून (Child Labour Tax Law)** को निरस्त कर दिया था और कहा था कि उसका "अत्यधिक आर्थिक भार" वास्तव में **'कर'** नहीं बल्कि **'दंड'** था, क्योंकि उसका उद्देश्य **बाल श्रम** को रोकना था।
- By contrast, in **National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012)**, the court found that the **Affordable Care Act's** requirement that individuals pay an additional fee to the **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** for not obtaining health insurance amounted to a **'tax'**, not a **'penalty'**, explaining that a penalty ordinarily constitutes "punishment for an unlawful act or omission."
  इसके विपरीत, **National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius (2012)** मामले में न्यायालय ने माना कि **Affordable Care Act** के अंतर्गत स्वास्थ्य बीमा न लेने पर **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** को अतिरिक्त भुगतान करने की बाध्यता **'दंड'** नहीं बल्कि **'कर'** है। न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया कि सामान्यतः **दंड** किसी "अवैध कार्य या चूक के लिए दी जाने वाली सजा" होता है।
- Applying this framework, **Judge Sorokin** concluded that the **$100,000 H-1B charge** was a **'tax'**, as hiring workers under the **H-1B programme** is plainly lawful, and the payment did not operate as punishment for any unlawful conduct.
  इसी सिद्धांत को लागू करते हुए **न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन** ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि **100,000 डॉलर का एच-1बी शुल्क** एक **'कर'** है, क्योंकि **एच-1बी कार्यक्रम** के अंतर्गत कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति पूर्णतः वैध है और यह भुगतान किसी अवैध गतिविधि के लिए दंड के रूप में कार्य नहीं करता।
- Further, the court examined whether **Congress** had delegated **taxing authority** to the President through **Sections 212(f) and 215(a)** of the **INA**.
  इसके बाद न्यायालय ने यह भी जांच की कि क्या **INA** की **धारा 212(f)** और **215(a)** के माध्यम से **कांग्रेस** ने राष्ट्रपति को **कर लगाने का अधिकार** सौंपा था।
- It found no such delegation.
  न्यायालय को ऐसा कोई अधिकार-हस्तांतरण नहीं मिला।
- While those provisions empower the President to impose **"restrictions"**, **"rules"**, **"regulations"**, **"orders"**, **"limitations"**, and **"exceptions"** governing the entry of non-citizens, **Judge Sorokin** held that their ordinary meaning does not encompass the power over the **public purse**.
  यद्यपि ये प्रावधान राष्ट्रपति को गैर-नागरिकों के प्रवेश पर **"प्रतिबंध"**, **"नियम"**, **"विनियम"**, **"आदेश"**, **"सीमाएँ"** तथा **"अपवाद"** लागू करने का अधिकार देते हैं, फिर भी **न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन** ने कहा कि इन शब्दों के सामान्य अर्थ में **राजकोष (Public Purse)** पर नियंत्रण अथवा कराधान की शक्ति शामिल नहीं है।
- The court also found multiple violations of the **Administrative Procedure Act**.
  न्यायालय ने **Administrative Procedure Act** के कई उल्लंघनों को भी चिन्हित किया।

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- Accordingly, **Judge Sorokin** ruled that "the **Policy** implementing the **Proclamation** is declared unlawful and is vacated in its entirety".
  फलस्वरूप, **न्यायाधीश सोरोकिन** ने निर्णय दिया कि "**घोषणा (Proclamation)** को लागू करने वाली **नीति (Policy)** को अवैध घोषित किया जाता है और इसे पूर्णतः निरस्त किया जाता है।"

'1.1 billion children exposed to three or more climate risks'

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

More than one billion children face at least three overlapping climate hazards, UNICEF warned on Monday, while highlighting the disproportionate impact in some regions of the world.

For the report, the UN agency cross-referenced data showing where the roughly 2.4 billion children on the planet live with the geographic distribution of the eight most common climate impacts. They are coastal flooding, river flooding, drought, tropical storms, heat waves, extreme heat, wildfires, and sandstorms.

The report primarily focuses on the 1.1 billion children who are exposed to at least three risks, with the most common combination being drought, extreme heat, (above 35 degrees Celsius) and heat waves.

That combination affects some 296 million children, including 74 million in Nigeria, 34 million in Pakistan, and 32 million in India.

The number of children in this three-or-more category has increased sharply over the past 20 years.

Almost all children - some 2.3 billion - are exposed to at least one risk. Two billion are exposed to at least two, while 364 million face at least four.

Of the 1,23,000 children exposed to seven or more hazards, some 46,000 are in Myanmar.

"Children are at the forefront of the impact of climate change," said UNICEF chief Catherine Russell.

As for the worst place for a child, "there isn't a super short answer," one of the report authors, Tom Slaymaker, told AFP.

"But they're not all equal," Mr. Slaymaker said. "We do see some hot spots... it's really concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa and parts of South Asia."

Countries with large populations of children, including Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan, are at the top of the list for the number of children exposed to at least three hazards.

17J6. '1.1 billion children exposed to three or more climate risks'

'1.1 अरब बच्चे तीन या अधिक जलवायु जोखिमों के संपर्क में'

- They are **coastal flooding**, **river flooding**, **drought**, **tropical storms**, **heat waves**, **extreme heat**, **wildfires**, and **sandstorms**.

इनमें **तटीय बाढ़**, **नदी बाढ़**, **सूखा**, **उष्णकटिबंधीय तूफान**, **लू (Heat Waves)**, **अत्यधिक गर्मी**, **जंगल की आग** और **रेत के तूफान** शामिल हैं।

- The report primarily focuses on the **1.1 billion children** who are exposed to at least **three risks**, with the most common combination being **drought**, **extreme heat (above 35 degrees Celsius)** and **heat waves**.

रिपोर्ट मुख्य रूप से उन **1.1 अरब बच्चों** पर केंद्रित है जो कम से कम **तीन जोखिमों** के संपर्क में हैं, जिनमें सबसे सामान्य संयोजन **सूखा**, **अत्यधिक गर्मी (35 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक)** और **लू** है।

- That combination affects some **296 million children**, including **74 million in Nigeria**, **34 million in Pakistan**, and **32 million in India**.

यह संयोजन लगभग **29.6 करोड़ बच्चों** को प्रभावित करता है, जिनमें **नाइजीरिया में 7.4 करोड़**, **पाकिस्तान में 3.4 करोड़** और **भारत में 3.2 करोड़** बच्चे शामिल हैं।

- Countries with large populations of children, including **Bangladesh**, **India**, **Nigeria**, and **Pakistan**, are at the top of the list for the number of children exposed to at least **three hazards**.

बच्चों की बड़ी आबादी वाले देशों, जिनमें **बांग्लादेश**, **भारत**, **नाइजीरिया** और **पाकिस्तान** शामिल हैं, में कम से कम **तीन जलवायु खतरों** के संपर्क में आने वाले बच्चों की संख्या सबसे अधिक है।

How Herat defied the Taliban regime, chanting 'women, work and freedom'

The protests in the Afghan city in the first week of June were triggered by the enforcement of a dress code, which requires women to wear burqa in public; many women, including those wearing traditional Afghan wear of manto, were arrested, but released later as entire communities protested

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Smriti Sudesh

The chants were familiar. But this time, they echoed not in Tehran, but in Herat.

In mid-June, Afghanistan's western city of Herat witnessed a rare display of public defiance against the Taliban. Women, and this time, men too, marched through the streets chanting "Women, Work and Freedom", a slogan probably inspired by Iran's 2022 "Woman, Life and Freedom" movement that emerged after the death of the 22-year-old Mahsa Amini.

The protests did not unfold overnight.

The spark in Herat

According to Zan Times, an exiled media organisation run by Afghan women journalists, the latest crackdown appears to have been planned days in advance. On June 4, Herat's governor Noor Ahmad Islamjar reportedly met with a group of morality enforcers.

On the afternoon of June 5, Taliban officials used the end of Friday prayers to announce that women who failed to comply with the Islamic dress code would be arrested. The following morning, the arrests began.

On June 6, dozens of women were detained across several neighbourhoods, including Darb-e-Malik, Shahr-e-Naw, Ab Burda, Jibrayil, and Haji Abbas. By June 7, the United Nations had confirmed that at least 30 women were in custody for alleged dress code violations. "Dozens more women reportedly received verbal warnings," United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said.

Then came the backlash.

On June 9, men and women took to the streets together in a rare act of collective defiance. The Taliban's response was swift; within minutes, they reportedly opened fire at demonstrators, killing at least two people, including a child, according to some reports, and injuring more than 20 others.

Four days later, on June 13, demonstrators returned to the streets.

Abdul Salam Hanafi, the Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for administrative affairs, praised the performance of Herat's local administration amid widespread protests over the detention of women in the province, according to Afghanistan International.

The immediate trigger for the unrest was a series of arrests carried out by the Taliban's morality police. Women and girls were detained for allegedly violating the regime's dress code in a city that has historically been regarded as one of the country's more progressive and culturally vibrant centres.

Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a burqa, and are prohibited from wearing perfume or anything capable of 'attracting' public attention.

Avoiding attention: Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a burqa. AFP

Witnesses described women being pulled into police vans, including some who were already fully covered. Among those detained were reportedly pregnant women. The Taliban initially dismissed reports of the arrests as rumours before later defending the operation as the enforcement of Islamic law.

The Sharia law

To understand about these arrests, one has to understand the role Sharia plays in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

The Taliban returned to power in 2021. Since then, it has governed through its interpretation of Sharia, or better known as Islamic law. While Afghanistan has historically followed the Hanafi school of Sunni jurisprudence (fiqh), often regarded as one of the more flexible traditions within Sunni Islam, the Taliban has adopted a far stricter, Deobandi-influenced interpretation.

Under this system, women face extensive restrictions on education, employment, and public life. Girls are barred from secondary and higher education. Women face severe limitations on work opportunities and are often required to travel with a male guardian. Even ordinary social interactions and movement outside the home are heavily scrutinised.

The morality police enforce these rules through patrols, arrests, and detentions.

Since 2021, when the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan, women across the country have lived under a system of surveillance and punishment over both their dress and their presence in public. What began as verbal guidance evolved into a decree by the Taliban's Supreme Leader in 2022, Mawlawi Hibatullah Akhundzada, declaring burqa the preferred form of hijab. In 2024, it was codified through the Law on the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, giving morality police sweeping powers to detain, intimidate, and punish women whose appearance failed to meet Taliban standards.

Earlier this year, as Zan Times reported, morality police established checkpoints across the city, pulling women from taxis and detaining those wearing a manto (a traditional long coat worn by generations of Afghan women) instead of the Taliban-approved black chador or burqa.

Supporters of the Taliban argue that these measures represent a return to authentic Islamic governance after decades of war, corruption, and foreign intervention. But critics, including many Muslim scholars, argue that the Taliban's interpretation represents an extreme and selective reading of Islamic law.

Human rights organisations estimate that millions of Afghan girls remain locked out of secondary education. Large numbers of women have lost employment opportunities. Restrictions on movement, healthcare, and public participation have deepened both economic hardship and social isolation across the country.

But in the latest Herat demonstrations, perhaps the most striking element was not the slogan but the people. Since the Taliban takeover, public protests have been rare and led by women. One of the examples being the nationwide protests against the closure of women's beauty salons. This time, however, many Afghan men appeared willing to publicly challenge the authorities as well.

A rare act

As one Zan Times newsletter observed, that they (men) did so this time says something important. What is being done to Afghan women is no longer viewed as a women's issue alone. It has become unbearable for entire families and entire communities.

The June 5 story, however, does not end with the arrests. While some of the women detained in Herat have since been released, little is known about what they experienced inside Taliban detention facilities. Activists and rights groups are now seeking answers.

International organisations were quick to condemn the crackdown. The United Nations, along with UN Women and the UNAMA, expressed concern over detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the use of 'excessive force' against demonstrators. They also called for the release of detainees and urged the Taliban to respect basic rights.

Yet, there is little indication that the Taliban intends to alter course.

The Herat protests were relatively small, with estimates ranging from 70 to 150 participants. On the face of it, the protests were triggered by the arrest of dozens of women accused of violating the Taliban's dress code. But it is one of the clearest signs yet that frustration with Taliban rule is no longer confined to private conversations.

17J6. How Herat defied the Taliban regime, chanting 'women, work and freedom'

हेरात ने 'महिलाएँ, काम और स्वतंत्रता' का नारा लगाते हुए तालिबान शासन को कैसे चुनौती दी

- The protests in the Afghan city in the first week of June were triggered by the enforcement of a **dress code**, which requires women to wear **burqa** in public.
  जून के पहले सप्ताह में अफ़ग़ान शहर में हुए विरोध प्रदर्शनों की शुरुआत **ड्रेस कोड** लागू किए जाने से हुई, जिसके तहत महिलाओं को सार्वजनिक स्थानों पर **बुर्का** पहनना अनिवार्य है।
- Many women, including those wearing traditional Afghan wear of **manto**, were arrested, but released later as entire communities protested.
  पारंपरिक अफ़ग़ान परिधान **मांतो (Manto)** पहनने वाली कई महिलाओं को गिरफ्तार किया गया, लेकिन बाद में पूरे समुदाय के विरोध के कारण उन्हें रिहा कर दिया गया।
- Women, and this time, men too, marched through the streets chanting "**Women, Work and Freedom**", a slogan probably inspired by Iran's 2022 "**Woman, Life and Freedom**" movement that emerged after the death of the 22-year-old **Mahsa Amini**.
  महिलाएँ और इस बार पुरुष भी सड़कों पर उतरे और "**महिलाएँ, काम और स्वतंत्रता**" के नारे लगाए, जो

संभवतः ईरान के 2022 के "**महिला, जीवन और स्वतंत्रता**" आंदोलन से प्रेरित था, जो 22 वर्षीय **महसा अमीनी** की मृत्यु के बाद उभरा था।

- "Dozens more women reportedly received verbal warnings," **United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)** said.
  अफ़ग़ानिस्तान में संयुक्त राष्ट्र सहायता मिशन (UNAMA) ने कहा, "दर्जनों अन्य महिलाओं को मौखिक चेतावनी दी गई।"
- Under Taliban regulations, women should cover their entire bodies, usually with a **burqa**, and are prohibited from wearing **perfume** or anything capable of 'attracting' public attention.
  तालिबान नियमों के अनुसार महिलाओं को अपना पूरा शरीर सामान्यतः **बुर्के** से ढकना चाहिए और **इत्र** या ऐसा कोई भी वस्त्र पहनने की अनुमति नहीं है जो सार्वजनिक ध्यान आकर्षित करे।
- While Afghanistan has historically followed the **Hanafi school** of Sunni jurisprudence (fiqh), often regarded as one of the more flexible traditions within Sunni Islam, the Taliban has adopted a far stricter, **Deobandi-influenced** interpretation.
  यद्यपि अफ़ग़ानिस्तान ऐतिहासिक रूप से सुन्नी इस्लाम की अपेक्षाकृत लचीली परंपरा मानी जाने वाली **हनफ़ी विचारधारा** का पालन करता रहा है, तालिबान ने **देवबंदी प्रभाव** वाली अधिक कठोर व्याख्या अपनाई है।
- Under this system, women face extensive restrictions on **education**, **employment**, and **public life**.
  इस व्यवस्था के तहत महिलाओं को **शिक्षा**, **रोज़गार** और **सार्वजनिक जीवन** में व्यापक प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ता है।
- Girls are barred from secondary and higher education.
  लड़कियों को माध्यमिक और उच्च शिक्षा से वंचित रखा गया है।
- Women face severe limitations on work opportunities and are often required to travel with a male guardian.
  महिलाओं के रोजगार के अवसरों पर गंभीर प्रतिबंध हैं और उन्हें अक्सर किसी पुरुष अभिभावक के साथ यात्रा करनी पड़ती है।
- Even ordinary social interactions and movement outside the home are heavily scrutinised.
  सामान्य सामाजिक संपर्क और घर से बाहर निकलने पर भी कड़ी निगरानी रखी जाती है।
- The **United Nations**, along with **UN Women** and the **UNAMA**, expressed concern over detentions, restrictions on freedom of expression, and the use of 'excessive force' against demonstrators.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र, **यूएन वीमेन** और **UNAMA** ने गिरफ्तारियों, अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर प्रतिबंधों और प्रदर्शनकारियों के खिलाफ 'अत्यधिक बल प्रयोग' पर चिंता व्यक्त की।

GS Paper III: Economy	**17 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	**Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC** **केंद्रीय बैंक अगले एक वर्ष में स्वर्ण भंडार बढ़ाएंगे: WGC**
17J6	**Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability** **270 गीगावाट की उच्चतम बिजली मांग से आगे बढ़कर गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता**
17J6	**U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG** **उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात और झारखंड ने FY25 में राजस्व अधिशेष दर्ज किया: CAG**

Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC

GS III: Economy

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

World Gold Council's (WGC) 2026 Central Bank Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey indicate that the central banks around the world would accumulate more gold in the future.

This means the price of the yellow metal will remain high in the future impacting retail customers. Indian gold prices had risen by about 40% in 12 months primarily on central banks' buying and rupee's depreciation against U.S. dollar, the determining currency of gold price.

As per the survey central banks "remain very positive on gold, highlighting its significance amid a volatile geopolitical and economic environment."

Central banks accumulated 1,000 tonne gold over 4 years.

The survey shows a continuation of the trend uncovered in previous years: central banks see gold making up a growing share of reserve portfolios.

Doubling purchases

Central banks have accumulated an average of 1,000 tonne of gold over the past four years, which is significantly higher from the 500 tonne average over the preceding decade.

"This marked acceleration in the pace of accumulation occurred against a backdrop of geopolitical and economic uncertainty, which clouded the outlook for reserve managers," WGC said in the foreword of the Survey.

In India the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was seen aggressively expanding its gold reserves between FY24 and FY25. Total reserves grew from 822.1 tonne in FY24 to 879.58 tonnes by end FY25 and rose marginally to 880.52 tonne in FY26. The survey was conducted between February 5 and May 19 with the majority of responses coming in after the West Asia conflict began.

17J6. Central banks to raise gold reserves over one year: WGC
केंद्रीय बैंक अगले एक वर्ष में स्वर्ण भंडार बढ़ाएंगे: WGC

- **The World Gold Council's (WGC) 2026 Central Bank Gold Reserves (CBGR) survey** indicates that the **central banks** around the world will accumulate more **gold** in the future.

वर्ल्ड गोल्ड काउंसिल (WGC) के 2026 केंद्रीय बैंक स्वर्ण भंडार (CBGR) सर्वेक्षण से संकेत मिलता है कि दुनिया भर के **केंद्रीय बैंक** भविष्य में अधिक **सोना** जमा करेंगे।

- Central banks have accumulated an average of **1,000 tonne of gold** over the past four years, which is significantly higher from the **500 tonne average** over the preceding decade.

पिछले चार वर्षों में केंद्रीय बैंकों ने औसतन **1,000 टन सोना** खरीदा है, जो इससे पूर्व के दशक के **500 टन औसत** की तुलना में काफी अधिक है।

U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG

GS III: Economy
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur and 9 other States recorded surplus revenue in 2024-25, while the remaining 15 States had a deficit.

Eighteen States targeted revenue surplus, three States targeted revenue deficit and seven targeted zero revenue deficit in FY 2024-25, according to a report on 'State Finances 2024-25' released by Comptroller and Auditor General of India K. Sanjay Murthy on Tuesday.

"In FY 2024-25, 15 States were revenue-deficient while the rest 13 States were revenue surplus," the report said.

17J6. U.P., Gujarat, Jharkhand log FY25 revenue surplus: CAG
उत्तर प्रदेश, गुजरात और झारखंड ने FY25 में राजस्व अधिशेष दर्ज किया: CAG

- **Uttar Pradesh**, **Gujarat**, **Jharkhand**, **Manipur** and 9 other States recorded **surplus revenue** in **2024-25**, while the remaining 15 States had a **deficit**.

उत्तर प्रदेश, **गुजरात**, **झारखंड**, **मणिपुर** तथा 9 अन्य राज्यों ने **2024-25** में **राजस्व अधिशेष (Revenue Surplus)** दर्ज किया, जबकि शेष 15 राज्यों में **राजस्व घाटा (Deficit)** रहा।

- Eighteen States targeted **revenue surplus**, three States targeted **revenue deficit** and seven targeted **zero revenue deficit** in **FY 2024-25**, according to a report on **'State Finances 2024-25'** released by **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) K. Sanjay Murthy** on Tuesday.

मंगलवार को **भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) के. संजय मूर्ति** द्वारा जारी **'स्टेट फाइनेंसेज़ 2024-25'** रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **FY 2024-25** में 18 राज्यों ने **राजस्व अधिशेष**, तीन राज्यों ने **राजस्व घाटा** और सात राज्यों ने **शून्य राजस्व घाटा** का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया था।

PATRIOTICIAS

- "In **FY 2024-25**, 15 States were **revenue-deficient** while the rest 13 States were **revenue surplus**," the report said.
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, "**FY 2024-25** में 15 राज्य **राजस्व घाटे** में थे, जबकि शेष 13 राज्यों ने **राजस्व अधिशेष** दर्ज किया।"

Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability

GS III: Economy

Debajit Palit
Mandar Joshi

Crucial metric: Reliable electricity is a fundamental enabler of economic and social development.

The recent achievement of record-breaking peak demand exceeding 270 GW marks a historic moment for the Indian power sector. The national grid demonstrated a level of resilience by efficiently managing this massive load without a shortage, which would have been inconceivable a decade ago. This milestone effectively shatters all previous records and is more than 10% as compared to last year's peak. The ability to synchronise a diverse generation portfolio comprising thermal, hydro, nuclear, and a rapidly expanding variable renewable base under such intense pressure highlights the technical maturity of India's national grid.

From the pre-independence era of privately owned decentralised electricity systems to post-independence focus on 'pumpset energisation' and basic lighting through "kutir Jyoti" scheme, the sector has evolved significantly, particularly after the passage of the Electricity Act in 2003. Through massive infrastructure initiatives like the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Scheme (DDUGJY) and the SAUBHAGYA scheme, the physical framework for last-mile connectivity has covered nearly 100% households. However, as the nation moves toward its 2047 target of approximately 4,000 kWh of per capita electricity consumption, a significant leap from the current level of 1,600 kWh, the definition of success must be rewritten beyond access and availability to include the reliability and quality of every kilowatt-hour delivered.

Power quality vital

Power quality is becoming the new frontier for a modern, digital-first economy. For a consumer base that now includes lighting load to advanced semiconductor manufacturing to cold storage facilities and productive use of electricity to public infrastructure like smart classrooms and medical clinics, the supply of electricity is no longer sufficient. Power quality, characterised by precise voltage stability, frequency control and the absence of waveform distortion, is a necessity. Even a short fluctuation in power supply can stop machines, damage electronic equipment, and disrupt industrial operations.

Furthermore, despite the overarching national success in generation and transmission, a persistent disparity remains in the distribution sector, particularly between urban centres and rural landscapes. While urban supply has become increasingly stable, rural areas, which house approximately two-thirds of the population, still account for about one-third of total electricity consumption. The challenge here is not just one of connectivity but of economic empowerment.

While the average supply hours in rural areas have reached an impressive 22 hours in most states, the lack of predictability is a significant hurdle. For a small-scale productive enterprise or a rural startup, an unexpected outage during a critical production cycle can be financially devastating, often forcing them to rely on costly and polluting diesel generators as a backup. Bridging this rural-urban divide is therefore not just a technical need but a developmental necessity.

Ageing infrastructure

While the generation and transmission segments have progressively moved toward greater market-driven efficiency, several state-owned DISCOMs continue to struggle with ageing network infrastructure, inadequate transformer capacity, and persistently high Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses, which still exceed 20% in many states. These constraints restrict ability to invest in critical system upgrades such as automated monitoring, predictive maintenance and timely transformer replacement, thereby perpetuating poor service delivery and weak financial performance.

Better electron delivery and customer service itself can enhance consumer trust, increase demand, improve revenue and ultimately strengthen the financial health of DISCOMs.

To address the above issues, the Government of India launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in 2021 for a period of five years. Under the scheme, around 54% of the total sanctioned amount has been allocated for loss reduction infrastructure works, and 46% earmarked for smart metering. However, the gains in terms of billing and collection efficiency remain modest at around 4% in 4 years considering the scale of investment for metering. The core challenge continues to be operational inefficiencies at the DISCOMs and ageing electricity distribution infrastructure. A larger percentage of funds in rural areas should have been for improving distribution infra including transformer replacement and devices to monitor health of the network than merely installing smart meters in homes. Once the infrastructure is strengthened, DISCOMs could invest in smart meters to derive the full benefit of revenue augmentation by delivering electrons reliably and customer services effectively.

Customer-centric vision

The power sector must adopt a customer-centric approach that values the quality and reliability of electricity supply as much as achievements in accessibility and availability of clean energy. The Draft National Electricity Policy 2026 emphasises setting benchmarks for supply quality through reliability indices such as SAIDI, SAIFI, and CAIDI, along with regular reporting and public disclosure to ensure transparency and accountability. However, these indices are currently monitored only at the sub-transmission level.

They should be extended to the transformer and low-tension network level for more accurate assessment of consumer experience. Accordingly, investments must prioritise equipment and reliability monitoring systems, reflecting a broader shift from mere accounting to measuring actual service quality outcomes.

At the same time, moving from an administrative to a mode of 'enterprisation' in decision making and management, customer-focused decentralised distribution management model, better asset and inventory practices and introduction of MIS and SCADA systems at distribution level are essential to improve service quality and customer experiences.

Concerns over private participation focusing only on profitable urban areas can be addressed through well-designed public-private or private models that ensure balanced rural-urban coverage and enforcement of strict regulatory performance standards.

Experience from developed countries demonstrates that reliable electricity is a fundamental enabler of economic and social development. Electricity supports industrial growth, modern agriculture, digital services, healthcare, education, and employment generation, making it central to improving productivity and quality of life. The growth of rural India is dependent on strengthened electricity infrastructure and power supply reliability will be critical to achieving inclusive and sustainable development.

By addressing the underlying issues of distribution sector, power quality, and rural-urban parity, India can ensure its power sector does more than just meet peak demand. The path to Viksit Bharat needs a shift in perspective where electricity is viewed not merely as a commodity but as a productive input and transformative force for innovation and equity.

(Dr. Debajit Palit is the Centre Head at the Centre for Climate Change & Energy Transition and Mandar Joshi is a Research Consultant at Chintan Research Foundation. Views expressed are personal.)

17J6. Beyond the 270 GW peak power demand there is a need for prioritising quality and reliability

270 गीगावाट की उच्चतम बिजली मांग से आगे बढ़कर गुणवत्ता और विश्वसनीयता को प्राथमिकता देने की आवश्यकता

- The recent achievement of record-breaking **peak demand** exceeding **270 GW** marks a historic moment for the **Indian power sector**.

हाल ही में **270 गीगावाट** से अधिक की रिकॉर्ड **उच्चतम बिजली मांग (Peak Demand)** को पूरा करना **भारतीय विद्युत क्षेत्र** के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि है।

- From the pre-independence era of privately owned decentralised electricity systems to post-independence focus on **'pumpset energisation'** and basic lighting through **"Kutir Jyoti" Scheme**, the sector has evolved significantly, particularly after the passage of the **Electricity Act, 2003**.

  स्वतंत्रता-पूर्व निजी स्वामित्व वाली विकेन्द्रीकृत बिजली प्रणालियों से लेकर स्वतंत्रता के बाद **'पंपसेट विद्युतीकरण'** और **"कुटीर ज्योति योजना"** के माध्यम से बुनियादी प्रकाश व्यवस्था तक, यह क्षेत्र विशेष रूप से **विद्युत अधिनियम, 2003** के बाद काफी विकसित हुआ है।
- Through massive infrastructure initiatives like the **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY)** and the **SAUBHAGYA Scheme**, the physical framework for last-mile connectivity has covered nearly **100% households**.

  दीनदयाल उपाध्याय ग्राम ज्योति योजना (DDUGJY) और **सौभाग्य योजना** जैसी विशाल अवसंरचना पहलों के माध्यम से अंतिम छोर तक बिजली पहुंचाने का ढांचा लगभग **100% परिवारों** को कवर कर चुका है।
- However, as the nation moves toward its **2047** target of approximately **4,000 kWh** of per capita electricity consumption, a significant leap from the current level of **1,600 kWh**, the definition of success must be rewritten beyond access and availability to include the **reliability** and **quality** of every kilowatt-hour delivered.

  हालाँकि, जैसे-जैसे देश **2047** तक प्रति व्यक्ति बिजली खपत को वर्तमान **1,600 kWh** से बढ़ाकर लगभग **4,000 kWh** तक ले जाने के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है, सफलता की परिभाषा को केवल उपलब्धता और पहुंच तक सीमित न रखकर प्रत्येक यूनिट बिजली की **विश्वसनीयता** और **गुणवत्ता** को भी शामिल करना होगा।

- For a consumer base that now includes lighting load to advanced **semiconductor manufacturing** to **cold storage facilities** and productive use of electricity to public infrastructure like **smart classrooms** and **medical clinics**, the supply of electricity is no longer sufficient.

  ऐसे उपभोक्ता आधार के लिए जिसमें सामान्य प्रकाश व्यवस्था से लेकर उन्नत **सेमीकंडक्टर विनिर्माण**, **कोल्ड स्टोरेज सुविधाएँ**, और **स्मार्ट कक्षाओं** तथा **चिकित्सा क्लीनिकों** जैसी सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना शामिल हैं, केवल बिजली की आपूर्ति पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- Power quality, characterised by precise **voltage stability**, **frequency control** and the absence of **waveform distortion**, is a necessity.

  वोल्टेज स्थिरता, **आवृत्ति नियंत्रण** तथा **वेवफॉर्म विकृति** की अनुपस्थिति से परिभाषित बिजली की गुणवत्ता अब एक आवश्यकता है।
- Even a short fluctuation in power supply can stop machines, damage electronic equipment, and disrupt industrial operations.

  बिजली आपूर्ति में थोड़े समय का उतार-चढ़ाव भी मशीनों को रोक सकता है, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों को नुकसान पहुँचा सकता है और औद्योगिक कार्यों को बाधित कर सकता है।
- While the average supply hours in rural areas have reached an impressive **22 hours** in most states, the lack of predictability is a significant hurdle.

  अधिकांश राज्यों में ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में औसत बिजली आपूर्ति **22 घंटे** तक पहुँच गई है, लेकिन इसकी अनिश्चितता एक बड़ी बाधा बनी हुई है।
- To address the above issues, the Government of India launched the **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** in **2021** for a period of five years.

  इन समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए भारत सरकार ने **2021** में पाँच वर्षों के लिए **पुनर्गठित वितरण क्षेत्र योजना (RDSS)** शुरू की।
- Under the scheme, around **54%** of the total sanctioned amount has been allocated for **loss reduction infrastructure works**, and **46%** earmarked for **smart metering**.

  इस योजना के तहत कुल स्वीकृत राशि का लगभग **54%** भाग **हानि कम करने वाली अवसंरचना** पर तथा **46%** भाग **स्मार्ट मीटरिंग** के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है।

- The **Draft National Electricity Policy 2026** emphasises setting benchmarks for supply quality through reliability indices such as **SAIDI**, **SAIFI**, and **CAIDI**, along with regular reporting and public disclosure to ensure transparency and accountability.
  राष्ट्रीय विद्युत नीति 2026 (मसौदा) में **SAIDI**, **SAIFI** और **CAIDI** जैसे विश्वसनीयता सूचकांकों के माध्यम से आपूर्ति गुणवत्ता के मानक तय करने तथा नियमित रिपोर्टिंग और सार्वजनिक प्रकटीकरण पर बल दिया गया है।
- However, these indices are currently monitored only at the **sub-transmission level**.
  हालाँकि, वर्तमान में इन सूचकांकों की निगरानी केवल **सब-ट्रांसमिशन स्तर** पर की जाती है।
- They should be extended to the **transformer** and **low-tension network** level for more accurate assessment of consumer experience.
  उपभोक्ता अनुभव का अधिक सटीक आकलन करने के लिए इन्हें **ट्रांसफार्मर** और **लो-टेंशन नेटवर्क** स्तर तक विस्तारित किया जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker GRAPES-3: कॉस्मिक किरणों का अनुगामी (ट्रैकर)

GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Researchers from Mumbai, Kochi, and Japan used the GRAPES-3 telescope to track how the earth's upper atmosphere temperature and the sun's magnetic field affect muons — subatomic particles from space. By analysing 22 years of data, they developed a way to use these measurements to monitor changes in the upper atmosphere in real-time with high accuracy. The findings are to be published in the August issue of *Astroparticle Physics*.

The GRAPES-3 telescope in Ooty, Tamil Nadu does not look at light like a traditional telescope. Instead, it is a muon detector. Muons are created when high-energy cosmic rays from deep space collide with the earth's upper atmosphere. The facility consists of 16 independent modules spread over a large area. Each module contains 232 proportional counters, which are long steel tubes filled with a special mixture of argon and methane, with a thin tungsten wire running through the centre. When a muon passes through a tube, it knocks electrons out of the gas molecules. These electrons are pulled towards the wire, creating an electrical pulse that the telescope records as a hit.

The detector array of GRAPES-3 in Ooty. HIDEKI TANAKA (CC BY-SA)

The tubes are arranged in four layers, with each layer positioned at a right angle to the one below. This grid layout allows scientists to track the exact path and angle of the incoming muons. Thick layers of reinforced concrete are placed between the tubes to ensure the telescope only counts high-energy muons that are strong enough to penetrate the concrete. This is how GRAPES-3 is able to produce a high-resolution map of the invisible cosmic forces affecting the earth.

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17J6. GRAPES-3: A cosmic-ray tracker
GRAPES-3: कॉस्मिक किरणों का अनुगामी (ट्रैकर)

- **Researchers** from **Mumbai**, **Kochi**, and **Japan** used the **GRAPES-3 telescope** to track how the earth's **upper atmosphere temperature** and the sun's **magnetic field** affect **muons** — **subatomic particles** from space.
  मुंबई, **कोच्चि** और **जापान** के **शोधकर्ताओं** ने **GRAPES-3 दूरदर्शी** का उपयोग यह पता लगाने के लिए किया कि पृथ्वी के **ऊपरी वायुमंडल के तापमान** और सूर्य के **चुंबकीय क्षेत्र** का **म्यूऑनों** — अंतरिक्ष से आने वाले **उप-परमाण्विक कणों** — पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- The **GRAPES-3 telescope** in **Ooty, Tamil Nadu** does not look at light like a traditional telescope.
  तमिलनाडु के ऊटी में स्थित **GRAPES-3 दूरदर्शी** पारंपरिक दूरदर्शी की तरह प्रकाश का अवलोकन नहीं करता है।
- Instead, it is a **muon detector**.
  इसके बजाय, यह एक **म्यूऑन डिटेक्टर** है।
- **Muons** are created when high-energy **cosmic rays** from deep space collide with the earth's **upper atmosphere**.

म्यूऑन तब उत्पन्न होते हैं जब गहरे अंतरिक्ष से आने वाली उच्च-ऊर्जा **कॉस्मिक किरणें** पृथ्वी के **ऊपरी वायुमंडल** से टकराती हैं।

- The facility consists of **16 independent modules** spread over a large area.
  यह सुविधा एक बड़े क्षेत्र में फैले हुए **16 स्वतंत्र मॉड्यूलों** से मिलकर बनी है।
- Each module contains **232 proportional counters**, which are long steel tubes filled with a special mixture of **argon** and **methane**, with a thin **tungsten wire** running through the centre.
  प्रत्येक मॉड्यूल में **232 प्रोपोर्शनल काउंटर** होते हैं, जो लंबे इस्पाती ट्यूब होते हैं और जिनमें **आर्गन** तथा **मीथेन** का विशेष मिश्रण भरा होता है, जबकि उनके केंद्र से एक पतला **टंग्स्टन तार** गुजरता है।
- When a **muon** passes through a tube, it knocks electrons out of the gas molecules.
  जब कोई **म्यूऑन** किसी ट्यूब से होकर गुजरता है, तो वह गैस के अणुओं से **इलेक्ट्रॉनों** को बाहर निकाल देता है।
- These electrons are pulled towards the wire, creating an **electrical pulse** that the telescope records as a hit.
  ये इलेक्ट्रॉन तार की ओर आकर्षित होते हैं, जिससे एक **विद्युत स्पंदन (इलेक्ट्रिकल पल्स)** उत्पन्न होता है जिसे दूरदर्शी एक संकेत के रूप में दर्ज करता है।
- The tubes are arranged in **four layers**, with each layer positioned at a right angle to the one below.
  इन ट्यूबों को **चार परतों** में व्यवस्थित किया गया है, जहाँ प्रत्येक परत अपने नीचे की परत के साथ समकोण पर स्थित होती है।
- This **grid layout** allows scientists to track the exact path and angle of the incoming muons.
  यह **ग्रिड विन्यास** वैज्ञानिकों को आने वाले म्यूऑनों के सटीक पथ और कोण का पता लगाने में सक्षम बनाता है।
- Thick layers of **reinforced concrete** are placed between the tubes to ensure the telescope only counts high-energy muons that are strong enough to penetrate the concrete.
  ट्यूबों के बीच **प्रबलित कंक्रीट (रीइन्फोर्स्ड कंक्रीट)** की मोटी परतें रखी जाती हैं ताकि दूरदर्शी केवल उन उच्च-ऊर्जा म्यूऑनों की गणना करे जो कंक्रीट को भेदने में सक्षम हों।
- This is how **GRAPES-3** is able to produce a **high-resolution map** of the invisible **cosmic forces** affecting the earth.
  इसी प्रकार **GRAPES-3** पृथ्वी को प्रभावित करने वाली अदृश्य **कॉस्मिक शक्तियों** का एक **उच्च-विभेदन मानचित्र (हाई-रिज़ोल्यूशन मैप)** तैयार करने में सक्षम होता है।

GS Paper III: Environment	**17 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	**Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty** **द्विआधारी नहीं: भारत गरीबी के विरुद्ध संघर्ष जीतकर अपने वनों को बचा सकता है**
17J6	**'Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study** **प्रवाल भित्तियों के विशाल क्षेत्र जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना कर सकते हैं, नए अध्ययन में दावा**

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Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species, a new study has found. On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees species

GS III, Environment

Ipsita Herlekar

Garo tribal women carrying firewood in the West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya in 2024. Representative image. RITU RAJ KONWAR

THE GIST

- Researchers pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases
- The new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors — patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas
- The findings show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other

Traditionally, many conservationists and policymakers have seen biodiversity conservation as a choice between protecting nature and meeting human needs. Forests were often seen as places that had to be protected from people, while alleviating poverty and economic development were treated as separate concerns.

A new international study has concluded that this is a harmful view.

In a paper in the journal *Nature Sustainability*, researchers from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Michigan, Yale University, the University of Colorado Boulder (U.S.), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the University of Manchester (U.K.), the University of Victoria (Canada), and the Indian School of Business analysed data from community-managed forests in the tropics.

The data came from the International Forestry Resources and Institutions network, and spanned 322 community-managed tropical forests in 15 countries from 1993 to 2017.

The dataset's size allowed the researchers to understand both current patterns in forest biodiversity and how they had changed over time. Principally, they found a significant link between people's livelihoods and forest biodiversity.

Forests, people, livelihoods

Forests with more poor households and communities that depended more on fuelwood were also found to have less diverse tree species. The team also found similar patterns in forests in densely populated areas with higher levels of poverty.

On the other hand, forests where communities had access to alternative livelihoods, such as farming, had more diverse trees.

Tree species diversity refers to the number of tree species in a forest; it is an important measure of biodiversity. Forests with more species tend to support more wildlife, are ecologically more stable, and are often more resilient to environmental change.

Overall, the analysis found that a greater dependence on forest resources was associated with lower tree species diversity.

However, the researchers emphasised that poverty is not responsible for biodiversity loss. They pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases. The way out is to improve economic opportunities.

The fortress model

The study also focused on human-dominated landscapes, which are common in India. Most forests in the country are owned and managed by State Forest Departments. And for decades, this apparatus has followed the fortress model – where protected areas are managed by minimising human activities and restricting access to resources. While this model has allowed the Departments to recover several iconic species and strengthen protection, it has some severe limitations.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes.

"The forests in these landscapes are smaller in size and bear a heavy burden of extraction," Ashwini Chhatre, associate professor of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business and one of the study's authors, said.

Around 275 million people depend on these forests to varying degrees for their livelihoods and daily needs.

"But these forests are ecologically important and provide significant ecosystem services," Dr. Chhatre said.

According to him, the new findings can be used to support conservation by prioritising wildlife corridors – patches of forests that form a loose link between protected areas.

"These corridors are used by large mammals to move between protected areas. The improvement of species richness in these corridors will increase forest resilience and support conservation directly," he said.

Helping conservation

To reduce pressure on forests, State Forest Departments across India have introduced initiatives like distributing subsidised LPG connections and efficient cooking stoves and heaters around many tiger reserves and national parks. The measures reduce people's need for fuelwood and to enter forests.

Today, many protected areas are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by human-dominated landscapes. They bear a heavy burden of extraction from communities who depend on them for their livelihood

Extending similar support to private landholdings and community forests along wildlife corridors could help conservation.

However, Imran Siddiqui, senior field conservationist at the Centre for Wildlife Studies, who has worked extensively in protected areas and with forest communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, said that while such initiatives are well-intentioned and that communities often welcome them, they face implementation challenges.

"Funding can be inconsistent, participation from local communities may vary, and long-term support is not always guaranteed," he said.

Conservation partners

Today, there is growing recognition among wildlife conservationists and forest managers that conservation can't succeed without the support of local communities.

In addition to fuel alternatives and subsidies, many State Forest Departments also give local community members jobs in tourism, forest protection, and seasonal conservation work.

The late ecologist Madhav Gadgil was a strong advocate of an inclusive approach, believing conservation efforts would be more effective if local communities had rights, incentives, and a meaningful role in managing natural resources. He also emphasised the value of traditional ecological knowledge, and argued people who had lived alongside forests for generations possessed insights that could complement scientific approaches to conservation.

In Ladakh, the Snow Leopard Conservancy has mitigated economic losses of human-wildlife conflict with community-run homestays and livestock insurance programmes. In Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, village-based Mangrove Co-Management Committees help protect mangrove ecosystems while supporting fisheries, ecotourism, and sustainable aquaculture.

In Arunachal Pradesh, hornbill nest adoption programmes run by the Nature Conservation Foundation have encouraged local communities to protect nesting sites, with former Nyishi tribe hunters now serving as nest protectors and forest patrollers.

There is also tremendous scope to expand these initiatives and to further support community welfare.

As Mr. Siddiqui said, wildlife tourism is a growing multi-million-dollar industry, yet only a small fraction of its revenue reaches the communities living alongside forests and protected areas. He added that a greater share of these benefits should be directed to local communities, creating stronger incentives for conservation.

The findings of the new study highlight the close links between alleviating poverty and conserving biodiversity, and show how socio-economic conditions and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other. By recognising these connections, both conservationists and policymakers can design more inclusive frameworks to benefit both people and nature.

(Ipsita Herlekar is an independent science writer. ipsitaherlekar@gmail.com)

17J6. Not binary: India can save its forests by winning the war on poverty
द्विआधारी नहीं: भारत गरीबी के विरुद्ध संघर्ष जीतकर अपने वनों को बचा सकता है

- Forests with more **poor households** and communities that depended more on **fuelwood** were also found to have less diverse **tree species**, a new study has found.

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जिन वनों में अधिक **गरीब परिवार** थे और जिन समुदायों की **ईंधन लकड़ी** पर अधिक निर्भरता थी, उनमें **वृक्ष प्रजातियों** की विविधता भी कम पाई गई, ऐसा एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है।

- On the other hand, forests where communities had access to **alternative livelihoods**, such as **farming**, had more diverse **tree species**.
  दूसरी ओर, जिन वनों में समुदायों को **वैकल्पिक आजीविकाओं**, जैसे **कृषि**, तक पहुँच प्राप्त थी, वहाँ **वृक्ष प्रजातियों** की विविधता अधिक पाई गई।
- **Traditionally, many conservationists and policymakers have seen biodiversity conservation as a choice between protecting nature and meeting human needs.**
  परंपरागत रूप से, अनेक **संरक्षणवादियों** और **नीति-निर्माताओं** ने **जैव विविधता संरक्षण** को **प्रकृति की रक्षा** और **मानवीय आवश्यकताओं** की पूर्ति के बीच एक विकल्प के रूप में देखा है।
- Forests were often seen as places that had to be protected from people, while **alleviating poverty** and **economic development** were treated as separate concerns.
  वनों को प्रायः ऐसे स्थानों के रूप में देखा गया जिन्हें लोगों से सुरक्षित रखना आवश्यक था, जबकि **गरीबी उन्मूलन** और **आर्थिक विकास** को पृथक चिंताओं के रूप में माना जाता था।
- The data came from the **International Forestry Resources and Institutions network**, and spanned **322 community-managed tropical forests** in **15 countries** from **1993 to 2017**.
  ये आंकड़े **International Forestry Resources and Institutions network** से प्राप्त किए गए थे और इनमें **1993 से 2017** के बीच **15 देशों** के **322 सामुदायिक-प्रबंधित उष्णकटिबंधीय वन** शामिल थे।
- **Tree species diversity** refers to the number of tree species in a forest; it is an important measure of **biodiversity**.
  वृक्ष प्रजाति विविधता से आशय किसी वन में पाई जाने वाली वृक्ष प्रजातियों की संख्या से है; यह **जैव विविधता** का एक महत्वपूर्ण मापदंड है।
- Forests with more species tend to support more wildlife, are ecologically more stable, and are often more resilient to environmental change.
  अधिक प्रजातियों वाले वन सामान्यतः अधिक **वन्यजीवों** का समर्थन करते हैं, **पारिस्थितिकीय रूप से** अधिक स्थिर होते हैं तथा प्रायः **पर्यावरणीय परिवर्तनों** के प्रति अधिक लचीले होते हैं।
- Overall, the analysis found that a greater dependence on **forest resources** was associated with lower tree species diversity.
  समग्र रूप से, विश्लेषण में पाया गया कि **वन संसाधनों** पर अधिक निर्भरता का संबंध वृक्ष प्रजातियों की कम विविधता से था।
- However, the researchers emphasised that **poverty** is not responsible for biodiversity loss.
  हालाँकि, शोधकर्ताओं ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि **गरीबी** जैव विविधता के ह्रास के लिए उत्तरदायी नहीं है।
- They pointed out that when people have fewer livelihood options and depend heavily on forests to survive, the pressure on forest resources automatically increases.
  उन्होंने संकेत किया कि जब लोगों के पास **आजीविका के सीमित विकल्प** होते हैं और वे जीवनयापन के लिए वनों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर होते हैं, तब **वन संसाधनों** पर दबाव स्वतः बढ़ जाता है।
- The way out is to improve **economic opportunities**.
  इस समस्या का समाधान **आर्थिक अवसरों** में सुधार करना है।

The fortress model
दुर्ग मॉडल

- The study also focused on **human-dominated landscapes**, which are common in India.
  इस अध्ययन ने **मानव-प्रधान परिदृश्यों** पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित किया, जो भारत में सामान्य रूप से पाए जाते हैं।
- Most forests in the country are owned and managed by **State Forest Departments**.
  देश के अधिकांश वन **राज्य वन विभागों** के स्वामित्व और प्रबंधन में हैं।
- And for decades, this apparatus has followed the **fortress model** — where **protected areas** are managed by minimising human activities and restricting access to resources.

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और दशकों से, यह तंत्र **दुर्ग मॉडल** का अनुसरण करता रहा है — जिसमें **संरक्षित क्षेत्रों** का प्रबंधन मानवीय गतिविधियों को न्यूनतम करके तथा संसाधनों तक पहुँच को सीमित करके किया जाता है।

- While this model has allowed the Departments to recover several **iconic species** and strengthen protection, it has some severe limitations.
  यद्यपि इस मॉडल ने विभागों को अनेक **प्रतीकात्मक प्रजातियों** के संरक्षण और सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करने में सहायता प्रदान की है, फिर भी इसकी कुछ गंभीर सीमाएँ हैं।
- Today, many **protected areas** are increasingly becoming isolated islands surrounded by **human-dominated landscapes**.
  आज अनेक **संरक्षित क्षेत्र**, **मानव-प्रधान परिदृश्यों** से घिरे हुए पृथक द्वीपों के समान बनते जा रहे हैं।
- Around **275 million people** depend on these forests to varying degrees for their livelihoods and daily needs.
  लगभग **27.5 करोड़ लोग** अपनी आजीविका और दैनिक आवश्यकताओं के लिए विभिन्न स्तरों पर इन वनों पर निर्भर हैं।
- "But these forests are ecologically important and provide significant **ecosystem services**," Dr. Chhatre said.
  "किन्तु ये वन **पारिस्थितिकीय दृष्टि से** अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं और महत्वपूर्ण **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र सेवाएँ** प्रदान करते हैं," डॉ. छत्रे ने कहा।

- To reduce pressure on forests, **State Forest Departments** across India have introduced initiatives like distributing subsidised **LPG connections** and efficient **cooking stoves** and heaters around many **tiger reserves** and **national parks**.
  वनों पर दबाव कम करने के लिए, पूरे भारत में **राज्य वन विभागों** ने अनेक **बाघ अभयारण्यों** और **राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों** के आसपास रियायती **एलपीजी कनेक्शन**, दक्ष **खाना पकाने के चूल्हे** तथा हीटर वितरित करने जैसी पहलें शुरू की हैं।
- The measures reduce people's need for **fuelwood** and to enter forests.
  ये उपाय लोगों की **ईंधन लकड़ी** पर निर्भरता तथा वनों में प्रवेश की आवश्यकता को कम करते हैं।
- Extending similar support to **private landholdings** and **community forests** along **wildlife corridors** could help conservation.
  वन्यजीव गलियारों के आसपास स्थित **निजी भूमि स्वामित्वों** और **सामुदायिक वनों** को भी इसी प्रकार का समर्थन प्रदान करना संरक्षण में सहायक हो सकता है।
- The late ecologist **Madhav Gadgil** was a strong advocate of an **inclusive approach**, believing conservation efforts would be more effective if local communities had rights, incentives, and a meaningful role in managing natural resources.
  दिवंगत पारिस्थितिकीविद् **माधव गाडगिल समावेशी दृष्टिकोण** के प्रबल समर्थक थे। उनका मानना था कि यदि स्थानीय समुदायों को अधिकार, प्रोत्साहन तथा **प्राकृतिक संसाधनों** के प्रबंधन में सार्थक भूमिका दी जाए, तो संरक्षण प्रयास अधिक प्रभावी होंगे।
- He also emphasised the value of **traditional ecological knowledge**, and argued people who had lived alongside forests for generations possessed insights that could complement scientific approaches to conservation.
  उन्होंने **पारंपरिक पारिस्थितिकीय ज्ञान** के महत्व पर भी बल दिया और तर्क दिया कि पीढ़ियों से वनों के साथ रहने वाले लोगों के पास ऐसी अंतर्दृष्टियाँ होती हैं जो संरक्षण के **वैज्ञानिक दृष्टिकोणों** की पूरक हो सकती हैं।
- In **Ladakh**, the **Snow Leopard Conservancy** has mitigated economic losses of **human-wildlife conflict** with community-run homestays and **livestock insurance programmes**.
  लद्दाख में **Snow Leopard Conservancy** ने समुदाय-प्रबंधित होमस्टे तथा **पशुधन बीमा कार्यक्रमों** के माध्यम से **मानव-वन्यजीव संघर्ष** से होने वाली आर्थिक हानियों को कम किया है।
- In **Arunachal Pradesh**, **hornbill nest adoption programmes** run by the **Nature Conservation Foundation** have encouraged local communities to protect nesting sites, with former **Nyishi tribe** hunters now serving as nest protectors and forest patrollers.
  अरुणाचल प्रदेश में **Nature Conservation Foundation** द्वारा संचालित **हॉर्नबिल घोंसला दत्तक ग्रहण**

कार्यक्रमों ने स्थानीय समुदायों को घोंसला स्थलों की रक्षा के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया है, जहाँ पूर्व **न्यीशी जनजाति** के शिकारी अब घोंसला संरक्षक और वन गश्ती कर्मियों के रूप में कार्य कर रहे हैं।

- There is also tremendous scope to expand these initiatives and to further support **community welfare**.
  इन पहलों का विस्तार करने तथा **सामुदायिक कल्याण** को और अधिक समर्थन देने की भी अपार संभावनाएँ हैं।
- As Mr. Siddiqui said, **wildlife tourism** is a growing **multi-million-dollar industry**, yet only a small fraction of its revenue reaches the communities living alongside forests and protected areas.
  जैसा कि श्री सिद्दीकी ने कहा, **वन्यजीव पर्यटन** एक तेजी से बढ़ता हुआ **बहु-मिलियन डॉलर उद्योग** है, फिर भी इसकी आय का केवल एक छोटा हिस्सा ही वनों और संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के आसपास रहने वाले समुदायों तक पहुँच पाता है।
- He added that a greater share of these benefits should be directed to local communities, creating stronger incentives for conservation.
  उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इन लाभों का अधिक बड़ा हिस्सा स्थानीय समुदायों को दिया जाना चाहिए, जिससे संरक्षण के लिए अधिक सशक्त प्रोत्साहन उत्पन्न होंगे।
- The findings of the new study highlight the close links between **alleviating poverty** and **conserving biodiversity**, and show how **socio-economic conditions** and conservation goals need not be in conflict with each other.
  नए अध्ययन के निष्कर्ष **गरीबी उन्मूलन** और **जैव विविधता संरक्षण** के बीच घनिष्ठ संबंधों को रेखांकित करते हैं तथा यह दर्शाते हैं कि **सामाजिक-आर्थिक परिस्थितियाँ** और संरक्षण संबंधी लक्ष्य आवश्यक रूप से एक-दूसरे के विरोधी नहीं हैं।
- By recognising these connections, both **conservationists** and **policymakers** can design more **inclusive frameworks** to benefit both people and nature.
  इन संबंधों को स्वीकार करके, **संरक्षणवादी** और **नीति-निर्माता** ऐसे अधिक **समावेशी ढाँचे** तैयार कर सकते हैं जो मानव और प्रकृति दोनों के हित में हों।

Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study

GS III: Environment
Agence France-Presse
MOMBASA

In the crystalline waters off Kenya's coast, coral reefs are thriving – evidence of a rare good news story in the battle to protect oceans from the ravages of climate change.

A new study presented at the Our Ocean Conference in Mombasa on Tuesday finds that 1,66,000 square kilometres of the world's coral reefs - around a third of the total - are particularly "climate-resilient", meaning they have the potential to survive through major ocean warming events.

The study by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Macquarie University in Australia challenges the findings of the IPCC, the global authority on climate change, which has stated 70% to 90% of coral reefs could die with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and 99% at 2 degrees Celsius.

"Our models are showing a much more hopeful future for coral reefs. We predict that there are many climate resilient reefs around the world that will persist over time," Stacy Jupiter, executive director for marine conservation at WCS, told AFP.

Action is still needed since only 28% of those resilient reefs are being actively protected.

Down the coast from Mombasa, on Kenya's paradisical Wasini-Mkwiro island, villagers are showing the way.

As local fishermen bring in their catch from the beach, it is weighed, measured, and logged by local data collectors in the village.

Other members of the "beach management unit" patrol the waters to make sure no one is over-fishing or using destructive equipment. Others plant seaweed and mangroves, and scoop out rubbish.

The study finds that 1,66,000 sq. km of the world's coral reefs – around a third of the total – are particularly 'climate-resilient'. AFP

"We want to keep this ecosystem as pristine as possible because we know the benefits," said Edward Karanja, Kenya Wildlife Service warden for the nearby Kisite marine park, citing the importance of tourism and fishing to locals.

Thanks to their efforts, the park became the first in Kenya to earn a Gold-Level Blue Park Award from the U.S.-based Marine Conservation Institute in 2021.

'Living seed-banks'

Coral "bleaching" occurs when water temperatures rise by a degree or two, stressing the coral's animal tissues and making them expel algae, turning them white.

But the new study finds many reefs are resilient, either because they exist in cool spots, or because they have evolved to withstand heat, or recover more quickly than most.

"The way we see coral responding to heat events is more nuanced than we previously thought," said Ms. Jupiter.

Kenya is fortunate to have a significant stretch of naturally resilient coral.

Divers off traditional wooden dhows at Wasini-Mkwiro find coral species like the boulder-like Porites and staghorn-shaped Acropora supporting a dazzling ecosystem that includes moray eels, angelfish, crabs, turtles, dolphins, and much more.

The last major bleaching event in 2024 led to coral cover in the zone falling from 44% to 27%, according to WCS data. But within a year, it had recovered to 40%.

The new research, funded by Bloomberg Ocean Initiative and currently under peer review, builds on a pioneering study from 2018 that identified 50 resilient reefs around the world.

New technology makes its map 10,000 times more detailed than any previous version, enabling the discovery of three times more resilient coral than previously known.

More than half are concentrated in Australia, the Bahamas, Cuba, Indonesia, and the Philippines.

17J6. Vast stretches of coral reefs could resist climate change, finds a new study

प्रवाल भित्तियों के विशाल क्षेत्र जलवायु परिवर्तन का सामना कर सकते हैं, नए अध्ययन में दावा

- A new study presented at the **Our Ocean Conference** in **Mombasa** on Tuesday finds that **1,66,000 square kilometres** of the world's coral reefs — around a third of the total — are particularly **"climate-resilient"**, meaning they have the potential to survive through major ocean warming events.
  मंगलवार को **मोम्बासा** में आयोजित **आवर ओशन कॉन्फ्रेंस** में प्रस्तुत एक नए अध्ययन के अनुसार, दुनिया की लगभग **1,66,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ — जो कुल का लगभग एक-तिहाई हैं — विशेष रूप से

"जलवायु-प्रतिरोधी (Climate-Resilient)" हैं, अर्थात वे महासागरों के बड़े तापवृद्धि घटनाक्रमों के बावजूद जीवित रह सकती हैं।

- The **IPCC** has stated **70% to 90%** of coral reefs could die with global warming of **1.5 degrees Celsius** above pre-industrial levels, and **99%** at **2 degrees Celsius**.
  IPCC के अनुसार, औद्योगिक-पूर्व स्तरों की तुलना में वैश्विक तापमान में **1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस** वृद्धि होने पर **70% से 90%** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ नष्ट हो सकती हैं और **2 डिग्री सेल्सियस** वृद्धि पर **99%** प्रवाल भित्तियाँ समाप्त हो सकती हैं।

- Coral **"bleaching"** occurs when water temperatures rise by a degree or two, stressing the coral's animal tissues and making them expel algae, turning them white.
  प्रवाल **"ब्लीचिंग"** तब होती है जब पानी का तापमान एक या दो डिग्री बढ़ जाता है, जिससे प्रवाल ऊतकों पर तनाव पड़ता है और वे शैवाल को बाहर निकाल देते हैं, परिणामस्वरूप वे सफेद हो जाते हैं।
- More than half are concentrated in **Australia**, **the Bahamas**, **Cuba**, **Indonesia**, and **the Philippines**.
  इनमें से आधे से अधिक **ऑस्ट्रेलिया**, **बहामास**, **क्यूबा**, **इंडोनेशिया** और **फिलीपींस** में केंद्रित हैं।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	Kerala plans disease 'outbreak calendar' केरल रोग 'प्रकोप कैलेंडर' की योजना बना रहा है

Kerala plans disease 'outbreak calendar'

GS III: Disaster Management

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will create a calendar to map seasonal and regional patterns of disease outbreaks in the State in a bid to give the public health system's response an added edge in the future.

Health Minister K. Muraleedharan noted at a press conference on Tuesday that, for one, Nipah cases are repeatedly reported in the Perambra region of Kozhikode between May and September. Curiously, some districts, notably Palakkad, have not reported any shigellosis cases so far, he said. "Disease patterns might vary from time to time, but several viruses seem to follow seasonal patterns," he said.

He said the reasons for pathogens following seasonal and regional patterns remained unclear and were a major area of research. An "outbreak calendar" would give the public health system greater predictive accuracy and help it calibrate disease prevention and response.

17j6. Kerala plans disease 'outbreak calendar' केरल रोग 'प्रकोप कैलेंडर' की योजना बना रहा है

- **Kerala government will create a calendar to map seasonal and regional patterns of disease outbreaks in the State in a bid to give the public health system's response an added edge in the future.**

केरल सरकार राज्य में रोग प्रकोपों के **मौसमी** और **क्षेत्रीय प्रतिरूपों** का मानचित्रण करने हेतु एक **कैलेंडर** तैयार करेगी, ताकि भविष्य में **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली** की प्रतिक्रिया को अतिरिक्त बढ़त प्रदान की जा सके।

- Curiously, some districts, notably **Palakkad**, have not reported any **shigellosis** cases so far, he said.

उन्होंने कहा कि आश्चर्यजनक रूप से कुछ जिलों, विशेषकर **पलक्कड़**, में अब तक **शिगेलोसिस** का कोई मामला रिपोर्ट नहीं किया गया है।

- He said the reasons for **pathogens** following seasonal and regional patterns remained unclear and were a major area of **research**.

उन्होंने कहा कि **रोगजनकों** द्वारा मौसमी एवं क्षेत्रीय प्रतिरूपों का अनुसरण किए जाने के कारण अभी भी स्पष्ट नहीं हैं और यह **अनुसंधान** का एक प्रमुख क्षेत्र है।

- An "**outbreak calendar**" would give the public health system greater **predictive accuracy** and help it calibrate **disease prevention** and **response**.

एक "**प्रकोप कैलेंडर**" सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली को अधिक **पूर्वानुमानात्मक सटीकता** प्रदान करेगा तथा **रोग-निवारण** और **प्रतिक्रिया** उपायों को अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से समायोजित करने में सहायता करेगा।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	17 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
17J6	Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination सरकार ने NEET पुनर्परीक्षा तक Telegram ऐप को अवरुद्ध करने का आदेश दिया
17J6	The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) अभ्यास पिच ब्लैक 2026 में भाग लेगी।

Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination

GS III: Internal Security

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

At the National Testing Agency (NTA)'s request, the Centre is blocking the messaging app Telegram in India until Monday, in what the NTA described as a "response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination scheduled on 21 June 2026."

On Tuesday evening, a few hours after the government's order, at least one telecom operator had already blocked access to the service, and the app's listing was taken down from Google Play and Apple's App Store. This is the first time that a messaging app operating at such a scale is being blocked in India by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, even for a limited period.

The NTA emphasised that this blocking was "calibrated and bounded in time," and that it would be lifted later.

The agency said that several Telegram groups were advertising fake test papers for the upcoming NEET and defrauding candidates willing to pay for them.

Telegram founder Pavel Durov criticised the blocking, saying it "punishes" over 15 crore "ordinary Telegram users in India". 'Banning the app even temporarily, he said, "is a mistake".

"The leaks just moved to other apps", Mr. Durov added. While it is unclear what he was referring to,

The NTA has emphasised that the blocking is 'calibrated and bounded in time,' and that it would be lifted later. REUTERS

the NTA on the day kept dismissing the legitimacy of certain screenshots purported to be that of the upcoming NEET exam's question paper.

"Over the past few weeks, we removed hundreds of channels sharing leaked exam materials and related scams in India. We are also making the "edited" label more visible to prevent backdating scams," he said.

"Acting on inputs received continuously from NTA, from State law-enforcement agencies including the police forces of Bihar, Gujarat and Rajasthan, and from its own continuous monitoring of public channels and platforms, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), under the Ministry of Home Affairs, has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial number of Telegram channels, groups and bots whose names and content openly advertised their fraudulent and misleading purpose," the agency said.

There are several Telegram groups circulating everything from pirated links to real-time news updates from established organisations; the platform has attracted many users as it offers features such as integrating bots into the platform, not typically found on other popular platforms such as WhatsApp and Signal.

In a video message, NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh said, "To all parents, I say, please protect your child from financial fraud and from the panic these rackets are designed to create. NTA is committed to a fair, secure and credible examination, and to act against every person involved in spreading these scams."

Additionally, many groups, the NTA said, were editing past messages with recent exam paper questions, to fake their capabilities in obtaining question papers in advance.

In separate directions, the IT Ministry said that it had ordered Telegram to disable message editing as well until June 30, to shut off "this avenue of fabrication for the post-examination window in which such artefacts have historically been deployed."

IAF FERRYING NEET PAPERS
» PAGE 6

17j6. Govt. orders blocking of Telegram app till NEET re-examination
सरकार ने NEET पुनर्परीक्षा तक Telegram ऐप को अवरुद्ध करने का आदेश दिया

Telegram blocked temporarily in India over NEET (UG) 2026 scam concerns
नीट (यूजी) 2026 परीक्षा से जुड़ी धोखाधड़ी की आशंकाओं के कारण भारत में टेलीग्राम अस्थायी रूप से अवरुद्ध

- At the **National Testing Agency (NTA)**'s request, the **Centre** is blocking the messaging app **Telegram** in India until Monday, in what the NTA described as a "response to the organised use of the platform by cheating rackets to defraud candidates appearing for the **NEET (UG) 2026 re-examination** scheduled on **21 June 2026**."
  राष्ट्रीय परीक्षण एजेंसी (NTA) के अनुरोध पर **केंद्र सरकार** ने भारत में संदेश सेवा ऐप **टेलीग्राम** को सोमवार तक अवरुद्ध कर दिया है। NTA ने इसे **21 जून 2026** को निर्धारित **नीट (यूजी) 2026 पुनर्परीक्षा** में शामिल

होने वाले अभ्यर्थियों को ठगने के लिए नकल माफियाओं द्वारा मंच के संगठित उपयोग के विरुद्ध उठाया गया कदम बताया है।

- This is the first time that a messaging app operating at such a scale is being blocked in India by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, even for a limited period.
यह पहली बार है कि इतने बड़े स्तर पर संचालित किसी संदेश सेवा ऐप को **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय** द्वारा भारत में, भले ही सीमित अवधि के लिए, अवरुद्ध किया गया है।
- **Telegram founder Pavel Durov** criticised the blocking, saying it "punishes" over **15 crore ordinary Telegram users in India**.
टेलीग्राम के संस्थापक पावेल ड्यूरोव ने इस अवरोधन की आलोचना करते हुए कहा कि इससे भारत के **15 करोड़ से अधिक सामान्य टेलीग्राम उपयोगकर्ता** दंडित हो रहे हैं।
- We are also making the **'edited' label** more visible to prevent **backdating scams**," he said.
हम **'एडिटेड' लेबल** को भी अधिक स्पष्ट बना रहे हैं ताकि **बैकडेटिंग धोखाधड़ी** को रोका जा सके," उन्होंने कहा।
- Platforms, the **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, has secured the prompt take-down of a substantial number of Telegram channels, groups and bots whose names and content openly advertised their fraudulent and misleading purpose," the agency said.
एजेंसी ने कहा कि **NTA**, **बिहार**, **गुजरात** और **राजस्थान** की पुलिस सहित राज्य स्तरीय कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों तथा सार्वजनिक चैनलों और प्लेटफार्मों की अपनी सतत निगरानी से प्राप्त सूचनाओं के आधार पर **गृह मंत्रालय** के अंतर्गत कार्यरत **भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (I4C)** ने ऐसे अनेक टेलीग्राम चैनलों, समूहों और बॉट्स को तत्काल हटवाया है जिनके नाम और सामग्री खुले तौर पर धोखाधड़ीपूर्ण तथा भ्रामक उद्देश्यों का प्रचार कर रहे थे।
- In a video message, **NTA Director-General Abhishek Singh** said, "To all parents, I say, please protect your child from financial fraud and from the panic these rackets are designed to create.
एक वीडियो संदेश में **NTA के महानिदेशक अभिषेक सिंह** ने कहा, "मैं सभी अभिभावकों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपने बच्चों को वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी और उन घबराहट फैलाने वाले षड्यंत्रों से सुरक्षित रखें जिन्हें ये गिरोह जानबूझकर उत्पन्न करते हैं।

Air Force to take part in 'Exercise Pitch Black'

GS II: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory from July 20 to August.

Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green OAM announced India's participation on X on Tuesday, tagging the IAF's official handle and citing the exercise as an opportunity to strengthen regional interoperability across the Indo-Pacific.

According to the Australian Defence Ministry, the exercise will bring together more than 100 aircraft and personnel from 19 allied and partner nations, providing a platform for participating air forces to enhance operational interoperability, strengthen military cooperation, and refine air combat tactics. Exercise Pitch Black is the RAAF's largest international exercise.

17j6. The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026

भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) अभ्यास पिच ब्लैक 2026 में भाग लेगी।

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) will participate in Exercise Pitch Black 2026, the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) premier multinational air combat exercise, scheduled to be held in Australia's Northern Territory from July 20 to August.**
भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) एक्सरसाइज पिच ब्लैक 2026 (Exercise Pitch Black 2026) में भाग लेगी, जो **रॉयल ऑस्ट्रेलियन एयर फोर्स (RAAF)** का प्रमुख **बहुराष्ट्रीय हवाई युद्धाभ्यास** है। यह अभ्यास **ऑस्ट्रेलिया के नॉर्दर्न टेरिटरी** में **20 जुलाई से अगस्त** तक आयोजित किया जाएगा।
- **Exercise Pitch Black** is the **RAAF's largest international exercise**.
एक्सरसाइज पिच ब्लैक रॉयल ऑस्ट्रेलियन एयर फोर्स (RAAF) का **सबसे बड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय सैन्य अभ्यास** है।

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PATRIOTIC IAS

PCS Special:	16 June 2026
16J6	Kerala rolls out free travel for women on KSRTC buses केरल ने KSRTC बसों में महिलाओं के लिए निःशुल्क यात्रा योजना शुरू की
16J6	Author-entrepreneur Indira Lankesh passes away at 83 लेखिका-उद्यमी इंदिरा लंकेश का 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन
16J6	U.K. govt. bans social media for children under 16 ब्रिटेन सरकार ने 16 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

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Kerala rolls out free travel for women on KSRTC buses

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC in seven categories; CM says KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Billed as a significant step towards women's empowerment, the Kerala government on Monday launched its flagship 'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan inaugurated the scheme at the Thampanoor Central Bus Station around 9.30 a.m.

The scheme will cover around 3,125 ordinary buses operated by the KSRTC, although not all of them are in service due to operational constraints.

CM V.D .Satheesan, right, with Transport Minister C.P. John and other dignitaries during the launch of 'Priyadarshini' on Monday. PTI

Under the scheme, women and transgender persons can travel free of charge on seven categories of KSRTC ordinary services – ordinary, city ordinary, limited-stop ordinary, fair-stage ordinary, town-to-town, point-to-point, and Gramavandi services.

Terming the launch "a proud moment for Kerala," Mr. Satheesan said the free travel initiative was "not an act of generosity" towards women, but a well-crafted scheme that will have far-reaching socio-economic benefits. The KSRTC will not face any financial burden due to the implementation of the scheme, he said.

During the initial phase, women and transgender passengers will be allowed to travel free of charge on ordinary bus services for the first 100 days. After a review of the scheme's performance, the government plans to extend the benefit to other categories of services.

A section of commuters alleged that the number of buses carrying the City Fast tag swelled overnight in Thiruvananthapuram city on Monday, depriving many passengers of the benefits of the scheme.

The authorities clarified that the scheme is not available on City Fast services in the first phase.

16J6. Kerala rolls out free travel for women on KSRTC buses
केरल ने KSRTC बसों में महिलाओं के लिए निःशुल्क यात्रा योजना शुरू की

- Billed as a significant step towards **women's empowerment**, the **Kerala government** on Monday launched its flagship **'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme** for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)**.
  महिला सशक्तिकरण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम के रूप में प्रस्तुत करते हुए, **केरल सरकार** ने सोमवार को **केरल राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (KSRTC)** द्वारा संचालित साधारण बसों में सभी महिलाओं और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों के लिए अपनी प्रमुख **'प्रियदर्शिनी' निःशुल्क यात्रा योजना** का शुभारंभ किया।
- Under the scheme, women and transgender persons can travel free of charge on seven categories of KSRTC ordinary services — **ordinary, city ordinary, limited-stop ordinary, fair-stage ordinary, town-to-town, point-to-point, and Gramavandi services**.
  इस योजना के अंतर्गत महिलाएँ और ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्ति KSRTC की सात श्रेणियों की साधारण सेवाओं — **ऑर्डिनरी, सिटी ऑर्डिनरी, लिमिटेड-स्टॉप ऑर्डिनरी, फेयर-स्टेज ऑर्डिनरी, टाउन-टू-टाउन, पॉइंट-टू-पॉइंट तथा ग्रामवंडी सेवाओं** — में निःशुल्क यात्रा कर सकेंगे।
- During the initial phase, women and transgender passengers will be allowed to travel free of charge on ordinary bus services for the first **100 days**.
  प्रारंभिक चरण में महिलाओं और ट्रांसजेंडर यात्रियों को पहले **100 दिनों** तक साधारण बस सेवाओं में निःशुल्क यात्रा की अनुमति दी जाएगी।
- After a review of the scheme's performance, the government plans to extend the benefit to other categories of services.
  योजना के प्रदर्शन की समीक्षा के बाद सरकार इस लाभ को अन्य श्रेणी की सेवाओं तक विस्तारित करने की योजना बना रही है।

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PCS

Author-entrepreneur Indira Lankesh passes away at 83

Author Indira Lankesh, 83, died of age-related ailments at her residence in Bengaluru on Monday. She is survived by her daughter Kavita Lankesh and son Indrajith Lankesh. Her eldest daughter, Gauri Lankesh, was killed by members of an alleged Hindutva group in 2017. Indira's memoir *Hulimavu Mattu Nanu* is considered a landmark among memoirs by women in Kannada. She also founded Mayur Silks and Textiles, a successful saree shop, in 1979.

16J6. Author-entrepreneur Indira Lankesh passes away at 83

लेखिका-उद्यमी इंदिरा लंकेश का 83 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- **Author Indira Lankesh**, 83, died of age-related ailments at her residence in **Bengaluru** on Monday.

लेखिका इंदिरा लंकेश, 83 वर्ष, का सोमवार को **बेंगलुरु** स्थित उनके आवास पर आयु-संबंधी स्वास्थ्य समस्याओं के कारण निधन हो गया।

- Indira's memoir **Hulimavu Mattu Nanu** is considered a landmark among memoirs by women in **Kannada**.

इंदिरा की आत्मकथात्मक कृति **'हुलिमावु मत्तु नानु'** को **कन्नड़** भाषा में महिलाओं द्वारा लिखे गए संस्मरण साहित्य की एक महत्वपूर्ण और मील का पत्थर मानी जाने वाली रचना माना जाता है।

U.K. govt. bans social media for children under 16

PCS

Associated Press

LONDON

Britain will ban children aged under 16 from using social media apps, including Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube, to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said on Monday.

The plan was met with mixed reaction, with some praising Mr. Starmer for taking action and others questioning the effectiveness of a blanket ban.

YouTube and Meta, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, warned that a blanket ban could push kids into unregulated online spaces.

Mr. Starmer acknowledged the challenges, but said: "I do believe we can enforce it."

"Every parent can see it with their own eyes. Social media is making children unhappy."

Global movement

The ban, which is expected to take effect early next year, makes the U.K. part of a growing global movement to tighten online safety for children.

Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced legislation or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media.

The U.K. said its ban will apply to platforms including Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X, but not YouTube Kids or messaging services like WhatsApp and Signal.

Mr. Starmer stressed that enforcement action will target tech companies, not children.

16J6. U.K. govt. bans social media for children under 16

ब्रिटेन सरकार ने 16 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

- Britain will ban children aged under **16** from using **social media apps**, including **Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube**, to protect them from harmful content and excessive screen time, **Prime Minister Keir Starmer** said on Monday.

ब्रिटेन 16 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों को **सोशल मीडिया ऐप्स** जैसे **स्नैपचैट, टिकटॉक और यूट्यूब** का उपयोग करने से प्रतिबंधित करेगा, ताकि उन्हें हानिकारक सामग्री और अत्यधिक स्क्रीन समय से बचाया जा सके, यह बात सोमवार को **प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टार्मर** ने कही।

- **YouTube** and **Meta**, the parent company of **Facebook** and **Instagram**, warned that a blanket ban could push kids into unregulated online spaces.

यूट्यूब और **मेटा**, जो **फेसबुक** और **इंस्टाग्राम** की मूल कंपनी है, ने चेतावनी दी कि ऐसा व्यापक प्रतिबंध बच्चों को अनियमित ऑनलाइन मंचों की ओर धकेल सकता है।

- The ban, which is expected to take effect early next year, makes the **U.K.** part of a growing global movement to tighten **online safety for children**.

यह प्रतिबंध, जिसके अगले वर्ष की शुरुआत में लागू होने की उम्मीद है, **ब्रिटेन** को बच्चों की **ऑनलाइन सुरक्षा** को मजबूत करने वाले बढ़ते वैश्विक अभियान का हिस्सा बनाता है।

- **Australia, Canada, Brazil and Indonesia** have introduced legislation or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा, ब्राज़ील और इंडोनेशिया ने सोशल मीडिया तक बच्चों की पहुँच के लिए कानून बनाए हैं या आयु-आधारित प्रतिबंधों अथवा आवश्यकताओं की घोषणा की है।

- The **U.K.** said its ban will apply to platforms including **Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X**, but not **YouTube Kids** or messaging services like **WhatsApp** and **Signal**.

ब्रिटेन ने कहा कि उसका प्रतिबंध **स्नैपचैट, टिकटॉक, यूट्यूब, इंस्टाग्राम, फेसबुक और एक्स** जैसे प्लेटफॉर्म पर लागू होगा, लेकिन **यूट्यूब किड्स** या **व्हाट्सएप** और **सिग्नल** जैसी संदेश सेवाओं पर लागू नहीं होगा।

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GS Paper 1: History	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	QUIZ: Mona Lisa

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Who is widely believed to be the woman depicted in the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, the wife of Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo**
2. Around what year is Leonardo da Vinci believed to have begun painting the Mona Lisa? **Ans: Around 1503**
3. What is the approximate size of the Mona Lisa? **Ans: About 77 cm × 53 cm (30 in × 21 in)**
4. Which artistic technique, heavily employed in the Mona Lisa, creates the painting's characteristic soft transitions between light and shadow? **Ans: Sfumato**
5. Which French king acquired the Mona Lisa for the royal collection? **Ans: King Francis I of France**
6. What major event in 1911 dramatically increased the painting's worldwide fame? **Ans: It's theft from the Louvre by Vincenzo Peruggia**
Visual: Which Italian Renaissance master executed this sketch of a young woman before a landscape, believed to have been directly influenced by Leonardo's Mona Lisa? **Ans: Raphael**
Early Birds: Prem Nath Tiwari | K.N. Viswanathan | Piyali Tuli | Tamal Biswas | Arun Kumar Singh

16J6. QUIZ

1. Who is widely believed to be the woman depicted in the Mona Lisa?

- The woman portrayed in Leonardo da Vinci's **Mona Lisa** is widely identified as **Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo**, the wife of Florentine silk merchant **Francesco del Giocondo**.

- Because of her husband's surname, the painting is also known as **La Gioconda** in Italian and **La Joconde** in French.

2. Around what year is Leonardo da Vinci believed to have begun painting the Mona Lisa?

- Most scholars agree that **Leonardo da Vinci** began painting the Mona Lisa around **1503** in Florence.

- Italian Renaissance.
- However, Leonardo continued refining the painting for many years, possibly until **1516–1517**, carrying it with him to France.

3. What is the approximate size of the Mona Lisa?

- Despite its immense fame, the **Mona Lisa** is relatively small in size, measuring approximately **77 centimetres by 53 centimetres** (30 inches by 21 inches).
- The painting is executed in oil on a **poplar wood panel**, a common support used by Renaissance artists.

4. Which artistic technique, heavily employed in the Mona Lisa, creates the painting's characteristic soft transitions between light and shadow?

- The signature visual effect of the Mona Lisa comes from Leonardo's masterful use of **sfumato**, an Italian term meaning "smoky" or "softly blurred."
- This technique involves applying multiple thin layers of translucent paint to create seamless transitions between light and dark areas without visible outlines.
- Sfumato gives the portrait its lifelike quality and contributes to the famous ambiguity of Mona Lisa's smile and expression.
- Leonardo's scientific understanding of optics and human vision enabled him to perfect this technique, making the painting one of the greatest achievements of Renaissance art.

5. Which French king acquired the Mona Lisa for the royal collection?

- The Mona Lisa entered the French royal collection through **King Francis I of France**, one of the most influential patrons of Renaissance art.
- Francis I invited Leonardo da Vinci to France in **1516**, where the artist spent his final years at Clos Lucé near the Château d'Amboise.

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- Leonardo brought the Mona Lisa with him, and after his death in 1519, the painting became part of the French royal collection.
- Over the centuries, it remained in royal residences before eventually becoming one of the most treasured works displayed in the **Louvre Museum** in Paris.

6. What major event in 1911 dramatically increased the painting's worldwide fame?

- The Mona Lisa's global fame increased dramatically after its sensational **theft from the Louvre Museum in 1911** by **Vincenzo Peruggia**, an Italian museum worker.
- Peruggia believed the painting should be returned to Italy and hid it for more than two years. The disappearance generated international headlines, turning the artwork into a worldwide cultural phenomenon.
- The painting was recovered in Florence in **1913** and returned to France.

GS Paper 1: Society	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	Tribal body blocks installation of shivling near Om Parvat, says won't allow artificial structures जनजातीय संगठन ने ओम पर्वत के निकट शिवलिंग की स्थापना रोकी, कहा— कृत्रिम संरचनाओं की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी
16J6	Politics over people जनहित से ऊपर राजनीति

Tribal body blocks installation of *shivling* near Om Parvat, says won't allow artificial structures

GS I: Society

Press Trust of India
PITHORAGARH

The Rung community in a village in Vyans valley here on Monday refused to allow installation of a three-tonne *shivling* and Nandi in front of Om Parvat, stating they are "nature worshippers" who do not allow artificial structures on their land.

Rung is an indigenous tribal community residing primarily in border valleys of Dharchula in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district, known for their distinct cultural traditions of nature worship.

The Adi Kailash 20-20 Trust, an organisation claiming to work towards spreading Sanatana Dharma, had proposed installation of a *shivling* in the area.

The local administration intervened after the Rung Kalyan Sanstha raised an objection regarding the "unauthorised" import of religious installations into Vyans valley.

> The administration cannot give permission to the trust until the gram sabha and tribal association agree to the installation of the idol
>
> **ASHISH JOSHI**
> Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Uttarakhand

The matter escalated when the trust transported the three-tonne *shivling* and Nandi up to Garbadhar, 27 km beyond Dharchula, without consulting the local tribal community or obtaining permission from the local panchayat.

Prakash Gunjiyal, president of Rung Kalyan Sanstha, Dharchula - representing the Rung people from the three valleys of Vyans, Darma, and Chaudans - said the installation violated their belief of worshipping Lord Shiva solely in his natural form. "Besides the violation of our belief of only worshipping natural forms, the installation of any artificial structure cannot be permitted on Amawasya, June 15," he said.

Dharchula Sub-Divisional Magistrate Ashish Joshi said the administration recalled the vehicle to Dharchula after learning that the group had not obtained permission from the gram sabha concerned and the Rung community. "It is a matter between the Rung community and the trust. The administration cannot give permission to the trust until the gram sabha and tribal association agree to it," the official said.

16J6. Tribal body blocks installation of shivling near Om Parvat, says won't allow artificial structures

जनजातीय संगठन ने ओम पर्वत के निकट शिवलिंग की स्थापना रोकी, कहा— कृत्रिम संरचनाओं की अनुमति नहीं दी जाएगी

- The **Rung community** in a village in **Vyans valley** here on Monday refused to allow installation of a three-tonne **shivling** and **Nandi** in front of **Om Parvat**, stating they are "nature worshippers" who do not allow artificial structures on their land.

व्यास घाटी के एक गाँव में रहने वाले **रांग समुदाय** ने सोमवार को **ओम पर्वत** के सामने तीन टन वजनी **शिवलिंग** और **नंदी** की स्थापना की अनुमति देने से इनकार कर दिया। उनका कहना था कि वे "प्रकृति उपासक" हैं और अपनी भूमि पर कृत्रिम संरचनाओं की अनुमति नहीं देते।

- **Rung** is an indigenous tribal community residing primarily in border valleys of **Dharchula** in **Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district**, known for their distinct cultural traditions of nature

worship.

रांग एक स्वदेशी जनजातीय समुदाय है, जो मुख्यतः **उत्तराखंड के पिथौरागढ़ जिले** के **धारचूला** क्षेत्र की सीमावर्ती घाटियों में निवास करता है और अपनी विशिष्ट प्रकृति-पूजक सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं के लिए जाना जाता है।

GS I: Society: Population

Politics over people

Pragmatism should guide India's demographic governance

In constituting a panel to study demographic changes in India, the Centre was guided by a paranoid mindset that saw devious conspiracies everywhere. The move gave shape and substance to a thought expressed by Home Minister Amit Shah: "unnatural demographic change" is a "very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation". In his Independence Day address in 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the proposal, characterising illegal infiltration as a "premeditated conspiracy" to alter India's demography. The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge Justice P.P. Naolekar, is to assess demographic changes, examine patterns of abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities, and recommend a time-bound solution. Mr. Shah linked demographic changes not only to sovereignty but also to national security, law and order, "profound changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal society". According to the government, demographic shifts have affected public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution and social cohesion, and Justice Naolekar has said that the panel will also formulate a system for the custody and deportation of infiltrators.

It is indeed true that the management of population dynamics is a key instrument of governance. On June 14, Switzerland held a referendum and rejected a proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million. Across the world, immigration has become contentious, with unregulated cross-border movement seen as a challenge to sovereignty. Population management, however, is not entirely about illegal infiltration, and securitising demographic trends at the cost of all adjacent factors could do more harm than good. As the recent experience with the SIR of electoral rolls shows, facts about people would be seen as valid only to the extent that these are established through documentation. If this exercise creates a large stateless population with no country willing to accept them, it could result in a demographic deadlock rather than a solution. The fear of communal profiling of Muslims is real, and the Centre should also seriously consider whether the human costs are worth it. India faces major demographic challenges. Rising life expectancy and falling birth rates are changing the composition of India's population. There are concerns of India losing its demographic dividend, as the quality of education and health, and the evolving dynamics of work, remain very challenging. Migration continues to shape India's trajectory. Partition created three sovereign countries out of a geographical and cultural continuum, and its legacy included voluntary and involuntary movement of people. Sensitivity and a long-term view should guide India's demographic governance.

16J6. Politics over people
जनहित से ऊपर राजनीति

- The move gave shape and substance to a thought expressed by Home Minister **Amit Shah**: "unnatural demographic change" is a "very significant challenge to the present and future of any nation".

इस कदम ने गृह मंत्री **अमित शाह** द्वारा व्यक्त उस विचार को स्वरूप और आधार प्रदान किया, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि "अप्राकृतिक जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन" किसी भी राष्ट्र के वर्तमान और भविष्य के लिए "एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण चुनौती" है।

- The committee, chaired by retired Supreme Court judge **Justice P.P. Naolekar**, is to assess demographic changes, examine patterns of abnormal population shifts among religious and social communities, and recommend a time-bound solution.

सेवानिवृत्त सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश **न्यायमूर्ति पी.पी. नाओलेकर** की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों का आकलन करेगी, धार्मिक एवं सामाजिक समुदायों के बीच असामान्य जनसंख्या परिवर्तनों के स्वरूप का अध्ययन करेगी तथा समयबद्ध समाधान सुझाएगी।

- Mr. Shah linked demographic changes not only to **sovereignty** but also to **national security**, law and order, "profound changes in social structure and the preservation of tribal society".

श्री शाह ने जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों को केवल **संप्रभुता** से ही नहीं, बल्कि **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा**, कानून एवं व्यवस्था, "सामाजिक संरचना में गहरे परिवर्तन तथा जनजातीय समाज के संरक्षण" से भी जोड़ा।

- According to the government, demographic shifts have affected public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution and social cohesion, and Justice Naolekar has said that the panel will also formulate a system for the custody and deportation of infiltrators.

सरकार के अनुसार, जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों ने सार्वजनिक सेवाओं की आपूर्ति, स्थानीय शासन, संसाधनों के वितरण तथा सामाजिक एकता को प्रभावित किया है, और न्यायमूर्ति नाओलेकर ने कहा है कि समिति घुसपैठियों की हिरासत और निर्वासन के लिए भी एक प्रणाली तैयार करेगी।

- On June 14, **Switzerland** held a referendum and rejected a proposal to cap the country's population at 10 million.

14 जून को **स्विट्ज़रलैंड** ने एक जनमत-संग्रह आयोजित किया और देश की जनसंख्या को 10 मिलियन तक सीमित करने के प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार कर दिया।

- Across the world, immigration has become contentious, with unregulated cross-border movement seen as a challenge to sovereignty.

विश्वभर में आव्रजन एक विवादास्पद विषय बन गया है, और अनियंत्रित सीमा-पार आवाजाही को संप्रभुता के लिए चुनौती के रूप में देखा जा रहा है।

- Population management, however, is not entirely about illegal infiltration, and securitising demographic trends at the cost of all adjacent factors could do more harm than good.

हालाँकि, जनसंख्या प्रबंधन केवल अवैध घुसपैठ तक सीमित नहीं है, और जनसांख्यिकीय प्रवृत्तियों को अन्य सभी संबंधित कारकों की उपेक्षा करते हुए सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से देखना लाभ से अधिक हानि पहुँचा सकता है।

- If this exercise creates a large stateless population with no country willing to accept them, it could result in a demographic deadlock rather than a solution.
  यदि यह प्रक्रिया बड़ी संख्या में ऐसे राज्यविहीन लोगों को जन्म देती है जिन्हें स्वीकार करने के लिए कोई देश तैयार न हो, तो यह समाधान के बजाय जनसांख्यिकीय गतिरोध उत्पन्न कर सकती है।
- The fear of communal profiling of **Muslims** is real, and the Centre should also seriously consider whether the human costs are worth it.
  मुसलमानों के सांप्रदायिक प्रोफाइलिंग के भय को नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं किया जा सकता, और केंद्र सरकार को यह भी गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए कि इसकी मानवीय लागत उचित है या नहीं।
- Rising **life expectancy** and falling **birth rates** are changing the composition of India's population.
  बढ़ती **जीवन प्रत्याशा** और घटती **जन्म दरें** भारत की जनसंख्या की संरचना को बदल रही हैं।
- There are concerns of India losing its **demographic dividend**, as the quality of education and health, and the evolving dynamics of work, remain very challenging.
  भारत के अपने **जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश** को खोने की आशंका व्यक्त की जा रही है, क्योंकि शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य की गुणवत्ता तथा कार्य-क्षेत्र की बदलती गतिशीलताएँ अभी भी अत्यंत चुनौतीपूर्ण बनी हुई हैं।
- **Partition** created three sovereign countries out of a geographical and cultural continuum, and its legacy included voluntary and involuntary movement of people.
  विभाजन ने एक भौगोलिक एवं सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता से तीन संप्रभु देशों का निर्माण किया, और इसकी विरासत में लोगों का स्वैच्छिक तथा अनैच्छिक विस्थापन भी शामिल था।

GS Paper 1: Geography	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	When a small town sends one of its own to Raisina Hill जब कोई छोटा नगर अपने ही एक व्यक्ति को रायसीना हिल्स तक पहुँचाता है
16J6	Russian strikes across Ukraine kill 11, famed monastery in Kyiv catches fire यूक्रेन में रूसी हमलों से 11 लोगों की मौत, कीव का प्रसिद्ध मठ आग की चपेट में आया

When a small town sends one of its own to Raisina Hill

GS I: Geography

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

What happens when a nondescript town produces the occupant of India's highest office? Transformation becomes inevitable. If even a fraction of the projects lined up materialise, Rairangpur in Odisha, the hometown of President Droupadi Murmu, will have a compelling story to tell. With just over a year left in her tenure, the town is poised to host some of the country's prominent educational institutions and a slate of development projects. Her tribal-dominated Mayurbhanj district is also set to receive a share of the investments.

Some of the projects are likely to be announced during the scheduled visit of the President and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Mayurbhanj this week.

A Government Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital will be set up on 50 acres identified under Rairangpur Tahasil.

The Odisha government has accorded approval for the establishment of a second campus of the Indian Institute of Forest Management at Rairangpur. An area of 134.89 acres in Sulidumа and Kusumi villages under Kusumi Tahasil in Mayurbhanj has been identified for the institute.

In-principle approval has been granted for the establishment of an Indian Institute of Information Technology at Rairangpur, which will function under Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University, Baripada. The State Higher Education Department has released a one-time capital grant of ₹1,67,25,600 toward non-recurring expenditure for the institute's initial establishment.

Some projects are likely to be announced during the scheduled visit of President Droupadi Murmu to Mayurbhanj this week. FILE PHOTO

A Central Tribal University has also been proposed for Rairangpur. The Higher Education Department has identified 70.79 acres in Bijatala block near Rairangpur for the purpose. At Nuagaon in Rairangpur, 25 acres have been identified for an AIIMS Bhubaneswar satellite centre. A Central Agricultural and Horticulture College of the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology will be established in Rairangpur.

The State Industries and MSME Department has been requested to provide the necessary guidance for establishing IT park infrastructure at Bamanghaty near Rairangpur.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests has been requested to involve the Wildlife Institute of India in preparing a dossier for the nomination of Similipal National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A proposal has also been submitted for setting up a world-class skill university on the lines of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal, Haryana, at Rairangpur.

The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has allocated ₹45 crore for operationalising flights between Rairangpur and Rourkela once the Dandbose airstrip is ready. Sports infrastructure, including a national-level sports complex, an archery complex and an international-standard indoor stadium, has also been proposed for Rairangpur.

The government has proposed increasing the area under irrigation in the district to 60% from the present 37%.

Several other projects, including a National Institute of Design, a major office of the Postal Department, a Mayurbhanj campus of the College of Fisheries, girls' hostels in the district and the development of Rairangpur as a separate police district, have also been proposed. In addition, some industrial projects have been proposed for Rairangpur.

The proposals to establish institutions of higher education in and around Rairangpur are being viewed as a tribute to Ms. Murmu's perseverance and journey from the region to the country's highest constitutional office.

16J6. When a small town sends one of its own to Raisina Hill
जब कोई छोटा नगर अपने ही एक व्यक्ति को रायसीना हिल्स तक पहुँचाता है

- If even a fraction of the projects lined up materialise, **Rairangpur** in **Odisha**, the hometown of President **Droupadi Murmu**, will have a compelling story to tell.
  यदि प्रस्तावित परियोजनाओं का एक छोटा भाग भी साकार हो जाता है, तो **ओडिशा** का **रायरंगपुर**, जो राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मु** का गृह नगर है, एक प्रेरक विकास गाथा प्रस्तुत करेगा।
- Her tribal-dominated **Mayurbhanj district** is also set to receive a share of the investments.
  उनका जनजातीय बहुल **मयूरभंज जिला** भी इन निवेशों का लाभ प्राप्त करने जा रहा है।
- The Odisha government has accorded approval for the establishment of a second campus of the **Indian Institute of Forest Management** at Rairangpur.
  ओडिशा सरकार ने रायरंगपुर में **भारतीय वन प्रबंधन संस्थान** के दूसरे परिसर की स्थापना को स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है।
- A **Central Tribal University** has also been proposed for Rairangpur.
  रायरंगपुर में एक **केंद्रीय जनजातीय विश्वविद्यालय** स्थापित करने का भी प्रस्ताव है।
- The **Principal Chief Conservator of Forests** has been requested to involve the **Wildlife Institute of India** in preparing a dossier for the nomination of **Similipal National Park** as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
  प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक से **भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान** को **सिमिलिपाल राष्ट्रीय उद्यान** को **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** के रूप में नामित करने हेतु दस्तावेज तैयार करने की प्रक्रिया में शामिल करने का अनुरोध किया गया है।

Russian strikes across Ukraine kill 11, famed monastery in Kyiv catches fire

Moscow fires hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in overnight barrage; Zelenskyy calls for increased pressure from G7 leaders and global partners after air assault; Ukrainian drone strike kills three people in Russia's Tula region, officials say

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

An overnight Russian barrage of missiles killed at least 11 people across Ukraine and sparked a fire at one of the most important Orthodox monasteries in the capital, Kyiv said on Monday.

In response to the assault, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for more pressure on Moscow from G7 leaders, who were gathering at a summit in France.

The violence killed five people and wounded 34 in the capital as a fire broke out on the grounds of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra UNESCO world heritage site, setting ablaze the roof of its Dormition Cathedral.

Rescue dawn: Emergency responders in action at the Dormition Cathedral following a Russian strike in Kyiv on Monday. AP

"This is one of Russia's most serious crimes against Christian culture to date," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media.

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO condemned the air raid, saying that "the strike reportedly caused significant damage to the exterior and interior of the cathedral".

After he visited the site, Mr. Zelenskyy said two Russian drones "deliberately" targeted Kyiv's monastery quarter.

'Outdated U.S. missile'

Russia's military said it had carried out a "massive strike" on military sites in Kyiv, as well as the Kharkiv and Dnipro regions, but denied targeting the Lavra, saying it was hit by an outdated U.S. Patriot air defence missile.

Moscow fired 70 missiles and 611 drones, mainly targeting the capital, Ukraine's air force said, adding that it had downed 50 of the missiles and 582 drones.

In total, 11 people were killed in the overnight barrage, including five in the northeastern city of Kharkiv.

Founded in the 11th century, the site holds huge significance for Orthodox believers in both Ukraine and Russia.

Kyiv's Metropolitan Epiphanius, who heads the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, denounced the attack. "What more must the Kremlin antichrist do for the world to realise that decisive action must be taken to stop Russian terror against Ukraine?"

In Russia, a Ukrainian drone strike also killed three people and wounded three others in the city of Tula, local authorities said on Monday.

16J6. Russian strikes across Ukraine kill 11, famed monastery in Kyiv catches fire

यूक्रेन में रूसी हमलों से 11 लोगों की मौत, कीव का प्रसिद्ध मठ आग की चपेट में आया

- **Moscow fires hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in overnight barrage; Zelenskyy calls for increased pressure from G7 leaders and global partners after air assault; Ukrainian drone strike kills three people in Russia's Tula region, officials say**
  मॉस्को ने रातभर में सैकड़ों ड्रोन और दर्जनों मिसाइलें दागीं; हवाई हमले के बाद ज़ेलेंस्की ने G7 नेताओं और वैश्विक साझेदारों से रूस पर अधिक दबाव डालने का आह्वान किया; अधिकारियों के अनुसार यूक्रेनी ड्रोन हमले में रूस के तुला क्षेत्र में तीन लोगों की मौत हुई
- The violence killed five people and wounded 34 in the capital as a fire broke out on the grounds of the **Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra UNESCO World Heritage Site**, setting ablaze the roof of its **Dormition Cathedral**.
  हिंसा में राजधानी में पांच लोगों की मौत हो गई और 34 घायल हो गए, जबकि **कीव-पेचेर्स्क लाव्रा यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** के परिसर में आग लग गई, जिससे उसके **डॉर्मिशन कैथेड्रल** की छत जल उठी।

- **Russia's military** said it had carried out a "massive strike" on military sites in **Kyiv**, as well as the **Kharkiv** and **Dnipro** regions, but denied targeting the **Lavra**, saying it was hit by an outdated **U.S. Patriot air defence missile**.
  रूसी सेना ने कहा कि उसने **कीव**, **खार्किव** और **ड्नीप्रो** क्षेत्रों में सैन्य ठिकानों पर "व्यापक हमला" किया, लेकिन **लाव्रा** को निशाना बनाने से इनकार करते हुए कहा कि वह एक पुरानी **अमेरिकी पैट्रियट वायु रक्षा मिसाइल** से प्रभावित हुआ था।
- Founded in the **11th century**, the site holds huge significance for **Orthodox believers** in both **Ukraine** and **Russia**.
  11वीं शताब्दी में स्थापित यह स्थल **यूक्रेन** और **रूस** दोनों के **ऑर्थोडॉक्स श्रद्धालुओं** के लिए अत्यधिक महत्व रखता है।

GS Paper II: Polity	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	SC seeks govt. response to plea on RTE quota in Punjab पंजाब में RTE कोटा संबंधी याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सरकार से जवाब मांगा
16J6	Peace with peace शांति के माध्यम से शांति

GS II: Polity

SC seeks govt. response to plea on RTE quota in Punjab

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses from the Centre and the Punjab government on a plea alleging failure to implement the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 in Punjab, particularly the mandate under Section 12(1)(c) requiring private unaided schools to reserve 25% of entry-level seats for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups. At the outset of the hearing, a Bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice V. Mohana asked the petitioner, who runs an NGO and appeared at the court in person, whether he had conducted any survey to substantiate the allegations. The petitioner submitted that the law remained unimplemented in Punjab for the past 15 years.

16J6. SC seeks govt. response to plea on RTE quota in Punjab

पंजाब में RTE कोटा संबंधी याचिका पर सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सरकार से जवाब मांगा

- The **Supreme Court** on Monday sought responses from the **Centre** and the **Punjab government** on a plea alleging failure to implement the **Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009** in Punjab, particularly the mandate under **Section 12(1)(c)** requiring private unaided schools to reserve **25% of entry-level seats** for children from weaker sections and disadvantaged groups.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सोमवार को **केंद्र सरकार** और **पंजाब सरकार** से उस याचिका पर जवाब मांगा, जिसमें पंजाब में **बच्चों का निःशुल्क एवं अनिवार्य शिक्षा का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2009 (RTE Act)** को लागू करने में विफलता का आरोप लगाया गया है, विशेष रूप से **धारा 12(1)(c)** के उस प्रावधान को लेकर, जिसके तहत निजी गैर-सहायता प्राप्त विद्यालयों में **प्रवेश स्तर की 25% सीटें** कमजोर वर्गों और वंचित समूहों के बच्चों के लिए आरक्षित करना अनिवार्य है।

GS II: Polity

Peace with peace

Preventive detentions are misused by the state in the name of order

In *Chander Pal Singh*, a matter involving preventive proceedings, the Allahabad High Court has simultaneously addressed a part of the criminal justice system that often receives less attention than ordinary criminal proceedings and the more overbearing reality of mechanisms designed to avert disturbances having gradually become instruments to deprive people of liberty. The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to public order. However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge. The High Court's order was based, the Bench said, on a "highly irresponsible" deprivation of personal liberties in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions. In *Chander Pal Singh* as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged Dalit advocate, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour. The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in Ghaziabad, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers.

The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework. They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified "communal tensions" to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release. Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist Sonam Wangchuk under the NSA, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace. The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in New Delhi if held under Sections 126 or 170 of the BNSS without valid grounds. That said, implementing the ruling will be difficult. The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing. However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel. Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining 'peace' as the State defines it. Addressing these barriers could reform preventive proceedings in India.

16J6. Peace with peace
शांति के माध्यम से शांति

- The state has the power to intervene before a crime occurs if it is reasonably apprehensive that a person is a threat to **public order**.

राज्य के पास अपराध घटित होने से पूर्व हस्तक्षेप करने की शक्ति होती है, यदि उसे यह युक्तिसंगत आशंका हो कि कोई व्यक्ति **लोक व्यवस्था** के लिए खतरा बन सकता है।

- However, it has acquired a habit of exercising that power routinely, resulting in detentions without any substantive criminal charge.

हालाँकि, राज्य ने इस शक्ति का नियमित रूप से प्रयोग करने की प्रवृत्ति विकसित कर ली है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप बिना किसी ठोस आपराधिक आरोप के लोगों को निरुद्ध किया जाता है।

- The High Court's order was based, the Bench said, on a "highly irresponsible" deprivation of **personal liberties** in Uttar Pradesh, where police officers and executive magistrates were using preventive powers to incarcerate individuals on the basis of arguably minor apprehensions.

पीठ ने कहा कि उच्च न्यायालय का आदेश उत्तर प्रदेश में **व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रताओं** के "अत्यंत गैर-जिम्मेदाराना" हनन पर आधारित था, जहाँ पुलिस अधिकारी और कार्यपालिका मजिस्ट्रेट मामूली आशंकाओं के आधार पर लोगों को कारावास में भेजने हेतु निवारक शक्तियों का उपयोग कर रहे थे।

- In **Chander Pal Singh** as well, the petitioner, a physically challenged **Dalit advocate**, had been arrested over a petty dispute with a neighbour.

चंदर पाल सिंह मामले में भी याचिकाकर्ता, जो एक दिव्यांग **दलित अधिवक्ता** थे, को पड़ोसी के साथ एक मामूली विवाद के कारण गिरफ्तार किया गया था।

- The Bench said that between May 2025 and April 2026, around 2,500 people were reportedly subjected to preventive detention proceedings in **Ghaziabad**, despite a 2021 State policy to guide the exercise of such powers.

पीठ ने कहा कि मई 2025 से अप्रैल 2026 के बीच **गाज़ियाबाद** में लगभग 2,500 लोगों को निवारक निरोध कार्यवाहियों का सामना करना पड़ा, जबकि ऐसी शक्तियों के प्रयोग को निर्देशित करने हेतु वर्ष 2021 की राज्य नीति पहले से मौजूद थी।

- The guidelines in response are commendable; if implemented appropriately, they could reduce the use of preventive incarceration in neighbourhood and property disputes; require executive magistrates to justify their decisions; encourage constitutional challenges to unlawful preventive detention; and generate appellate scrutiny of the compensation framework.

इस संदर्भ में जारी दिशानिर्देश सराहनीय हैं; यदि उनका उचित क्रियान्वयन किया जाए, तो वे पड़ोस और संपत्ति संबंधी विवादों में निवारक कारावास के उपयोग को कम कर सकते हैं; कार्यपालिका मजिस्ट्रेटों को अपने निर्णयों का औचित्य सिद्ध करने के लिए बाध्य कर सकते हैं; अवैध निवारक निरोध के विरुद्ध संवैधानिक चुनौतियों को प्रोत्साहित कर सकते हैं; तथा क्षतिपूर्ति व्यवस्था की अपीलीय समीक्षा सुनिश्चित कर सकते हैं।

- They may also snap at the heels of magistrates who cite unspecified "communal tensions" to jail protesters and who impose prohibitively unaffordable bonds for release.
  वे उन मजिस्ट्रेटों पर भी अंकुश लगा सकते हैं जो अस्पष्ट "सांप्रदायिक तनावों" का हवाला देकर प्रदर्शनकारियों को जेल भेजते हैं तथा रिहाई के लिए अत्यधिक महँगी और वहन न की जा सकने वाली जमानती शर्तें लगाते हैं।
- Further, even if the ruling does not directly impinge on the detention of activist **Sonam Wangchuk** under the **NSA**, it critiques the idea of using the excuse of maintaining peace to silence dissent and reminds the state that it still has a responsibility to maintain peace with peace.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, यद्यपि यह निर्णय **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NSA)** के अंतर्गत कार्यकर्ता **सोनम वांगचुक** की निरुद्धि को प्रत्यक्ष रूप से प्रभावित नहीं करता, फिर भी यह शांति बनाए रखने के बहाने असहमति को दबाने की प्रवृत्ति की आलोचना करता है तथा राज्य को स्मरण कराता है कि उसकी जिम्मेदारी शांति के माध्यम से शांति बनाए रखने की भी है।
- The ruling may also apply to workers and activists recently detained in **New Delhi** if held under Sections **126** or **170** of the **BNSS** without valid grounds.
  यदि हाल ही में **नई दिल्ली** में निरुद्ध किए गए श्रमिकों और कार्यकर्ताओं को **BNSS** की धारा **126** या **170** के अंतर्गत बिना वैध आधार के हिरासत में रखा गया है, तो यह निर्णय उन पर भी लागू हो सकता है।
- The Bench said that compensation for unlawful detention can be recovered from the salary of the magistrate concerned and/or police officer following a disciplinary hearing.
  पीठ ने कहा कि अवैध निरोध के लिए दी जाने वाली क्षतिपूर्ति संबंधित मजिस्ट्रेट और/या पुलिस अधिकारी के वेतन से, अनुशासनात्मक सुनवाई के बाद, वसूल की जा सकती है।
- However, the executive has been historically reluctant to penalise its personnel.
  हालाँकि, कार्यपालिका ऐतिहासिक रूप से अपने अधिकारियों को दंडित करने के प्रति अनिच्छुक रही है।
- Second, executive magistrates are part of the State administration and their careers may depend on maintaining 'peace' as the State defines it.
  दूसरे, कार्यपालिका मजिस्ट्रेट राज्य प्रशासन का हिस्सा होते हैं और उनका कैरियर उस 'शांति' को बनाए रखने पर निर्भर हो सकता है, जिसकी परिभाषा राज्य स्वयं निर्धारित करता है।

GS Paper II: Governance	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS डीजीएस ने कहा, भारतीय नाविकों को संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में तैनात नहीं किया जाएगा
16J6	Social media, video platforms surpass traditional outlets as leading news sources: report रिपोर्ट: सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो प्लेटफ़ॉर्म प्रमुख समाचार स्रोतों के रूप में पारंपरिक माध्यमों से आगे निकले

Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS

GS II: Governance

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has advised maritime recruitment and placement agencies not to deploy Indian seafarers to conflict zones until further notice. However, companies may carry out crew changes in emergency situations with the consent of the crew.

The safety advisory sent to all stakeholders comes days after three Indian seafarers were killed in a U.S. strike on *Settebello* off the coast of Oman. The shipping regulator said recent developments in the Gulf region, particularly in and around the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, had resulted in multiple security incidents involving merchant vessels carrying Indian seafarers.

Navigational warnings

Incidents involving *Marivex*, *Settebello* and *Jalveer* during the past few days highlighted the increasing risks faced by commercial ships operating in the region. The DGS directed masters of vessels operating in or transiting through the Gulf region, including the Strait of Hormuz, to maintain heightened security awareness, closely monitor navigational warnings issued by security agencies, and implement all applicable ship security measures.

"This Directorate further reiterates that all Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL) companies and shipping companies are advised not to deploy or send Indian seafarers to conflict areas until further orders."

The DGS said it was closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with various Ministries, the Indian Navy and other stakeholders to ensure safety and welfare.

The DGS urged all maritime stakeholders to exercise the highest degree of vigilance and caution while operating in the conflict zone and to promptly report any incident involving Indian seafarers to the authorities concerned.

16J6. Indian seafarers not to be deployed in conflict zones: DGS

डीजीएस ने कहा, भारतीय नाविकों को संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में तैनात नहीं किया जाएगा

- The **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)** has advised maritime recruitment and placement agencies not to deploy **Indian seafarers** to conflict zones until further notice.

नौवहन महानिदेशालय (DGS) ने समुद्री भर्ती एवं नियुक्ति एजेंसियों को अगले आदेश तक **भारतीय नाविकों** को संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में तैनात न करने की सलाह दी है।

- However, companies may carry out crew changes in emergency situations with the consent of the crew.

हालाँकि, आपातकालीन परिस्थितियों में कंपनियाँ चालक दल की सहमति से क्रू परिवर्तन कर सकती हैं।

- The safety advisory sent to all stakeholders comes days after three Indian seafarers were killed in a **U.S. strike** on **Settebello** off the coast of **Oman**.

सभी हितधारकों को जारी यह सुरक्षा परामर्श **ओमान** तट के निकट **सेट्टेबेलो** पर हुए **अमेरिकी हमले** में तीन भारतीय नाविकों की मृत्यु के कुछ दिनों बाद जारी किया गया है।

- The shipping regulator said recent developments in the **Gulf region**, particularly in and around the **Strait of Hormuz** and the **Gulf of Oman**, had resulted in multiple security incidents involving merchant vessels carrying Indian seafarers.

नौवहन नियामक ने कहा कि **खाड़ी क्षेत्र**, विशेषकर **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** और **ओमान की खाड़ी** के आसपास हाल के घटनाक्रमों के कारण भारतीय नाविकों को ले जाने वाले व्यापारिक जहाजों से संबंधित अनेक सुरक्षा घटनाएँ सामने आई हैं।

Navigational Warnings
नौवहन संबंधी चेतावनियाँ

- Incidents involving **Marivex**, **Settebello** and **Jalveer** during the past few days highlighted the increasing risks faced by commercial ships operating in the region.

पिछले कुछ दिनों में **मारिवेक्स**, **सेट्टेबेलो** और **जलवीर** से जुड़ी घटनाओं ने इस क्षेत्र में परिचालन कर रहे वाणिज्यिक जहाजों के समक्ष बढ़ते जोखिमों को उजागर किया है।

- The DGS directed masters of vessels operating in or transiting through the Gulf region, including the **Strait of Hormuz**, to maintain heightened security awareness, closely monitor navigational warnings issued by security agencies, and implement all applicable ship security measures.

DGS ने खाड़ी क्षेत्र, जिसमें **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** भी शामिल है, में संचालित या वहाँ से गुजरने वाले जहाजों के कप्तानों को उच्च स्तर की सुरक्षा सतर्कता बनाए रखने, सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा जारी नौवहन चेतावनियों की निरंतर निगरानी करने तथा सभी लागू जहाज सुरक्षा उपायों को लागू करने का निर्देश दिया है।

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- "This Directorate further reiterates that all **Recruitment and Placement Service License (RPSL)** companies and shipping companies are advised not to deploy or send Indian seafarers to conflict areas until further orders."
  "यह निदेशालय पुनः स्पष्ट करता है कि सभी **रिक्रूटमेंट एंड प्लेसमेंट सर्विस लाइसेंस (RPSL)** कंपनियों तथा शिपिंग कंपनियों को अगले आदेश तक भारतीय नाविकों को संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में तैनात या भेजने से बचने की सलाह दी जाती है।"
- The DGS said it was closely monitoring the evolving situation in coordination with various Ministries, the **Indian Navy** and other stakeholders to ensure safety and welfare.
  DGS ने कहा कि वह सुरक्षा और कल्याण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए विभिन्न मंत्रालयों, **भारतीय नौसेना** तथा अन्य हितधारकों के साथ समन्वय में स्थिति पर लगातार निगरानी रख रहा है।
- The DGS urged all maritime stakeholders to exercise the highest degree of vigilance and caution while operating in the conflict zone and to promptly report any incident involving Indian seafarers to the authorities concerned.
  DGS ने सभी समुद्री हितधारकों से संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में कार्य करते समय उच्चतम स्तर की सतर्कता और सावधानी बरतने तथा भारतीय नाविकों से जुड़ी किसी भी घटना की तुरंत संबंधित प्राधिकरणों को सूचना देने का आग्रह किया है।

Social media, video platforms surpass traditional outlets as leading news sources: report

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Trust in news is at its lowest level globally since 2015, as interest in news dwindles; at the same time, more people around the world are accessing news through third-party platforms, such as social media and video networks, rather than through websites and television channels of established news brands, according to the 15th edition of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report.

The report, produced in collaboration with the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai, is based on an online survey of nearly one lakh people across 48 markets worldwide.

Consumption patterns have changed, the study found, with audiences' growing disengagement with news; even so, trust in established news brands and support for the idea of impartial news persist.

However, globally, social media and video networks – Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube – have overtaken news organisations' own websites and apps as the most widely used means of accessing news.

The proportion of people using social media and video networks as their primary source of news has also risen; while this trend is more evident among younger audiences, it is prevalent across all age groups, the study found.

It also found that the younger generations are unlikely to acquire the news habits of their parents, such as reading a newspaper.

In fact, older audiences are moving towards the consumption habits of younger audiences, the study found.

There has also been a rise in the use of AI chatbots as a means of accessing news, the study found, with 10% of respondents globally now using them. This is especially true among audiences below 35 years of age.

Less trust in news

Paradoxically, while traditional news sources decline amid the emergence of platforms, people are also more concerned about misinformation and put less trust in the news they come across.

There has been a marked rise in the consumption of online news videos. The study found that 77% of its global sample consume online news videos every week.

These people are, however, consuming them not on news websites or apps but on third-party platforms such as YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook.

16J6. Social media, video platforms surpass traditional outlets as leading news sources: report

रिपोर्ट: सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो प्लेटफ़ॉर्म प्रमुख समाचार स्रोतों के रूप में पारंपरिक माध्यमों से आगे निकले

- Trust in news is at its lowest level globally since **2015**, as interest in news dwindles.
  समाचारों में रुचि घटने के साथ-साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर समाचारों पर **विश्वास** 2015 के बाद अपने सबसे निचले स्तर पर पहुँच गया है।
- At the same time, more people around the world are accessing news through **third-party platforms**, such as social media and video networks, rather than through websites and television channels of established news brands, according to the **15th edition of the Reuters Institute's Digital News Report**.
  साथ ही, **रॉयटर्स इंस्टीट्यूट की डिजिटल न्यूज़ रिपोर्ट** के 15वें संस्करण के अनुसार, विश्वभर में अधिक लोग स्थापित समाचार संस्थानों की वेबसाइटों और टेलीविज़न चैनलों के बजाय **तृतीय-पक्ष मंचों**, जैसे सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो नेटवर्कों, के माध्यम से समाचार प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।

- The report, produced in collaboration with the **Asian College of Journalism, Chennai**, is based on an online survey of nearly **one lakh people** across **48 markets** worldwide.
  एशियन कॉलेज ऑफ जर्नलिज्म, चेन्नई के सहयोग से तैयार की गई यह रिपोर्ट विश्व के **48 बाज़ारों** में लगभग **एक लाख लोगों** के ऑनलाइन सर्वेक्षण पर आधारित है।

Changing Consumption Patterns
समाचार उपभोग के बदलते स्वरूप

- Consumption patterns have changed, the study found, with audiences' growing disengagement with news.
  अध्ययन में पाया गया कि समाचार उपभोग के स्वरूप में परिवर्तन आया है और दर्शकों की समाचारों से दूरी लगातार बढ़ रही है।
- Even so, trust in established news brands and support for the idea of **impartial news** persist.
  फिर भी, स्थापित समाचार संस्थानों पर विश्वास तथा **निष्पक्ष समाचार** की अवधारणा के प्रति समर्थन अभी भी बना हुआ है।
- However, globally, social media and video networks — **Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube** — have overtaken news organisations' own websites and apps as the most widely used means of accessing news.
  हालाँकि, वैश्विक स्तर पर **फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम, टिकटॉक और यूट्यूब** जैसे सोशल मीडिया एवं वीडियो मंच समाचार प्राप्त करने के सबसे अधिक उपयोग किए जाने वाले माध्यम बन गए हैं और उन्होंने समाचार संस्थानों की वेबसाइटों एवं ऐप्स को पीछे छोड़ दिया है।
- The proportion of people using social media and video networks as their primary source of news has also risen.
  समाचार के प्राथमिक स्रोत के रूप में सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो नेटवर्कों का उपयोग करने वाले लोगों का अनुपात भी बढ़ा है।
- While this trend is more evident among younger audiences, it is prevalent across all age groups, the study found.
  अध्ययन के अनुसार, यह प्रवृत्ति युवाओं में अधिक स्पष्ट है, किन्तु सभी आयु वर्गों में देखने को मिल रही है।
- It also found that the younger generations are unlikely to acquire the news habits of their parents, such as reading a newspaper.
  अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि नई पीढ़ियाँ अपने माता-पिता की समाचार संबंधी आदतों, जैसे समाचार पत्र पढ़ना, को अपनाने की संभावना कम रखती हैं।
- In fact, older audiences are moving towards the consumption habits of younger audiences, the study found.
  वास्तव में, अध्ययन के अनुसार वृद्ध दर्शक भी युवाओं जैसी समाचार उपभोग की आदतों की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।

Rise of AI and Online News Videos
एआई और ऑनलाइन समाचार वीडियो का बढ़ता प्रभाव

- There has also been a rise in the use of **AI chatbots** as a means of accessing news, the study found, with **10% of respondents globally** now using them.
  अध्ययन में पाया गया कि समाचार प्राप्त करने के माध्यम के रूप में **एआई चैटबॉट्स** का उपयोग भी बढ़ रहा है और वैश्विक स्तर पर **10% उत्तरदाता** अब इनका उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- This is especially true among audiences below **35 years of age**.
  यह प्रवृत्ति विशेष रूप से **35 वर्ष से कम आयु** के लोगों में अधिक देखी गई।

Less Trust in News
समाचारों पर घटता विश्वास

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- Paradoxically, while traditional news sources decline amid the emergence of platforms, people are also more concerned about **misinformation** and put less trust in the news they come across.
  विरोधाभासी रूप से, जहाँ एक ओर पारंपरिक समाचार स्रोतों का महत्व घट रहा है, वहीं दूसरी ओर लोग **भ्रामक सूचना (Misinformation)** को लेकर अधिक चिंतित हैं और उन्हें प्राप्त होने वाले समाचारों पर कम विश्वास कर रहे हैं।
- There has been a marked rise in the consumption of **online news videos**.
  ऑनलाइन समाचार वीडियो के उपभोग में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है।
- The study found that **77%** of its global sample consume online news videos every week.
  अध्ययन में पाया गया कि वैश्विक नमूने के **77% लोग** प्रत्येक सप्ताह ऑनलाइन समाचार वीडियो देखते हैं।
- These people are, however, consuming them not on news websites or apps but on third-party platforms such as **YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, and Facebook**.
  हालाँकि, ये लोग समाचार वीडियो समाचार वेबसाइटों या ऐप्स पर नहीं, बल्कि **यूट्यूब, इंस्टाग्राम, टिकटॉक और फेसबुक** जैसे तृतीय-पक्ष मंचों पर देख रहे हैं।

GS Paper II: International Relations	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	U.S., Iran reach deal to end war, re-open Strait अमेरिका और ईरान युद्ध समाप्त करने तथा जलडमरूमध्य को पुनः खोलने पर समझौते पर पहुँचे
16J6	India and Slovakia expand ties with a series of MoUs from defence to education भारत और स्लोवाकिया ने रक्षा से लेकर शिक्षा तक अनेक समझौता ज्ञापनों के माध्यम से संबंधों का विस्तार किया

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U.S., Iran reach deal to end war, re-open Strait

Preliminary deal signed digitally on Sunday, says U.S. V-P; in person signing in Geneva on June 19

Release of assets, reparations part of deal; will collect navigation fee in the Strait, says Tehran

Military operations including in Lebanon halted; American naval blockade on Iran also terminated

GS II, IR
Stanly Johny

The U.S. and Iran have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war, lift blockades in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, and launch substantive negotiations on Tehran's nuclear programme and the Western sanctions, the two countries announced on Monday. The agreement was signed digitally on Sunday, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance said, while Iran and Pakistan said an in-person signing ceremony would be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on June 19.

U.S. President Donald Trump said during a media interaction in France, where he arrived on Monday for the G7 meeting, that Mr. Vance will lead the country's delegation for the signing ceremony.

"The deal with the Islamic Republic of Iran is now complete... I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the Strait of Hormuz, and... authorise the immediate removal of the United States Naval blockade," Mr. Trump earlier wrote in a social media post. "Ships of the world, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" he added.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council confirmed that Tehran and Washington had finalised the text of the 'memorandum of understanding' on ending the war, while its Foreign Ministry said releasing frozen assets and paying war reparations were "essential" parts of the deal. "The American side has committed to taking measures in both areas," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said at a press briefing on Monday. Tehran would not collect tolls from ships but fees for navigation services and environmental upkeep would be charged, the Ministry added.

"We have always maintained that we do not seek to collect transit tolls, but fees for navigation services, environmental protection, ship insurance and other necessary services will be charged," Mr. Baqaei said on Monday.

"Under the agreements reached, the war and military operations on all fronts, including Lebanon, are ended immediately and permanently. Furthermore, the naval blockade against Iran is terminated immediately and completely," read a statement issued by the Council Secretariat, which doesn't say anything about the Strait of Hormuz.

Talks for a final agreement, which would involve Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions, "will be postponed until after the other side has implemented its commitments under the memorandum", the secretariat added.

U.S. officials say the deal would extend the ceasefire by 60 days during which time talks on the core issues would be held.

Iran took control of the strait, a critical waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea, after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28. Mr. Trump announced a blockade in the Gulf of Oman of Iranian ports on April 12, after negotiations between the two sides in Islamabad failed to reach any breakthrough.

"This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region. With the opening of the Strait upon the signing of the Deal on Friday, for purposes of mine removal, oil will flow on both ends again for the Region, and the World!," Mr. Trump wrote in another post.

He said on Monday evening that "ships are starting to move, many loaded up with oil, out of the Strait of Hormuz."

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also confirmed the agreement, adding that "both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."

Iran's Mehr news agency reported that the deal would see release of $24 billion in frozen Iranian assets during the 60-day negotiation period. But U.S. officials, including Mr. Trump and Mr. Vance have insisted that no cash would be paid to Iran upon signing the agreement.

The report also claimed final negotiations would not begin until half of the frozen assets are released and the blockade is lifted. The final text of the agreement is yet to be released.

A commuter flashes a victory sign in front of a banner that reads 'Thank you Iran' near Beirut, Lebanon, on Monday. REUTERS

Vessels cautious despite Trump's announcement

CHENNAI
While U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he had authorised the re-opening of the Strait of Hormuz and the removal of the U.S. blockade while announcing the deal with Iran, data suggested that traffic through the Strait remained limited. » PAGE 4

Modi welcomes deal, expresses hope for stability

LONDON
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday welcomed the agreement between Iran and the U.S. to end the conflict in West Asia and expressed hope that the deal would restore peace and stability in the region while ensuring freedom of navigation. » PAGE 4

16J6. U.S., Iran reach deal to end war, re-open Strait
अमेरिका और ईरान युद्ध समाप्त करने तथा जलडमरूमध्य को पुनः खोलने पर समझौते पर पहुँचे

- The **U.S.** and **Iran** have reached a preliminary agreement to end the war, lift blockades in the **Strait of Hormuz** and the **Gulf of Oman**, and launch substantive negotiations on **Tehran's nuclear programme** and the **Western sanctions**, the two countries announced on Monday.
  अमेरिका और **ईरान** युद्ध समाप्त करने, **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** तथा **ओमान की खाड़ी** में नाकेबंदियों को हटाने और **तेहरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम** तथा **पश्चिमी प्रतिबंधों** पर सार्थक वार्ता शुरू करने के लिए एक प्रारंभिक समझौते पर पहुँच गए हैं, यह घोषणा दोनों देशों ने सोमवार को की।
- The agreement was signed digitally on Sunday, **U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance** said, while Iran and Pakistan said an in-person signing ceremony would be held in **Geneva, Switzerland**, on June 19.
  अमेरिकी उपराष्ट्रपति जे.डी. वेंस ने कहा कि इस समझौते पर रविवार को डिजिटल रूप से हस्ताक्षर किए गए, जबकि ईरान और पाकिस्तान ने कहा कि 19 जून को **जिनेवा, स्विट्जरलैंड** में प्रत्यक्ष हस्ताक्षर समारोह आयोजित किया जाएगा।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** said during a media interaction in France, where he arrived on Monday for the **G7 meeting**, that Mr. Vance will lead the country's delegation for the signing ceremony.
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने फ्रांस में मीडिया से बातचीत के दौरान, जहाँ वे सोमवार को **G7 बैठक** में भाग लेने पहुँचे थे, कहा कि श्री वेंस हस्ताक्षर समारोह में अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व करेंगे।
- "The deal with the **Islamic Republic of Iran** is now complete... I hereby fully authorise the toll-free opening of the **Strait of Hormuz**, and... authorise the immediate removal of the **United States Naval blockade**," Mr. Trump earlier wrote in a social media post.
  "**इस्लामी गणराज्य ईरान** के साथ समझौता अब पूर्ण हो चुका है... मैं **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** को बिना शुल्क खोले जाने की पूर्ण अनुमति देता हूँ और... **संयुक्त राज्य नौसैनिक नाकेबंदी** को तत्काल हटाने की अनुमति देता हूँ," श्री ट्रंप ने पहले एक सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में लिखा।
- "Ships of the world, start your engines. Let the oil flow!" he added.
  उन्होंने आगे कहा, "दुनिया के जहाजों, अपने इंजन चालू करो। तेल को बहने दो!"
- Iran's **Supreme National Security Council** confirmed that Tehran and Washington had finalised the text of the **'memorandum of understanding'** on ending the war, while its

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Foreign Ministry said releasing frozen assets and paying war reparations were "essential" parts of the deal.
ईरान की **सर्वोच्च राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद** ने पुष्टि की कि तेहरान और वॉशिंगटन ने युद्ध समाप्त करने संबंधी **'समझौता ज्ञापन'** के पाठ को अंतिम रूप दे दिया है, जबकि उसके विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि जमे हुए परिसंपत्तियों की रिहाई और युद्ध क्षतिपूर्ति का भुगतान समझौते के "अनिवार्य" भाग हैं।

- "The American side has committed to taking measures in both areas," **Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei** said at a press briefing on Monday.
"अमेरिकी पक्ष ने दोनों क्षेत्रों में कदम उठाने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की है," **विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता इस्माइल बकाई** ने सोमवार को प्रेस वार्ता में कहा।
- Tehran would not collect tolls from ships but fees for navigation services and environmental upkeep would be charged, the Ministry added.
मंत्रालय ने कहा कि तेहरान जहाजों से टोल नहीं वसूलेगा, लेकिन नौवहन सेवाओं और पर्यावरण संरक्षण हेतु शुल्क लिया जाएगा।
- "We have always maintained that we do not seek to collect transit tolls, but fees for navigation services, environmental protection, ship insurance and other necessary services will be charged," Mr. Baqaei said on Monday.
श्री बकाई ने सोमवार को कहा, "हम हमेशा से यह कहते रहे हैं कि हमारा उद्देश्य पारगमन शुल्क लेना नहीं है, बल्कि नौवहन सेवाओं, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, जहाज बीमा और अन्य आवश्यक सेवाओं के लिए शुल्क लिया जाएगा।"
- "Under the agreements reached, the war and military operations on all fronts, including **Lebanon**, are ended immediately and permanently."
"हासिल समझौतों के तहत **लेबनान** सहित सभी मोर्चों पर युद्ध और सैन्य अभियान तत्काल और स्थायी रूप से समाप्त कर दिए गए हैं।"
- "Furthermore, the naval blockade against Iran is terminated immediately and completely," read a statement issued by the Council Secretariat, which doesn't say anything about the **Strait of Hormuz**.
परिषद सचिवालय द्वारा जारी बयान में कहा गया, "इसके अतिरिक्त, ईरान के विरुद्ध नौसैनिक नाकेबंदी तत्काल और पूर्ण रूप से समाप्त कर दी गई है," हालाँकि इसमें **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा गया।
- Talks for a final agreement, which would involve Iran's nuclear programme and sanctions, "will be postponed until after the other side has implemented its commitments under the memorandum", the secretariat added.
सचिवालय ने कहा कि अंतिम समझौते के लिए वार्ता, जिसमें ईरान का परमाणु कार्यक्रम और प्रतिबंध शामिल होंगे, "दूसरे पक्ष द्वारा ज्ञापन के अंतर्गत अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को लागू किए जाने के बाद तक स्थगित रहेगी।"
- **U.S.** officials say the deal would extend the ceasefire by **60 days** during which time talks on the core issues would be held.
अमेरिकी अधिकारियों का कहना है कि यह समझौता युद्धविराम को **60 दिनों** तक बढ़ाएगा, जिसके दौरान मुख्य मुद्दों पर वार्ता होगी।
- Iran took control of the strait, a critical waterway connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Arabian Sea**, after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28.
28 फरवरी को अमेरिका और इज़राइल द्वारा युद्ध शुरू किए जाने के बाद ईरान ने उस जलडमरूमध्य का नियंत्रण अपने हाथ में ले लिया था, जो **फारस की खाड़ी** को **अरब सागर** से जोड़ने वाला एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण जलमार्ग है।
- Mr. Trump announced a blockade in the **Gulf of Oman** of Iranian ports on April 12, after negotiations between the two sides in **Islamabad** failed to reach any breakthrough.
दोनों पक्षों के बीच **इस्लामाबाद** में हुई वार्ता में कोई सफलता न मिलने के बाद श्री ट्रंप ने 12 अप्रैल को **ओमान की खाड़ी** में ईरानी बंदरगाहों की नाकेबंदी की घोषणा की थी।

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- "This Great Deal will bring Peace and Security to the whole Region."
  "यह महान समझौता पूरे क्षेत्र में शांति और सुरक्षा लाएगा।"
- "With the opening of the Strait upon the signing of the Deal on Friday, for purposes of mine removal, oil will flow on both ends again for the Region, and the World!" Mr. Trump wrote in another post.
  श्री ट्रंप ने एक अन्य पोस्ट में लिखा, "शुक्रवार को समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर होने के बाद जलडमरूमध्य को खदानों को हटाने के उद्देश्य से खोला जाएगा और क्षेत्र तथा विश्व के लिए दोनों दिशाओं में फिर से तेल का प्रवाह शुरू होगा।"
- He said on Monday evening that "ships are starting to move, many loaded up with oil, out of the **Strait of Hormuz**."
  उन्होंने सोमवार शाम कहा कि "**होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से जहाज निकलना शुरू हो गए हैं, जिनमें से कई तेल से लदे हुए हैं।"
- **Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** also confirmed the agreement, adding that "both sides have declared the immediate and permanent termination of military operations on all fronts, including in Lebanon."
  पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज़ शरीफ ने भी समझौते की पुष्टि करते हुए कहा कि "दोनों पक्षों ने लेबनान सहित सभी मोर्चों पर सैन्य अभियानों की तत्काल और स्थायी समाप्ति की घोषणा की है।"
- Iran's **Mehr News Agency** reported that the deal would see release of **$24 billion** in frozen Iranian assets during the 60-day negotiation period.
  ईरान की **मेहर समाचार एजेंसी** ने बताया कि इस समझौते के अंतर्गत 60 दिनों की वार्ता अवधि के दौरान ईरान की जमी हुई परिसंपत्तियों में से **24 अरब डॉलर** जारी किए जाएंगे।
- But U.S. officials, including Mr. Trump and Mr. Vance, have insisted that no cash would be paid to Iran upon signing the agreement.
  हालाँकि अमेरिकी अधिकारियों, जिनमें श्री ट्रंप और श्री वेंस शामिल हैं, ने जोर देकर कहा है कि समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर होते ही ईरान को कोई नकद राशि नहीं दी जाएगी।
- The report also claimed final negotiations would not begin until half of the frozen assets are released and the blockade is lifted.
  रिपोर्ट में यह भी दावा किया गया कि अंतिम वार्ता तब तक शुरू नहीं होगी जब तक जमी हुई परिसंपत्तियों का आधा भाग जारी नहीं कर दिया जाता और नाकेबंदी समाप्त नहीं कर दी जाती।
- The final text of the agreement is yet to be released.
  समझौते का अंतिम पाठ अभी जारी किया जाना शेष है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

India and Slovakia expand ties with a series of MoUs from defence to education

GS II: IR

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Slovak counterpart Robert Fico at the Bratislava Castle in Slovakia on Monday. REUTERS

India and Slovakia on Monday expanded their bilateral relationship with memoranda of understanding (MoUs) across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a 'Comprehensive Partnership'.

"Held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister [Robert] Fico. This is indeed a very special moment for the India-Slovakia friendship," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said following bilateral talks in the Slovakian capital of Bratislava.

The Prime Minister is here for a little over 24 hours – the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the founding of Slovakia in 1993.

"Our talks covered cooperation in sectors like automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technology. The India-EU Free Trade Agreement will also add momentum to our partnership," the Prime Minister said.

The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advance manufacturing industries.

The labour migration MoU signed seeks to facilitate mobility and the exchange of information between the authorities in both countries, as per the joint statement. The two sides also agreed to conclude a social security agreement in this regard.

An MoU between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers – especially in STEM fields and humanities.

Action against terrorists

The formation of a Joint Working Group on Terrorism was agreed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico, with the two leaders "strongly" condemning the April 2025 terror attacks in Pahalgam.

They agreed to work towards the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the United Nations framework.

The two leaders called for action against terrorists, including those in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee list and the sponsors of terrorism.

The two sides reaffirmed their support for multilateralism and called for UN reform, including the UNSC, with an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council.

Slovakia has continued to support India's quest for a permanent seat on the UNSC and "reaffirmed its constructive approach" to India's membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, as per the joint statement.

Defence and security cooperation would be "one of the key pillars" of the India-Slovakia relationship, as per the joint statement.

The two sides signed a Letter of Intent to promote defence cooperation – a move welcomed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico in their press statements. Through this framework, the governments would seek to collaborate more in defence technologies, defence industrial cooperation, capacity building, and research and development.

The two governments signed an MoU on digital technologies to provide structure to their digital cooperation, as they committed to deepening collaboration in AI, semiconductors and start-ups.

They also agreed to explore cooperation in emerging fields, including the Internet of Things and 6G standardisation.

16J6. India and Slovakia expand ties with a series of MoUs from defence to education

भारत और स्लोवाकिया ने रक्षा से लेकर शिक्षा तक अनेक समझौता ज्ञापनों के माध्यम से संबंधों का विस्तार किया

- India and **Slovakia** on Monday expanded their bilateral relationship with **memoranda of understanding (MoUs)** across defence, labour mobility, education, digital tech, and other sectors, officially branding their relationship a **'Comprehensive Partnership'**.

भारत और **स्लोवाकिया** ने सोमवार को रक्षा, श्रम गतिशीलता, शिक्षा, डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी तथा अन्य क्षेत्रों में **समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs)** के माध्यम से अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों का विस्तार किया और आधिकारिक रूप से अपने संबंधों को **'व्यापक साझेदारी' (Comprehensive Partnership)** का स्वरूप प्रदान किया।

- "Held an excellent meeting with Prime Minister **Robert Fico**. This is indeed a very special moment for the **India-Slovakia friendship**," Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said following bilateral talks in the Slovakian capital of **Bratislava**.

"प्रधानमंत्री **रॉबर्ट फिको** के साथ अत्यंत उत्कृष्ट बैठक हुई। यह वास्तव में **भारत-स्लोवाकिया मैत्री** के लिए एक विशेष क्षण है," प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** ने स्लोवाकिया की राजधानी **ब्रातिस्लावा** में द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के बाद कहा।

- The Prime Minister is here for a little over 24 hours — the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister since the founding of **Slovakia** in 1993.

प्रधानमंत्री लगभग 24 घंटे से अधिक समय के लिए यहाँ हैं — यह 1993 में **स्लोवाकिया** की स्थापना के बाद किसी भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री की पहली यात्रा है।

- "Our talks covered cooperation in sectors like automobiles, railways, advanced manufacturing, and green technology."

"हमारी वार्ताओं में ऑटोमोबाइल, रेलवे, उन्नत विनिर्माण तथा हरित प्रौद्योगिकी जैसे क्षेत्रों में सहयोग पर चर्चा हुई।"

- "The **India-EU Free Trade Agreement** will also add momentum to our partnership," the Prime Minister said.

प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा, "**भारत-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौता** भी हमारी साझेदारी को नई गति प्रदान करेगा।"

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- The countries committed to significantly boost two-way trade and investment across areas such as the automotive, electronic, and advanced manufacturing industries.
  दोनों देशों ने ऑटोमोबाइल, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स तथा उन्नत विनिर्माण उद्योगों सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार और निवेश को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ाने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की।
- The labour migration **MoU** signed seeks to facilitate mobility and the exchange of information between the authorities in both countries, as per the joint statement.
  संयुक्त वक्तव्य के अनुसार, हस्ताक्षरित **श्रम प्रवासन समझौता ज्ञापन** दोनों देशों के अधिकारियों के बीच श्रमिकों की आवाजाही और सूचना के आदान-प्रदान को सुगम बनाने का प्रयास करता है।
- The two sides also agreed to conclude a **social security agreement** in this regard.
  दोनों पक्षों ने इस संबंध में एक **सामाजिक सुरक्षा समझौते** को अंतिम रूप देने पर भी सहमति व्यक्त की।
- An **MoU** between the Higher Education Ministries of the two countries to facilitate academic and institutional linkages was also signed.
  शैक्षणिक और संस्थागत संबंधों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए दोनों देशों के उच्च शिक्षा मंत्रालयों के बीच एक **समझौता ज्ञापन** पर भी हस्ताक्षर किए गए।
- Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico agreed to promote the mobility of students and researchers — especially in **STEM fields** and humanities.
  श्री मोदी और श्री फिको ने छात्रों और शोधकर्ताओं की गतिशीलता को बढ़ावा देने पर सहमति व्यक्त की, विशेषकर **STEM क्षेत्रों** और मानविकी विषयों में।

Action Against Terrorists
आतंकवादियों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई

- The formation of a **Joint Working Group on Terrorism** was agreed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico, with the two leaders "strongly" condemning the April 2025 terror attacks in **Pahalgam**.
  श्री मोदी और श्री फिको ने **आतंकवाद पर संयुक्त कार्य समूह** के गठन पर सहमति व्यक्त की तथा दोनों नेताओं ने अप्रैल 2025 में **पहलगाम** में हुए आतंकवादी हमलों की "कड़े शब्दों में" निंदा की।
- They agreed to work towards the adoption of the **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism** within the **United Nations** framework.
  उन्होंने **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** के ढाँचे के अंतर्गत **अंतरराष्ट्रीय आतंकवाद पर व्यापक अभिसमय** को अपनाने की दिशा में कार्य करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- The two leaders called for action against terrorists, including those in the **UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee** list and the sponsors of terrorism.
  दोनों नेताओं ने आतंकवादियों तथा आतंकवाद को समर्थन देने वालों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई का आह्वान किया, जिनमें **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की 1267 प्रतिबंध समिति** की सूची में शामिल व्यक्ति भी शामिल हैं।
- The two sides reaffirmed their support for **multilateralism** and called for **UN reform**, including the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, with an expansion of the permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council.
  दोनों पक्षों ने **बहुपक्षवाद** के प्रति अपने समर्थन की पुनः पुष्टि की और **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुधार**, विशेषकर **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC)** में स्थायी तथा अस्थायी सीटों के विस्तार की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।
- Slovakia has continued to support India's quest for a permanent seat on the **UNSC** and "reaffirmed its constructive approach" to India's membership of the **Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)**, as per the joint statement.
  संयुक्त वक्तव्य के अनुसार, स्लोवाकिया ने **UNSC** में भारत की स्थायी सदस्यता की आकांक्षा का समर्थन जारी रखा है और **न्यूक्लियर सप्लायर्स ग्रुप (NSG)** की सदस्यता के प्रति भारत के लिए अपने "रचनात्मक दृष्टिकोण" की पुनः पुष्टि की है।

Defence and Security Cooperation
रक्षा एवं सुरक्षा सहयोग

- Defence and security cooperation would be "one of the key pillars" of the **India-Slovakia relationship**, as per the joint statement.
  संयुक्त वक्तव्य के अनुसार, रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग **भारत-स्लोवाकिया संबंधों** के "प्रमुख स्तंभों" में से एक होगा।
- The two sides signed a **Letter of Intent** to promote defence cooperation — a move welcomed by Mr. Modi and Mr. Fico in their press statements.
  दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा सहयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक **आशय पत्र (Letter of Intent)** पर हस्ताक्षर किए, जिसका स्वागत श्री मोदी और श्री फिको ने अपने प्रेस वक्तव्यों में किया।
- Through this framework, the governments would seek to collaborate more in defence technologies, defence industrial cooperation, capacity building, and research and development.
  इस ढाँचे के माध्यम से दोनों सरकारें रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा औद्योगिक सहयोग, क्षमता निर्माण तथा अनुसंधान एवं विकास में अधिक सहयोग करने का प्रयास करेंगी।
- The two governments signed an **MoU on digital technologies** to provide structure to their digital cooperation, as they committed to deepening collaboration in **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, semiconductors and start-ups.
  दोनों सरकारों ने डिजिटल सहयोग को संरचित करने के लिए **डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकियों पर एक समझौता ज्ञापन** पर हस्ताक्षर किए और **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)**, सेमीकंडक्टर तथा स्टार्ट-अप क्षेत्रों में सहयोग को गहरा करने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की।
- They also agreed to explore cooperation in emerging fields, including the **Internet of Things (IoT)** and **6G standardisation**.
  उन्होंने **इंटरनेट ऑफ थिंग्स (IoT)** तथा **6G मानकीकरण** सहित उभरते क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाओं का भी अन्वेषण करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।

GS Paper III: Economy	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	India's goods exports hit record high of $45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens मई में भारत का वस्तु निर्यात 45.2 अरब डॉलर के रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर पर पहुँचा; व्यापार घाटा बढ़ा
16J6	A.P. to partner with Google to create AI-cloud task force आंध्र प्रदेश एआई-क्लाउड कार्यबल के गठन हेतु गूगल के साथ साझेदारी करेगा
16J6	Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports केंद्र ने डीज़ल और विमानन ईंधन के निर्यात पर विंडफॉल टैक्स बढ़ाया
16J6	Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May मई में बेरोज़गारी दर में मामूली वृद्धि
16J6	WPI inflation jumps to 9.7% in May on surging fuel prices ईंधन कीमतों में उछाल के कारण मई में WPI मुद्रास्फीति 9.7% तक पहुंची
16J6	Why an Iran peace deal won't pull the Japanese yen back from the brink ईरान शांति समझौता जापानी येन को संकट के किनारे से वापस क्यों नहीं ला पाएगा
16J6	China bonds emerge as surprise haven on war युद्ध के दौरान चीनी बॉन्ड एक अप्रत्याशित सुरक्षित निवेश विकल्प के रूप में उभरे

India's goods exports hit record high of $45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

GS III: Economy

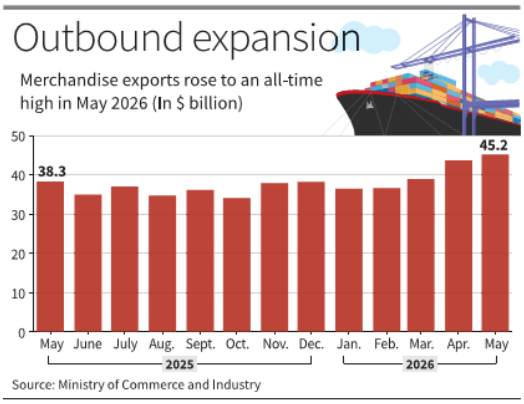
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports have jumped to a record high of $45.2 billion in May 2026, 18% higher than $38.3 billion in May last year, according to official data. Services exports rose 13.2% during the same period, to $36.8 billion in May 2026.

However, despite this, India's overall trade deficit widened to $10.5 billion from $6.8 billion in May last year due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.

Broad-based increase

The data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher shipments to Singapore, China, the U.K., Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others. This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both petroleum and several non-petroleum sectors seeing strong growth in exports.



Within merchandise exports, the electronic goods sector saw exports growing 11.6% to $5.1 billion in May 2026.

The organic and inorganic chemicals sector similarly saw exports grow by 12.7% to $2.7 billion during the same period.

Notably, the engineering goods category saw exports jumping 24.5% in May 2026 to $12.3 billion. The gems and jewellery sector, too, saw a growth in exports of 6.7% to $2.5 billion in May 2026.

Overall, the data show India's non-petroleum exports grew 10.5% to $70.7 billion in the first two months of this financial year.

Imports grow faster

India's merchandise imports jumped 22.1% to $73.4 billion in May 2026. As a result, the merchandise trade deficit stood at $28.2 billion in May this year, 25% higher than in May 2025.

Services imports, too, grew 14.1% in May 2026 to $19.1 billion.

16J6. India's goods exports hit record high of $45.2 billion in May; trade deficit widens

मई में भारत का वस्तु निर्यात 45.2 अरब डॉलर के रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर पर पहुँचा; व्यापार घाटा बढ़ा

India's Merchandise Exports Reach Record High
भारत का माल निर्यात रिकॉर्ड उच्च स्तर पर पहुँचा

- India's **merchandise exports** have jumped to a record high of **$45.2 billion** in May 2026, 18% higher than **$38.3 billion** in May last year, according to official data.
  आधिकारिक आँकड़ों के अनुसार, भारत का **माल निर्यात (Merchandise Exports)** मई 2026 में बढ़कर रिकॉर्ड **45.2 अरब डॉलर** पर पहुँच गया, जो पिछले वर्ष मई में दर्ज **38.3 अरब डॉलर** की तुलना में 18% अधिक है।
- **Services exports** rose 13.2% during the same period, to **$36.8 billion** in May 2026.
  इसी अवधि में **सेवा निर्यात (Services Exports)** 13.2% बढ़कर मई 2026 में **36.8 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।
- However, despite this, India's overall **trade deficit** widened to **$10.5 billion** from **$6.8 billion** in May last year due to a sharper growth in imports of both goods and services.
  हालाँकि, इसके बावजूद वस्तुओं और सेवाओं दोनों के आयात में अधिक तीव्र वृद्धि के कारण भारत का कुल **व्यापार घाटा (Trade Deficit)** पिछले वर्ष मई के **6.8 अरब डॉलर** से बढ़कर **10.5 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।

Broad-based Increase
व्यापक आधार पर वृद्धि

- The data released by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** show that India's merchandise exports rose in May, due to higher shipments to **Singapore, China, the U.K.,**

Tanzania, Bangladesh, Germany, and South Africa, among others.
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा जारी आँकड़ों से पता चलता है कि मई में भारत के माल निर्यात में वृद्धि हुई, जिसका प्रमुख कारण **सिंगापुर, चीन, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, तंज़ानिया, बांग्लादेश, जर्मनी और दक्षिण अफ्रीका** सहित विभिन्न देशों को अधिक निर्यात रहा।

- This increase was also relatively broad-based in terms of sectors, with both **petroleum** and several **non-petroleum sectors** seeing strong growth in exports.
  यह वृद्धि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में भी व्यापक रही, जहाँ **पेट्रोलियम** तथा कई **गैर-पेट्रोलियम क्षेत्रों** में निर्यात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।
- Within merchandise exports, the **electronic goods sector** saw exports growing 11.6% to **$5.1 billion** in May 2026.
  माल निर्यात के अंतर्गत **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक वस्तु क्षेत्र** का निर्यात 11.6% बढ़कर मई 2026 में **5.1 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।
- The **organic and inorganic chemicals sector** similarly saw exports grow by 12.7% to **$2.7 billion** during the same period.
  इसी प्रकार **कार्बनिक और अकार्बनिक रसायन क्षेत्र** का निर्यात 12.7% बढ़कर **2.7 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।
- Notably, the **engineering goods** category saw exports jumping 24.5% in May 2026 to **$12.3 billion**.
  विशेष रूप से **इंजीनियरिंग वस्तुओं** के निर्यात में 24.5% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई और यह मई 2026 में **12.3 अरब डॉलर** तक पहुँच गया।
- The **gems and jewellery sector**, too, saw a growth in exports of 6.7% to **$2.5 billion** in May 2026.
  रत्न एवं आभूषण क्षेत्र के निर्यात में भी 6.7% की वृद्धि हुई और यह मई 2026 में **2.5 अरब डॉलर** तक पहुँच गया।
- Overall, the data show India's **non-petroleum exports** grew 10.5% to **$70.7 billion** in the first two months of this financial year.
  समग्र रूप से आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के पहले दो महीनों में भारत का **गैर-पेट्रोलियम निर्यात** 10.5% बढ़कर **70.7 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।

Imports Grow Faster

A.P. to partner with Google to create AI-cloud task force

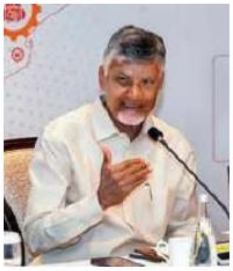
GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu held a series of high-level meetings with global technology, logistics, urban development and academic institutions on Monday, the first day of his two-day visit to Singapore, seeking investments and strategic partnerships for the State's development.

A key outcome of the visit was an agreement between the Andhra Pradesh government and Google to establish a special task force to explore cooperation in artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and digital governance.

During his meeting with Google Asia-Pacific president Karan Bhajwa, the



N. Chandrababu Naidu

Chief Minister outlined his vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major hub for AI, data centres and digital infrastructure. He invited Google to partner with the State in strengthening digital governance and real-time governance systems through advanced cloud technologies.

Mr. Naidu also sought Google's support for large-scale skill development programmes in AI, machine learning and cloud computing.

Logistics parks

The Chief Minister also met representatives of YCH Logistics Group and discussed the establishment of logistics parks and a modern supply chain city in Andhra Pradesh. In another meeting, Mr. Naidu invited UN-Habitat Executive Director Anaclaudia Rossbach to establish a Centre of Excellence in Andhra Pradesh.

The visit forms part of Andhra Pradesh's efforts to attract global investments and position the State as a leading destination for technology, education, logistics and sustainable urban development.

आयात में अधिक तीव्र वृद्धि

- India's **merchandise imports** jumped 22.1% to **$73.4 billion** in May 2026.
  भारत का **माल आयात (Merchandise Imports)** मई 2026 में 22.1% बढ़कर **73.4 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।
- As a result, the **merchandise trade deficit** stood at **$28.2 billion** in May this year, 25% higher than in May 2025.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप, इस वर्ष मई में **माल व्यापार घाटा (Merchandise Trade Deficit) 28.2 अरब डॉलर** रहा, जो मई 2025 की तुलना में 25% अधिक है।
- **Services imports**, too, grew 14.1% in May 2026 to **$19.1 billion**.
  सेवा आयात (Services Imports) में भी वृद्धि

दर्ज की गई और यह मई 2026 में 14.1% बढ़कर **19.1 अरब डॉलर** हो गया।

16J6. A.P. to partner with Google to create AI-cloud task force
आंध्र प्रदेश एआई-क्लाउड कार्यबल के गठन हेतु गूगल के साथ साझेदारी करेगा

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu** held a series of high-level meetings with global technology, logistics, urban development and academic institutions on Monday, the first day of his two-day visit to **Singapore**, seeking investments and strategic partnerships for the State's development.
  आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री एन. चंद्रबाबू नायडू ने अपनी दो दिवसीय **सिंगापुर** यात्रा के पहले दिन सोमवार को वैश्विक प्रौद्योगिकी, लॉजिस्टिक्स, शहरी विकास और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठकें कीं, जिनका उद्देश्य राज्य के विकास हेतु निवेश और रणनीतिक साझेदारियाँ प्राप्त करना था।
- A key outcome of the visit was an agreement between the **Andhra Pradesh government** and **Google** to establish a special task force to explore cooperation in **artificial intelligence (AI)**, cloud computing and digital governance.
  इस यात्रा का एक प्रमुख परिणाम **आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार** और **Google** के बीच हुआ समझौता रहा, जिसके तहत **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)**, क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग और डिजिटल प्रशासन के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाओं का अध्ययन करने के लिए एक विशेष कार्यबल स्थापित किया जाएगा।
- During his meeting with **Google Asia-Pacific president Karan Bhajwa**, the Chief Minister outlined his vision of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a major hub for AI, data centres and digital infrastructure.
  गूगल एशिया-प्रशांत के अध्यक्ष करण भजवा के साथ अपनी बैठक के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री ने आंध्र प्रदेश को AI, डेटा सेंटर और डिजिटल अवसंरचना का एक प्रमुख केंद्र बनाने की अपनी परिकल्पना प्रस्तुत की।
- He invited Google to partner with the State in strengthening digital governance and real-time governance systems through advanced cloud technologies.
  उन्होंने Google को उन्नत क्लाउड प्रौद्योगिकियों के माध्यम से डिजिटल प्रशासन और रीयल-टाइम शासन प्रणालियों को सुदृढ़ बनाने में राज्य के साथ साझेदारी करने का आमंत्रण दिया।
- Mr. Naidu also sought Google's support for large-scale skill development programmes in **AI, machine learning and cloud computing**.
  श्री नायडू ने **AI, मशीन लर्निंग और क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग** के क्षेत्रों में बड़े पैमाने पर कौशल विकास कार्यक्रमों के लिए भी Google का सहयोग माँगा।

Logistics Parks
लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क

- The Chief Minister also met representatives of **YCH Logistics Group** and discussed the establishment of logistics parks and a modern supply chain city in Andhra Pradesh.
  मुख्यमंत्री ने **YCH लॉजिस्टिक्स समूह** के प्रतिनिधियों से भी मुलाकात की और आंध्र प्रदेश में लॉजिस्टिक्स पार्क तथा एक आधुनिक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला नगर की स्थापना पर चर्चा की।
- In another meeting, Mr. Naidu invited **UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach** to establish a **Centre of Excellence** in Andhra Pradesh.
  एक अन्य बैठक में श्री नायडू ने **यूएन-हैबिटेट की कार्यकारी निदेशक अनाक्लाउडिया रोसबाख** को आंध्र प्रदेश में एक **सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस** स्थापित करने का आमंत्रण दिया।
- The visit forms part of Andhra Pradesh's efforts to attract global investments and position the State as a leading destination for technology, education, logistics and sustainable urban development.
  यह यात्रा वैश्विक निवेश आकर्षित करने तथा आंध्र प्रदेश को प्रौद्योगिकी, शिक्षा, लॉजिस्टिक्स और सतत शहरी विकास के लिए एक अग्रणी गंतव्य के रूप में स्थापित करने के राज्य के प्रयासों का हिस्सा है।

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GS III: Economy

Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

The government on Monday hiked windfall gains tax on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), while retaining the levy on petrol for the fortnight beginning June 16. The rate of special additional excise duty (SAED) on export of diesel will be ₹14 a litre, up from ₹13.5 a litre at present. The SAED on export of ATF will be ₹12.5 a litre, up from ₹9.5 a litre. There is no change in the rate of duty on exports of petrol and it continues to be at ₹1.5 a litre. The Finance Ministry, in a notification, said the duty hikes would be effective from June 16. Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on petrol and diesel cleared for domestic consumption. PTI

16J6. Centre hikes windfall tax on diesel, aviation fuel exports

केंद्र ने डीज़ल और विमानन ईंधन के निर्यात पर विंडफॉल टैक्स बढ़ाया

Government Hikes Windfall Gains Tax on Diesel and ATF Exports

सरकार ने डीज़ल और एटीएफ निर्यात पर विंडफॉल गेन टैक्स बढ़ाया

- The government on Monday hiked **windfall gains tax** on exports of **diesel** and **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)**, while retaining the levy on **petrol** for the fortnight beginning June 16.
  सरकार ने सोमवार को **डीज़ल** और **एविएशन टर्बाइन फ्यूल (ATF)** के निर्यात पर **विंडफॉल गेन टैक्स** बढ़ा दिया, जबकि 16 जून से शुरू होने वाले पखवाड़े के लिए **पेट्रोल** पर लागू कर को यथावत रखा।
- The rate of **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on export of diesel will be **₹14 per litre**, up from **₹13.5 per litre** at present.
  डीज़ल के निर्यात पर **विशेष अतिरिक्त उत्पाद शुल्क (SAED)** की दर वर्तमान **₹13.5 प्रति लीटर** से बढ़ाकर **₹14 प्रति लीटर** कर दी गई है।
- The **SAED** on export of **ATF** will be **₹12.5 per litre**, up from **₹9.5 per litre**.
  ATF के निर्यात पर **SAED** की दर **₹9.5 प्रति लीटर** से बढ़ाकर **₹12.5 प्रति लीटर** कर दी गई है।
- There is no change in the rate of duty on exports of **petrol** and it continues to be at **₹1.5 per litre**.
  पेट्रोल के निर्यात पर शुल्क दर में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है और यह **₹1.5 प्रति लीटर** पर यथावत बनी हुई है।
- The **Finance Ministry**, in a notification, said the duty hikes would be effective from **June 16**.
  वित्त मंत्रालय ने एक अधिसूचना में कहा कि बढ़ी हुई शुल्क दरें **16 जून** से प्रभावी होंगी।
- Also, there is no change in the existing duty rates on **petrol** and **diesel** cleared for domestic consumption.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, घरेलू उपभोग के लिए जारी किए जाने वाले **पेट्रोल** और **डीज़ल** पर लागू वर्तमान शुल्क दरों में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है।

Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unemployment rate (UR) in the country increased by 0.3 percentage points to 5.5% in May compared with April, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in New Delhi on Monday.

While rural unemployment increased from 4.6% in April to 5.1% in May, urban unemployment decreased marginally from 6.6% in April to 6.4% in May. The unemployment rate among rural males of 15 years and above was 5.2% during May. For rural females in the same age group, it was 4.7%. In urban areas, the unemployment rate among females was 8.2% compared with 5.9% observed for males.

The Labour Force Participation Rate for persons aged 15 years and above stood at 54.4% in May. It was 55% in April.

16J6. Marginal increase in unemployment rate in May

मई में बेरोज़गारी दर में मामूली वृद्धि

- The **unemployment rate (UR)** in the country increased by **0.3 percentage points** to **5.5%** in May compared with April, according to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** released by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** in New Delhi on Monday.
  सोमवार को नई दिल्ली में **सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय** द्वारा जारी **आवधिक श्रम बल सर्वेक्षण (PLFS)** के अनुसार, देश की **बेरोज़गारी दर (UR)** अप्रैल की तुलना में **0.3 प्रतिशत अंक** बढ़कर मई में **5.5%** हो गई।
- While **rural unemployment** increased from **4.6%** in April to **5.1%** in May, **urban unemployment** decreased marginally from **6.6%** in April to **6.4%** in May.
  जहाँ **ग्रामीण बेरोज़गारी** अप्रैल के **4.6%** से बढ़कर मई में **5.1%** हो गई, वहीं **शहरी बेरोज़गारी** अप्रैल के **6.6%** से मामूली रूप से घटकर मई में **6.4%** रह गई।
- The unemployment rate among **rural males** of **15 years and above** was **5.2%** during May.
  मई के दौरान **15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु** के **ग्रामीण पुरुषों** में बेरोज़गारी दर **5.2%** दर्ज की गई।
- For **rural females** in the same age group, it was **4.7%**.
  उसी आयु वर्ग की **ग्रामीण महिलाओं** में यह दर **4.7%** रही।
- In urban areas, the unemployment rate among **females** was **8.2%** compared with **5.9%** observed for **males**.
  शहरी क्षेत्रों में **महिलाओं** की बेरोज़गारी दर **8.2%** रही, जबकि **पुरुषों** के लिए यह **5.9%** दर्ज की गई।
- The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for persons aged **15 years and above** stood at **54.4%** in May.
  15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के व्यक्तियों के लिए **श्रम बल भागीदारी दर (LFPR)** मई में **54.4%** रही।
- It was **55%** in April.
  अप्रैल में यह दर **55%** थी।

WPI inflation jumps to 9.7% in May on surging fuel prices

Govt. releases new series of Wholesale Price Index with an updated base year of 2022-23 along with new producer price indices in line with global best practices and IMF recommendations

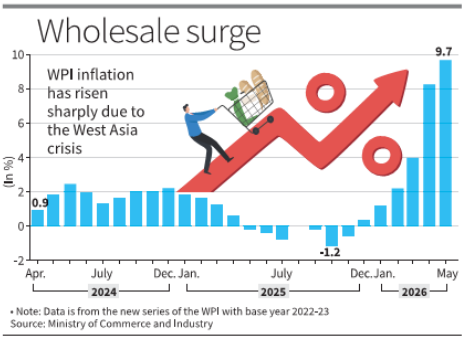
GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Inflation at the wholesale level rose to 9.7% in May 2026, primarily driven by surging prices of crude oil, natural gas, mineral oils and to a smaller extent, manufactured products, according to official data.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday released the new series of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) with an updated base year of 2022-23 and wider ambit of goods measured. Due to the base year update, a historical comparison further back than April 2024 is not available. The May 2026 inflation rate is the highest since at least then.

Along with the new WPI, the Commerce Ministry also released the first editions of its Output Producer Price Index (OPPI), Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI), and Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI) of seven services – Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Passenger Air, and Telecom.



• Note: Data is from the new series of the WPI with base year 2022-23
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

WPI to be phased out

The government also said that the Producer Price Index (PPI) will replace the WPI in five years.

"Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of its release, along with PPI, and will be discontinued thereafter," the Commerce Ministry said in its release. "This would give sufficient time to users to switch from WPI to PPI."

It added that the transition from WPI to PPI is in line with the global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the IMF.

The surge in the WPI in May 2026 was driven overwhelmingly by soaring fuel prices that month as a result of the West Asia crisis.

Inflation in the crude oil and natural gas category jumped to 61.5% in May 2026, from 56.3% in the previous month. While this is a reflection of the elevated global oil and gas prices, it is also a result of a low base, since the new series of the WPI shows prices in this category contracted by 15.5% in May last year.

Similarly, inflation in the mineral oils category accelerated to 49.8% in May 2026 from 40.7% in April. Here, too, prices had contracted in May last year.

The WPI shows that inflation in the manufacturing and food segments also quickened in May 2026, albeit not as quickly as for fuel.

16J6. WPI inflation jumps to 9.7% in May on surging fuel prices

ईंधन कीमतों में उछाल के कारण मई में WPI मुद्रास्फीति 9.7% तक पहुंची

- **Govt. releases new series of Wholesale Price Index with an updated base year of 2022-23 along with new producer price indices in line with global best practices and IMF recommendations**

सरकार ने 2022-23 को नए आधार वर्ष के रूप में अपनाते हुए थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI) की नई श्रृंखला तथा वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं और IMF की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप

नए उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक जारी किए

- Inflation at the **wholesale level** rose to **9.7%** in May 2026, primarily driven by surging prices of **crude oil, natural gas, mineral oils** and to a smaller extent, **manufactured products**, according to official data.
  आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार मई 2026 में **थोक स्तर की मुद्रास्फीति** बढ़कर **9.7%** हो गई, जिसका मुख्य कारण **कच्चे तेल, प्राकृतिक गैस, खनिज तेलों** तथा कुछ हद तक **विनिर्मित उत्पादों** की कीमतों में तेज वृद्धि रही।
- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** on Monday released the new series of the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** with an updated base year of **2022-23** and wider ambit of goods measured.
  वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को **2022-23** को नए आधार वर्ष के रूप में अपनाते हुए **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI)** की नई श्रृंखला जारी की, जिसमें वस्तुओं का दायरा भी विस्तृत किया गया है।
- Due to the base year update, a historical comparison further back than April 2024 is not available.
  आधार वर्ष में परिवर्तन के कारण अप्रैल 2024 से पहले की अवधि की ऐतिहासिक तुलना उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- The May 2026 inflation rate is the highest since at least then.
  मई 2026 की मुद्रास्फीति दर कम-से-कम उस अवधि के बाद से सबसे अधिक है।
- Along with the new **WPI**, the Commerce Ministry also released the first editions of its **Output Producer Price Index (OPPI)**, **Trial Input Producer Price Index (IPPI)**, and **Service Producer Price Index (Service PPI)** of seven services — **Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Passenger Air, and Telecom**.
  नए **WPI** के साथ वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने **आउटपुट प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स (OPPI)**, **ट्रायल इनपुट प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स (IPPI)** तथा सात सेवाओं — **बैंकिंग, प्रतिभूति लेन-देन, बीमा, पेंशन फंड प्रबंधन, रेलवे, यात्री विमानन और दूरसंचार** — के लिए **सर्विस प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स (Service PPI)** का पहला संस्करण भी जारी किया।

WPI to be phased out
WPI को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त किया जाएगा

- The government also said that the **Producer Price Index (PPI)** will replace the **WPI** in five years.
  सरकार ने यह भी कहा कि **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक (PPI)** अगले पाँच वर्षों में **WPI** का स्थान लेगा।
- "Considering the wide usage of **WPI** in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of its release, along with **PPI**, and will be discontinued thereafter," the Commerce Ministry said in its release.
  वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा, "मूल्य वृद्धि संबंधी प्रावधानों में **WPI** के व्यापक उपयोग को देखते हुए, इसे **PPI** के साथ इसके जारी होने की तिथि से पाँच वर्षों तक प्रकाशित किया जाएगा और इसके बाद इसे बंद कर दिया जाएगा।"
- "This would give sufficient time to users to switch from **WPI** to **PPI**."
  "इससे उपयोगकर्ताओं को **WPI** से **PPI** में परिवर्तन के लिए पर्याप्त समय मिलेगा।"
- It added that the transition from **WPI** to **PPI** is in line with the global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the **IMF**.
  मंत्रालय ने कहा कि **WPI** से **PPI** में परिवर्तन उन्नत अर्थव्यवस्थाओं द्वारा अपनाई गई वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं और **IMF** की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप है।
- The surge in the **WPI** in May 2026 was driven overwhelmingly by soaring **fuel prices** that month as a result of the **West Asia crisis**.
  मई 2026 में **WPI** में वृद्धि का मुख्य कारण **पश्चिम एशिया संकट** के परिणामस्वरूप उस महीने **ईंधन की कीमतों** में भारी वृद्धि थी।

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- Inflation in the **crude oil and natural gas** category jumped to **61.5%** in May 2026, from **56.3%** in the previous month.
  कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस श्रेणी में मुद्रास्फीति मई 2026 में बढ़कर **61.5%** हो गई, जो पिछले महीने **56.3%** थी।
- While this is a reflection of the elevated global oil and gas prices, it is also a result of a low base, since the new series of the **WPI** shows prices in this category contracted by **15.5%** in May last year.
  यद्यपि यह वैश्विक तेल और गैस कीमतों में वृद्धि को दर्शाता है, लेकिन यह निम्न आधार प्रभाव का भी परिणाम है, क्योंकि **WPI** की नई श्रृंखला के अनुसार इस श्रेणी में पिछले वर्ष मई में कीमतों में **15.5%** की गिरावट दर्ज की गई थी।
- Similarly, inflation in the **mineral oils** category accelerated to **49.8%** in May 2026 from **40.7%** in April.
  इसी प्रकार **खनिज तेलों** की श्रेणी में मुद्रास्फीति अप्रैल के **40.7%** से बढ़कर मई 2026 में **49.8%** हो गई।
- Here, too, prices had contracted in May last year.
  यहाँ भी पिछले वर्ष मई में कीमतों में गिरावट दर्ज की गई थी।
- The **WPI** shows that inflation in the **manufacturing** and **food** segments also quickened in May 2026, albeit not as quickly as for fuel.
  WPI दर्शाता है कि मई 2026 में **विनिर्माण** और **खाद्य** क्षेत्रों में भी मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ी, हालांकि यह वृद्धि ईंधन क्षेत्र की तुलना में कम तीव्र थी।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	**AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors** **एआई रोगियों को कैंसर समझने में सहायता कर रहा है, लेकिन चिकित्सकों को गलत समझने की प्रवृत्ति भी बढ़ा रहा है।**
16J6	**AI falls short on extreme weather forecasting** **चरम मौसम की भविष्यवाणी करने में एआई अभी भी अपेक्षित स्तर तक सफल नहीं है।**
16J6	**QUIZ: Gravitational lensing**
16J6	**Technology drives India-France strategic convergence** **प्रौद्योगिकी भारत-फ्रांस सामरिक अभिसरण को गति प्रदान कर रही है।**
16J6	**Novartis launches therapy to treat prostate cancer** **नोवार्टिस ने प्रोस्टेट कैंसर के उपचार के लिए नई थेरेपी लॉन्च की**

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AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors

Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed; they have information without context, they trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability; they are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation

GS III: S&T

Narayana Subramaniam

I am an oncologist. I have watched large language models (LLMs) do something I have been trying to do for years: make cancer comprehensible.

A patient sits across from me with newly diagnosed cancer. I used to explain the PDL1 status and the role of neoadjuvant therapy, where patients get immunotherapy first followed by surgery – terms that meant nothing. Their eyes would often glaze but they would nod and leave confused, forced to google terms that would lead them to worst-case scenarios or fraudulent clinics.

Now, they come in having asked ChatGPT or Claude to explain their pathology report. "So PDL1-positive means my cancer may respond well to specific treatment and have higher cure rates?" they ask. Overnight, we are having an intelligent conversation instead of me trying to translate oncology into English.

That is extraordinary and has been genuinely useful for cancer care.

The democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. ANGIOLA HARRY/UNSPLASH

The real excitement

What thrills me most is clinical trial access. I have patients who understand why a phase II trial for immunotherapy might be appropriate for their metastatic melanoma. They have read ChatGPT's explanation of what a trial protocol means, what endpoints are being measured, what side effects to watch for. Informed consent is now informed in a way that would not have been remotely possible five years ago.

A man with advanced salivary gland cancer asked me about the open clinical trials that I hadn't even mentioned yet. He had asked ChatGPT about maintenance therapy options and the algorithm had directed him to trial data. He understood why novel therapies made sense in his situation. He wasn't just following my recommendation; he understood the science behind it. This represents patients becoming medically literate enough to participate in their own care.

The guidelines themselves are now being simplified by LLMs into language that does not require an oncology degree to understand. A patient with cancer can ask ChatGPT to explain the staging system, treatment options, and surveillance protocols. They arrive at appointments educated and aware.

This democratisation of cancer knowledge is important, especially in India, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many. A patient in a tier-2 city can understand what treatment options exist even before traveling to see a specialist.

Known and unknown unknowns

However, just removing the information asymmetry does not change the fact that information is not judgment. And judgment is what is hardest for us to convey.

A patient comes in with stage II oral cancer. ChatGPT has explained that stage II is "intermediate risk". My recommendation is surgery followed by radiotherapy. The patient asks: "But why can't I just do surgery and skip radiotherapy? ChatGPT said radiotherapy has significant side effects." The LLM gave her valid information and even explained that some stage II oral cancers don't need radiotherapy. But it couldn't tell her that her specific tumour with its specific characteristics had a 30% recurrence risk without radiotherapy and 10% with it. That difference is life-years. Making that judgement requires knowing her values, her tolerance for toxicity, and her specific cancer biology. An LLM cannot do that.

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician.

What troubles me most is something we are witnessing in real time: the widening trust gap between doctor and patient.

I tell a patient with stage IV cancer that chemotherapy is unlikely to be curative but might extend life by months and improve quality of life. The patient pulls up what ChatGPT said: "Chemotherapy can cause severe nausea, hair loss, infections, and heart damage. Many people pursue alternative medicine instead."

Both statements are true – but they are not equivalent.

The LLM has presented information without medical judgment. It has essentially validated scepticism about chemotherapy without context about whether, in this specific situation, the risk-benefit ratio favours treatment. The patient now does not trust my recommendation. They think I am pushing toxic drugs for profit while the LLM is being more honest.

Mental health studies have found that a sizeable proportion of people using LLMs for mental health questions reported worsening outcomes. But more alarming: some even avoid professional help because the LLM made them feel understood. In oncology, delay is often catastrophic. I have seen patients postpone cancer evaluation because they felt the LLM had validated their "wait and see" approach.

According to one *JAMA* study on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician

Judging what is right

A 52-year-old asked ChatGPT about a lung nodule found incidentally on a CT scan. The LLM explained that most lung nodules are benign. The patient was reassured and did not follow up. Eighteen months later, he has stage III lung cancer that was likely stage I when he first noticed it. The LLM provided accurate population-level statistics without context about what his nodule required.

Another patient with breast cancer asked an LLM about stopping hormone therapy after three years. The algorithm discussed "natural approaches" and how some women manage without medication. She stopped and soon relapsed. When asked why she stopped, she said the LLM made it sound optional. But it was not optional for her.

These are stories of real patients harmed by a tool we have unleashed without fully understanding how to control it.

Further, I am not convinced these tools will ever be able to do what actually matters in medicine: judging what is right for the individual sitting in front of us, not what is statistically true for most populations.

I am not worried that LLMs will replace oncologists. Our knowledge can be packaged and replicated. Our judgment, forged in uncertainty, built on seeing what happens when you are wrong, tempered by real consequences, cannot be. That is the gap algorithms cannot close.

Biased tools

What worries me is the middle ground we have reached. Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed. They have information without context. They trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability. They are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation. And we are doing this with almost no tracking of outcomes.

Peer-reviewed research has warned that LLMs chatbots designed for engagement can inadvertently validate harmful behaviour, posing risks to vulnerable users. In oncology, are patients making different treatment decisions? Are outcomes changing? We do not know.

I still believe LLMs can be valuable tools in cancer care. They are already breaking down barriers to democratising knowledge. But we need to stop pretending they are neutral. They are sycophantic by design, trained to be agreeable rather than challenging. They cannot examine a patient or order a biopsy or follow someone over time. And we need to rebuild something I see eroding: patients understanding that a doctor who disagrees with them might not be defensive or greedy. They might be using judgment informed by years of seeing how these decisions play out.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. narayana.subramaniam@gmail.com)

16J6. AI is helping patients understand cancer but misunderstand doctors
एआई रोगियों को कैंसर समझने में सहायता कर रहा है, लेकिन चिकित्सकों को गलत समझने की प्रवृत्ति भी बढ़ा रहा है।

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- I used to explain the **PDL1 status** and the role of **neoadjuvant therapy**, where patients get **immunotherapy** first followed by surgery — terms that meant nothing.
  मैं पहले **PDL1 स्थिति** और **नियोएडजुवेंट थेरेपी** की भूमिका समझाता था, जिसमें रोगियों को पहले **इम्यूनोथेरेपी** दी जाती है और उसके बाद शल्यचिकित्सा की जाती है — ऐसे शब्द जिनका उनके लिए कोई अर्थ नहीं होता था।
- "So **PDL1-positive** means my cancer may respond well to specific treatment and have higher cure rates?" they ask.
  "तो **PDL1-पॉजिटिव** होने का अर्थ है कि मेरा कैंसर विशेष उपचार के प्रति अच्छी प्रतिक्रिया दे सकता है और इसके ठीक होने की संभावना अधिक हो सकती है?" वे पूछते हैं।
- I have patients who understand why a **phase II trial** for **immunotherapy** might be appropriate for their **metastatic melanoma**.
  मेरे पास ऐसे रोगी हैं जो समझते हैं कि **मेटास्टेटिक मेलेनोमा** के लिए **इम्यूनोथेरेपी** का **फेज-II परीक्षण** उनके लिए उपयुक्त क्यों हो सकता है।
- **Informed consent** is now informed in a way that would not have been remotely possible five years ago.
  सूचित सहमति अब उस स्तर पर सूचित हो गई है, जो पाँच वर्ष पहले किसी भी रूप में संभव नहीं था।
- A man with advanced **salivary gland cancer** asked me about the open clinical trials that I hadn't even mentioned yet.
  उन्नत अवस्था के **लार ग्रंथि कैंसर** से पीड़ित एक व्यक्ति ने मुझसे उन खुले क्लिनिकल परीक्षणों के बारे में पूछा जिनका मैंने अभी तक उल्लेख भी नहीं किया था।
- He wasn't just following my recommendation; he understood the science behind it.
  वह केवल मेरी सिफारिश का पालन नहीं कर रहा था; वह उसके पीछे के विज्ञान को भी समझ रहा था।
- This represents patients becoming medically literate enough to participate in their own care.
  यह दर्शाता है कि रोगी अपनी चिकित्सा देखभाल में भाग लेने के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से चिकित्सकीय रूप से साक्षर बन रहे हैं।
- The guidelines themselves are now being simplified by **LLMs** into language that does not require an oncology degree to understand.
  अब दिशानिर्देशों को स्वयं **LLMs** द्वारा ऐसी भाषा में सरल बनाया जा रहा है जिसे समझने के लिए ऑन्कोलॉजी की डिग्री की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- A patient with cancer can ask ChatGPT to explain the staging system, treatment options, and surveillance protocols.
  कैंसर से पीड़ित कोई रोगी ChatGPT से स्टेजिंग प्रणाली, उपचार विकल्पों और निगरानी प्रोटोकॉल की व्याख्या करने के लिए कह सकता है।
- This democratisation of **cancer knowledge** is important, especially in **India**, where accessing oncologists is itself challenging for many.
  कैंसर संबंधी ज्ञान का यह लोकतंत्रीकरण महत्वपूर्ण है, विशेषकर **भारत** में, जहाँ अनेक लोगों के लिए ऑन्कोलॉजिस्ट तक पहुँचना ही चुनौतीपूर्ण है।
- My recommendation is surgery followed by **radiotherapy**.
  मेरी सिफारिश शल्यचिकित्सा के बाद **रेडियोथेरेपी** की है।
- The LLM gave her valid information and even explained that some stage II oral cancers don't need radiotherapy.
  LLM ने उसे सही जानकारी दी और यह भी समझाया कि कुछ स्टेज-II मुख कैंसरों में रेडियोथेरेपी की आवश्यकता नहीं होती।
- But it couldn't tell her that her specific tumour with its specific characteristics had a 30% recurrence risk without radiotherapy and 10% with it.
  लेकिन वह उसे यह नहीं बता सका कि उसके विशेष ट्यूमर की विशिष्ट विशेषताओं के कारण रेडियोथेरेपी के बिना पुनरावृत्ति का जोखिम 30% था और रेडियोथेरेपी के साथ 10%।

- That difference is life-years.
  यह अंतर जीवन के अनेक वर्षों का अंतर है।
- Making that judgement requires knowing her values, her tolerance for toxicity, and her specific cancer biology.
  ऐसा निर्णय लेने के लिए उसके मूल्यों, दुष्प्रभावों को सहन करने की क्षमता और उसके कैंसर की विशिष्ट जैविक प्रकृति को जानना आवश्यक है।
- According to one **JAMA study** on diagnostic accuracy, when LLMs encounter complex cases requiring contextual reasoning, their accuracy drops significantly, well below the level of an experienced physician.
  नैदानिक सटीकता पर आधारित एक **JAMA अध्ययन** के अनुसार, जब LLMs ऐसे जटिल मामलों का सामना करते हैं जिनमें संदर्भगत तर्क की आवश्यकता होती है, तो उनकी सटीकता में उल्लेखनीय गिरावट आती है और वह एक अनुभवी चिकित्सक के स्तर से काफी नीचे चली जाती है।
- What troubles me most is something we are witnessing in real time: the widening **trust gap** between doctor and patient.
  जो बात मुझे सबसे अधिक चिंतित करती है, वह है वह स्थिति जिसे हम वास्तविक समय में देख रहे हैं: डॉक्टर और रोगी के बीच बढ़ती हुई **विश्वास की खाई**।
- **I tell a patient with stage IV cancer that chemotherapy is unlikely to be curative but might extend life by months and improve quality of life.**
  मैं स्टेज-IV कैंसर से पीड़ित एक रोगी को बताता हूँ कि कीमोथेरेपी से रोग के पूर्णतः ठीक होने की संभावना कम है, किन्तु यह जीवन को कुछ महीनों तक बढ़ा सकती है और जीवन की गुणवत्ता में सुधार कर सकती है।
- The patient pulls up what **ChatGPT** said: "Chemotherapy can cause severe nausea, hair loss, infections, and heart damage.
  रोगी **ChatGPT** द्वारा कही गई बात दिखाता है: "कीमोथेरेपी से गंभीर मतली, बाल झड़ना, संक्रमण तथा हृदय को क्षति हो सकती है।
- Many people pursue alternative medicine instead."
  इसके स्थान पर अनेक लोग वैकल्पिक चिकित्सा पद्धतियों का सहारा लेते हैं।"
- It has essentially validated scepticism about chemotherapy without context about whether, in this specific situation, the **risk-benefit ratio** favours treatment.
  इसने मूलतः कीमोथेरेपी के प्रति संदेह को वैधता प्रदान कर दी है, बिना यह संदर्भ दिए कि इस विशेष परिस्थिति में **जोखिम-लाभ अनुपात** उपचार के पक्ष में है या नहीं।
- They think I am pushing toxic drugs for profit while the LLM is being more honest.
  उन्हें लगता है कि मैं लाभ कमाने के लिए विषैले औषधीय उपचार को बढ़ावा दे रहा हूँ, जबकि LLM अधिक ईमानदार है।
- Eighteen months later, he has **stage III lung cancer** that was likely stage I when he first noticed it.
  अठारह महीने बाद उसे **स्टेज-III फेफड़े का कैंसर** पाया गया, जो संभवतः पहली बार ध्यान में आने पर स्टेज-I में था।
- Another patient with **breast cancer** asked an LLM about stopping **hormone therapy** after three years.
  स्तन कैंसर से पीड़ित एक अन्य रोगी ने तीन वर्ष बाद **हार्मोन थेरेपी** बंद करने के विषय में LLM से पूछा।
- The algorithm discussed "natural approaches" and how some women manage without medication.
  एल्गोरिदम ने "प्राकृतिक उपायों" तथा यह चर्चा की कि कुछ महिलाएँ बिना दवा के भी अपना प्रबंधन कर लेती हैं।
- These are stories of real patients harmed by a tool we have unleashed without fully understanding how to control it.
  ये उन वास्तविक रोगियों की कहानियाँ हैं जिन्हें ऐसे उपकरण से हानि पहुँची जिसे हमने उसके नियंत्रण के तरीकों को पूरी तरह समझे बिना व्यापक रूप से उपयोग में ला दिया है।

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- Patients are increasingly informed but often misinformed.
  रोगी पहले की अपेक्षा अधिक जानकारी रखते हैं, किन्तु अक्सर गलत जानकारी से भी प्रभावित होते हैं।
- They have information without context.
  उनके पास जानकारी है, किन्तु उसका संदर्भ नहीं है।
- They trust algorithms that sound intelligent but lack accountability.
  वे ऐसे एल्गोरिदम पर विश्वास करते हैं जो बुद्धिमत्तापूर्ण प्रतीत होते हैं, किन्तु जिनमें उत्तरदायित्व का अभाव है।
- They are sceptical of doctors who try to add nuance because the algorithm validated their simpler interpretation.
  वे उन चिकित्सकों के प्रति संदेह रखते हैं जो विषय की जटिलताओं को समझाने का प्रयास करते हैं, क्योंकि एल्गोरिदम ने उनकी सरल व्याख्या को पहले ही सही ठहरा दिया होता है।
- They cannot examine a patient or order a biopsy or follow someone over time.
  वे किसी रोगी की शारीरिक जाँच नहीं कर सकते, बायोप्सी का आदेश नहीं दे सकते और न ही समय के साथ किसी रोगी की स्थिति का प्रत्यक्ष अनुगमन कर सकते हैं।
- And we need to rebuild something I see eroding: patients understanding that a doctor who disagrees with them might not be defensive or greedy.
  और हमें उस चीज़ का पुनर्निर्माण करना होगा जिसे मैं धीरे-धीरे क्षीण होते हुए देख रहा हूँ: रोगियों की यह समझ कि उनसे असहमति रखने वाला चिकित्सक आवश्यक नहीं कि रक्षात्मक या लालची हो।

AI falls short on extreme weather forecasting

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the last two years, artificial intelligence (AI) has moved from science fiction to the frontlines of computer science, mathematics, and engineering, among others. Its consequences have been particularly pronounced in the domain of weather forecasting, where models from companies like Google and Huawei have proved faster and often more accurate than the large supercomputers we have relied on for decades.

However, a new study published in *Science Advances* suggests that when it comes to the most dangerous weather events, AI still has a lot to learn.

In the study, researchers from Germany and Switzerland compared several leading AI weather models, including GraphCast, Pangu-Weather, and Fuxi, against the world's gold standard for traditional forecasting: the high-resolution (HRES) model of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

AI models are trained to look for patterns based on historical weather data so when weather does something completely unprecedented AI models have no basis to anticipate it

They found that while the AI models excelled at predicting 'normal' weather and even moderate extremes, they consistently failed to accurately predict events that would shatter records.

Traditional models are based on physics, and use complex mathematical equations to describe how air and heat move, how moisture turns into rain, and so on. Because they rely literally on the laws of nature, they can anticipate a scenario even if it has never happened before. However, AI models are data-driven. They are trained to look for patterns based on 40 years of historical weather data (1979-2017), so when the weather does something completely unprecedented – like a record-setting heatwave – the AI models have no basis to anticipate it.

This is called an extrapolation problem: that is, AI is great at interpolating, or predicting things within the range of what it has seen, but it struggles to predict things far outside of its training data.

The researchers also tested the models on record-breaking heat, cold, and wind events from 2018 and 2020 and found that the AI models systematically underestimated both the frequency and the intensity of these events.

For example, during an extreme heatwave, the AI models tended to predict temperatures that were significantly lower than what actually occurred. Specifically, they responded as if there was an invisible 'cap' on how high the temperature could go. And the more a record was broken by, the larger the AI models' error became.

If a study or a policy is based on AI models that predict a severe heatwave but the actual temperature is even higher, the disaster response could be inadequate. Early warning systems for heatwaves, floods, and storms still require the highest possible accuracy during extreme weather to save lives.

"Given the remarkably fast evolution of AI models in recent years, there are promising ways to further improve these models even for forecasting record-breaking extremes," the authors wrote. "Nevertheless, the current generation still underperforms HRES exactly during the potentially most impactful weather events, including record-breaking heat and cold events.".

16J6. AI falls short on extreme weather forecasting

चरम मौसम की भविष्यवाणी करने में एआई अभी भी अपेक्षित स्तर तक सफल नहीं है।

Artificial Intelligence and Extreme Weather Forecasting
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता और चरम मौसम पूर्वानुमान

- In the study, researchers from **Germany** and **Switzerland** compared several leading AI weather models, including **GraphCast, Pangu-Weather, and Fuxi**, against the world's gold standard for traditional forecasting: the **high-resolution (HRES) model** of the **European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts**.

इस अध्ययन में **जर्मनी** और **स्विट्ज़रलैंड** के शोधकर्ताओं ने कई प्रमुख AI मौसम मॉडलों, जिनमें **GraphCast, Pangu-Weather और Fuxi** शामिल हैं, की तुलना पारंपरिक मौसम पूर्वानुमान के वैश्विक मानक माने जाने वाले **European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts** के **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन (HRES) मॉडल** से की।

- They found that while the AI models excelled at predicting 'normal' weather and even moderate extremes, they consistently failed to accurately predict events that would shatter records.

उन्होंने पाया कि जहाँ AI मॉडल 'सामान्य' मौसम और यहाँ तक कि मध्यम स्तर की चरम घटनाओं का पूर्वानुमान लगाने में उत्कृष्ट थे, वहीं वे रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने वाली घटनाओं का सटीक पूर्वानुमान लगाने में लगातार विफल रहे।

- Traditional models are based on **physics**, and use complex mathematical equations to describe how air and heat move, how moisture turns into rain, and so on.
  पारंपरिक मॉडल **भौतिकी** पर आधारित होते हैं और यह वर्णन करने के लिए जटिल गणितीय समीकरणों का उपयोग करते हैं कि वायु और ऊष्मा कैसे संचरित होती हैं, नमी वर्षा में कैसे परिवर्तित होती है, आदि।
- They are trained to look for patterns based on 40 years of historical weather data (1979-2017), so when the weather does something completely unprecedented — like a record-setting heatwave — the AI models have no basis to anticipate it.
  उन्हें 40 वर्षों के ऐतिहासिक मौसमीय आँकड़ों (1979-2017) के आधार पर प्रतिरूपों की पहचान करने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया जाता है, इसलिए जब मौसम कोई पूर्णतः अभूतपूर्व घटना प्रदर्शित करता है — जैसे रिकॉर्ड तोड़ने वाली हीटवेव — तब AI मॉडलों के पास उसका पूर्वानुमान लगाने का कोई आधार नहीं होता।
- This is called an **extrapolation problem**: that is, AI is great at **interpolating**, or predicting things within the range of what it has seen, but it struggles to predict things far outside of its training data.
  इसे **एक्सट्रापोलेशन समस्या** कहा जाता है; अर्थात् AI **इंटरपोलेशन** करने में अत्यंत सक्षम है, यानी उन घटनाओं का पूर्वानुमान लगाने में जो उसके अनुभव किए गए दायरे के भीतर हों, किन्तु वह अपने प्रशिक्षण डेटा की सीमा से बहुत बाहर की घटनाओं का पूर्वानुमान लगाने में कठिनाई अनुभव करता है।
- **Early warning systems** for heatwaves, floods, and storms still require the highest possible accuracy during extreme weather to save lives.
  हीटवेव, बाढ़ और तूफानों के लिए **प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणालियों** को जीवन बचाने हेतु चरम मौसम के दौरान अभी भी सर्वोच्च संभव सटीकता की आवश्यकता होती है।

Answers to June 4 quiz:

1. The phenomenon where light is magnified by gravity – **Ans: Gravitational lensing**
2. Spacecraft designed to be pushed forward by light – **Ans: Light-sail**
3. Light that appears nears surfaces, fades rapidly away from it – **Ans: Evanescent waves**
4. How light's electric field moves when it's circularly polarised – **Ans: Rotates**
5. Space acquired this property due to ultra-strong magnetic fields – **Ans: Birefringent**

Visual: **Rayleigh scattering**

First contact: Utsav Kaushal Ranjan | Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Shreya Kapoor | Anmol Agrawal

16J6. QUIZ

1. The phenomenon where light is magnified by gravity

Answer: Gravitational Lensing

- **Gravitational lensing** is a phenomenon predicted by **Albert Einstein's General Theory of Relativity**.
- It occurs when the gravitational field of a massive object, such as a galaxy or galaxy cluster, bends the path of light coming from a more distant object.
- This bending can magnify, distort, or even create multiple images of the background source.

2. Spacecraft designed to be pushed forward by light

Answer: Light-Sail

- A **light-sail** (or solar sail) is a spacecraft propulsion system that uses the pressure exerted by light photons to generate motion. Unlike conventional rockets, light-sails require no onboard fuel for propulsion.
- They use large, highly reflective sails that capture momentum from sunlight or powerful laser beams.

3. Light that appears near surfaces and fades rapidly away from it

Answer: Evanescent Waves

- **Evanescent waves** are electromagnetic waves that form near the boundary between two different media when light undergoes total internal reflection.
- Unlike ordinary light waves, they do not travel far into the second medium. Instead, their intensity decreases exponentially with distance from the surface.

4. How light's electric field moves when it's circularly polarised

Answer: Rotates

- In **circularly polarised light**, the electric field vector continuously **rotates** as the light wave propagates through space. Instead of oscillating in a single plane, as in linearly polarised light, the electric field traces a circular path around the direction of travel.

5. Space acquired this property due to ultra-strong magnetic fields

Answer: Birefringent

- Under extremely intense magnetic fields, empty space can become **birefringent**, a phenomenon known as **vacuum birefringence**.
- According to **Quantum Electrodynamics (QED)**, powerful magnetic fields can alter the behaviour of virtual particles in a vacuum, causing light with different polarisations to travel differently.
- As a result, space behaves similarly to a birefringent crystal, splitting light into components with distinct properties.
- This effect is expected near highly magnetised neutron stars called **magnetars**, whose magnetic fields are trillions of times stronger than Earth's.
- Observational evidence for vacuum birefringence has provided important support for fundamental predictions of modern quantum physics.

PATRIOTIC IAS

Technology drives India-France strategic convergence

GS III: S&T

It is a measure of the importance that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron attach to the India-France relationship that they are meeting again in France, on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Evian (June 15-17), barely months after Mr. Macron's visit to India for the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi in February. During that visit, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the India-France Year of Innovation 2026.

In normal diplomacy, such announcements often take time to translate into action. It is therefore notable that Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are already moving swiftly to advance bilateral technology cooperation. They jointly inaugurated the "Bharat Innovates" event in Nice (June 14-16), bringing together leading Indian start-ups and venture capital funds. Mr. Modi will then attend the VivaTech Summit in Paris on June 18, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, underscoring the growing India-France technology partnership.

The new pillars of partnership

The India-French relationship is constantly evolving and is consequently being updated by the two leaders who are committed to the cause.

While the recently elevated Special Global Strategic Partnership has always included traditional areas such as defence, nuclear and space, it is the focus on tech and innovation that is now exciting for the relationship.

This focus will include cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research. These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take ties to greater heights. Tech and innovation has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides. France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.

Mohan Kumar

Former Indian Ambassador to France and now Dean/Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University

Technology and innovation power the next phase of India-France ties

It is not hard to see how India can not only benefit from access to technology in these areas but also bring its own added value in terms of frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infrastructure and biotech, just to name a few. The possibilities are endless. It must be hoped that the two tech summits – "Bharat Innovates"and the "Vivatech" – will enable the private sector on both sides to come up with substantive collaborative arrangements.

Defence, space and Africa

The two leaders are also expected to take stock of the special strategic partnership. There are a number of dossiers which can benefit from their political and strategic guidance. The first is certainly the idea of the co-designing and co-production of defence platforms which must be expedited. Progress is also desirable in emerging areas such as small modular reactors, joint satellite development and human flight programmes.

The potential for Franco-Indian cooperation in Africa has not been fully exploited and this must get the attention of both sides. This becomes even more important in light of the postponement of the India-Africa Forum Summit (May 2026) due to the Ebola crisis in Africa. The two leaders will doubtless exchange views on the ongoing conflicts: in Ukraine and in Iran, which have adversely and disproportionately affected countries of the Global South.

Mr. Modi's Europe visit (June 13-18, 2026) also includes a state visit to Slovakia, the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.

Watching the 'D10 debate'

France, as the current chair of the G-7, will host the G-7 summit in Evian from June 15 to 17, 2026. It is difficult to imagine a G-7 summit without India being invited, and Mr. Modi's participation is particularly important given the geopolitical turbulence of the present moment. United States President Donald Trump is also expected to attend it. While attention will naturally focus on the possibility of a Modi-Trump meeting, any interaction may not be a substantive one, given the G-7 atmospherics.

More important is the evolving role of the G-7 itself in global geopolitics. With the G-20 having lost some of its momentum in recent years, discussions have resurfaced about expanding the G-7 into a D10 – a grouping of 10 major democracies. Whether, and how soon, such a transformation materialises remains uncertain, but it is a development India will need to watch closely.

At the end of the day, two middle powers – India and France – which set great store by strategic autonomy, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a multipolar world. In that sense, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron shoulder a significant responsibility.

The views expressed are personal

16J6. Technology drives India-France strategic convergence
प्रौद्योगिकी भारत-फ्रांस सामरिक अभिसरण को गति प्रदान कर रही है।

- It is a measure of the importance that Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and French President **Emmanuel Macron** attach to the **India-France relationship** that they are meeting again in France, on the sidelines of the **G-7 Summit** in **Evian** (June 15-17), barely months after Mr. Macron's visit to India for the **India AI Impact Summit 2026** in **New Delhi** in February.
  यह इस बात का प्रमाण है कि प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** और फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रों भारत-फ्रांस संबंधों** को कितना महत्व देते हैं कि वे फरवरी में **नई दिल्ली** में आयोजित **इंडिया एआई इम्पैक्ट समिट 2026** के लिए श्री मैक्रों की भारत यात्रा के कुछ ही महीनों बाद, **एवियन** (15-17 जून) में आयोजित **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** के अवसर पर पुनः फ्रांस में मिल रहे हैं।
- During that visit, the two leaders jointly inaugurated the **India-France Year of Innovation 2026**.
  उस यात्रा के दौरान दोनों नेताओं ने संयुक्त रूप से **भारत-फ्रांस नवाचार वर्ष 2026** का उद्घाटन किया था।
- In normal diplomacy, such announcements often take time to translate into action.
  सामान्य कूटनीति में ऐसी घोषणाओं को व्यवहारिक रूप लेने में प्रायः समय लगता है।
- It is therefore notable that Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are already moving swiftly to advance bilateral **technology cooperation**.
  इसलिए यह उल्लेखनीय है कि श्री मोदी और श्री मैक्रों द्विपक्षीय **प्रौद्योगिकी सहयोग** को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए पहले ही तीव्र गति से कार्य कर रहे हैं।
- They jointly inaugurated the **"Bharat Innovates"** event in **Nice** (June 14-16), bringing together leading Indian start-ups and venture capital funds.
  उन्होंने **नीस** (14-16 जून) में आयोजित **"भारत इनोवेट्स"** कार्यक्रम का संयुक्त रूप से उद्घाटन किया, जिसमें भारत के प्रमुख स्टार्ट-अप और वेंचर कैपिटल फंड एकत्र हुए।
- Mr. Modi will then attend the **VivaTech Summit** in **Paris** on June 18, Europe's largest technology and start-up event, underscoring the growing **India-France technology partnership**.
  इसके बाद श्री मोदी 18 जून को **पेरिस** में आयोजित **विवाटेक शिखर सम्मेलन** में भाग लेंगे, जो यूरोप का सबसे

बड़ा प्रौद्योगिकी और स्टार्ट-अप आयोजन है तथा बढ़ती हुई **भारत-फ्रांस प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी** को रेखांकित करता है।

The New Pillars of Partnership
साझेदारी के नए स्तंभ

- The **India-French relationship** is constantly evolving and is consequently being updated by the two leaders who are committed to the cause.
  भारत-फ्रांस संबंध निरंतर विकसित हो रहे हैं और इसी कारण इस उद्देश्य के प्रति प्रतिबद्ध दोनों नेता इन्हें समयानुकूल नया स्वरूप प्रदान कर रहे हैं।
- While the recently elevated **Special Global Strategic Partnership** has always included traditional areas such as defence, nuclear and space, it is the focus on **technology and innovation** that is now exciting for the relationship.
  यद्यपि हाल ही में उन्नत की गई **विशेष वैश्विक सामरिक साझेदारी** में रक्षा, परमाणु ऊर्जा और अंतरिक्ष जैसे पारंपरिक क्षेत्र सदैव शामिल रहे हैं, किन्तु अब **प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार** पर केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण इस संबंध को नई ऊर्जा प्रदान कर रहा है।
- This focus will include **cyberspace, Artificial Intelligence (AI), health care, sustainable development, creative economy, education and research**.
  इस प्राथमिकता में **साइबर स्पेस, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), स्वास्थ्य सेवा, सतत विकास, रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था, शिक्षा और अनुसंधान** जैसे क्षेत्र शामिल होंगे।
- These are new facets of the evolving and dynamic relationship and will no doubt take ties to greater heights.
  ये विकसित होते और गतिशील संबंधों के नए आयाम हैं और निस्संदेह दोनों देशों के संबंधों को नई ऊँचाइयों तक ले जाएँगे।
- **Technology and innovation** has tremendous mutual advantages for both sides.
  प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार दोनों पक्षों के लिए अत्यधिक पारस्परिक लाभ प्रदान करते हैं।
- France has some of the best state-of-the-art technology in **aerospace, AI, robotics, biotech, health care, green tech and sustainable development**, besides being a European hub for the digital economy.
  फ्रांस के पास **एयरोस्पेस, AI, रोबोटिक्स, जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, हरित प्रौद्योगिकी और सतत विकास** के क्षेत्रों में अत्याधुनिक तकनीक उपलब्ध है, साथ ही वह डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था का एक प्रमुख यूरोपीय केंद्र भी है।
- It is not hard to see how India can not only benefit from access to technology in these areas but also bring its own added value in terms of **frugal innovation, start-ups, digital public infrastructure and biotech**, just to name a few.
  यह समझना कठिन नहीं है कि भारत इन क्षेत्रों की प्रौद्योगिकियों तक पहुँच से लाभान्वित होने के साथ-साथ **मितव्ययी नवाचार, स्टार्ट-अप, डिजिटल सार्वजनिक अवसंरचना और जैव-प्रौद्योगिकी** जैसे क्षेत्रों में अपना विशिष्ट योगदान भी दे सकता है।
- The possibilities are endless.
  संभावनाएँ असीमित हैं।
- It must be hoped that the two tech summits — **"Bharat Innovates"** and **"VivaTech"** — will enable the private sector on both sides to come up with substantive collaborative arrangements.
  यह आशा की जानी चाहिए कि दोनों प्रौद्योगिकी शिखर सम्मेलन — **"भारत इनोवेट्स"** और **"विवाटेक"** — दोनों देशों के निजी क्षेत्रों को सार्थक सहयोगात्मक व्यवस्थाएँ विकसित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करेंगे।

Defence, Space and Africa
रक्षा, अंतरिक्ष और अफ्रीका

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- The two leaders are also expected to take stock of the **Special Strategic Partnership**.
  दोनों नेताओं से **विशेष सामरिक साझेदारी** की प्रगति की समीक्षा करने की भी अपेक्षा की जा रही है।
- There are a number of dossiers which can benefit from their political and strategic guidance.
  ऐसे अनेक विषय हैं जिन्हें उनके राजनीतिक और सामरिक मार्गदर्शन से लाभ मिल सकता है।
- The first is certainly the idea of the **co-designing and co-production of defence platforms** which must be expedited.
  सबसे प्रमुख विषय **रक्षा प्लेटफॉर्मों के संयुक्त अभिकल्पन और संयुक्त उत्पादन** की अवधारणा है, जिसे शीघ्र गति प्रदान की जानी चाहिए।
- Progress is also desirable in emerging areas such as **small modular reactors, joint satellite development and human flight programmes**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **लघु मॉड्यूलर रिएक्टरों, संयुक्त उपग्रह विकास तथा मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान कार्यक्रमों** जैसे उभरते क्षेत्रों में भी प्रगति अपेक्षित है।
- The potential for **Franco-Indian cooperation in Africa** has not been fully exploited and this must get the attention of both sides.
  अफ्रीका में भारत-फ्रांस सहयोग की संभावनाओं का अभी तक पूर्ण उपयोग नहीं हो पाया है और इस विषय पर दोनों पक्षों को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए।
- This becomes even more important in light of the postponement of the **India-Africa Forum Summit** (May 2026) due to the **Ebola crisis** in Africa.
  अफ्रीका में **इबोला संकट** के कारण **भारत-अफ्रीका फोरम शिखर सम्मेलन** (मई 2026) के स्थगित होने के परिप्रेक्ष्य में यह और भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हो जाता है।
- The two leaders will doubtless exchange views on the ongoing conflicts: in **Ukraine** and in **Iran**, which have adversely and disproportionately affected countries of the **Global South**.
  दोनों नेता निस्संदेह **यूक्रेन** और **ईरान** में जारी संघर्षों पर विचार-विमर्श करेंगे, जिनका **वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South)** के देशों पर प्रतिकूल और असमान रूप से अधिक प्रभाव पड़ा है।
- Mr. Modi's **Europe visit** (June 13-18, 2026) also includes a state visit to **Slovakia**, the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since its independence in 1993.
  श्री मोदी की **यूरोप यात्रा** (13-18 जून, 2026) में **स्लोवाकिया** की राजकीय यात्रा भी शामिल है, जो 1993 में उसकी स्वतंत्रता के बाद किसी भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री की पहली यात्रा होगी।

Watching the 'D10 Debate'
'D10 बहस' पर निगाह

- France, as the current chair of the **G-7**, will host the **G-7 Summit** in **Evian** from June 15 to 17, 2026.
  जी-7 के वर्तमान अध्यक्ष के रूप में फ्रांस 15 से 17 जून, 2026 तक **एवियन** में **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** की मेजबानी करेगा।
- It is difficult to imagine a G-7 summit without India being invited, and Mr. Modi's participation is particularly important given the geopolitical turbulence of the present moment.
  भारत की भागीदारी के बिना किसी जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन की कल्पना करना कठिन है, और वर्तमान भू-राजनीतिक अस्थिरता को देखते हुए श्री मोदी की भागीदारी विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है।
- **United States President Donald Trump** is also expected to attend it.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के भी इसमें भाग लेने की संभावना है।
- While attention will naturally focus on the possibility of a **Modi-Trump meeting**, any interaction may not be a substantive one, given the G-7 atmospherics.
  यद्यपि स्वाभाविक रूप से **मोदी-ट्रम्प बैठक** की संभावना पर ध्यान केंद्रित रहेगा, किन्तु जी-7 के समग्र वातावरण को देखते हुए किसी भी बातचीत के अत्यधिक सारगर्भित होने की संभावना कम है।
- More important is the evolving role of the **G-7** itself in global geopolitics.
  इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक भू-राजनीति में स्वयं **जी-7** की बदलती भूमिका है।

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- With the **G-20** having lost some of its momentum in recent years, discussions have resurfaced about expanding the G-7 into a **D10** — a grouping of 10 major democracies.
  हाल के वर्षों में **जी-20** की गति कुछ कम होने के कारण जी-7 को विस्तारित करके **D10** — अर्थात् 10 प्रमुख लोकतांत्रिक देशों के समूह — में परिवर्तित करने संबंधी चर्चाएँ पुनः उभरकर सामने आई हैं।
- Whether, and how soon, such a transformation materialises remains uncertain, but it is a development India will need to watch closely.
  ऐसा परिवर्तन होगा या नहीं, तथा यदि होगा तो कितनी शीघ्रता से होगा, यह अभी अनिश्चित है; किन्तु यह ऐसा घटनाक्रम है जिस पर भारत को निकटता से नज़र रखनी होगी।
- At the end of the day, two **middle powers** — **India and France** — which set great store by **strategic autonomy**, have a fundamental role to play in contributing to geopolitical stability and ensuring a smooth transition to a **multipolar world**.
  अंततः दो **मध्यम शक्तियाँ** — **भारत और फ्रांस** — जो **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** को अत्यधिक महत्व देती हैं, भू-राजनीतिक स्थिरता में योगदान देने तथा **बहुध्रुवीय विश्व** की ओर सुचारु संक्रमण सुनिश्चित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती हैं।
- In that sense, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron shoulder a significant responsibility.
  इस दृष्टि से श्री मोदी और श्री मैक्रों एक महत्वपूर्ण उत्तरदायित्व वहन करते हैं।

Novartis launches therapy to treat prostate cancer

GS III: S&T
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Pluvicto is designed to precisely target prostate cancer cells, minimising exposure to healthy tissues

For better cancer care in India, Novartis India has announced the launch of Pluvicto (lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan), the country's first regulatory authority approved radioligand therapy for eligible patients with Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA)-positive prostate cancer.

Designed to precisely target prostate cancer cells while minimising exposure to healthy tissues, Pluvicto introduces a new treatment approach for metastatic prostate cancer, the company said.

Judith Love, Region Head Asia Pacific Middle East Africa, Novartis, said, "India is a priority market for Novartis, with growing momentum in precision oncology and advanced cancer care. The introduction of Pluvicto marks a meaningful step forward - bringing globally approved innovation closer to patients who need more targeted treatment options."

"What makes this launch especially impactful is not just the science, but the opportunity to expand access through India's growing nuclear medicine infrastructure. We remain committed to enabling access to next-generation treatments, and I'm excited about the difference Pluvicto can make for patients in India," he added.

Amitabh Dube, Country President and Managing Director, Novartis India, said, "In India, a large proportion of prostate cancer patients continue to be diagnosed only after the disease has progressed to a metastatic stage, limiting treatment options and impacting quality of life."

"With the launch of Pluvicto, we are bringing a globally recognized radioligand therapy platform to India at a time when the need for precision oncology solutions is increasing rapidly," he said.

16J6. Novartis launches therapy to treat prostate cancer

नोवार्टिस ने प्रोस्टेट कैंसर के उपचार के लिए नई थेरेपी लॉन्च की

- For better **cancer care** in India, **Novartis India** has announced the launch of **Pluvicto (lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan)**, the country's first regulatory authority approved **radioligand therapy** for eligible patients with **Prostate-Specific Membrane Antigen (PSMA)-positive prostate cancer**.
  भारत में बेहतर **कैंसर देखभाल** के लिए **नोवार्टिस इंडिया** ने **Pluvicto (lutetium (177Lu) vipivotide tetraxetan)** के लॉन्च की घोषणा की है, जो **प्रोस्टेट-स्पेसिफिक मेम्ब्रेन एंटीजन (PSMA)-पॉजिटिव प्रोस्टेट कैंसर** के पात्र रोगियों के लिए देश की पहली नियामक प्राधिकरण द्वारा स्वीकृत **रेडियोलिगैंड थेरेपी** है।
- Designed to precisely target **prostate cancer cells** while minimising exposure to healthy tissues, **Pluvicto** introduces a new treatment approach for **metastatic prostate cancer**, the company said.
  कंपनी ने कहा कि **Pluvicto** को स्वस्थ ऊतकों पर प्रभाव को न्यूनतम रखते हुए **प्रोस्टेट कैंसर कोशिकाओं** को सटीक रूप से लक्ष्य बनाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है और यह **मेटास्टेटिक प्रोस्टेट कैंसर** के लिए एक नई उपचार पद्धति प्रस्तुत करता है।
- **Judith Love**, **Region Head Asia Pacific Middle East Africa, Novartis**, said, "India is a priority market for **Novartis**, with growing momentum in **precision oncology** and advanced cancer care."

जूडिथ लव, **रीजन हेड एशिया पैसिफिक, मध्य पूर्व और अफ्रीका, नोवार्टिस**, ने कहा, "**नोवार्टिस** के लिए भारत एक प्राथमिकता वाला बाजार है, जहाँ **प्रिसीजन ऑन्कोलॉजी** और उन्नत कैंसर देखभाल में तेजी से प्रगति हो रही है।"

- "The introduction of **Pluvicto** marks a meaningful step forward – bringing globally approved innovation closer to patients who need more targeted treatment options."
  "**Pluvicto** की शुरुआत एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति का प्रतीक है, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर स्वीकृत नवाचार को उन रोगियों के और निकट लाती है जिन्हें अधिक लक्षित उपचार विकल्पों की आवश्यकता है।"
- "What makes this launch especially impactful is not just the science, but the opportunity to expand access through India's growing **nuclear medicine infrastructure**."
  "इस लॉन्च को विशेष रूप से प्रभावशाली बनाने वाली बात केवल इसका विज्ञान नहीं है, बल्कि भारत के बढ़ते **न्यूक्लियर मेडिसिन इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर** के माध्यम से इसकी पहुंच का विस्तार करने का अवसर भी है।"
- "We remain committed to enabling access to **next-generation treatments**, and I'm excited about the difference **Pluvicto** can make for patients in India," he added.
  उन्होंने आगे कहा, "हम **अगली पीढ़ी के उपचारों** तक पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध हैं और मैं इस बात को लेकर उत्साहित हूं कि **Pluvicto** भारत के रोगियों के लिए कितना बड़ा बदलाव ला सकता है।"
- **Amitabh Dube**, **Country President and Managing Director, Novartis India**, said, "In India, a large proportion of **prostate cancer patients** continue to be diagnosed only after the disease has progressed to a **metastatic stage**, limiting treatment options and impacting quality of life."
  अमिताभ दुबे, **कंट्री प्रेसिडेंट एवं प्रबंध निदेशक, नोवार्टिस इंडिया**, ने कहा, "भारत में **प्रोस्टेट कैंसर के रोगियों** का एक बड़ा हिस्सा तब निदान किया जाता है जब बीमारी **मेटास्टेटिक चरण** तक पहुंच चुकी होती है, जिससे उपचार विकल्प सीमित हो जाते हैं और जीवन की गुणवत्ता प्रभावित होती है।"
- "With the launch of **Pluvicto**, we are bringing a globally recognized **radioligand therapy platform** to India at a time when the need for **precision oncology solutions** is increasing rapidly," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**Pluvicto** के लॉन्च के साथ हम भारत में एक वैश्विक स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त **रेडियोलिगैंड थेरेपी प्लेटफॉर्म** ला रहे हैं, ऐसे समय में जब **प्रिसीजन ऑन्कोलॉजी समाधानों** की आवश्यकता तेजी से बढ़ रही है।"

GS Paper III: Environment	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations केंद्र ने महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों पर संभावित ड्रोन हमलों को लेकर चेतावनी जारी की

Heatwaves, ozone raise cardiac death risk: study

Peer-reviewed study reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves; exceeds the WHO guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

While surface ozone – a pollutant harmful to the heart and lungs – already exceeds safe limits across much of India in the hot pre-monsoon months, a new study finds that heatwaves push it to still higher levels, thus adding several hundred deaths to a far larger toll that the study links to ozone across the season.

The peer-reviewed study, published in the Nature Portfolio journal *npj Clean Air* on June 12, reports that surface ozone reaches 85-110 micrograms per cubic metre in northern India during heatwaves and exceeds the World Health Organization guideline of 70 micrograms per cubic metre in every region of the country. The levels fall back within three to four days of a heatwave ending.

Because ozone level stays high for much of the season, the study attributes a large number of deaths to it even outside heatwaves. During the heatwave days of 2024, it links about 26,500 deaths from ischaemic heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to ozone exposure.

However, such health conditions are present before as well as after the heat too. The heatwave's contribution to the toll is the rise in it over the preceding days: about 490 additional heart-disease deaths and 342 from COPD, or roughly 830 in all.

The overall numbers are so large mainly because of how they are calculated. They are not directly counted. The study applies a small increase in an individual's risk of dying from these two common diseases to India's population of more than a billion; even a slight per-person risk, spread across so many people and two of the country's leading causes of death, adds up to tens of thousands.

The authors note that the mortality figures had to be modelled, as continuous ground-level ozone measurements were not available for the specific heatwave days in many affected cities. Therefore, the estimates rely on the assumed relationship between ozone exposure and disease rather than direct observation.

Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants, a process that speeds up in heat. "Ozone is very harmful, while NO_2 (nitrogen dioxide) and HCHO (formaldehyde) directly damage the respiratory system," the authors write, referring to two of the gases involved in forming ozone.

The authors describe the work as the first comprehensive, long-term, and country-wide assessment of surface ozone during heatwaves in India, noting that previous studies were largely limited to individual cities or regions. They counted 188 heatwave events over the two decades with most severe years – 2010, 2016, 2019, and 2024 – following strong El Niño episodes. The Western Himalayas recorded the steepest long-term rise in ozone level.

16J6. Heatwaves, ozone raise cardiac death risk: study
अध्ययन: लू और ओज़ोन हृदय संबंधी मृत्यु के जोखिम को बढ़ाते हैं

- While **surface ozone** — a pollutant harmful to the heart and lungs — already exceeds safe limits across much of India in the hot pre-monsoon months, a new study finds that **heatwaves** push it to still higher levels, thus adding several hundred deaths to a far larger toll that the study links to ozone across the season.

  जबकि **सतही ओज़ोन (Surface Ozone)** — हृदय और फेफड़ों के लिए हानिकारक एक प्रदूषक — भारत के अधिकांश हिस्सों में प्री-मानसून की गर्म अवधि के दौरान पहले ही सुरक्षित सीमा से ऊपर रहता है, एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है कि **हीटवेव** इसकी मात्रा को और अधिक बढ़ा देती है, जिससे पूरे मौसम में ओज़ोन से जुड़ी बड़ी मृत्यु संख्या में कई सौ अतिरिक्त मौतें जुड़ जाती हैं।

- The peer-reviewed study, published in the **Nature Portfolio** journal **npj Clean Air** on June 12, reports that surface ozone reaches **85-110 micrograms per cubic metre** in northern India during heatwaves and exceeds the **World Health Organization (WHO)** guideline of **70 micrograms per cubic metre** in every region of the country.

  12 जून को **नेचर पोर्टफोलियो** की पत्रिका **npj Clean Air** में प्रकाशित सहकर्मी-समीक्षित अध्ययन के अनुसार, हीटवेव के दौरान उत्तरी भारत में सतही ओज़ोन का स्तर **85-110 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति घन मीटर** तक

पहुँच जाता है और देश के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में **विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO)** द्वारा निर्धारित **70 माइक्रोग्राम प्रति घन मीटर** की सीमा को पार कर जाता है।

- The levels fall back within three to four days of a heatwave ending.
  हीटवेव समाप्त होने के तीन से चार दिनों के भीतर इसका स्तर पुनः कम हो जाता है।
- Because ozone level stays high for much of the season, the study attributes a large number of deaths to it even outside heatwaves.
  चूँकि पूरे मौसम में ओज़ोन का स्तर ऊँचा बना रहता है, इसलिए अध्ययन हीटवेव की अवधि के बाहर भी बड़ी संख्या में मौतों को इससे जोड़ता है।
- During the heatwave days of **2024**, it links about **26,500 deaths** from **ischaemic heart disease** and **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** to ozone exposure.
  वर्ष **2024** की हीटवेव अवधि के दौरान अध्ययन ने **इस्कीमिक हृदय रोग** और **क्रॉनिक ऑब्सट्रक्टिव पल्मोनरी डिज़ीज़ (COPD)** से हुई लगभग **26,500 मौतों** को ओज़ोन के संपर्क से जोड़ा है।
- However, such health conditions are present before as well as after the heat too.
  हालाँकि, ये स्वास्थ्य स्थितियाँ केवल हीटवेव के दौरान ही नहीं बल्कि उससे पहले और बाद में भी मौजूद रहती हैं।
- The heatwave's contribution to the toll is the rise in it over the preceding days: about **490 additional heart-disease deaths** and **342 from COPD**, or roughly **830 in all**.
  मृत्यु संख्या में हीटवेव का अतिरिक्त योगदान पूर्ववर्ती दिनों की तुलना में ओज़ोन स्तर में वृद्धि के कारण है, जिससे लगभग **490 अतिरिक्त हृदय रोग मृत्यु** तथा **342 COPD मृत्यु**, अर्थात कुल मिलाकर लगभग **830 अतिरिक्त मौतें**, हुईं।
- The overall numbers are so large mainly because of how they are calculated.
  कुल संख्या इतनी बड़ी मुख्यतः इसलिए दिखाई देती है क्योंकि इसकी गणना की पद्धति ऐसी है।
- They are not directly counted.
  इनकी प्रत्यक्ष गणना नहीं की जाती।
- The study applies a small increase in an individual's risk of dying from these two common diseases to India's population of more than a billion; even a slight per-person risk, spread across so many people and two of the country's leading causes of death, adds up to tens of thousands.
  अध्ययन इन दो सामान्य बीमारियों से मृत्यु के व्यक्तिगत जोखिम में हुई छोटी वृद्धि को भारत की एक अरब से अधिक आबादी पर लागू करता है; प्रति व्यक्ति जोखिम में मामूली वृद्धि भी इतनी बड़ी आबादी और मृत्यु के प्रमुख कारणों पर लागू होने से हजारों मौतों का अनुमान उत्पन्न करती है।
- The authors note that the mortality figures had to be modelled, as continuous ground-level ozone measurements were not available for the specific heatwave days in many affected cities.
  लेखकों ने उल्लेख किया है कि मृत्यु संबंधी आँकड़ों का मॉडल आधारित अनुमान लगाना पड़ा क्योंकि अनेक प्रभावित शहरों में विशिष्ट हीटवेव दिनों के लिए सतत भूतलीय ओज़ोन मापन उपलब्ध नहीं थे।
- Therefore, the estimates rely on the assumed relationship between ozone exposure and disease rather than direct observation.
  अतः ये अनुमान प्रत्यक्ष अवलोकन के बजाय ओज़ोन संपर्क और रोग के बीच माने गए संबंध पर आधारित हैं।
- Surface ozone is not released directly but forms when sunlight drives a reaction among other pollutants, a process that speeds up in heat.
  सतही ओज़ोन सीधे उत्सर्जित नहीं होती, बल्कि सूर्य के प्रकाश द्वारा अन्य प्रदूषकों के बीच होने वाली रासायनिक प्रतिक्रिया से बनती है, और यह प्रक्रिया अधिक तापमान में तेज हो जाती है।
- "**Ozone** is very harmful, while **NO_2 (Nitrogen Dioxide)** and **HCHO (Formaldehyde)** directly damage the respiratory system," the authors write, referring to two of the gases involved in forming ozone.
  लेखकों ने लिखा है कि "**ओज़ोन** अत्यंत हानिकारक है, जबकि **NO_2 (नाइट्रोजन डाइऑक्साइड)** और **HCHO**

(फॉर्मल्डिहाइड) सीधे श्वसन तंत्र को क्षति पहुँचाते हैं," और ये दोनों गैसें ओज़ोन निर्माण की प्रक्रिया में शामिल होती हैं।

- The authors describe the work as the first comprehensive, long-term, and country-wide assessment of surface ozone during heatwaves in India, noting that previous studies were largely limited to individual cities or regions.
  लेखकों ने इस शोध को भारत में हीटवेव के दौरान सतही ओज़ोन का पहला व्यापक, दीर्घकालिक और देशव्यापी आकलन बताया है, क्योंकि पूर्ववर्ती अध्ययन मुख्यतः कुछ शहरों या क्षेत्रों तक सीमित थे।
- They counted **188 heatwave events** over the two decades with most severe years — **2010, 2016, 2019, and 2024** — following strong **El Niño** episodes.
  उन्होंने दो दशकों में **188 हीटवेव घटनाओं** की गणना की, जिनमें **2010, 2016, 2019 और 2024** सबसे गंभीर वर्ष रहे, और ये सभी प्रबल **एल नीनो** घटनाओं के बाद आए।
- The **Western Himalayas** recorded the steepest long-term rise in ozone level.
  पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र में ओज़ोन स्तर में दीर्घकालिक रूप से सबसे तीव्र वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
16J6	Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations केंद्र ने महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों पर संभावित ड्रोन हमलों को लेकर चेतावनी जारी की
16J6	Drone revolution and modern warfare ड्रोन क्रांति और आधुनिक युद्धकला

Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations

GS III: Internal Security

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Union government has warned of possible rogue drone attacks targeting vital installations along the borders, prompting security agencies to work on deploying counter-drone technology systems to safeguard critical assets across the country.

According to official sources, the Marine Security Wing of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways issued the alert on the emerging drone threat at Vital Assets and Vital Installations (VAVIs) located around the land and sea borders. It was stated that the current geo-political situation across the world had demonstrated that hostile drones could disrupt operations of critical VAVIs.

"There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to safeguard our assets, especially those located near the borders from rogue drones by installing Anti-Drone Systems," the communication said. In view of the emerging threat, the Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted the Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee in the Border Security Force for evaluation and certification of new technology systems for the evaluation and certification of counter-rogue drone technology systems for deployment in India. The force is in the process of installing anti-drone systems in Punjab along the Pakistan border for which trials had already started, the sources said.

In February, 2026, the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, had become the first port in the country to initiate the implementation of advanced Anti-Drone System as part of measures to protect the critical port infrastructure. The port signed an agreement with the Central Electronics Limited, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology.

V.O. Chidambaranar Port was the first port to implement advanced anti-drone systems to protect infrastructure. FILE PHOTO

16J6. Centre issues alert on potential drone attacks on vital installations

केंद्र ने महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों पर संभावित ड्रोन हमलों को लेकर चेतावनी जारी की

- The **Union government** has warned of possible **rogue drone attacks** targeting vital installations along the borders, prompting security agencies to work on deploying **counter-drone technology systems** to safeguard critical assets across the country.

केंद्र सरकार ने सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में स्थित महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों पर संभावित **दुष्ट ड्रोन (Rogue Drone) हमलों** की चेतावनी दी है, जिसके बाद सुरक्षा एजेंसियाँ देशभर की महत्वपूर्ण परिसंपत्तियों की सुरक्षा के लिए **काउंटर-ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी प्रणालियों** की तैनाती पर कार्य कर रही हैं।

- According to official sources, the **Marine Security Wing** of the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** issued the alert on the emerging drone threat at **Vital Assets and Vital Installations (VAVIs)** located around the land and sea borders.
  आधिकारिक सूत्रों के अनुसार, **पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय** के **समुद्री सुरक्षा प्रकोष्ठ** ने भूमि एवं

समुद्री सीमाओं के निकट स्थित **महत्वपूर्ण परिसंपत्तियों एवं महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों (VAVIs)** पर उभरते ड्रोन खतरे को लेकर यह चेतावनी जारी की है।

- It was stated that the current **geo-political situation** across the world had demonstrated that hostile drones could disrupt operations of critical VAVIs.
  यह कहा गया कि वर्तमान वैश्विक **भूराजनैतिक परिस्थितियों** ने यह प्रदर्शित कर दिया है कि शत्रुतापूर्ण ड्रोन महत्वपूर्ण VAVI परिसंपत्तियों और प्रतिष्ठानों के संचालन को बाधित कर सकते हैं।
- "There is an urgent need to take concrete steps to safeguard our assets, especially those located near the borders from rogue drones by installing **Anti-Drone Systems**," the communication said.
  संचार में कहा गया, "विशेष रूप से सीमाओं के निकट स्थित हमारी परिसंपत्तियों को दुष्ट ड्रोन से सुरक्षित रखने के लिए **एंटी-ड्रोन प्रणालियों** की स्थापना सहित ठोस कदम उठाने की तत्काल आवश्यकता है।"
- In view of the emerging threat, the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** had constituted the **Anti Rogue Drone Technology Committee** in the **Border Security Force (BSF)** for evaluation and certification of new technology systems for the deployment of counter-rogue drone technology systems in India.
  उभरते खतरे को देखते हुए **गृह मंत्रालय (MHA)** ने **सीमा सुरक्षा बल (BSF)** में **एंटी रोग ड्रोन टेक्नोलॉजी समिति** का गठन किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य भारत में तैनाती हेतु नई काउंटर-रोग ड्रोन प्रौद्योगिकी प्रणालियों का मूल्यांकन एवं प्रमाणीकरण करना है।
- The force is in the process of installing anti-drone systems in **Punjab** along the **Pakistan border** for which trials had already started, the sources said.
  सूत्रों के अनुसार, बल **पाकिस्तान सीमा** से लगे **पंजाब** क्षेत्र में एंटी-ड्रोन प्रणालियों की स्थापना की प्रक्रिया में है, जिसके लिए परीक्षण पहले ही प्रारंभ किए जा चुके हैं।
- In **February 2026**, the **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority** in **Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu**, had become the first port in the country to initiate the implementation of an advanced **Anti-Drone System** as part of measures to protect critical port infrastructure.
  फरवरी 2026 में **तमिलनाडु के तूतीकोरिन (Thoothukudi)** स्थित **वी.ओ. चिदंबरनार पोर्ट प्राधिकरण** देश का पहला बंदरगाह बना, जिसने महत्वपूर्ण बंदरगाह अवसंरचना की सुरक्षा के लिए उन्नत **एंटी-ड्रोन प्रणाली** लागू करने की पहल की।
- The port signed an agreement with **Central Electronics Limited (CEL)**, under the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)**, **Ministry of Science and Technology**.
  इस बंदरगाह ने **विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय** के अधीन **वैज्ञानिक एवं औद्योगिक अनुसंधान विभाग (DSIR)** की इकाई **सेंट्रल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (CEL)** के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए।

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Drone revolution and modern warfare

The wars in Ukraine, Lebanon and West Asia have shown how drones have become central to modern warfare; as cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems proliferate, military power is increasingly shaped by industrial scale, technological adaptation and the ability to build, deploy and counter drones

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

EXPLAINER

Rahul Bedi

For decades, military power has been defined by the scale and sophistication of conventional arsenals – combat aircraft, tanks, artillery, warships, air-defence systems, precision-guided missiles, and other high-end assets.

End of superiority

In this environment, battlefield superiority belonged to armies with technologically advanced platforms and equipment, sophisticated intelligence networks, and large budgets. Smaller militaries and non-state actors, by contrast, were largely confined to asymmetric tactics that relied on guerrilla warfare, ambushes, and other unconventional methods to offset their opponents' superior firepower and operational dominance.

But the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Lebanon, together with the wider U.S.-Israel-Iran theatre of conflict, have irrevocably shattered this paradigm, demonstrating that commercially derived drones – mass-produced at scale, rapidly reconfigured for multiple operational roles, and widely deployed – have become a defining feature of contemporary warfare. Performing functions ranging from intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) and target acquisition to precision strikes, artillery spotting, electronic warfare, and logistics support, they have evolved from auxiliary assets into central instruments of military operations.

In doing so, they have transformed the 21st-century battlespace into an environment of persistent visibility and rapid engagement, where front lines remain continuously exposed, and rear areas can no longer be assumed secure, as multiple types of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) can locate, track, and strike targets with unprecedented speed and precision.

Across these concurrent theatres of conflict, the widespread – and in some cases decisive – employment of drones has challenged established assumptions about how military power is generated and applied, reshaping doctrine, force structures, and future warfighting concepts. The consequence has been the emergence of a continuous and interconnected battlespace in which no position is truly beyond reach, and no movement can safely assume it will remain concealed for long, as detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

Ukraine drone war

Nowhere has this transformation been more visible than in Ukraine, where Russia's 'Special Military Operation' launched in February 2022, as a conventional war involving combat aircraft, tanks and artillery, evolved within two years into the world's first industrial-scale, drone-intensive conflict.

From the earliest stages of the Russian invasion, Ukraine rapidly adapted commercially available drones – originally designed for civilian purposes such as aerial photography, mapping, and basic surveillance – alongside a limited number of pre-existing military Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) assets into improvised reconnaissance and strike systems.

What had initially functioned as a support tool for intelligence gathering and guiding artillery fire quickly evolved into a decisive combat capability, as small quadcopters and First-Person View (FPV) drones were progressively weaponised and deployed as low-cost, precision-guided munitions. This shift marked a fundamental transformation in how unmanned systems were used on the battlefield: from passive information-gathering platforms to active instruments of destruction. By around 2024, drones had become fully integrated into almost every layer of Ukrainian combat, ranging from tactical battlefield surveillance to frontline targeting and deep-strike missions against logistics hubs, supply routes, and rear-area infrastructure.

From the earliest stages of Russian invasion, Ukraine adapted commercially available drones. FILE PHOTO

The operational template that emerged from this experience in Ukraine was subsequently replicated, albeit to varying degrees and in different forms, across the continuing West Asian conflicts, underscoring the growing centrality of drones to contemporary warfare.

FPV revolution

At the heart of Ukraine's drone revolution is the FPV system – an inexpensive, commercially available platform originally designed for recreational racing and aerial photography. Controlled through a live video feed transmitted from an onboard camera to virtual-reality-style goggles worn by their operators, FPV systems offer exceptional precision, manoeuvrability, and responsiveness.

These were then rapidly transformed into a broad spectrum of combat systems, including FPV strike drones, bombers, interceptors, and long-range attack variants. Among the most prominent are heavy-lift hexacopter Vampire drones – nicknamed "Baba Yaga" by Russian forces after the fearsome figure from Slavic folklore – alongside a vast number of improvised modular platforms, assembled in multiple workshops across Ukraine.

The most common are FPV kamikaze or strike drones, inexpensive quadcopters carrying explosive payloads such as modified rocket-propelled grenade warheads or purpose-built munitions, flown directly into targets as disposable precision-guided missiles. Their extremely low cost has radically reshaped battlefield economics which enable systems worth only a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.

These systems operate within a broader Ukrainian deep-strike drone architecture that includes loitering munitions such as RAM II and UJ-31 Zozulya. The latter functions as an aerially deployed "parasite drone," carried by the Ukrainian-designed multi-purpose UJ-22 Airborne long-range UAV's, enabling penetration of contested airspace under intensive electronic warfare conditions and extending operational reach. RAM II, by contrast, is a short-range precision loitering munition employed in coordination with reconnaissance drones like the locally developed Shark and PD-2, with improved variants offering greater range and endurance to expand their engagement envelope against air defence systems and rear-area targets.

Also included within Ukraine's expanding drone inventory are bomber drones – largely adapted from commercial DJI Mavic 3 and DJI Matrice 300 RTK quadcopter platforms originally designed for aerial photography, surveying and industrial applications – which carry and release grenades, anti-tank mines and improvised munitions. Unlike kamikaze systems, they survive missions and can conduct multiple sorties, making them particularly effective against trenches, bunkers and other static positions.

Alongside these, Ukraine fields FPV-based strike systems like Pegasus and long-range, one-way attack drones designed to strike deep inside Russian territory against logistics hubs, airbases and critical infrastructure, far beyond the frontline. In practice, however, the distinction between FPV strike drones and loitering munitions has become increasingly blurred, with many FPV-based thermal and night-vision-equipped variants for round-the-clock operations.

But, Ukraine's most significant innovation has been the emergence of fibre-optic FPV drones, an electronic warfare (EW)-resistant class of systems. Unlike conventional drones, which rely on radio-frequency links vulnerable to jamming, these platforms transmit commands and video through ultra-thin fibre-optic cables that spool out during flight, rendering electronic interference largely ineffective. In heavily contested electromagnetic environments, this capability restores a significant operational advantage to drone operators by enabling missions to be conducted largely free from electronic disruption.

Regional drone networks

Meanwhile, unlike Ukraine, Hezbollah's offensive UAS capability is primarily built around Iranian-supplied platforms with limited local modification, relying heavily on systems like Ababil, Mohajer, and Shahed series. These platforms provide a layered operational architecture spanning ISR and strike functions. Within this framework, the Mohajer-4 and Shahed-129 provide tiered-ISR coverage across medium- to long-ranges, while the Shahed-136 loitering munition fulfils a 'dedicated' one-way strike role across a wider regional theatre.

More recently, Hezbollah has also adopted jamming-resistant fibre-optic FPV drones, enabling operations in heavily contested electromagnetic environments and enhancing close-range reconnaissance and precision strike effectiveness despite extensive Israeli EW measures.

In response, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) in Lebanon have developed a layered counter-drone architecture, integrating EW systems, specialised radar arrays, and experimental platforms like the AI-enabled Iron Drone Raider, designed to neutralise low-altitude UAVs through kinetic, non-explosive interception methods such as net capture – by which a physical net is deployed to entangle and disable an incoming drone mid-air – or direct collision, rather than costly missile engagements. Alongside this, the IDF operates a multi-tiered UAV force structure combining long-endurance Heron systems for persistent ISR with armed drones and loitering munitions integrated into reconnaissance-strike complexes for rapid engagement.

Iran, for its part, constitutes a third and structurally distinct model of drone warfare.

Rather than employing drones solely as tactical assets, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) integrates them into a broader strategy of deterrence, coercion, and power projection against the U.S.-Israel combine and their regional partners across West Asia.

Through indigenous systems such as Shahed drone variants, alongside platforms supplied to proxy forces across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen, the IRGC has demonstrated an ability to threaten military bases, critical infrastructure, and naval assets across West Asia at relatively low cost.

Economy shift

Thus, across ongoing wars and conflicts, the drone revolution is defined as much by economics as technology. Cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems are swiftly and irreversibly replacing reliance on expensive platforms, complex logistics, and specialised military structures, shifting the advantage toward the scale, speed, and production capacity of UAS ecosystems.

Warfare, therefore, is increasingly becoming a test of industrial endurance and relentless technological adaptation, where success depends on the ability to build, deploy, and counter fast-evolving, continuously reconfigured drone systems. And, in this rapidly evolving battlespace, drones are no longer just weapons, but the very infrastructure of modern-day war – shaping how conflicts are surveilled, fought, sustained, and ultimately decided.

(Rahul Bedi is a journalist based in New Delhi and Chandigarh specialising in military, defence and security matters)

THE GIST

- Ukraine has pioneered industrial-scale drone warfare, integrating FPV drones, loitering munitions, bomber drones and fibre-optic systems across reconnaissance, targeting and deep-strike missions.
- Low-cost FPV strike drones have transformed battlefield economics, enabling systems worth a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.
- The widespread adoption of drones has challenged traditional assumptions about military power, creating a continuous battlespace where detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.

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ड्रोन क्रांति और आधुनिक युद्धकला

- The wars in **Ukraine**, **Lebanon** and **West Asia** have shown how **drones** have become central to **modern warfare**.
  यूक्रेन, **लेबनान** और **पश्चिम एशिया** के युद्धों ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि **ड्रोन** किस प्रकार **आधुनिक युद्धकला** के केंद्र में आ गए हैं।

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- As cheap, **mass-produced unmanned systems** proliferate, **military power** is increasingly shaped by **industrial scale**, **technological adaptation** and the ability to **build, deploy and counter drones**.
  जैसे-जैसे सस्ते और **बड़े पैमाने पर निर्मित मानवरहित प्रणालियों** का प्रसार बढ़ रहा है, **सैन्य शक्ति** का स्वरूप अधिकाधिक **औद्योगिक क्षमता**, **तकनीकी अनुकूलन** तथा **ड्रोन के निर्माण, तैनाती और उनका मुकाबला करने की क्षमता** से निर्धारित हो रहा है।

End of Superiority
श्रेष्ठता के पारंपरिक प्रतिमान का अंत

- For decades, **military power** has been defined by the scale and sophistication of conventional arsenals — combat aircraft, tanks, artillery, warships, air-defence systems, precision-guided missiles, and other high-end assets.
  दशकों तक **सैन्य शक्ति** को पारंपरिक हथियारों की मात्रा और तकनीकी परिष्कृतता के आधार पर परिभाषित किया जाता रहा है — जैसे लड़ाकू विमान, टैंक, तोपखाना, युद्धपोत, वायु-रक्षा प्रणालियाँ, सटीक-निर्देशित मिसाइलें और अन्य उन्नत सैन्य संसाधन।
- In this environment, battlefield superiority belonged to armies with technologically advanced platforms and equipment, sophisticated intelligence networks, and large budgets.
  इस वातावरण में युद्धक्षेत्र में श्रेष्ठता उन सेनाओं को प्राप्त होती थी जिनके पास तकनीकी रूप से उन्नत प्लेटफॉर्म, आधुनिक उपकरण, परिष्कृत खुफिया तंत्र और विशाल बजट होते थे।
- Smaller militaries and non-state actors, by contrast, were largely confined to asymmetric tactics that relied on guerrilla warfare, ambushes, and other unconventional methods to offset their opponents' superior firepower and operational dominance.
  इसके विपरीत, छोटी सेनाएँ और गैर-राज्यीय तत्व मुख्यतः असममित रणनीतियों तक सीमित रहते थे, जिनमें गुरिल्ला युद्ध, घात लगाकर हमला और अन्य अपरंपरागत तरीके शामिल थे, ताकि वे अपने विरोधियों की अधिक मारक क्षमता और संचालनात्मक श्रेष्ठता का संतुलन बना सकें।
- But the ongoing wars in **Ukraine** and **Lebanon**, together with the wider **U.S.–Israel–Iran** theatre of conflict, have irrevocably shattered this paradigm, demonstrating that commercially derived **drones** have become a defining feature of contemporary warfare.
  किन्तु **यूक्रेन** और **लेबनान** में जारी युद्धों के साथ-साथ व्यापक **अमेरिका–इज़राइल–ईरान** संघर्ष ने इस प्रतिमान को स्थायी रूप से तोड़ दिया है और यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि व्यावसायिक रूप से विकसित **ड्रोन** आधुनिक युद्ध की एक प्रमुख विशेषता बन चुके हैं।
- Mass-produced at scale, rapidly reconfigured for multiple operational roles, and widely deployed, they have become a defining feature of contemporary warfare.
  बड़े पैमाने पर निर्मित, विभिन्न परिचालन भूमिकाओं के लिए शीघ्रता से अनुकूलित और व्यापक रूप से तैनात किए जाने वाले ये ड्रोन समकालीन युद्ध का प्रमुख तत्व बन गए हैं।
- Performing functions ranging from **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)** and target acquisition to precision strikes, artillery spotting, electronic warfare, and logistics support, they have evolved from auxiliary assets into central instruments of military operations.
  खुफिया जानकारी, निगरानी और टोही (ISR), लक्ष्य पहचान, सटीक हमले, तोपखाना निर्देशन, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध तथा रसद सहायता जैसी भूमिकाएँ निभाते हुए ये सहायक साधनों से विकसित होकर सैन्य अभियानों के केंद्रीय उपकरण बन गए हैं।
- In doing so, they have transformed the **21st-century battlespace** into an environment of persistent visibility and rapid engagement.
  इस प्रक्रिया में उन्होंने **21वीं सदी के युद्धक्षेत्र** को निरंतर निगरानी और त्वरित आक्रमण वाले वातावरण में परिवर्तित कर दिया है।
- Front lines remain continuously exposed, and rear areas can no longer be assumed secure, as multiple types of **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** can locate, track, and strike targets

with unprecedented speed and precision.
अग्रिम मोर्चे निरंतर उजागर रहते हैं और पीछे के क्षेत्र अब सुरक्षित नहीं माने जा सकते, क्योंकि विभिन्न प्रकार की **मानवरहित हवाई प्रणालियाँ (UAS)** अभूतपूर्व गति और सटीकता के साथ लक्ष्यों का पता लगा सकती हैं, उनका पीछा कर सकती हैं और उन पर हमला कर सकती हैं।

- Across these concurrent theatres of conflict, the widespread — and in some cases decisive — employment of drones has challenged established assumptions about how military power is generated and applied.
इन समानांतर संघर्ष क्षेत्रों में ड्रोन के व्यापक और कुछ मामलों में निर्णायक उपयोग ने इस धारणा को चुनौती दी है कि सैन्य शक्ति कैसे उत्पन्न और प्रयोग की जाती है।
- They are reshaping doctrine, force structures, and future warfighting concepts.
वे सैन्य सिद्धांतों, बल संरचनाओं और भविष्य के युद्ध संबंधी अवधारणाओं को पुनर्परिभाषित कर रहे हैं।
- The consequence has been the emergence of a continuous and interconnected battlespace in which no position is truly beyond reach, and no movement can safely assume it will remain concealed for long.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप एक निरंतर और परस्पर जुड़ा हुआ युद्धक्षेत्र उभरा है जिसमें कोई भी स्थान वास्तव में पहुँच से बाहर नहीं है और कोई भी गतिविधि लंबे समय तक गुप्त रहने की आशा नहीं कर सकती।
- Detection is increasingly followed by rapid engagement and destruction.
अब लक्ष्य की पहचान के बाद प्रायः शीघ्र हमला और विनाश होता है।

Ukraine Drone War
यूक्रेन का ड्रोन युद्ध

- Nowhere has this transformation been more visible than in **Ukraine**, where **Russia's 'Special Military Operation'**, launched in February 2022 as a conventional war involving combat aircraft, tanks and artillery, evolved within two years into the world's first industrial-scale, drone-intensive conflict.
यह परिवर्तन सबसे स्पष्ट रूप से **यूक्रेन** में दिखाई दिया, जहाँ फरवरी 2022 में शुरू किया गया **रूस का 'विशेष सैन्य अभियान'**, जो प्रारंभ में लड़ाकू विमानों, टैंकों और तोपखाने पर आधारित पारंपरिक युद्ध था, दो वर्षों के भीतर विश्व के पहले औद्योगिक स्तर के ड्रोन-प्रधान संघर्ष में बदल गया।
- From the earliest stages of the Russian invasion, Ukraine rapidly adapted commercially available drones — originally designed for civilian purposes such as aerial photography, mapping, and basic surveillance — alongside a limited number of pre-existing military **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** assets into improvised reconnaissance and strike systems.
रूसी आक्रमण के प्रारंभिक चरण से ही यूक्रेन ने व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध ड्रोन — जो मूलतः हवाई फोटोग्राफी, मानचित्रण और सामान्य निगरानी जैसे नागरिक उद्देश्यों के लिए बनाए गए थे — तथा सीमित संख्या में उपलब्ध सैन्य **मानवरहित हवाई वाहन (UAV)** को त्वरित रूप से टोही और आक्रमण प्रणालियों में परिवर्तित कर दिया।
- What had initially functioned as a support tool for intelligence gathering and guiding artillery fire quickly evolved into a decisive combat capability.
जो प्रारंभ में खुफिया जानकारी एकत्र करने और तोपखाने के हमलों का मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए उपयोग किए जाते थे, वे शीघ्र ही निर्णायक युद्धक क्षमता में बदल गए।
- Small **quadcopters** and **First-Person View (FPV) drones** were progressively weaponised and deployed as low-cost, precision-guided munitions.
छोटे **क्वाडकॉप्टर** और **फर्स्ट-पर्सन व्यू (FPV) ड्रोन** क्रमशः हथियारों में परिवर्तित किए गए और कम लागत वाले सटीक-निर्देशित हथियारों के रूप में तैनात किए गए।
- This shift marked a fundamental transformation in how unmanned systems were used on the battlefield: from passive information-gathering platforms to active instruments of destruction.
इस परिवर्तन ने युद्धक्षेत्र में मानवरहित प्रणालियों के उपयोग की प्रकृति को मूल रूप से बदल दिया — निष्क्रिय सूचना-संग्रह मंचों से सक्रिय विनाशकारी उपकरणों तक।

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- By around 2024, drones had become fully integrated into almost every layer of Ukrainian combat, ranging from tactical battlefield surveillance to frontline targeting and deep-strike missions against logistics hubs, supply routes, and rear-area infrastructure.
  लगभग 2024 तक ड्रोन यूक्रेनी युद्ध संचालन के लगभग प्रत्येक स्तर में पूरी तरह एकीकृत हो चुके थे, जिनका उपयोग सामरिक निगरानी से लेकर अग्रिम मोर्चे के लक्ष्य निर्धारण और रसद केंद्रों, आपूर्ति मार्गों तथा पीछे के बुनियादी ढाँचे पर गहरे हमलों तक किया जाने लगा।
- The operational template that emerged from this experience in Ukraine was subsequently replicated, albeit to varying degrees and in different forms, across the continuing **West Asian conflicts**.
  यूक्रेन के इस अनुभव से जो संचालनात्मक मॉडल विकसित हुआ, उसे बाद में विभिन्न रूपों और अलग-अलग स्तरों पर जारी **पश्चिम एशियाई संघर्षों** में भी अपनाया गया।
- This underscores the growing centrality of **drones** to contemporary warfare.
  यह तथ्य आधुनिक युद्ध में **ड्रोन** की बढ़ती केंद्रीय भूमिका को रेखांकित करता है।

FPV Revolution
एफपीवी क्रांति

- At the heart of **Ukraine's drone revolution** is the **FPV (First-Person View) system** — an inexpensive, commercially available platform originally designed for recreational racing and aerial photography.
  यूक्रेन की ड्रोन क्रांति के केंद्र में **एफपीवी (फर्स्ट-पर्सन व्यू) प्रणाली** है — एक कम लागत वाला, व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध मंच, जिसे मूल रूप से मनोरंजक रेसिंग और हवाई फोटोग्राफी के लिए विकसित किया गया था।
- Controlled through a live video feed transmitted from an onboard camera to virtual-reality-style goggles worn by their operators, FPV systems offer exceptional precision, manoeuvrability, and responsiveness.
  ऑनबोर्ड कैमरे से प्राप्त लाइव वीडियो फीड को संचालकों द्वारा पहने गए वर्चुअल-रियलिटी शैली के चश्मों तक पहुँचाकर नियंत्रित किए जाने वाले एफपीवी सिस्टम असाधारण सटीकता, गतिशीलता और त्वरित प्रतिक्रिया क्षमता प्रदान करते हैं।
- These were then rapidly transformed into a broad spectrum of combat systems, including **FPV strike drones, bombers, interceptors, and long-range attack variants**.
  इसके बाद इन्हें तीव्र गति से विभिन्न प्रकार की युद्ध प्रणालियों में परिवर्तित किया गया, जिनमें **एफपीवी स्ट्राइक ड्रोन, बमवर्षक ड्रोन, इंटरसेप्टर तथा लंबी दूरी के आक्रमणकारी संस्करण** शामिल हैं।
- Among the most prominent are heavy-lift **hexacopter Vampire drones** — nicknamed **"Baba Yaga"** by Russian forces after the fearsome figure from Slavic folklore — alongside a vast number of improvised modular platforms, assembled in multiple workshops across Ukraine.
  इनमें भारी भार वहन करने वाले **हेक्साकॉप्टर वैम्पायर ड्रोन** प्रमुख हैं, जिन्हें रूसी सेनाओं ने स्लाव लोककथाओं के भयावह पात्र के नाम पर **"बाबा यागा"** नाम दिया है। इनके अतिरिक्त यूक्रेन भर की अनेक कार्यशालाओं में निर्मित बड़ी संख्या में मॉड्यूलर और तदर्थ प्लेटफॉर्म भी शामिल हैं।
- The most common are **FPV kamikaze or strike drones**, inexpensive quadcopters carrying explosive payloads such as modified rocket-propelled grenade warheads or purpose-built munitions, flown directly into targets as disposable precision-guided missiles.
  सबसे सामान्य प्रकार **एफपीवी कामिकाज़े अथवा स्ट्राइक ड्रोन** हैं, जो कम लागत वाले क्वाडकॉप्टर होते हैं और संशोधित रॉकेट-प्रोपेल्ड ग्रेनेड वारहेड या विशेष रूप से निर्मित विस्फोटक सामग्री लेकर सीधे लक्ष्य पर प्रहार करते हैं, मानो वे एक बार उपयोग किए जाने वाले सटीक-निर्देशित मिसाइल हों।
- Their extremely low cost has radically reshaped **battlefield economics**, enabling systems worth only a few hundred dollars to destroy armoured vehicles and equipment valued in the millions.
  इनकी अत्यंत कम लागत ने **युद्धक्षेत्र की अर्थव्यवस्था** को मूल रूप से बदल दिया है, जिससे कुछ सौ डॉलर मूल्य की प्रणालियाँ लाखों डॉलर मूल्य वाले बख्तरबंद वाहनों और उपकरणों को नष्ट करने में सक्षम हो गई हैं।

- These systems operate within a broader Ukrainian **deep-strike drone architecture** that includes loitering munitions such as **RAM II** and **UJ-31 Zozulya**.
  ये प्रणालियाँ यूक्रेन की व्यापक **डीप-स्ट्राइक ड्रोन संरचना** का हिस्सा हैं, जिसमें **RAM II** और **UJ-31 ज़ोजुल्या** जैसी लोटरिंग म्यूनिशन प्रणालियाँ शामिल हैं।
- The latter functions as an aerially deployed **"parasite drone,"** carried by the Ukrainian-designed multi-purpose **UJ-22 Airborne** long-range UAVs, enabling penetration of contested airspace under intensive electronic warfare conditions and extending operational reach.
  UJ-31 ज़ोजुल्या एक हवाई रूप से तैनात **"पैरासाइट ड्रोन"** के रूप में कार्य करता है, जिसे यूक्रेन द्वारा विकसित बहुउद्देश्यीय **UJ-22 एयरबोर्न** लंबी दूरी के UAV द्वारा ले जाया जाता है। यह तीव्र इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध परिस्थितियों में भी विवादित वायुक्षेत्र में प्रवेश कर संचालन की पहुँच को विस्तारित करता है।
- **RAM II**, by contrast, is a short-range precision loitering munition employed in coordination with reconnaissance drones like the locally developed **Shark** and **PD-2**.
  इसके विपरीत, **RAM II** एक अल्प-दूरी की सटीक लोटरिंग म्यूनिशन है, जिसका उपयोग स्थानीय रूप से विकसित **शार्क** और **PD-2** जैसे टोही ड्रोन के साथ समन्वय में किया जाता है।
- Improved variants offer greater range and endurance to expand their engagement envelope against air defence systems and rear-area targets.
  इसके उन्नत संस्करण अधिक दूरी और सहनशीलता प्रदान करते हैं, जिससे वायु-रक्षा प्रणालियों और पीछे के क्षेत्रों में स्थित लक्ष्यों के विरुद्ध उनकी प्रभावशीलता बढ़ जाती है।
- Also included within Ukraine's expanding drone inventory are **bomber drones**, largely adapted from commercial **DJI Mavic 3** and **DJI Matrice 300 RTK** quadcopter platforms originally designed for aerial photography, surveying and industrial applications.
  यूक्रेन के विस्तारित ड्रोन भंडार में **बमवर्षक ड्रोन** भी शामिल हैं, जिन्हें मुख्यतः **DJI Mavic 3** और **DJI Matrice 300 RTK** जैसे व्यावसायिक क्वाडकॉप्टर प्लेटफॉर्मों से अनुकूलित किया गया है, जिन्हें मूल रूप से हवाई फोटोग्राफी, सर्वेक्षण और औद्योगिक उपयोगों के लिए बनाया गया था।
- These carry and release grenades, anti-tank mines and improvised munitions.
  ये ग्रेनेड, टैंक-रोधी बारूदी सुरंगें तथा अन्य तदर्थ विस्फोटक सामग्री ले जाकर गिराते हैं।
- Unlike kamikaze systems, they survive missions and can conduct multiple sorties, making them particularly effective against trenches, bunkers and other static positions.
  कामिकाज़े प्रणालियों के विपरीत, ये मिशन के बाद सुरक्षित लौट आते हैं और अनेक अभियानों में पुनः उपयोग किए जा सकते हैं, जिससे वे खाइयों, बंकरों और अन्य स्थिर सैन्य ठिकानों के विरुद्ध विशेष रूप से प्रभावी बनते हैं।
- Alongside these, Ukraine fields **FPV-based strike systems** like **Pegasus** and long-range, one-way attack drones designed to strike deep inside Russian territory against logistics hubs, airbases and critical infrastructure, far beyond the frontline.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, यूक्रेन **पेगासस** जैसे **एफपीवी-आधारित स्ट्राइक सिस्टम** तथा लंबी दूरी के एकतरफा आक्रमणकारी ड्रोन भी संचालित करता है, जिन्हें रूस के भीतर गहराई तक स्थित रसद केंद्रों, वायुसेना अड्डों और महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना पर हमला करने के लिए विकसित किया गया है।
- In practice, however, the distinction between FPV strike drones and **loitering munitions** has become increasingly blurred.
  व्यावहारिक रूप से, एफपीवी स्ट्राइक ड्रोन और **लोटरिंग म्यूनिशन** के बीच का अंतर लगातार कम होता जा रहा है।
- Many FPV-based variants are now equipped with **thermal imaging** and **night-vision systems** for round-the-clock operations.
  अब अनेक एफपीवी-आधारित संस्करण **थर्मल इमेजिंग** और **नाइट-विजन प्रणालियों** से लैस हैं, जिससे वे चौबीसों घंटे संचालन करने में सक्षम हैं।
- But Ukraine's most significant innovation has been the emergence of **fibre-optic FPV drones**, an **electronic warfare (EW)-resistant** class of systems.

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किन्तु यूक्रेन का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण नवाचार **फाइबर-ऑप्टिक एफपीवी ड्रोन** का विकास है, जो **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध (EW) प्रतिरोधी** प्रणालियों की एक नई श्रेणी है।

- Unlike conventional drones, which rely on radio-frequency links vulnerable to jamming, these platforms transmit commands and video through ultra-thin **fibre-optic cables** that spool out during flight, rendering electronic interference largely ineffective.
पारंपरिक ड्रोन, जो रेडियो-फ्रीक्वेंसी संकेतों पर निर्भर होते हैं और जैमिंग के प्रति संवेदनशील होते हैं, उनसे भिन्न ये प्लेटफॉर्म अत्यंत पतले **फाइबर-ऑप्टिक केबलों** के माध्यम से आदेश और वीडियो संकेत भेजते हैं, जो उड़ान के दौरान खुलते जाते हैं और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक हस्तक्षेप को लगभग निष्प्रभावी बना देते हैं।
- In heavily contested **electromagnetic environments**, this capability restores a significant operational advantage to drone operators by enabling missions to be conducted largely free from electronic disruption.
अत्यधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी **विद्युत-चुंबकीय वातावरणों** में यह क्षमता ड्रोन संचालकों को महत्वपूर्ण संचालनात्मक बढ़त प्रदान करती है, क्योंकि इससे मिशनों को इलेक्ट्रॉनिक व्यवधानों से लगभग मुक्त होकर संचालित किया जा सकता है।

Regional Drone Networks
क्षेत्रीय ड्रोन नेटवर्क

- Meanwhile, unlike **Ukraine**, **Hezbollah's** offensive **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** capability is primarily built around **Iranian-supplied platforms** with limited local modification, relying heavily on systems like **Ababil, Mohajer, and Shahed** series.
इस बीच, **यूक्रेन** के विपरीत, **हिज़्बुल्लाह** की आक्रामक **मानवरहित हवाई प्रणाली (UAS)** क्षमता मुख्यतः **ईरान द्वारा उपलब्ध कराए गए प्लेटफॉर्मों** पर आधारित है, जिनमें स्थानीय स्तर पर सीमित संशोधन किए गए हैं, और जो प्रमुख रूप से **अबाबील, मोहाजेर तथा शाहेद** श्रृंखला की प्रणालियों पर निर्भर हैं।
- These platforms provide a layered operational architecture spanning **ISR** and strike functions.
ये प्लेटफॉर्म **खुफिया, निगरानी और टोही (ISR)** तथा आक्रमण संबंधी कार्यों को समाहित करने वाली बहुस्तरीय संचालनात्मक संरचना प्रदान करते हैं।
- Within this framework, the **Mohajer-4** and **Shahed-129** provide tiered-ISR coverage across medium- to long-ranges, while the **Shahed-136 loitering munition** fulfils a 'dedicated' one-way strike role across a wider regional theatre.
इस संरचना के अंतर्गत **मोहाजेर-4** और **शाहेद-129** मध्यम से लंबी दूरी तक चरणबद्ध ISR कवरेज प्रदान करते हैं, जबकि **शाहेद-136 लोटरिंग म्यूनिशन** व्यापक क्षेत्रीय परिदृश्य में एक समर्पित एकतरफा आक्रमणकारी भूमिका निभाता है।
- More recently, **Hezbollah** has also adopted **jamming-resistant fibre-optic FPV drones**, enabling operations in heavily contested electromagnetic environments and enhancing close-range reconnaissance and precision strike effectiveness despite extensive Israeli **electronic warfare (EW)** measures.
हाल के समय में **हिज़्बुल्लाह** ने **जैमिंग-प्रतिरोधी फाइबर-ऑप्टिक एफपीवी ड्रोन** भी अपनाए हैं, जो अत्यधिक प्रतिस्पर्धी विद्युत-चुंबकीय वातावरण में संचालन को संभव बनाते हैं तथा व्यापक इज़राइली **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध (EW)** उपायों के बावजूद निकट-दूरी की टोही और सटीक आक्रमण क्षमता को बढ़ाते हैं।
- In response, the **Israel Defence Forces (IDF)** in **Lebanon** have developed a layered **counter-drone architecture**, integrating EW systems, specialised radar arrays, and experimental platforms like the **AI-enabled Iron Drone Raider**.
इसके प्रत्युत्तर में **लेबनान** में तैनात **इज़राइल रक्षा बल (IDF)** ने एक बहुस्तरीय **ड्रोन-रोधी संरचना** विकसित की है, जिसमें EW प्रणालियाँ, विशेषीकृत रडार नेटवर्क तथा **AI-सक्षम आयरन ड्रोन रेडर** जैसे प्रयोगात्मक प्लेटफॉर्म शामिल हैं।
- This system is designed to neutralise low-altitude UAVs through kinetic, non-explosive interception methods such as **net capture** — by which a physical net is deployed to entangle and disable an incoming drone mid-air — or direct collision, rather than costly missile

engagements.
यह प्रणाली निम्न ऊँचाई पर उड़ने वाले UAVs को **नेट कैप्चर** जैसी गतिज, गैर-विस्फोटक अवरोधन तकनीकों के माध्यम से निष्क्रिय करने के लिए विकसित की गई है, जिसमें हवा में ही एक जाल तैनात कर आने वाले ड्रोन को उलझाकर निष्क्रिय किया जाता है, अथवा प्रत्यक्ष टक्कर का उपयोग किया जाता है, ताकि महँगी मिसाइलों का प्रयोग न करना पड़े।

- Alongside this, the IDF operates a multi-tiered **UAV force structure** combining long-endurance **Heron systems** for persistent ISR with armed drones and loitering munitions integrated into reconnaissance-strike complexes for rapid engagement.
इसके साथ ही, IDF एक बहुस्तरीय **UAV बल संरचना** संचालित करता है, जिसमें दीर्घकालिक ISR के लिए **हेरॉन प्रणाली**, सशस्त्र ड्रोन तथा लोटरिंग म्यूनिशन शामिल हैं, जिन्हें त्वरित आक्रमण हेतु टोही-आक्रमण परिसरों में एकीकृत किया गया है।
- **Iran**, for its part, constitutes a third and structurally distinct model of drone warfare.
दूसरी ओर, **ईरान** ड्रोन युद्ध का एक तीसरा और संरचनात्मक रूप से भिन्न मॉडल प्रस्तुत करता है।
- Rather than employing drones solely as tactical assets, the **Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** integrates them into a broader strategy of deterrence, coercion, and power projection against the **U.S.-Israel** combine and their regional partners across **West Asia**.
ड्रोन को केवल सामरिक संसाधन के रूप में उपयोग करने के बजाय, **इस्लामिक रिवोल्यूशनरी गार्ड कॉर्प्स (IRGC)** उन्हें **अमेरिका-इज़राइल** गठजोड़ तथा उनके **पश्चिम एशिया** स्थित साझेदारों के विरुद्ध प्रतिरोध, दबाव और शक्ति-प्रदर्शन की व्यापक रणनीति में सम्मिलित करता है।
- Through indigenous systems such as **Shahed drone variants**, alongside platforms supplied to proxy forces across **Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen**, the IRGC has demonstrated an ability to threaten military bases, critical infrastructure, and naval assets across West Asia at relatively low cost.
शाहेद ड्रोन के विभिन्न स्वदेशी संस्करणों तथा **इराक, सीरिया, लेबनान और यमन** में सहयोगी समूहों को उपलब्ध कराए गए प्लेटफॉर्मों के माध्यम से IRGC ने अपेक्षाकृत कम लागत पर सैन्य अड्डों, महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचनाओं और नौसैनिक संसाधनों को खतरे में डालने की क्षमता प्रदर्शित की है।

Economy Shift
आर्थिक प्रतिमान में परिवर्तन

- Thus, across ongoing wars and conflicts, the **drone revolution** is defined as much by economics as technology.
इस प्रकार, वर्तमान युद्धों और संघर्षों में **ड्रोन क्रांति** केवल तकनीक ही नहीं, बल्कि अर्थशास्त्र द्वारा भी परिभाषित होती है।
- Cheap, mass-produced unmanned systems are swiftly and irreversibly replacing reliance on expensive platforms, complex logistics, and specialised military structures, shifting the advantage toward the scale, speed, and production capacity of **UAS ecosystems**.
कम लागत वाले और बड़े पैमाने पर निर्मित मानवरहित सिस्टम महँगे प्लेटफॉर्मों, जटिल रसद व्यवस्थाओं और विशेष सैन्य संरचनाओं पर निर्भरता को तेज़ी से और स्थायी रूप से प्रतिस्थापित कर रहे हैं, जिससे बढ़त **UAS पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों** की मात्रा, गति और उत्पादन क्षमता की ओर स्थानांतरित हो रही है।
- Warfare, therefore, is increasingly becoming a test of **industrial endurance** and relentless technological adaptation, where success depends on the ability to build, deploy, and counter fast-evolving, continuously reconfigured drone systems.
फलस्वरूप, युद्ध अब बढ़ते हुए **औद्योगिक सहनशक्ति** और निरंतर तकनीकी अनुकूलन की परीक्षा बनता जा रहा है, जहाँ सफलता तीव्र गति से विकसित हो रही और लगातार पुनर्संरचित ड्रोन प्रणालियों के निर्माण, तैनाती और प्रतिरोध की क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है।
- And, in this rapidly evolving battlespace, drones are no longer just weapons, but the very **infrastructure of modern-day war** — shaping how conflicts are surveilled, fought, sustained, and ultimately decided.

और इस तीव्र गति से बदलते युद्धक्षेत्र में, ड्रोन अब केवल हथियार नहीं रह गए हैं, बल्कि वे आधुनिक युद्ध की मूलभूत **अवसंरचना** बन चुके हैं, जो यह निर्धारित कर रहे हैं कि संघर्षों की निगरानी कैसे की जाएगी, युद्ध कैसे लड़ा जाएगा, उसे कैसे बनाए रखा जाएगा और अंततः उसका परिणाम कैसे तय होगा।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	16 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
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PCS Special:	15 June 2026
15J6	Army unveils new uniform policy, phases out colonial-era practices सेना ने नई वर्दी नीति लागू की, औपनिवेशिक काल की प्रथाओं को चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त किया
15J6	INS Sharda concludes visit to Colombo, boosts bilateral ties आईएनएस शारदा ने कोलंबो की यात्रा पूर्ण की, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मिला बल

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Army unveils new uniform policy, phases out colonial-era practices

PCS [redacted]
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

In a significant move aimed at modernising military traditions and reinforcing an indigenous identity, the Indian Army has introduced revised dress regulations that progressively remove residual colonial-era practices, terminology, and non-essential accoutrements.

The new policy, elaborated in the Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet, reflects the Army's effort to align its dress regulations with contemporary Indian values while maintaining the service's rich traditions and professional standards.

A notable feature of the revised regulations is the introduction of a common Uniform Numbering Scheme for the Army, Navy, and the Air Force. The initiative is intended to improve clarity, interoperability, and synergy among the three services while simplifying references to various dress categories.

The changes are aimed at enhancing uniformity, practicality and ease of implementation across the force. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Army has retained four broad categories of uniforms – Ceremonial Dress, Working Dress, Mess Dress, and Combat Dress. Unique dress numbers have been assigned to each uniform for ease of identification and administration.

Reflecting India's evolving national identity and contemporary ethos, the latest edition of the Army Uniforms Pamphlet introduces several key changes aimed at shedding remnants of colonial-era practices. Among the notable reforms are the inclusion of the traditional Bandi Jacket as part of formal civil attire, removal of the pouch belt from Mess Dress Nos. 5 and 6, making sword carriage by the Reviewing Officer optional, and discontinuing outdated terminology such as "Royal".

The Army has announced the phased withdrawal of legacy patterns such as Dress No. 3A, which will be discontinued by June 30, 2029.

15J6. Army unveils new uniform policy, phases out colonial-era practices
सेना ने नई वर्दी नीति लागू की, औपनिवेशिक काल की प्रथाओं को चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त किया

- **In a significant move aimed at modernising military traditions and reinforcing an indigenous identity, the Indian Army has introduced revised dress regulations that progressively remove residual colonial-era practices, terminology, and non-essential accoutrements.**
  सैन्य परम्पराओं के आधुनिकीकरण और स्वदेशी पहचान को सुदृढ़ करने की दिशा में एक महत्त्वपूर्ण कदम उठाते हुए **भारतीय सेना** ने संशोधित वेशभूषा नियम लागू किए हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य औपनिवेशिक काल की शेष प्रथाओं, शब्दावली और अनावश्यक सजावटी तत्वों को क्रमिक रूप से समाप्त करना है।
- The new policy, elaborated in the **Army Uniforms-2026 Pamphlet**, reflects the Army's effort to align its dress regulations with contemporary Indian values while maintaining the service's rich traditions and professional standards.
  सेना वर्दी-2026 पुस्तिका में विस्तृत नई नीति सेना के उस प्रयास को दर्शाती है जिसके माध्यम से वर्दी संबंधी नियमों को समकालीन भारतीय मूल्यों के अनुरूप बनाया जा रहा है, जबकि सेवा की समृद्ध परम्पराओं और व्यावसायिक मानकों को भी बनाए रखा जा रहा है।
- A notable feature of the revised regulations is the introduction of a common **Uniform Numbering Scheme** for the Army, Navy, and the Air Force.
  संशोधित नियमों की एक प्रमुख विशेषता सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना के लिए एक समान **वर्दी क्रमांकन प्रणाली** का प्रारम्भ है।
- The initiative is intended to improve clarity, interoperability, and synergy among the three services while simplifying references to various dress categories.
  इस पहल का उद्देश्य तीनों सेनाओं के बीच स्पष्टता, पारस्परिक समन्वय और कार्यगत सामंजस्य को बढ़ाना तथा विभिन्न वर्दी श्रेणियों के संदर्भ को सरल बनाना है।
- The Army has retained four broad categories of uniforms — **Ceremonial Dress, Working Dress, Mess Dress, and Combat Dress**.

सेना ने वर्दियों की चार प्रमुख श्रेणियाँ यथावत रखी हैं — **औपचारिक वेशभूषा, कार्य वेशभूषा, मेस वेशभूषा तथा युद्धक वेशभूषा**।

- Unique dress numbers have been assigned to each uniform for ease of identification and administration.
  पहचान और प्रशासनिक सुविधा के लिए प्रत्येक वर्दी को विशिष्ट क्रमांक प्रदान किए गए हैं।
- Reflecting India's evolving national identity and contemporary ethos, the latest edition of the Army Uniforms Pamphlet introduces several key changes aimed at shedding remnants of colonial-era practices.
  भारत की विकसित होती राष्ट्रीय पहचान और समकालीन दृष्टिकोण को प्रतिबिंबित करते हुए सेना वर्दी पुस्तिका के नवीनतम संस्करण में औपनिवेशिक युग की शेष परम्पराओं को समाप्त करने के उद्देश्य से कई महत्त्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन किए गए हैं।
- Among the notable reforms are the inclusion of the traditional **Bandi Jacket** as part of formal civil attire, removal of the **pouch belt** from Mess Dress Nos. 5 and 6, making sword carriage by the **Reviewing Officer** optional, and discontinuing outdated terminology such as **"Royal"**.
  प्रमुख सुधारों में पारंपरिक **बंदी जैकेट** को औपचारिक नागरिक परिधान का हिस्सा बनाना, मेस वेशभूषा संख्या 5 और 6 से **पाउच बेल्ट** को हटाना, **निरीक्षण अधिकारी** द्वारा तलवार धारण करना वैकल्पिक बनाना तथा **"रॉयल"** जैसे अप्रचलित शब्दों का प्रयोग समाप्त करना शामिल है।
- The Army has announced the phased withdrawal of legacy patterns such as **Dress No. 3A**, which will be discontinued by **June 30, 2029**.
  सेना ने **वेशभूषा संख्या 3ए** जैसे पुरानी शैली के पैटर्न को चरणबद्ध रूप से समाप्त करने की घोषणा की है, जिसे **30 जून 2029** तक पूर्णतः बंद कर दिया जाएगा।

PCS

INS Sharda concludes visit to Colombo, boosts bilateral ties

Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Sharda* departed Colombo on June 13 after a successful port call that further strengthened maritime cooperation and friendship between India and Sri Lanka. The visit featured a range of professional, training and sporting engagements between the two maritime forces. The Indian Navy informed that as part of capacity-building initiatives, Sri Lankan Navy personnel received training in small arms handling, basic firefighting, first-aid and rescue procedures aboard the ship. The engagements were aimed at enhancing operational preparedness and fostering greater interoperability between the two forces.

15J6. INS Sharda concludes visit to Colombo, boosts bilateral ties

आईएनएस शारदा ने कोलंबो की यात्रा पूर्ण की, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को मिला बल

- **Indian Naval Ship (INS) Sharda departed Colombo on June 13 after a successful port call that further strengthened maritime cooperation and friendship between India and Sri Lanka.**

भारतीय नौसैनिक पोत शारदा ने **13 जून** को कोलंबो से अपनी सफल बंदरगाह यात्रा पूर्ण करने के बाद प्रस्थान किया, जिससे **भारत** और **श्रीलंका** के बीच समुद्री सहयोग और मैत्री संबंध और अधिक सुदृढ़ हुए।

- The Indian Navy informed that as part of capacity-building initiatives, Sri Lankan Navy personnel received training in **small arms handling, basic firefighting, first-aid and rescue procedures** aboard the ship.

भारतीय नौसेना ने बताया कि क्षमता निर्माण पहलों के अंतर्गत **श्रीलंकाई नौसेना** के कर्मियों को पोत पर **छोटे हथियारों के संचालन, आधारभूत अग्निशमन, प्राथमिक उपचार तथा बचाव प्रक्रियाओं** का प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया।

GS Paper 1: History	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection थाईलैंड–भारत संबंधों का छिपा हुआ इतिहास

The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection

GS I: History

Shashi Tharoor

Fourth-term Member of Parliament, Congress party (Lok Sabha) for Thiruvananthapuram, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 29 books, including, most recently, 'The Sage Who Reimagined Hinduism: The Life, Lessons and Legacy of Sree Narayana Guru'

An enduring Thailand-India bond that played a pivotal role in India's independence movement

Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA). I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule. From its humble beginnings as a hub for cultural and intellectual exchange, the organisation evolved into a cornerstone of the Indian independence movement, providing the essential infrastructure for the formation of the INA.

From culture to cause

The roots of this alliance were sown in 1927 during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Rama VII). Their dialogue centred on the deep, enduring connections between India and Thailand – ancient ties rooted in religion, philosophy, and shared cultural narratives such as the Ramayana and the Thai Ramakien. Inspired by his vision, Prafulla Kumar Sen, a Bengali scholar who became known as Swami Satyananda Puri, arrived in Bangkok in 1932.

A brilliant intellectual who had taught at the University of Calcutta and Visva-Bharati University, the Swami immersed himself in the Thai language and culture, mastering it in six months and becoming an esteemed professor at Chulalongkorn University. In 1939, he established the Dharam Ashram, a sanctuary for spiritual and cultural exchange, which served as a focal point for the growing Indian diaspora in Bangkok.

In December 1940, this ashram was transformed into the TBCL. A defining moment in the organisation's history occurred shortly after, when the Indian Tricolour was hoisted at the Lodge – a bold, defiant gesture that signalled the arrival of the Indian independence movement in Thailand and drew strong protests from the British Ambassador. As the Second World War descended upon Southeast Asia, the TBCL shifted from a cultural institution to an active political base. By late 1941, as Japanese forces advanced, the Lodge became a nexus for Indian nationalists and independence activists.

One of the most instrumental figures in this era was Sardar Giani Pritam Singh, a Sikh missionary and Ghadar Party veteran who had been preaching revolutionary ideals among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok. Operating from gurdwaras and working closely with the TBCL, Pritam Singh established vital covert links with Major Iwaichi Fujiwara, the chief of the Japanese intelligence unit, F-Kikan. In December 1941, the Indian National Council (INC) was founded at the Silpakorn Theatre in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with Swami Satyananda Puri as its president and Debnath Das as its secretary. This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL).

Toward organised resistance

The cooperation between these groups culminated in the historic Bangkok Conference, which took place between June 15 and June 23, 1942, at the Silpakorn Theatre. This gathering represented a turning point in the struggle, bringing together more than a hundred representatives of Indian communities and freedom fighters from across Southeast Asia, including Burma, Malaya, and Singapore.

The conference served three primary functions. It brought together diverse nationalist factions under a coherent political and military framework, effectively establishing the IIL as the central body for Indians residing outside of India. It adopted a comprehensive 34-point resolution, which provided the official blueprint for the INA, stipulating that it would be composed of volunteers and former prisoners of war and supervised by the IIL rather than the Japanese military. The delegates urged Japan to formally recognise India as an independent nation and acknowledge the IIL as its sole legitimate representative, reflecting a strategic effort to ensure that the independence movement maintained its own agency despite its reliance on Japanese support.

The struggle began with a tragedy that shook the movement to its core. In March 1942, a plane carrying the Swami and the Sardar, who were en route to a high-level meeting in Tokyo to secure further commitments for the movement, crashed, resulting in their deaths. Their loss was a devastating blow, yet their sacrifice served to deepen the resolve of those who remained and who conferred in June with the Japanese to set up the INA. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's arrival in 1943 provided the centralised, charismatic, and revolutionary military leadership needed. He took command of the IIL and the INA, shifting the focus from decentralised regional council discussions toward a unified, disciplined military and political front designed to launch an armed struggle for Indian independence.

While the TBCL's roots were in intellectual and cultural exchange, Netaji's arrival accelerated the transition to a mass-mobilisation effort, drawing in thousands of civilian volunteers and former prisoners of war who were inspired by his call for "Total Mobilization". Under Bose, the collaboration with the Japanese military was elevated to a high-stakes diplomatic partnership aimed at securing full recognition for the Provisional Government of Free India.

Despite the shift toward a more militarised and centralised command under Netaji, the TBCL continued to serve as a vital institutional bridge. It provided the necessary civilian and cultural cover for many activities that supported the broader independence movement. As the war progressed, the TBCL remained a steadfast centre for the Indian diaspora, even as the focus of the struggle moved to the front lines of the INA's march toward the Indian border. The Lodge maintained its role as a sanctuary for those committed to the ideals of independence, preserving the vision that had been articulated during the early days of Swami Satyananda Puri's tenure – that India's freedom was inextricably linked to the broader cause of Asian liberation from colonial rule.

Keeping history alive

Following the conclusion of the war in 1945, the TBCL was banned by Allied forces and its leaders imprisoned. Even after the conclusion of the war and the dissolution of the INA, the legacy of this era persisted. Thanks to the tireless efforts of figures such as Pandit Raghunath Sharma, the Lodge was successfully re-established in 1946. The Lodge's survival serves as a testament to the fact that the political and military efforts of the Bose era were supported by the deep-rooted cultural and social networks fostered in the years prior. These networks allowed the movement to survive the vacuum of leadership following the war and continue to inform the historic relationship between India and Thailand.

Today, the TBCL remains the only surviving institution from this era, functioning as a living archive, housing a precious collection of rare texts, historical photographs, and documents that provide an intimate window into the lives of the Indian families who contributed to the fight for freedom.

During my visit I was treated to a passionate tour of the premises by Pandeyji, a descendant of Indian rajpurohits who had migrated to Thailand three centuries ago. As he evoked the stories behind each grainy photograph and historic document, it became clear that the TBCL stands not just as a library or a museum, but as a monument to the enduring friendship between the people of Thailand and the Indian diaspora – a symbol of the shared courage and determination that defined one of the most critical, yet often forgotten, chapters of the global anti-colonial movement.

15J6. The hidden history of the Thai-Bharat connection
थाईलैंड–भारत संबंधों का छिपा हुआ इतिहास

- **Today, June 15, marks the 84th anniversary of a historic meeting we have allowed ourselves to forget, which led to the birth of the Indian National Army (INA).**
  आज, **15 जून**, उस ऐतिहासिक बैठक की **84वीं वर्षगाँठ** है जिसे हम लगभग भुला चुके हैं, जबकि उसी बैठक ने **आज़ाद हिन्द फ़ौज** के जन्म का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया था।
- I learned about it on a visit to the Thai-Bharat Cultural Lodge (TBCL) in Bangkok, discovering a remarkable, overlooked chapter of history that reveals Thailand's vital role as a neutral, strategic beacon for Indian revolutionaries seeking refuge from British colonial rule.
  मुझे इसके बारे में **बैंकॉक स्थित थाई-भारत सांस्कृतिक लॉज** की यात्रा के दौरान जानकारी मिली, जहाँ इतिहास के एक उल्लेखनीय किन्तु उपेक्षित अध्याय का पता चला, जो ब्रिटिश औपनिवेशिक शासन से शरण लेने वाले भारतीय क्रांतिकारियों के लिए **थाईलैंड** की महत्त्वपूर्ण एवं रणनीतिक भूमिका को उजागर करता है।

From culture to cause
संस्कृति से स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष तक

- The roots of this alliance were sown in 1927 during a historic visit to Siam, now Thailand, by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who met with King Prajadhipok (Rama VII).

इस सहयोग की नींव **1927** में उस समय पड़ी जब **गुरुदेव रवीन्द्रनाथ ठाकुर** ने तत्कालीन **सियाम (वर्तमान थाईलैंड)** की ऐतिहासिक यात्रा की और वहाँ **राजा प्रजाधिपोक (राम सप्तम)** से भेंट की।

- Inspired by his vision, **Prafulla Kumar Sen, a Bengali scholar who became known as Swami Satyananda Puri, arrived in Bangkok in 1932.**
  उनकी प्रेरणा से बंगाल के विद्वान **प्रफुल्ल कुमार सेन**, जो बाद में **स्वामी सत्यानन्द पुरी** के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हुए, **1932** में बैंकॉक पहुँचे।
- In December 1940, this ashram was transformed into the TBCL.
  दिसम्बर 1940 में इस आश्रम को **थाई-भारत सांस्कृतिक लॉज** में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया।
- One of the most instrumental figures in this era was Sardar Giani Pritam Singh, a Sikh missionary and Ghadar Party veteran who had been preaching revolutionary ideals among the Indian diaspora in Bangkok.
  इस काल के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तियों में से एक थे **सरदार ज्ञानी प्रीतम सिंह**, जो एक सिख धर्मप्रचारक तथा **ग़दर पार्टी** के अनुभवी सदस्य थे और बैंकॉक में भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय के बीच क्रांतिकारी विचारों का प्रचार कर रहे थे।
- In December 1941, the Indian National Council (INC) was founded at the Silpakorn Theatre in Bangkok by a group of nationalists associated with the TBCL, with Swami Satyananda Puri as its president and Debnath Das as its secretary.
  दिसम्बर 1941 में बैंकॉक के **सिल्पाकॉर्न थिएटर** में लॉज से जुड़े राष्ट्रवादियों के एक समूह ने **भारतीय राष्ट्रीय परिषद** की स्थापना की, जिसके अध्यक्ष **स्वामी सत्यानन्द पुरी** और सचिव **देबनाथ दास** बनाए गए।
- This organisation played a crucial role in coordinating the efforts of the Indian independence movement, bridging the gap between civilian aspirations and the military mobilisation led by the Indian Independence League (IIL).
  इस संगठन ने भारतीय स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के प्रयासों के समन्वय में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई तथा नागरिक आकांक्षाओं और **भारतीय स्वतंत्रता लीग** द्वारा संचालित सैन्य संगठन के बीच सेतु का कार्य किया।

Toward organised resistance
संगठित प्रतिरोध की ओर

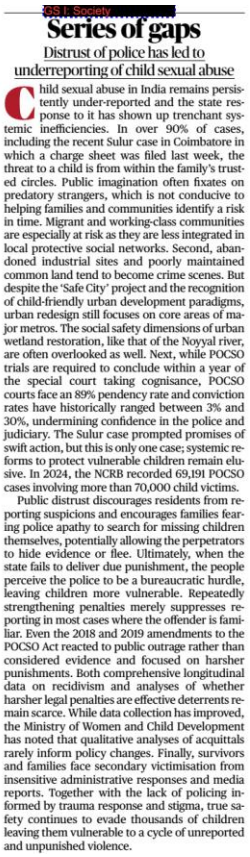
- The cooperation between these groups culminated in the historic **Bangkok Conference**, which took place between **June 15 and June 23, 1942**, at the **Silpakorn Theatre**.
  इन समूहों के बीच सहयोग का चरम रूप ऐतिहासिक **बैंकॉक सम्मेलन** के रूप में सामने आया, जो **15 जून से 23 जून 1942** के बीच **सिल्पाकॉर्न थिएटर** में आयोजित हुआ।
- This gathering represented a turning point in the struggle, bringing together more than a hundred representatives of Indian communities and freedom fighters from across Southeast Asia, including Burma, Malaya, and Singapore.
  यह सम्मेलन स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष में एक निर्णायक मोड़ सिद्ध हुआ, जिसमें **बर्मा, मलाया और सिंगापुर** सहित पूरे दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया से भारतीय समुदायों के एक सौ से अधिक प्रतिनिधि तथा स्वतंत्रता सेनानी एकत्र हुए।
- The conference served three primary functions.
  इस सम्मेलन ने तीन प्रमुख उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति की।
- It brought together diverse nationalist factions under a coherent political and military framework, effectively establishing the **Indian Independence League** as the central body for Indians residing outside of India.
  इसने विभिन्न राष्ट्रवादी समूहों को एक संगठित राजनीतिक और सैन्य ढाँचे के अंतर्गत एकजुट किया तथा प्रभावी रूप से **भारतीय स्वतंत्रता लीग** को भारत के बाहर रहने वाले भारतीयों के केंद्रीय संगठन के रूप में स्थापित किया।
- It adopted a comprehensive **34-point resolution**, which provided the official blueprint for the **Indian National Army**, stipulating that it would be composed of volunteers and former prisoners of war and supervised by the Indian Independence League rather than the Japanese military.

सम्मेलन में एक व्यापक **34-सूत्रीय प्रस्ताव** पारित किया गया, जिसने **आज़ाद हिन्द फ़ौज** के लिए आधिकारिक रूपरेखा प्रदान की। इसमें निर्धारित किया गया कि सेना स्वयंसेवकों और पूर्व युद्धबंदियों से बनेगी तथा उसका संचालन जापानी सेना के बजाय **भारतीय स्वतंत्रता लीग** के अधीन होगा।

- The delegates urged Japan to formally recognise India as an independent nation and acknowledge the Indian Independence League as its sole legitimate representative, reflecting a strategic effort to ensure that the independence movement maintained its own agency despite its reliance on Japanese support.
  प्रतिनिधियों ने जापान से भारत को एक स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र के रूप में औपचारिक मान्यता देने तथा **भारतीय स्वतंत्रता लीग** को उसका एकमात्र वैध प्रतिनिधि स्वीकार करने का आग्रह किया। यह इस बात को सुनिश्चित करने का रणनीतिक प्रयास था कि जापानी समर्थन पर निर्भरता के बावजूद स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन अपनी स्वतंत्र पहचान और निर्णय क्षमता बनाए रखे।
- In March 1942, a plane carrying the Swami and the Sardar, who were en route to a high-level meeting in Tokyo to secure further commitments for the movement, crashed, resulting in their deaths.
  मार्च 1942 में स्वामी और सरदार को लेकर टोक्यो जा रहा एक विमान दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया। वे आंदोलन के लिए अतिरिक्त समर्थन सुनिश्चित करने हेतु एक उच्चस्तरीय बैठक में भाग लेने जा रहे थे। इस दुर्घटना में दोनों की मृत्यु हो गई।
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's** arrival in 1943 provided the centralised, charismatic, and revolutionary military leadership needed.
  नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस के **1943** में आगमन ने आंदोलन को वह केंद्रीकृत, प्रेरणादायी और क्रांतिकारी सैन्य नेतृत्व प्रदान किया जिसकी आवश्यकता थी।
- He took command of the Indian Independence League and the Indian National Army, shifting the focus from decentralised regional council discussions toward a unified, disciplined military and political front designed to launch an armed struggle for Indian independence.
  उन्होंने **भारतीय स्वतंत्रता लीग** और **आज़ाद हिन्द फ़ौज** का नेतृत्व संभाला तथा क्षेत्रीय स्तर की बिखरी हुई चर्चाओं से ध्यान हटाकर एकीकृत, अनुशासित सैन्य और राजनीतिक मोर्चे के निर्माण पर बल दिया, जिसका उद्देश्य भारतीय स्वतंत्रता के लिए सशस्त्र संघर्ष प्रारम्भ करना था।

GS Paper 1: Society	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	Series of gaps कमियों की श्रृंखला
15J6	The 'seven-point IQ opportunity' for Indian children भारतीय बच्चों के लिए 'सात-अंक आईक्यू अवसर'

PATRIOTIC IAS



GS II: Society

Series of gaps

Distrust of police has led to underreporting of child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse in India remains persistently under-reported and the state response to it has shown up trenchant systemic inefficiencies. In over 90% of cases, including the recent Sulur case in Coimbatore in which a charge sheet was filed last week, the threat to a child is from within the family's trusted circles. Public imagination often fixates on predatory strangers, which is not conducive to helping families and communities identify a risk in time. Migrant and working-class communities are especially at risk as they are less integrated in local protective social networks. Second, abandoned industrial sites and poorly maintained common land tend to become crime scenes. But despite the 'Safe City' project and the recognition of child-friendly urban development paradigms, urban redesign still focuses on core areas of major metros. The social safety dimensions of urban wetland restoration, like that of the Noyyal river, are often overlooked as well. Next, while POCSO trials are required to conclude within a year of the special court taking cognisance, POCSO courts face an 89% pendency rate and conviction rates have historically ranged between 3% and 30%, undermining confidence in the police and judiciary. The Sulur case prompted promises of swift action, but this is only one case; systemic reforms to protect vulnerable children remain elusive. In 2024, the NCRB recorded 69,191 POCSO cases involving more than 70,000 child victims.

Public distrust discourages residents from reporting suspicions and encourages families fearing police apathy to search for missing children themselves, potentially allowing the perpetrators to hide evidence or flee. Ultimately, when the state fails to deliver due punishment, the people perceive the police to be a bureaucratic hurdle, leaving children more vulnerable. Repeatedly strengthening penalties merely suppresses reporting in most cases where the offender is familiar. Even the 2018 and 2019 amendments to the POCSO Act reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence and focused on harsher punishments. Both comprehensive longitudinal data on recidivism and analyses of whether harsher legal penalties are effective deterrents remain scarce. While data collection has improved, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has noted that qualitative analyses of acquittals rarely inform policy changes. Finally, survivors and families face secondary victimisation from insensitive administrative responses and media reports. Together with the lack of policing informed by trauma response and stigma, true safety continues to evade thousands of children leaving them vulnerable to a cycle of unreported and unpunished violence.

15J6. Series of gaps
कमियों की श्रृंखला

- Distrust of **police** has led to **underreporting** of **child sexual abuse**.

पुलिस के प्रति **अविश्वास** के कारण **बाल यौन शोषण** के मामलों की **कम रिपोर्टिंग** हुई है।

- In over **90% of cases**, including the recent **Sulur case** in Coimbatore in which a charge sheet was filed last week, the threat to a child is from within the family's trusted circles.

90% से अधिक मामलों में, जिनमें कोयंबटूर का हालिया **सुलूर मामला** भी शामिल है जिसमें पिछले सप्ताह आरोप-पत्र दाखिल किया गया, बच्चों के लिए खतरा परिवार के विश्वसनीय परिचितों के दायरे से ही उत्पन्न होता है।

- In **2024**, the **National Crime Records Bureau** recorded **69,191 POCSO cases** involving more than **70,000 child victims**.

2024 में **राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो** ने **69,191 पॉक्सो मामलों** को दर्ज किया, जिनमें **70,000 से अधिक बाल पीड़ित** शामिल थे।

- Even the **2018 and 2019 amendments** to the **POCSO Act** reacted to public outrage rather than considered evidence and focused on harsher punishments.

यहाँ तक कि **2018 और 2019 के संशोधन** भी मुख्यतः जनाक्रोश की प्रतिक्रिया थे, न कि साक्ष्य-आधारित विचार-विमर्श का परिणाम, और उनका प्रमुख ध्यान कठोर दंडों पर केंद्रित रहा।

PATRIOTIC IAS

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
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The 'seven-point IQ opportunity' for Indian children

GS I: Society

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What if we could increase the IQ of India's future generations by seven points with a pivot in the understanding of early childhood development under the Anganwadi system?

For decades, India's early childhood agenda has focused on ensuring that children survive early childhood, reducing under-five mortality from 43 in 2012 to 32 in 2020 (UNICEF and World Bank data) with sufficient inputs invested toward their health, nutrition, immunisation and sanitation conditions. The Anganwadi system reflects these priorities at scale: approximately eight crore children (ages 0-6 years) receive supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring and health services, alongside counselling and home visits for their parents. However, body and brain development in the early years do not proceed on separate tracks.

Early childhood development is an ecological process in which nutrition, health, and early learning interact dynamically with each other through the body, brain, and environment. The developing brain is highly energy-intensive, consuming nearly one-fifth of the body's energy at rest. In the first year alone, grey matter volume increases by 149% and the cerebellum by 240% as millions of synapses form in regions associated with movement, language, and planning.

Middle-income evidence is clear

Paediatric research in Jamaica in the 1980s provided hard academic evidence to an idea that many cultures already understood. Researchers working with stunted children found that nutritional supplementation improved physical health alone, but adding regular psychosocial stimulation (love-talk-play and responsive interaction) resulted in stronger cognitive gains.

Similar findings emerged in India from a birth cohort study in Vellore (250 children followed from birth to age 9) where children stunted early in life performed worst on later cognitive assessments, but those who recovered physically also showed better cognitive outcomes.

Anganwadis can help boost cognitive development through holistic early intervention

International research on enteric dysfunction and poor sanitation has shown that nutritional inputs are mediated by the child's environment. A child's body may receive food, but infection, inflammation, toxic exposure and deprivation of stimulation can adversely influence this very nutrition. In studies in Vellore, children with iron deficiency or high lead exposure in early life, score lower on developmental and cognitive assessments, even when their height and weight appear normal. It is not simply what children eat that matters, but whether their bodies can absorb and use it. Yet, numbers on a growth chart never tell the full story. The quality of the home environment – how much they are talked to, read to, played with and emotionally supported, keeps emerging as a stronger predictor of cognitive outcomes than diet alone.

Most encouragingly, exposure to structured preschool and early stimulation has the potential to transform a generation. Children in the Vellore cohort who attend preschool regularly for 18 to 24 months, including in Anganwadi centres, are scoring seven IQ units higher on cognitive tests than those not attending preschool, even after accounting for poverty, maternal education and early stunting. In a similar Brazilian birth cohort, children who received structured preschool had higher cognition scores by eight units at age five. This is powerful evidence that stimulation and nutrition have strong, independent effects and amplify each other when both are fulfilled.

A role for Anganwadis

Indian policymakers are responding to new evidence quickly. The Anganwadi system has started to incorporate this broader understanding of holistic early childhood development into its core design. This shift is most visible in the rollout of national frameworks such as Aadharshila and Navchetana and programmes such as Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi. They are critical inputs in redefining neighbourhood Anganwadis as vibrant early childhood education centres that nourish both mind and body. Aadharshila strengthens play-based preschool education within centres, while Navchetana extends early stimulation into the home, equipping caregivers with simple, science-based ways to support development through everyday interactions.

In clinical practice, we offer these frameworks to parents everyday, helping to turn routine moments into opportunities for learning. We encourage the integration of Navchetana's "loving, talking and playing" into daily life while feeding, cooking or playing with children. The home lays the foundation of early language, cognition and socio-emotional skills in the first three years, and Anganwadis deepen it through structured play-based activities, storytelling and peer learning from ages three to six.

Systemic community mobilisation initiatives, such as Poshan Pakhwada conducted in April 2026 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development focus on promoting early stimulation for brain development, play-based education in the early years, and the role of parents and communities in reducing screen exposure and strengthening engagement with Anganwadis. The campaign signals that early childhood development is not confined to centres or programmes, but depends on what happens within households and neighbourhoods.

Building futures

An "ecological" approach uplifts families as much as it strengthens children. Reliable childcare gives mothers the time, the confidence and the opportunity to work, study or contribute economically. In Vellore, we have seen women trained as childcare workers gain both dignity and livelihood, creating a virtuous circle of care. When the kitchen, classroom and crèche align, children flourish, women work and communities thrive.

For a Viksit Bharat, progress cannot rest on calories alone. The physical and interactive learning and playing environments in homes, Anganwadis and communities must be as enriching as the meals they receive.

15J6. The 'seven-point IQ opportunity' for Indian children
भारतीय बच्चों के लिए 'सात-अंक आईक्यू अवसर'

- For decades, India's early childhood agenda has focused on ensuring that children survive early childhood, reducing under-five mortality from **43 in 2012 to 32 in 2020** with sufficient inputs invested toward their health, nutrition, immunisation and sanitation conditions.
  दशकों से भारत की प्रारम्भिक बाल्यावस्था संबंधी नीति का प्रमुख उद्देश्य बच्चों के जीवन की रक्षा करना रहा है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों की मृत्यु दर 2012 में 43 से घटकर 2020 में 32** हो गई है। इसके लिए स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, टीकाकरण और स्वच्छता पर पर्याप्त निवेश किया गया।
- The **Anganwadi system** reflects these priorities at scale: approximately **eight crore children (ages 0-6 years)** receive supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring and health services, alongside counselling and home visits for their parents.
  आंगनवाड़ी प्रणाली इन प्राथमिकताओं को व्यापक स्तर पर लागू करती है। इसके अंतर्गत लगभग **आठ करोड़ बच्चों (0 से 6 वर्ष आयु वर्ग)** को पूरक पोषण, वृद्धि निगरानी और स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ प्रदान की जाती हैं, साथ ही उनके माता-पिता को परामर्श और गृह भ्रमण सेवाएँ भी उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं।
- In the first year alone, **grey matter volume** increases by **149%** and the **cerebellum** by **240%** as millions of synapses form in regions associated with movement, language, and planning.
  जीवन के पहले वर्ष में ही **धूसर पदार्थ की मात्रा** में **149%** तथा **अनुमस्तिष्क** में **240%** की वृद्धि होती है, क्योंकि इस अवधि में गति, भाषा और योजना निर्माण से संबंधित क्षेत्रों में लाखों तंत्रिका-संबंध विकसित होते हैं।

- Researchers working with **stunted children** found that nutritional supplementation improved physical health alone, but adding regular psychosocial stimulation (love-talk-play and responsive interaction) resulted in stronger cognitive gains.
  अविकसित वृद्धि वाले बच्चों पर कार्य करने वाले शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि केवल पोषण अनुपूरण से शारीरिक

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स्वास्थ्य में सुधार हुआ, किन्तु नियमित मनोसामाजिक प्रोत्साहन, जैसे प्रेम, संवाद, खेल और संवेदनशील सहभागिता जोड़ने से संज्ञानात्मक विकास में अधिक सुधार हुआ।

- Similar findings emerged in India from a **birth cohort study in Vellore** (250 children followed from birth to age 9) where children stunted early in life performed worst on later cognitive assessments, but those who recovered physically also showed better cognitive outcomes.
  भारत में **वेल्लोर जन्म-समूह अध्ययन** से भी इसी प्रकार के निष्कर्ष प्राप्त हुए, जिसमें जन्म से नौ वर्ष तक 250 बच्चों का अध्ययन किया गया। जिन बच्चों की प्रारम्भिक अवस्था में वृद्धि बाधित रही, उनका बाद के संज्ञानात्मक परीक्षणों में प्रदर्शन सबसे कमजोर रहा, जबकि शारीरिक रूप से स्वस्थ होने वाले बच्चों ने बेहतर संज्ञानात्मक परिणाम प्रदर्शित किए।
- International research on **enteric dysfunction** and poor sanitation has shown that nutritional inputs are mediated by the child's environment.
  आंत्र विकारों और खराब स्वच्छता पर किए गए अंतरराष्ट्रीय अध्ययनों ने दर्शाया है कि पोषण का प्रभाव बच्चे के परिवेश द्वारा प्रभावित होता है।
- A child's body may receive food, but infection, inflammation, toxic exposure and deprivation of stimulation can adversely influence this very nutrition.
  किसी बच्चे को भोजन प्राप्त हो सकता है, किन्तु संक्रमण, सूजन, विषैले तत्वों का संपर्क और प्रोत्साहन की कमी उसी पोषण के प्रभाव को नकारात्मक रूप से प्रभावित कर सकते हैं।
- In studies in **Vellore**, children with **iron deficiency** or high **lead exposure** in early life, score lower on developmental and cognitive assessments, even when their height and weight appear normal.
  वेल्लोर में किए गए अध्ययनों में पाया गया कि प्रारम्भिक जीवन में **लौह तत्व की कमी** या **सीसे के अधिक संपर्क** वाले बच्चों का विकासात्मक और संज्ञानात्मक परीक्षणों में प्रदर्शन कम रहा, भले ही उनकी लंबाई और वजन सामान्य प्रतीत होते हों।
- The quality of the home environment — how much they are talked to, read to, played with and emotionally supported, keeps emerging as a stronger predictor of cognitive outcomes than diet alone.
  घरेलू वातावरण की गुणवत्ता — बच्चों से कितना संवाद किया जाता है, उन्हें कितना पढ़कर सुनाया जाता है, उनके साथ कितना खेला जाता है और उन्हें कितना भावनात्मक सहयोग मिलता है — केवल आहार की तुलना में संज्ञानात्मक परिणामों का अधिक सशक्त निर्धारक बनकर उभरती है।
- Most encouragingly, exposure to **structured preschool** and early stimulation has the potential to transform a generation.
  सबसे उत्साहवर्धक तथ्य यह है कि **संरचित पूर्व-प्राथमिक शिक्षा** और प्रारम्भिक प्रोत्साहन में एक पूरी पीढ़ी को परिवर्तित करने की क्षमता है।
- Children in the **Vellore cohort** who attend preschool regularly for **18 to 24 months**, including in **Anganwadi centres**, are scoring **seven IQ units higher** on cognitive tests than those not attending preschool, even after accounting for poverty, maternal education and early stunting.
  वेल्लोर अध्ययन समूह के वे बच्चे जिन्होंने **18 से 24 माह** तक नियमित रूप से पूर्व-प्राथमिक शिक्षा प्राप्त की, जिनमें **आंगनवाड़ी केन्द्रों** में जाने वाले बच्चे भी शामिल हैं, वे संज्ञानात्मक परीक्षणों में पूर्व-प्राथमिक शिक्षा से वंचित बच्चों की तुलना में **सात बौद्धिक अंक अधिक** प्राप्त कर रहे हैं। यह अंतर गरीबी, मातृ शिक्षा और प्रारम्भिक वृद्धि अवरोध जैसे कारकों को ध्यान में रखने के बाद भी बना रहता है।
- The **Anganwadi system** has started to incorporate this broader understanding of holistic early childhood development into its core design.
  आंगनवाड़ी प्रणाली ने समग्र प्रारम्भिक बाल्यावस्था विकास की इस व्यापक समझ को अपने मूल ढाँचे में सम्मिलित करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है।
- This shift is most visible in the rollout of national frameworks such as **Aadharshila** and **Navchetana** and programmes such as **Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi**.
  यह परिवर्तन **आधारशिला**, **नवचेतना** तथा **पोषण भी पढ़ाई भी** जैसे राष्ट्रीय ढाँचों और कार्यक्रमों के क्रियान्वयन में सबसे स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता है।

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- They are critical inputs in redefining neighbourhood Anganwadis as vibrant early childhood education centres that nourish both mind and body.
  ये पहलें स्थानीय आंगनवाड़ियों को ऐसे सशक्त प्रारम्भिक बाल्यावस्था शिक्षा केन्द्रों के रूप में पुनर्परिभाषित करने में महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं, जो बच्चों के शरीर और मस्तिष्क दोनों के विकास को पोषित करते हैं।
- **Aadharshila** strengthens play-based preschool education within centres, while **Navchetana** extends early stimulation into the home, equipping caregivers with simple, science-based ways to support development through everyday interactions.
  आधारशिला केन्द्रों में खेल-आधारित पूर्व-प्राथमिक शिक्षा को सुदृढ़ बनाती है, जबकि **नवचेतना** प्रारम्भिक प्रोत्साहन को घर तक पहुँचाती है और देखभालकर्ताओं को दैनिक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरल एवं वैज्ञानिक उपाय उपलब्ध कराती है।
- We encourage the integration of **Navchetana's "loving, talking and playing"** into daily life while feeding, cooking or playing with children.
  हम बच्चों को भोजन कराते समय, भोजन बनाते समय अथवा उनके साथ खेलते समय **नवचेतना के "स्नेह, संवाद और खेल"** को दैनिक जीवन का हिस्सा बनाने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।
- The home lays the foundation of early language, cognition and socio-emotional skills in the first three years, and Anganwadis deepen it through structured play-based activities, storytelling and peer learning from ages three to six.
  जीवन के प्रथम तीन वर्षों में घर प्रारम्भिक भाषा, संज्ञानात्मक क्षमता और सामाजिक-भावनात्मक कौशलों की नींव रखता है, जबकि आंगनवाड़ियाँ तीन से छह वर्ष की आयु के बीच संरचित खेल गतिविधियों, कहानी-कथन और सहपाठी अधिगम के माध्यम से इसे और सुदृढ़ बनाती हैं।
- Systemic community mobilisation initiatives, such as **Poshan Pakhwada** conducted in April 2026 by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, focus on promoting early stimulation for brain development, play-based education in the early years, and the role of parents and communities in reducing screen exposure and strengthening engagement with Anganwadis.
  महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय द्वारा अप्रैल 2026 में आयोजित **पोषण पखवाड़ा** जैसे सामुदायिक जन-जागरण कार्यक्रम मस्तिष्क विकास के लिए प्रारम्भिक प्रोत्साहन, प्रारम्भिक वर्षों में खेल-आधारित शिक्षा तथा बच्चों के अत्यधिक स्क्रीन उपयोग को कम करने और आंगनवाड़ियों से जुड़ाव बढ़ाने में अभिभावकों एवं समुदायों की भूमिका पर बल देते हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography		15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
15J6	3 children and man drown as boat capsizes in Krishna river in A.P. आंध्र प्रदेश में कृष्णा नदी में नाव पलटने से 3 बच्चों और एक व्यक्ति की डूबकर मृत्यु	

3 children and man drown as boat capsizes in Krishna river in A.P.

GS I: Geography

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Four persons, three of them children, drowned in the Krishna river when the boat in which they were travelling capsized near Konuru village in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. Six passengers were rescued.

The deceased were identified as Battula Karthik, 12, Konatha Chaitanya, 26, Gandham Saini, 10, and Gandham Sandhya, 8. The deceased were from the Marrichettupalem and Chilakaluripet areas.

They had come to Konuru to attend a function at the house of K. Gangaiah and went on a boat ride after the function. "Local people jumped into the water, rescued six persons, and brought them to the bund," said Ramana, a resident.

People gather to witness rescue operations after a boat capsized in Palnadu district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

No safety material

There were no life jackets or other safety material in the boat, the villagers alleged.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who was away in Singapore, expressed grief over the loss of lives in the boat tragedy.

He announced an *ex gratia* of ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of the dead.

CM orders probe

He also directed the District Collector to disburse the amount immediately, and ordered a full-fledged investigation by a team of Revenue, Police, and Water Resources departments.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that the boat capsized around 2 p.m. after hitting a sandbar in the river.

YSRCP president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy expressed shock over the accident and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families. He appealed to the government to extend all help to the victims' families.

15J6. 3 children and man drown as boat capsizes in Krishna river in A.P.
आंध्र प्रदेश में कृष्णा नदी में नाव पलटने से 3 बच्चों और एक व्यक्ति की डूबकर मृत्यु

• The **Krishna River** originates near **Mahabaleshwar** in the **Western Ghats** of **Maharashtra**.

• It flows through the states of **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh**, and finally empties into the **Bay of Bengal** at **Hamsaladeevi** in **Andhra Pradesh**.

• The river stretches about **1400 kilometers**, making it the **third-longest river** in India.

Tributaries

• **Left-Hand Tributaries**: Include the **Bhima, Musi, Munneru, Dindi, Kolamba**, and **Peddavagu** rivers.

• **Right-Hand Tributaries**: Comprise the **Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra, Koyna, Panchganga**, and **Dudhaganga** rivers.

Economic and Cultural Significance

• The **Prakasam Barrage**, designed by **Sir Arthur Cotton** and completed in **1957**, spans the Krishna River, facilitating **irrigation** for over **5.8 lakh acres** of land in **Andhra Pradesh**.

• The river supports several **major irrigation projects** and is vital for **agriculture** in the region.

GS Paper II: Polity	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	20 rebel Trinamool MPs seek to merge with NCPI तृणमूल कांग्रेस के 20 बागी सांसदों ने एनसीपीआई में विलय की मांग की

20 rebel Trinamool MPs seek to merge with NCPI

The leaders met Lok Sabha Speaker and requested separate seating arrangements; will seek recognition as the Trinamool in July, when Parliament session begins, says Bandyopadhyay

GS II: Polity

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

After days of speculation, 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs on Sunday met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in New Delhi and submitted a letter announcing their decision to merge with the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI).

The decision by the rebels to merge with a registered regional political party rather than form a separate bloc within the Trinamool Congress was to avoid any legal complications under the anti-defection law. The law states that when two-thirds of the legislators of a political party decide to merge with another party, neither those who join the new party nor the ones who stay with the original party face disqualification.

"The MPs met the Speaker and requested separate seating arrangements. We are more than two-thirds of MPs (of the Trinamool Congress) and will merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party of India. We will work with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the NDA for the interest of the country," Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, MP, told presspersons after the meeting.

Big changes: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla receiving a letter from Trinamool Congress MPs in New Delhi. PTI

Support of 20 MPs

The office of the Speaker confirmed that 19 MPs attended the meeting. The rebel faction, however, claims the support of 20 MPs, with Sudip Bandyopadhyay joining the group on Saturday.

Mr. Bandyopadhyay, the senior-most MP in the rebel camp, said that while the MPs were merging with the NCPI as of now, in July, when Parliament session begins, they would seek recognition as the Trinamool Congress since they had a two-thirds majority.

"We will merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party, which is a registered regional party. This is the system. When you leave with two-thirds of the party, you cannot demand the name of that party on the first day itself. In July, we will seek recognition as the Trinamool Congress since we have two-thirds of its MPs. Then the courts will decide," he said.

The NCPI was launched as National Citizens Party of India in Tripura in 2015 by a Kolkata-based woman Shewly Kundu.

Later, the party registered itself as Nationalist Citizens Party of India in February 2, 2023 at Sankrail in Howrah district, data from the Election Commission suggest.

Separate bloc

After the defeat of the Trinamool Congress in the 2026 Assembly election in West Bengal, the majority of its Lok Sabha members had decided to set up a separate bloc and held meetings at the residence of Union Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Bhupendra Yadav.

On Sunday, the majority of MPs had gathered at Mr. Yadav's residence before meeting the Speaker. The decision to merge with an almost unknown regional party has come as a surprise in political circles.

Before the rebel MPs met the Speaker, two MPs considered loyalists of Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee also met Mr. Birla and submitted a letter from party leader Abhishek Banerjee.

The letter from the party's leader in Lok Sabha urged the Speaker to treat the Trinamool as a single party represented by its authorised whip and leader and urged him not to recognise any separate group.

15J6. 20 rebel Trinamool MPs seek to merge with NCPI
तृणमूल कांग्रेस के 20 बागी सांसदों ने एनसीपीआई में विलय की मांग की

- **After days of speculation, 20 rebel Trinamool Congress MPs on Sunday met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his residence in New Delhi and submitted a letter announcing their decision to merge with the National Citizens Party of India (NCPI).**

कई दिनों की अटकलों के बाद, **तृणमूल कांग्रेस** के **20 विद्रोही सांसदों** ने रविवार को **नई दिल्ली** स्थित अपने

आवास पर **लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला** से मुलाकात की और **नेशनल सिटिज़न्स पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया** में विलय के अपने निर्णय की घोषणा करते हुए एक पत्र सौंपा।

- The decision by the rebels to merge with a registered regional political party rather than form a separate bloc within the Trinamool Congress was to avoid any legal complications under the anti-defection law.
  विद्रोही सांसदों द्वारा तृणमूल कांग्रेस के भीतर अलग गुट बनाने के बजाय एक पंजीकृत क्षेत्रीय राजनीतिक दल में विलय का निर्णय **दल-बदल विरोधी कानून** के अंतर्गत संभावित कानूनी जटिलताओं से बचने के उद्देश्य से लिया गया।
- The law states that when two-thirds of the legislators of a political party decide to merge with another party, neither those who join the new party nor the ones who stay with the original party face disqualification.
  कानून के अनुसार, जब किसी राजनीतिक दल के दो-तिहाई विधायक या सांसद किसी अन्य दल में विलय का निर्णय लेते हैं, तो न तो नए दल में जाने वाले और न ही मूल दल में बने रहने वाले सदस्य अयोग्यता का सामना करते हैं।
- "We will merge with the Nationalist Citizens Party, which is a registered regional party."
  उन्होंने कहा कि वे **नेशनलिस्ट सिटिज़न्स पार्टी** में विलय करेंगे, जो एक पंजीकृत क्षेत्रीय राजनीतिक दल है।
- The NCPI was launched as National Citizens Party of India in Tripura in 2015 by a Kolkata-based woman Shewly Kundu.
  नेशनल सिटिज़न्स पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया की स्थापना **2015** में **त्रिपुरा** में कोलकाता की **शेउली कुंडु** द्वारा की गई थी।
- Later, the party registered itself as Nationalist Citizens Party of India in February 2, 2023 at Sankrail in Howrah district, data from the Election Commission suggest.
  निर्वाचन आयोग के आँकड़ों के अनुसार बाद में इस दल ने **2 फरवरी 2023** को **हावड़ा जिले** के **सांकरैल** में स्वयं को **नेशनलिस्ट सिटिज़न्स पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया** के रूप में पंजीकृत कराया।

GS Paper II: International Relations	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	**Modi, Macron talks stress economic security** **मोदी और मैक्रों की वार्ता में आर्थिक सुरक्षा पर जोर**

Modi, Macron talks stress economic security

India, France adopt 'Innovation Roadmap 2030' as the two leaders meet in French city of Nice

They establish Dialogue on Economic Security; call for early implementation of India-EU FTA

The leaders discuss private sector ties in space sector and SHANTI Act's implications in India

GS II: IR

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

India and France adopted an 'Innovation Roadmap 2030' and established a Dialogue on Economic Security during bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held in Nice on Sunday.

A press release from the government outlined a number of themes – including calling for the fast adoption of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Earlier this year, the two countries had renamed their partnership a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' to reflect an enhanced level of cooperation. No traditional 'joint statement' had emerged from the meeting as of this writing.

"Recognising the key role of innovation and technology in the bilateral relationship, both sides adopted an 'Innovation Roadmap 2030' to give the partnership a long-term direction," the press release said, with the two leaders agreeing to create a Joint India-France AI Working Group to expand cooperation in AI. They also noted the signing of 19 agreements between entities in the innovation ecosystems of the two countries.

Calling for the early implementation of the India-EU FTA, which was signed in February this year, the two sides agreed to set up a High-Level Mechanism to double trade in five years. The discussion also focused on cooperation in the SME, rail, and aviation sectors.

Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron agreed to strengthen supply chain resilience, particularly in critical minerals, as part of the 'Dialogue on Economic Security', as per the press release.

Cautious on crises

On the major crises in the world – in West Asia, including Iran and Gaza, as well as on Ukraine – the press release remained circumspect relative to the February 17, 2026 joint statement from the two countries, saying only that leaders exchanged views "on matters of global importance, including the situation in West Asia and Ukraine".

Eyeing the sky: Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes in the sea with French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of talks in Nice on Sunday. AP

PM, Macron inaugurate Bharat Innovates 2026

Sriram Lakshman

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday co-inaugurated the Bharat Innovates 2026 in Nice where the leaders focused on trust and cooperation in technology. Mr. Modi invited investors to "design and develop in India" to "create solutions for the world", while Mr. Macron said India brings the reliability that the world seeks at moments of upheaval in geopolitics. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar were present.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 4

The Prime Minister thanked Mr. Macron for the speedy implementation of visa-free transit for Indians in French airports and invited French universities to open campuses in India under the New Education Policy, as per the government statement.

The two leaders discussed private sector collaboration in the space sector and the SHANTI Act's (legislation governing the nuclear sector) implications in India.

"I think the field is open for French nuclear companies in this case to start looking at direct participation in the Indian nuclear sector, or do so with in participation with Indian private sector companies, whether in conventional nuclear power reactors or in the more advanced small modular reactors," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a press briefing in Nice.

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15J6. Modi, Macron talks stress economic security
मोदी और मैक्रों की वार्ता में आर्थिक सुरक्षा पर जोर

- **India and France adopted an 'Innovation Roadmap 2030' and established a Dialogue on Economic Security during bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron held in Nice on Sunday.**
  भारत और फ्रांस ने रविवार को **नीस** में आयोजित प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** और फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रों** के बीच द्विपक्षीय वार्ता के दौरान **'इनोवेशन रोडमैप 2030'** को अपनाया तथा **आर्थिक सुरक्षा संवाद** की स्थापना की।
- A press release from the government outlined a number of themes — including calling for the fast adoption of the **India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**.
  सरकारी प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में कई विषयों का उल्लेख किया गया, जिनमें **भारत-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते** को शीघ्र लागू करने का आह्वान भी शामिल था।
- Earlier this year, the two countries had renamed their partnership a **'Special Global Strategic Partnership'** to reflect an enhanced level of cooperation.
  इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में दोनों देशों ने अपने संबंधों को सहयोग के उन्नत स्तर को दर्शाने हेतु **'विशेष वैश्विक सामरिक साझेदारी'** नाम दिया था।
- "Recognising the key role of innovation and technology in the bilateral relationship, both sides adopted an **'Innovation Roadmap 2030'** to give the partnership a long-term direction," the press release said, with the two leaders agreeing to create a **Joint India-France AI Working Group** to expand cooperation in AI.
  प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में नवाचार और प्रौद्योगिकी की महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका को स्वीकार करते हुए दोनों पक्षों ने साझेदारी को दीर्घकालिक दिशा प्रदान करने हेतु **'इनोवेशन रोडमैप 2030'** को अपनाया तथा कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के क्षेत्र में सहयोग बढ़ाने के लिए **संयुक्त भारत-फ्रांस कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता कार्य समूह** स्थापित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- Calling for the early implementation of the **India-EU FTA**, which was signed in February this year, the two sides agreed to set up a **High-Level Mechanism** to double trade in five years.
  इस वर्ष फरवरी में हस्ताक्षरित **भारत-यूरोपीय संघ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते** के शीघ्र क्रियान्वयन का आह्वान करते हुए दोनों पक्षों ने पाँच वर्षों में व्यापार को दोगुना करने के लिए एक **उच्च स्तरीय तंत्र** स्थापित करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- The two leaders discussed private sector collaboration in the **space sector** and the **SHANTI Act's** implications in India.
  दोनों नेताओं ने **अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र** में निजी क्षेत्र के सहयोग तथा भारत में **शांति अधिनियम** के प्रभावों पर भी चर्चा की।

GS Paper III: Economy	**15 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	**Vaishnaw expects more companies to produce memory chips in India** **वैष्णव को उम्मीद है कि भारत में अधिक कंपनियाँ मेमोरी चिप्स का उत्पादन करेंगी**
15J6	**Fuller expression** **पूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति**
15J6	**Towards a fair, efficient insolvency regime** **एक न्यायसंगत एवं कुशल दिवाला व्यवस्था की ओर**
15J6	**Making sense of the biggest IPO in history** **इतिहास के सबसे बड़े आईपीओ को समझना**
15J6	**What is drop shipping, and what are the risks for online shoppers?**

	ड्रॉप शिपिंग क्या है, और ऑनलाइन खरीदारों के लिए इसके क्या जोखिम हैं?
15J6	**India's maritime sector growth gets a push as DG Shipping issues first ship recycling credit note** **डीजी शिपिंग द्वारा पहला शिप रीसाइक्लिंग क्रेडिट नोट जारी किए जाने से भारत के समुद्री क्षेत्र की वृद्धि को बढ़ावा**
15J6	**In Zojila, light at the end of the tunnel** **जोजिला में, सुरंग के अंत में रोशनी**

Vaishnaw expects more companies to produce memory chips in India

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

New companies are likely to invest in India to manufacture memory chips while existing investors will scale up production to address the demand-supply gap in the segment, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Strong demand for memory (data storage) cards and advanced chips has tightened global supplies and supported higher prices in past quarters, and manufacturers have been sprucing up investments and production capacities to meet market requirements worldwide.

The higher memory chip prices have, in turn, led to a rise in production costs for a range of electronic products, including smartphones and laptops.

"Definitely, a lot more investment is coming in the memory manufacturing units, and that is because for the first time in the way the semiconductor industry has grown at such a rapid pace, for the first time we are seeing a huge shortage of certain components which are required in the AI data centres, the high bandwidth memory chips," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Data centre investments in India are expected to cross $200 billion soon, which may need billions of gigabytes of storage capacity.

The Minister said there is a global phenomenon of supply-demand imbalance, which is now getting addressed by setting many more units.

When asked if there will be new investments in the memory chip segment or only existing players have plans to ramp up production, Mr. Vaishnaw said, "Looks like both might happen". He said the India Semicon Mission (ISM) 1.0 could get about 48 startups to work on the tech products.

"In ISM 2.0, that will be the topmost priority, design will be the topmost priority. The second biggest priority will be machines, which are used in the manufacturing of semiconductors," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

15J6. Vaishnaw expects more companies to produce memory chips in India

वैष्णव को उम्मीद है कि भारत में अधिक कंपनियाँ मेमोरी चिप्स का उत्पादन करेंगी

- **New companies are likely to invest in India to manufacture memory chips while existing investors will scale up production to address the demand-supply gap in the segment, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.**

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि भारत में **मेमोरी चिप निर्माण** के लिए नई कंपनियाँ निवेश करने की संभावना रखती हैं, जबकि मौजूदा निवेशक मांग और आपूर्ति के बीच बढ़ते अंतर को दूर करने के लिए उत्पादन क्षमता का विस्तार करेंगे।

- He said the **India Semicon Mission (ISM) 1.0** could get about **48 startups** to work on the tech products.

उन्होंने कहा कि **इंडिया सेमिकॉन मिशन 1.0** के अंतर्गत लगभग **48 स्टार्टअप** प्रौद्योगिकी उत्पादों पर कार्य कर सकते हैं।

- "In ISM 2.0, that will be the topmost priority, design will be the topmost priority. The second biggest priority will be machines, which are used in the manufacturing of semiconductors," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

श्री वैष्णव ने कहा कि **इंडिया सेमिकॉन मिशन 2.0** में **डिज़ाइन** को सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता दी जाएगी, जबकि दूसरी सबसे बड़ी प्राथमिकता उन मशीनों को दी जाएगी जिनका उपयोग **अर्धचालकों के निर्माण** में किया जाता है।

GS III: Economy

Fuller expression

A rapid decline in inflation appears unlikely even if the war ends

India's May retail inflation at 3.93%, the highest in the current CPI series and roughly a 15-month high if compared with the previous series, has begun to reflect the pass-through effects of surging food and fuel costs more clearly than in previous months. However, last month's wholesale inflation numbers, the first under the new WPI series and due later this month alongside India's first Producer Price Index (PPI), should reveal how much of the price shock producers and wholesalers continue to absorb. May's food inflation rose at a faster clip to 4.78% from 4.20% in April. While transport inflation rose by 1.75% after a marginal contraction in April, a subdivision within the sector – transport services for goods – surged by 7.63%, signalling growing price pass-through. This was largely driven by the four tranches of petrol and diesel price increases beginning in mid-May. Significantly, the sharp rise in commercial LPG prices – by about ₹1,300 per 19-kg cylinder, representing an increase of over 75% since February – appears to be reflected in inflation in the restaurants and accommodation services category, which stood at 5.75%, the second-highest division after personal care and miscellaneous goods and services. Inflation in the latter category reached 18.46%, reflecting soaring precious metals prices. Domestic LPG's second price revision by ₹29 earlier this month will likely find a fuller expression in June's consumer food price inflation.

Although May's inflation remains below the RBI's 4% target and within its 2%-6% tolerance band, the RBI retained its neutral stance at its latest monetary policy review, signalling concern over the possibility of further price pressures. Its intervention in the foreign exchange market through dollar sales has meanwhile helped shore up the rupee, Asia's worst-performing currency since the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran escalated. The currency, which briefly approached ₹97 to the dollar in May, is now trading closer to ₹95-₹96. The Centre may nevertheless draw some comfort from the fact that core inflation, which excludes food and fuel, remained relatively contained at around 3.8%-3.9% in May, largely unchanged from recent months. This coincides with signs of a U.S.-Iran rapprochement and uninterrupted shipping through the Hormuz. Yet, uncertainty persists over whether Iran may impose fees or restrictions on transit through the waterway, which could keep fuel prices elevated for energy-importing nations such as India. Even if crude prices soften, oil marketing companies are unlikely to immediately reverse retail price increases as they seek to recover losses. LPG prices, too, may remain sticky. Thus, while the prospects for a durable peace may have improved, a rapid decline in inflation appears unlikely.

15J6. Fuller expression
पूर्ण अभिव्यक्ति

- **India's May retail inflation at 3.93%, the highest in the current CPI series and roughly a 15-month high if compared with the previous series, has begun to reflect the pass-through effects of surging food and fuel costs more clearly than in previous months.**

भारत की मई माह की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 3.93%, जो वर्तमान उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक श्रृंखला में सर्वाधिक तथा पूर्ववर्ती श्रृंखला की तुलना में लगभग **15 माह का उच्चतम स्तर** है, ने खाद्य एवं ईंधन लागतों में तीव्र वृद्धि के प्रभावों को पिछले महीनों की तुलना में अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से प्रदर्शित करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है।

- However, last month's **wholesale inflation** numbers, the first under the new **WPI series** and due later this month alongside India's first **Producer Price Index (PPI)**, should reveal how much of the price shock producers and wholesalers continue to absorb.

हालाँकि, पिछले माह के **थोक मुद्रास्फीति** के आँकड़े, जो नई **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक श्रृंखला** के अंतर्गत प्रथम होंगे तथा भारत के पहले **उत्पादक मूल्य सूचकांक** के साथ इस माह के अंत में जारी किए जाएंगे, यह स्पष्ट करेंगे कि मूल्य वृद्धि के झटके का कितना भाग उत्पादक और थोक व्यापारी अभी भी वहन कर रहे हैं।

- Significantly, the sharp rise in **commercial LPG prices** — by about **₹1,300 per 19-kg cylinder**, representing an increase of over **75% since February** — appears to be reflected in inflation in the **restaurants and accommodation services** category, which stood at **5.75%**, the second-highest division after personal care and miscellaneous goods and services.

विशेष रूप से, **वाणिज्यिक रसोई गैस** की कीमतों में लगभग **₹1,300 प्रति 19 किलोग्राम सिलेंडर** की वृद्धि, जो फरवरी से अब तक **75% से अधिक** की बढ़ोतरी को दर्शाती है, का प्रभाव **भोजनालय एवं आवास सेवाओं** की मुद्रास्फीति में दिखाई देता है, जो **5.75%** पर रही और व्यक्तिगत देखभाल तथा विविध वस्तु एवं सेवाओं के बाद दूसरा सर्वाधिक स्तर था।

- Although May's inflation remains below the **RBI's 4% target** and within its **2%-6% tolerance band**, the **RBI** retained its **neutral stance** at its latest monetary policy review, signalling concern over the possibility of further price pressures.

यद्यपि मई की मुद्रास्फीति **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के 4% लक्ष्य** से नीचे तथा उसकी **2%-6% सहनशीलता सीमा** के भीतर बनी हुई है, फिर भी **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक** ने अपनी नवीनतम मौद्रिक नीति समीक्षा में **तटस्थ रुख** बनाए रखा, जो आगे मूल्य दबाव बढ़ने की आशंका को दर्शाता है।

- Its intervention in the **foreign exchange market** through dollar sales has meanwhile helped shore up the **rupee**, Asia's worst-performing currency since the **U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran** escalated.

इस बीच, **विदेशी मुद्रा बाज़ार** में डॉलर की बिक्री के माध्यम से किए गए हस्तक्षेप ने **रुपये** को सहारा दिया है, जो **अमेरिका-इज़राइल और ईरान के बीच संघर्ष** के बढ़ने के बाद एशिया की सबसे कमजोर प्रदर्शन करने वाली मुद्रा बन गई थी।

- The Centre may nevertheless draw some comfort from the fact that **core inflation**, which excludes food and fuel, remained relatively contained at around **3.8%-3.9%** in May, largely unchanged from recent months.

फिर भी, केंद्र सरकार इस तथ्य से कुछ राहत प्राप्त कर सकती है कि **आधारभूत मुद्रास्फीति**, जिसमें खाद्य एवं

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ईंधन को शामिल नहीं किया जाता, मई में लगभग **3.8%-3.9%** पर नियंत्रित रही और हाल के महीनों की तुलना में लगभग अपरिवर्तित रही।

- This coincides with signs of a **U.S.-Iran rapprochement** and uninterrupted shipping through the **Hormuz**.
  यह स्थिति **अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच संबंधों में सुधार** तथा **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से निर्बाध समुद्री परिवहन के संकेतों के साथ मेल खाती है।

Towards a fair, efficient insolvency regime

GS III: Economy

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The outline of India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has long been demarcated by an innate stiffness between the inevitability to preserve distraught companies and the necessity to safeguard the interests of creditors. This contradiction is often cited as the 'Chakravyuha Challenge'– a structural paradox by which the economy eases a company's entry into the system but forms formidable formal fences when it wishes to exit.

From the Sick Industrial Companies Act, which demonstrated a debtor-in-possession model and had been plagued by promoter misuse, to the creditor-in-control model of the IBC, the historical flight of such laws reflects an incessant effort to improve the balance. Though the IBC aimed at providing time-bound resolutions, it has fallen short due to protracted litigation and procedural lapses. In light of this, the 2026 Amendment to the IBC presents the Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP), a hybrid apparatus attempting to espouse debtor-in-possession topographies with the creditor-in-control model. Nevertheless, the amendment's restrictive framework bounds initiation rights to only a fine class of financial creditors belonging to "notified financial institutions", thereby inviting constitutional contests and economic ineptitude.

Swift yet stringent alternative

The CIIRP is a clever attempt to address financial crisis without the value-destroying disruption of typical liquidation proceedings by allowing the current management to maintain control over activities under the supervision of a resolution specialist. In order to reduce judicial intervention and procedural delays, the IBC established the CIIRP procedure by adding Sections 54C to 54P.

Significantly, the change is a legislative response to the ruling in *Vidarbha Industries*. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) was formerly given discretionary authority via the interpretation of "may" in Section 7(5)(a), which permitted it to postpone or reject admission even in cases where debt and default were proven. This has now been replaced by the required "shall" via the 2026 amendment, thereby compelling the NCLT to accept cases based on information utility records. As a less disruptive restructuring instrument, the CIIRP is an appealing, if exclusive, resort for creditors because corporate debtors experiencing transitory liquidity crises suddenly lack the breathing room to fight initiation.

However, by limiting the ability to start the CIIRP only for "notified financial institutions," the Act creates an arbitrary hierarchy within the class of financial creditors. Although the distinction between financial and operational creditors was previously maintained in *Swiss Ribbons* via the "intelligible differentia" standard of Article 14, this sub-classification is essentially different. The government's argument that "notified" institutions have special knowledge is out of date; sophisticated investors with the ability to perform in-depth restructuring analysis can be found in today's financial markets. The Act runs the danger of being overturned as arbitrary since it does not explain why these excluded parties are less able to promote resolutions that maximise value.

Operational and smaller financial creditors are significantly disenfranchised under the current arrangement as they are already at the bottom of the repayment priority list. Smaller creditors may be forced to the sidelines of restructuring talks as a result of the CIIRP's propensity to concentrate bargaining power in the hands of notified institutions. It compels non-notified creditors to undertake the more aggressive and disruptive Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) just to protect their financial interests. This compromises the equity of the entire insolvency ecosystem.

The way ahead

The Indian method is mysteriously constrictive. The U.S.' Chapter 11 and the U.K.'s Part 26A restructuring plans base their access on objective financial conditions rather than the regulatory identity of the creditor. A wide range of stakeholders can participate in the restructuring process in both the U.S. and the U.K. as long as they meet certain requirements. India's choice to restrict initiation rights to a particular group of creditors is an anomaly that deters foreign investors from participating because they believe that the Indian market is intrinsically skewed against their asset classes. The law gives notified institutions procedural dominance, which makes Inter-Creditor Agreements less clear and informal negotiations less fair. If a lender who hasn't been notified is put on hold, they have to file for formal CIRP to protect their capital.

There must be a "universal CIIRP" with a "default-neutral initiation rule". This proposal does away with regulatory status and replaces it with a threshold based on financial exposure. Any financial creditor could start the process as long as they get the support of creditors holding at least 51% of the total financial debt. This takes care of constitutional issues while keeping a strong protection against one-sided, malicious filings.

By adding debtor-in-possession features, the 2026 amendment shows that the pure creditor-in-control model doesn't keep business value. But the 'notified institution' criteria could hurt these gains. India can make an efficient insolvency system that benefits everyone by using a universal CIIRP model based on financial interest instead of institutional identity.

India can make an efficient insolvency system that benefits everyone by using a universal CIIRP model based on financial interest instead of institutional identity

15J6. Towards a fair, efficient insolvency regime
एक न्यायसंगत एवं कुशल दिवाला व्यवस्था की ओर

- **The outline of India's Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) has long been demarcated by an innate stiffness between the inevitability to preserve distraught companies and the necessity to safeguard the interests of creditors.**
  भारत की **दिवाला एवं शोधन अक्षमता संहिता** की रूपरेखा लंबे समय से संकटग्रस्त कंपनियों को बचाने की अनिवार्यता और ऋणदाताओं के हितों की रक्षा की आवश्यकता के बीच अंतर्निहित तनाव से परिभाषित होती रही है।
- This contradiction is often cited as the **'Chakravyuha Challenge'**— a structural paradox by which the economy eases a company's entry into the system but forms formidable formal fences when it wishes to exit.
  इस विरोधाभास को प्रायः **'चक्रव्यूह चुनौती'** कहा जाता है — एक ऐसी संरचनात्मक विसंगति जिसमें व्यवस्था किसी कंपनी के प्रवेश को सरल बनाती है, किन्तु उसके बाहर निकलने के समय कठोर औपचारिक बाधाएँ उत्पन्न कर देती है।
- From the **Sick Industrial Companies Act**, which demonstrated a debtor-in-possession model and had been plagued by promoter misuse, to the creditor-in-control model of the IBC, the historical flight of such laws reflects an incessant effort to improve the balance.
  बीमार औद्योगिक कंपनियाँ अधिनियम, जो देनदार-नियंत्रित मॉडल पर आधारित था और प्रवर्तकों द्वारा दुरुपयोग की समस्याओं से ग्रस्त था, से लेकर वर्तमान ऋणदाता-नियंत्रित व्यवस्था तक, ऐसे कानूनों का विकास संतुलन स्थापित करने के निरंतर प्रयास को दर्शाता है।
- Though the IBC aimed at providing time-bound resolutions, it has fallen short due to protracted litigation and procedural lapses.
  यद्यपि इस संहिता का उद्देश्य समयबद्ध समाधान प्रदान करना था, किन्तु दीर्घकालिक मुकदमों और प्रक्रियागत त्रुटियों के कारण यह अपेक्षित सफलता प्राप्त नहीं कर सकी।
- In light of this, the **2026 Amendment** to the IBC presents the **Creditor-Initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP)**, a hybrid apparatus attempting to espouse debtor-in-possession topographies with the creditor-in-control model.
  इसी पृष्ठभूमि में **2026 के संशोधन** के माध्यम से **ऋणदाता-प्रारम्भित दिवाला समाधान प्रक्रिया** प्रस्तुत की गई है, जो देनदार-नियंत्रित व्यवस्था और ऋणदाता-नियंत्रित मॉडल के बीच एक मिश्रित ढाँचा स्थापित करने का प्रयास करती है।
- Nevertheless, the amendment's restrictive framework bounds initiation rights to only a fine class of financial creditors belonging to **"notified financial institutions"**, thereby inviting constitutional contests and economic ineptitude.
  फिर भी, संशोधन का प्रतिबंधात्मक ढाँचा प्रक्रिया प्रारम्भ करने का अधिकार केवल **"अधिसूचित वित्तीय संस्थानों"** से संबंधित सीमित वित्तीय ऋणदाताओं तक सीमित करता है, जिससे संवैधानिक विवादों और आर्थिक अक्षमताओं की आशंका उत्पन्न होती है।

Swift yet stringent alternative
त्वरित किन्तु कठोर वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था

- The CIIRP is a clever attempt to address financial crisis without the value-destroying disruption of typical liquidation proceedings by allowing the current management to maintain control over activities under the supervision of a resolution specialist.
  यह नई प्रक्रिया सामान्य परिसमापन कार्यवाही से उत्पन्न मूल्य-ह्रासकारी व्यवधानों से बचते हुए वित्तीय संकट का समाधान करने का एक अभिनव प्रयास है, जिसमें वर्तमान प्रबंधन को समाधान विशेषज्ञ की निगरानी में कार्य संचालन जारी रखने की अनुमति दी जाती है।
- In order to reduce judicial intervention and procedural delays, the IBC established the CIIRP procedure by adding **Sections 54C to 54P**.

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न्यायिक हस्तक्षेप और प्रक्रियागत विलंब को कम करने के लिए संहिता में **धारा 54C से 54P** तक के प्रावधान जोड़कर यह प्रक्रिया स्थापित की गई है।

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** was formerly given discretionary authority via the interpretation of "may" in Section 7(5)(a), which permitted it to postpone or reject admission even in cases where debt and default were proven.
  पूर्व में **राष्ट्रीय कंपनी विधि न्यायाधिकरण** को धारा 7(5)(a) में प्रयुक्त "कर सकता है" शब्द की व्याख्या के आधार पर विवेकाधीन शक्ति प्राप्त थी, जिसके कारण ऋण और चूक सिद्ध होने पर भी वह याचिका को स्थगित या अस्वीकार कर सकता था।
- This has now been replaced by the required **"shall"** via the 2026 amendment, thereby compelling the NCLT to accept cases based on information utility records.
  अब **2026 के संशोधन** द्वारा इसे अनिवार्य स्वरूप प्रदान करते हुए "करेगा" शब्द से प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया गया है, जिससे न्यायाधिकरण सूचना अभिलेखों के आधार पर मामलों को स्वीकार करने के लिए बाध्य होगा।
- However, by limiting the ability to start the CIIRP only for **"notified financial institutions,"** the Act creates an arbitrary hierarchy within the class of financial creditors.
  किन्तु इस प्रक्रिया को प्रारम्भ करने का अधिकार केवल **"अधिसूचित वित्तीय संस्थानों"** तक सीमित करके यह अधिनियम वित्तीय ऋणदाताओं के वर्ग के भीतर एक मनमाना पदानुक्रम स्थापित करता है।
- Although the distinction between financial and operational creditors was previously maintained in **Swiss Ribbons** via the **"intelligible differentia"** standard of **Article 14**, this sub-classification is essentially different.
  यद्यपि वित्तीय और परिचालन ऋणदाताओं के बीच भेद को पूर्व में **स्विस रिबन्स मामले** में **अनुच्छेद 14** के **युक्तिसंगत वर्गीकरण सिद्धांत** के आधार पर स्वीकार किया गया था, किन्तु वर्तमान उप-वर्गीकरण उससे मूलतः भिन्न है।
- The government's argument that **"notified" institutions** have special knowledge is out of date; sophisticated investors with the ability to perform in-depth restructuring analysis can be found in today's financial markets.
  यह तर्क कि **"अधिसूचित संस्थानों"** के पास विशेष विशेषज्ञता होती है, अब अप्रासंगिक प्रतीत होता है, क्योंकि आज के वित्तीय बाज़ारों में गहन पुनर्गठन विश्लेषण करने में सक्षम परिष्कृत निवेशक व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध हैं।
- The Act runs the danger of being overturned as arbitrary since it does not explain why these excluded parties are less able to promote resolutions that maximise value.
  यह अधिनियम मनमाना घोषित किए जाने के जोखिम का सामना कर सकता है क्योंकि इसमें यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया गया है कि बाहर रखे गए अन्य पक्ष मूल्य-अधिकतमकरण करने वाले समाधान को बढ़ावा देने में कम सक्षम क्यों हैं।
- Operational and smaller **financial creditors** are significantly disenfranchised under the current arrangement as they are already at the bottom of the repayment priority list.
  वर्तमान व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत **परिचालन ऋणदाता** तथा छोटे **वित्तीय ऋणदाता** गंभीर रूप से अधिकार-वंचित हो जाते हैं क्योंकि वे पहले से ही पुनर्भुगतान प्राथमिकता सूची में सबसे निचले स्तर पर स्थित हैं।
- It compels non-notified creditors to undertake the more aggressive and disruptive **Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)** just to protect their financial interests.
  यह गैर-अधिसूचित ऋणदाताओं को अपने वित्तीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए अधिक कठोर और विघटनकारी **कॉर्पोरेट दिवाला समाधान प्रक्रिया** का सहारा लेने के लिए विवश करता है।
- The **U.S.' Chapter 11** and the **U.K.'s Part 26A restructuring plans** base their access on objective financial conditions rather than the regulatory identity of the creditor.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका की अध्याय 11 व्यवस्था तथा **यूनाइटेड किंगडम की भाग 26ए पुनर्गठन योजना** में प्रवेश का आधार ऋणदाता की नियामकीय पहचान नहीं, बल्कि वस्तुनिष्ठ वित्तीय परिस्थितियाँ होती हैं।
- Any financial creditor could start the process as long as they get the support of creditors holding at least **51% of the total financial debt**.

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कोई भी वित्तीय ऋणदाता इस प्रक्रिया को प्रारम्भ कर सकेगा, बशर्ते उसे कुल वित्तीय ऋण के कम से कम **51%** का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले ऋणदाताओं का समर्थन प्राप्त हो।

- India can make an efficient insolvency system that benefits everyone by using a universal CIIRP model based on financial interest instead of institutional identity.
भारत संस्थागत पहचान के स्थान पर वित्तीय हितों को आधार बनाकर एक **सार्वभौमिक ऋणदाता-प्रारम्भित दिवाला समाधान मॉडल** अपनाए, तो वह सभी हितधारकों को लाभ पहुँचाने वाली अधिक प्रभावी और न्यायसंगत दिवाला व्यवस्था विकसित कर सकता है।

Making sense of the biggest IPO in history

SpaceX's grand entry has raised concerns over the relaxation of rules enabling wealth concentration in the hands of a few

GS III: Economy

DATA POINT

Pon Vasanth B.A.
Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nitika Francis

Technopreneur Elon Musk, who was already the planet's richest person, became the world's first trillionaire with his company SpaceX's stock market debut on June 12, 2026. The company saw the biggest-ever initial public offering (IPO) in history.

However, SpaceX's entry has also raised concerns over the company's valuation; the relaxation of rules that enables the company to enter indices like the Nasdaq-100; and the increasing concentration of wealth among a few. New York City's mayor Zohran Mamdani, in a cryptic reaction on X said, "Reason #1,000,000,000,000 why we should tax the rich".

SpaceX's market capitalisation, now estimated over $2 trillion is less than the Gross Domestic Product of only 11 countries in the world, an indication of the unequal distribution of wealth **(Chart 1)**. Additionally, Mr. Musk had merged his companies Starlink and xAI (which includes X) with SpaceX before he planned the IPO. As of Friday, SpaceX was the sixth largest company in terms of market capitalisation **(Table 1)**. However, as the table shows, it is the only loss-making company in the list.

Among the three companies that are part of SpaceX, Starlink is the only company that has reported profits last year, leading many to express concerns that Mr. Musk has managed to sell the potential of his company, which includes building data centres, instead of its actual track record **(Table 2)**.

If one were to place SpaceX's IPO in Indian terms, the initial offering of all the top 100 IPOs in India would not match the $75 billion raised by the U.S. giant on Friday.

Soaring disparity

The data for the charts were sourced from Space Exploration Technologies Corp's Securities and Exchange Commission filings, Nasdaq, Renaissance Capital, World Bank, India Budget and Forbes

CHART 1: SpaceX's market capitalisation is greater than the GDP of 157 of the 168 countries analysed based on available World Bank data

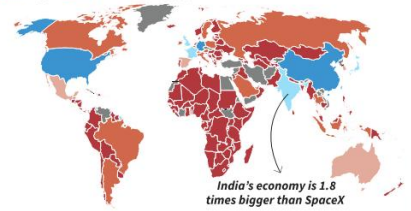

CHART 2: The chart shows the net worth (in $ billion) of five of the most richest persons in the world

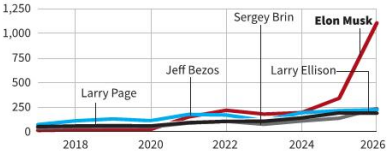

CHART 3: The 25 biggest-ever IPOs in history in terms of values of shares offered (in $ million). SpaceX is nearly four-times bigger than Aramco

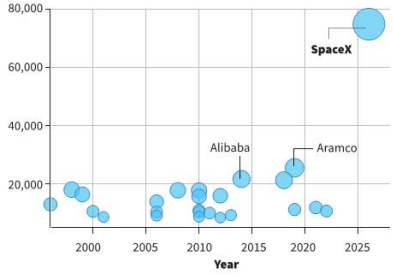

CHART 4: The 10 biggest IPOs from India in terms of the total value of shares offered (in ₹ crore). They do not add to even a tenth of the $75 billion raised by SpaceX

TABLE 1: The five biggest companies in terms of market capitalisation, along with their revenues, and income

Rank	Company	Market capitalisation (in $ trillion)	Revenue in 2025 (in $ billion)	Net income in 2025 (in $ billion)
1	NVIDIA	4.96	215.93	120.06
2	Alphabet	4.35	402.83	132.17
3	Apple	4.27	416.16	112.01
4	Microsoft	2.90	281.72	101.83
5	Amazon	2.56	716.90	77.60
6	SpaceX	2.10	18.67	-4.94

TABLE 2: Starlink is the only company to have reported profits in the last year

Companies part of SpaceX	Revenue (in $ billion)	Operating income (in $ billion)
SpaceX	4.086	–0.657
Starlink	11.387	4.423
xAI	3.201	–6.355

15J6. Making sense of the biggest IPO in history
इतिहास के सबसे बड़े आईपीओ को समझना

- **SpaceX's** grand entry has raised concerns over the **relaxation of rules** enabling **wealth concentration** in the hands of a few.
स्पेसएक्स के भव्य प्रवेश ने उन **नियमों में ढील** को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ा दी हैं, जो **संपत्ति के संकेंद्रण** को कुछ लोगों के हाथों में संभव बनाती हैं।
- **Technopreneur Elon Musk, who was already the planet's richest person, became the world's first trillionaire with his company SpaceX's stock market debut on June 12,**

2026.

प्रौद्योगिकी उद्यमी एलन मस्क, जो पहले से ही विश्व के सबसे धनी व्यक्ति थे, अपनी कंपनी **स्पेसएक्स** के **12 जून 2026** को हुए शेयर बाज़ार में पदार्पण के साथ विश्व के पहले खरबपति बन गए।

- The company saw the biggest-ever **initial public offering (IPO)** in history.
  कंपनी ने इतिहास का सबसे बड़ा **प्रारम्भिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम** प्रस्तुत किया।
- However, SpaceX's entry has also raised concerns over the company's valuation; the relaxation of rules that enables the company to enter indices like the **Nasdaq-100**; and the increasing concentration of wealth among a few.
  हालाँकि, **स्पेसएक्स** के प्रवेश ने कंपनी के मूल्यांकन, उसे **नैस्डैक-100** जैसे सूचकांकों में शामिल होने की अनुमति देने वाले नियमों में ढील तथा कुछ लोगों के हाथों में बढ़ती संपत्ति के संकेन्द्रण को लेकर चिंताएँ भी उत्पन्न की हैं।
- **SpaceX's market capitalisation**, now estimated over **$2 trillion**, is less than the **Gross Domestic Product** of only **11 countries** in the world, an indication of the unequal distribution of wealth.
  स्पेसएक्स का बाज़ार पूँजीकरण, जो अब **दो खरब डॉलर** से अधिक आँका जा रहा है, विश्व के केवल **11 देशों** के **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद** से कम है, जो संपत्ति के असमान वितरण का संकेत है।
- Additionally, Mr. Musk had merged his companies **Starlink** and **xAI** (which includes X) with SpaceX before he planned the IPO.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, श्री मस्क ने प्रारम्भिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम की योजना बनाने से पहले अपनी कंपनियों **स्टारलिंक** और **एक्स एआई** (जिसमें एक्स भी शामिल है) का विलय **स्पेसएक्स** के साथ कर दिया था।
- As of Friday, SpaceX was the sixth largest company in terms of market capitalisation.
  शुक्रवार तक **स्पेसएक्स** बाज़ार पूँजीकरण के आधार पर विश्व की छठी सबसे बड़ी कंपनी बन चुकी थी।
- However, as the table shows, it is the only loss-making company in the list.
  हालाँकि, उपलब्ध आँकड़ों के अनुसार यह सूची में शामिल एकमात्र ऐसी कंपनी है जो अभी भी घाटे में कार्य कर रही है।
- Among the three companies that are part of SpaceX, **Starlink** is the only company that has reported profits last year, leading many to express concerns that Mr. Musk has managed to sell the potential of his company, which includes building data centres, instead of its actual track record.
  स्पेसएक्स के अंतर्गत शामिल तीन कंपनियों में से केवल **स्टारलिंक** ने पिछले वर्ष लाभ दर्ज किया है, जिसके कारण अनेक लोगों ने यह चिंता व्यक्त की है कि श्री मस्क ने अपनी कंपनी के वास्तविक प्रदर्शन के बजाय उसकी संभावनाओं, जिनमें डेटा केन्द्रों का निर्माण भी शामिल है, को अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया है।
- If one were to place SpaceX's IPO in Indian terms, the initial offering of all the top 100 IPOs in India would not match the **$75 billion** raised by the U.S. giant on Friday.
  यदि **स्पेसएक्स** के प्रारम्भिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम की तुलना भारतीय परिप्रेक्ष्य में की जाए, तो भारत के शीर्ष 100 प्रारम्भिक सार्वजनिक निर्गमों द्वारा जुटाई गई कुल राशि भी अमेरिकी कंपनी द्वारा शुक्रवार को जुटाए गए **75 अरब डॉलर** के बराबर नहीं पहुँचती।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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What is drop shipping, and what are the risks for online shoppers?

Drop shipping allows online individuals or agents who do not hold any products to take customer orders and pass them on to other makers or sellers, inserting themselves into the transaction as middlemen; while legal in most jurisdictions, the practice can expose customers to several risks

GS III: Economy

Sahana Venugopal

While scrolling through Instagram Reels, you naturally pause when an attractive product catches your eye: a sleek laptop bag for travel, a cheap set of popular novels, an ultra-fast wireless charger on sale, beautifully embroidered linen shirts, or leather-bound notebooks with custom gold foil inscriptions. Before you know it, you are entering your credit card number or UPI PIN.

Caught up in your shopping spree, you may not have checked the true origin of the product or other customers' reviews of the seller. What's more, you may not even realise that the "company" you paid is just a decorated webpage created with AI and owned by a person who does not hold a single product.

This is the economy of drop shipping: the business practice that allows almost anyone with an internet connection to sell products that come from others.

Here is what you should know as a customer.

What is drop shipping?

This is a business practice where an online individual or agent – who does not hold any product – takes orders from customers and passes them on to another maker/seller who actually holds the product. The product is then delivered to the customers, either by the original maker/seller or a third-party delivery service. To put it simply, the drop shipper inserts itself into the transaction as a middleman. One or even multiple drop shippers might stand between buyers and the original makers of the product they want.

The success of Amazon, the largest e-commerce retailer in the world, can be credited at least in part to drop shipping practices. In its earliest days, Amazon did not commandeer giant international warehouses packed with products; rather, the company was a web-based middleman that fulfilled many customers' orders by sourcing the books they wanted.

Though Amazon's product delivery model has drastically evolved, the company allows drop shipping to take place via its platform. Other channels, such as Shopify, also enable drop shipping and help users manage the logistics. Alternatively, drop shipping might take place through channels such as WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, and lesser-known websites.

In essence, if you have ever bought any product online, there's a chance that you placed your order through a drop shipper rather than the original seller.

How does drop shipping work?

Drop shippers can work with both domestic and international manufacturers and customers. Some try to fill an existing gap in their local market (such as affordable school textbooks), some capitalise on market trends (such as the popularity of iPhone cases), and others build hype around rarer products (such as foreign luxury fashion). Most importantly, the drop shipper does not need to buy or store any of the products they are selling.

Drop shipping has become a popular source of income for both public-facing Instagram creators monetising their virality as well as private marketers looking for discreet revenue streams. What's more, with AI automating many customer services and harvesting business insights, drop shipping feels like something that almost anyone with an internet connection can try out.

In addition to promoting products and setting up online storefronts, drop shippers may also buy/sell courses that reveal current market trends, customer interests, trusted wholesalers, and useful AI tools, in order to generate further profits.

Drop shipping might look illogical at first, but it is in vogue for a number of reasons.

Buyers trying to independently source foreign products from a wholesaler might be forced to order more than they need, or contend with complicated customs regulations and fees. They also may not know if the original seller is legitimate, or might be unable to communicate with them due to a language barrier.

However, placing orders through a vetted drop shipper with a user-friendly web page eases some of these worries. What's more, legitimate drop shippers regularly carry out quality assurance tests of their own, and should ideally become a customer support layer of sorts in order to resolve any complaints.

Is drop shipping legal?

Drop shipping is legal in most jurisdictions, as long as the participants involved ensure transparency and comply with their region's tax laws.

Instagram's commerce eligibility requirements state that the users' Facebook Pages or Instagram professional accounts must contain product listings that are available for direct purchase from the user's website. In case buyers are being directed to another website, the user must provide the domain through which they sell, and their channels must represent the shop associated with the domain.

But now that it is possible to create entire shopfronts and e-commerce websites in minutes with just some cheap domains and a few AI coding prompts, Instagram drop shippers can easily present themselves as original sellers and offload customer orders to other sellers. Videos of workers sorting through wrapped packages, or Reels of founders happily holding up stacks of paper that they claim are customer orders, can mislead social media shoppers into thinking they are dealing directly with a trusted seller.

Ultimately, the line separating influencers, marketers, and sellers can blur quickly on social media. Some drop shippers also ask customers to contact them via WhatsApp, to take their communication off the app. Buyers may not know where their products are actually coming from or how their data privacy rights are being eroded. And as supply chain transparency is lost, drop shipping operations can quickly slide into a legal grey area or end up in criminal violations.

Some risks include scams targeting customers, as well as scams targeting drop shippers. Original sellers and drop shippers may both inflate product prices.

Drop shippers might also work with wholesalers sending out defective/rejected products. Furthermore, drop shippers may unknowingly promote pirated/counterfeit products. Hyper-realistic AI product images can mislead both customers and casual drop shippers.

Meanwhile, delivery timelines can be long – if the product even arrives at all. The drop shipper may not be required to take responsible for any safety or hygiene standards that have to be maintained while shipping the products.

Adding to this, multiple drop shipping layers in different countries can inadvertently lead to sanctions violations. In case of complaints, cancellations, or refund requests, customers may have no choice except to cut their losses and move on.

Other dangers include pyramid schemes to recruit more drop shippers, or even cyber-crimes via phishing and hacks, as the customers' payment information is shared with multiple parties without their informed consent.

So, the next time you spot a book influencer on Instagram promoting a handy new reading light, or stumble across an excited founder surrounded by sacks of customer orders, take a few minutes to do your research and find out who is really selling you the product.

15J6. What is drop shipping, and what are the risks for online shoppers?
ड्रॉप शिपिंग क्या है, और ऑनलाइन खरीदारों के लिए इसके क्या जोखिम हैं?

- **Drop shipping** allows **online individuals or agents** who do not hold any products to take **customer orders** and pass them on to other **makers or sellers**, inserting themselves into the transaction as **middlemen**.
  ड्रॉप शिपिंग ऐसी व्यवस्था है जिसमें **ऑनलाइन व्यक्ति या एजेंट**, जो स्वयं कोई उत्पाद अपने पास नहीं रखते, **ग्राहकों के ऑर्डर** प्राप्त करते हैं और उन्हें अन्य **निर्माताओं या विक्रेताओं** को भेज देते हैं, तथा लेन-देन में **मध्यस्थ** के रूप में शामिल हो जाते हैं।
- While **legal** in most jurisdictions, the practice can expose **customers** to several **risks**.
  यद्यपि अधिकांश न्यायक्षेत्रों में यह व्यवस्था **वैध** है, फिर भी यह **ग्राहकों** को अनेक **जोखिमों** के प्रति संवेदनशील बना सकती है।
- **While scrolling through Instagram Reels, you naturally pause when an attractive product catches your eye: a sleek laptop bag for travel, a cheap set of popular novels, an ultra-fast wireless charger on sale, beautifully embroidered linen shirts, or leather-bound notebooks with custom gold foil inscriptions.**
  इंस्टाग्राम रील्स देखते समय जब कोई आकर्षक उत्पाद आपकी नज़र में आता है — जैसे यात्रा हेतु आकर्षक लैपटॉप बैग, लोकप्रिय उपन्यासों का सस्ता सेट, अत्यधिक तीव्र गति वाला वायरलेस चार्जर, सुंदर कढ़ाई वाली

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लिनेन शर्ट या स्वर्णाक्षरों से सजाई गई चमड़े की जिल्द वाली नोटबुक — तो आप स्वाभाविक रूप से रुक जाते हैं।

- Before you know it, you are entering your credit card number or UPI PIN.
  आपको पता भी नहीं चलता और आप अपना क्रेडिट कार्ड नंबर या **यूपीआई पिन** दर्ज कर रहे होते हैं।
- Caught up in your shopping spree, you may not have checked the true origin of the product or other customers' reviews of the seller.
  खरीदारी के उत्साह में आप संभवतः उत्पाद की वास्तविक उत्पत्ति या विक्रेता के बारे में अन्य ग्राहकों की समीक्षाएँ जाँचना भूल जाते हैं।
- What's more, you may not even realise that the "company" you paid is just a decorated webpage created with AI and owned by a person who does not hold a single product.
  इतना ही नहीं, संभव है कि आपको यह भी ज्ञात न हो कि जिस "कंपनी" को आपने भुगतान किया है, वह केवल कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता से निर्मित एक आकर्षक वेबपृष्ठ है और उसका स्वामी स्वयं एक भी उत्पाद अपने पास नहीं रखता।
- This is the economy of **drop shipping**: the business practice that allows almost anyone with an internet connection to sell products that come from others.
  यही **ड्रॉप शिपिंग** की अर्थव्यवस्था है — एक ऐसी व्यावसायिक व्यवस्था जो इंटरनेट कनेक्शन रखने वाले लगभग किसी भी व्यक्ति को दूसरों के उत्पाद बेचने की अनुमति देती है।

What is drop shipping?
ड्रॉप शिपिंग क्या है?

- This is a business practice where an online individual or agent — who does not hold any product — takes orders from customers and passes them on to another maker/seller who actually holds the product.
  यह एक ऐसी व्यावसायिक पद्धति है जिसमें कोई ऑनलाइन व्यक्ति या एजेंट, जिसके पास स्वयं कोई उत्पाद नहीं होता, ग्राहकों से आदेश प्राप्त करता है और उन्हें उस निर्माता या विक्रेता तक पहुँचाता है जिसके पास वास्तव में उत्पाद उपलब्ध होता है।
- The product is then delivered to the customers, either by the original maker/seller or a third-party delivery service.
  इसके बाद उत्पाद को मूल निर्माता अथवा विक्रेता या किसी तृतीय पक्ष वितरण सेवा के माध्यम से ग्राहक तक पहुँचाया जाता है।
- To put it simply, the drop shipper inserts itself into the transaction as a middleman.
  सरल शब्दों में कहें तो ड्रॉप शिपर स्वयं को लेन-देन में एक मध्यस्थ के रूप में सम्मिलित कर लेता है।
- One or even multiple drop shippers might stand between buyers and the original makers of the product they want.
  कई बार खरीदार और उत्पाद के वास्तविक निर्माता के बीच एक या एक से अधिक ड्रॉप शिपर मौजूद हो सकते हैं।
- The success of **Amazon**, the largest e-commerce retailer in the world, can be credited at least in part to drop shipping practices.
  विश्व की सबसे बड़ी ई-कॉमर्स कंपनी **अमेज़न** की सफलता का एक कारण ड्रॉप शिपिंग पद्धति को भी माना जाता है।
- In its earliest days, Amazon did not commandeer giant international warehouses packed with products; rather, the company was a web-based middleman that fulfilled many customers' orders by sourcing the books they wanted.
  अपने प्रारम्भिक वर्षों में अमेज़न के पास विशाल अंतरराष्ट्रीय गोदाम नहीं थे, बल्कि यह एक वेब-आधारित मध्यस्थ के रूप में ग्राहकों की माँग के अनुसार पुस्तकें उपलब्ध कराता था।
- Though Amazon's product delivery model has drastically evolved, the company allows drop shipping to take place via its platform.

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यद्यपि अमेज़न की वितरण प्रणाली समय के साथ अत्यधिक विकसित हो चुकी है, फिर भी उसका मंच ड्रॉप शिपिंग की अनुमति देता है।

- Other channels, such as **Shopify**, also enable drop shipping and help users manage the logistics.
  शॉपिफ़ाई जैसे अन्य मंच भी ड्रॉप शिपिंग को संभव बनाते हैं तथा उपयोगकर्ताओं को वितरण प्रबंधन में सहायता प्रदान करते हैं।
- Alternatively, drop shipping might take place through channels such as **WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook**, and lesser-known websites.
  वैकल्पिक रूप से ड्रॉप शिपिंग **व्हाट्सऐप, इंस्टाग्राम, फेसबुक** तथा कम प्रसिद्ध वेबसाइटों के माध्यम से भी संचालित हो सकती है।
- In essence, if you have ever bought any product online, there's a chance that you placed your order through a drop shipper rather than the original seller.
  संक्षेप में, यदि आपने कभी कोई उत्पाद ऑनलाइन खरीदा है, तो यह संभव है कि आपका आदेश वास्तविक विक्रेता के बजाय किसी ड्रॉप शिपर के माध्यम से गया हो।

How does drop shipping work?
ड्रॉप शिपिंग कैसे कार्य करती है?

- Drop shippers can work with both domestic and international manufacturers and customers.
  ड्रॉप शिपर घरेलू तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय दोनों प्रकार के निर्माताओं और ग्राहकों के साथ कार्य कर सकते हैं।
- Some try to fill an existing gap in their local market, some capitalise on market trends, and others build hype around rarer products.
  कुछ लोग स्थानीय बाज़ार की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति करते हैं, कुछ प्रचलित बाज़ार प्रवृत्तियों का लाभ उठाते हैं, जबकि अन्य दुर्लभ उत्पादों के प्रति आकर्षण उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- In addition to promoting products and setting up online storefronts, drop shippers may also buy/sell courses that reveal current market trends, customer interests, trusted wholesalers, and useful AI tools, in order to generate further profits.
  उत्पादों के प्रचार और ऑनलाइन स्टोर स्थापित करने के अतिरिक्त, ड्रॉप शिपर वर्तमान बाज़ार प्रवृत्तियों, ग्राहकों की रुचियों, विश्वसनीय थोक विक्रेताओं और उपयोगी कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता उपकरणों से संबंधित पाठ्यक्रमों की खरीद-बिक्री भी कर सकते हैं ताकि अतिरिक्त लाभ अर्जित किया जा सके।
- They also may not know if the original seller is legitimate, or might be unable to communicate with them due to a language barrier.
  उन्हें यह भी ज्ञात नहीं हो सकता कि मूल विक्रेता वास्तविक और विश्वसनीय है या नहीं, अथवा भाषा संबंधी बाधाओं के कारण वे उससे प्रभावी संवाद स्थापित नहीं कर पाते।
- However, placing orders through a vetted **drop shipper** with a user-friendly web page eases some of these worries.
  किन्तु एक विश्वसनीय **ड्रॉप शिपर** के माध्यम से, जिसकी वेबसाइट उपयोगकर्ता-अनुकूल हो, आदेश देना इन चिंताओं को कुछ हद तक कम कर सकता है।
- What's more, legitimate drop shippers regularly carry out quality assurance tests of their own, and should ideally become a customer support layer of sorts in order to resolve any complaints.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, वैध ड्रॉप शिपर नियमित रूप से गुणवत्ता परीक्षण भी करते हैं और आदर्श रूप से ग्राहकों की शिकायतों के समाधान हेतु सहायता तंत्र के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

Is drop shipping legal?
क्या ड्रॉप शिपिंग वैध है?

- Drop shipping is legal in most jurisdictions, as long as the participants involved ensure transparency and comply with their region's tax laws.

अधिकांश देशों और क्षेत्रों में **ड्रॉप शिपिंग** वैध है, बशर्ते संबंधित पक्ष पारदर्शिता बनाए रखें और स्थानीय कर कानूनों का पालन करें।

- In case buyers are being directed to another website, the user must provide the domain through which they sell, and their channels must represent the shop associated with the domain.
  यदि ग्राहकों को किसी अन्य वेबसाइट पर भेजा जाता है, तो उपयोगकर्ता को उस डोमेन की जानकारी देनी होती है जिसके माध्यम से बिक्री की जाती है, और उनके मंचों को उसी दुकान का प्रतिनिधित्व करना चाहिए।
- But now that it is possible to create entire shopfronts and e-commerce websites in minutes with just some cheap domains and a few AI coding prompts, Instagram drop shippers can easily present themselves as original sellers and offload customer orders to other sellers.
  किन्तु अब सस्ते डोमेन और कुछ कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित कोडिंग निर्देशों की सहायता से कुछ ही मिनटों में पूर्ण ई-वाणिज्य वेबसाइटें बनाई जा सकती हैं, जिससे इंस्टाग्राम आधारित ड्रॉप शिपर स्वयं को मूल विक्रेता के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर ग्राहकों के आदेश अन्य विक्रेताओं को भेज सकते हैं।

India's maritime sector growth gets a push as DG Shipping issues first ship recycling credit note

GS III: Economy

Aneesh Phadnis

Smooth seas: Ship owners will get a credit note equivalent to 40% of scrap value upon recycling in certified facilities. AP

India's ambitions for sustainable maritime sector growth have taken off with the sector regulator issuing the first ship recycling credit note.

On May 28, the Directorate General of Shipping issued the credit note to a Liberia-based shipping firm under a scheme to promote safe recycling and shipbuilding.

India is a global leader in the ship recycling industry handling around 30% of dismantled vessels. The credit note scheme is expected to boost competitiveness of Indian yards, attract fresh investments and strengthen the circular economy.

Ship owners will get a credit note equivalent to 40% of scrap value upon recycling in certified facilities. The note will be valid for three years and can be redeemed up to five per cent of the fair price of a new vessel built in an Indian shipyard.

"The ship recycling credit note scheme is a step in the right direction and demonstrates the government's intent to position India as a hub for ship recycling and shipbuilding," said Deepak Shetty, former Director General of Shipping.

Its launch also aligns with the implementation of the Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. The convention is a binding global treaty which mandates environmentally sound recycling practices that minimise health risks for yard workers and prevents pollution from its activities. The convention came into force last June.

India is a global leader in the ship recycling industry handling around 30% of dismantled vessels

Ensuring compliance

"India currently has 111 ship recycling yards compliant with the Hong Kong International Convention (HKC), located at Alang, Gujarat. This represents one of the largest concentrations of HKC-compliant ship recycling facilities anywhere in the world," said Director General of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan.

Under the convention, recycling yards are required to implement occupational health and safety measures, maintain environmental protection systems and ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste. Facilities are also required to maintain worker training programmes, emergency preparedness procedures and environmental monitoring mechanisms.

Mr. Jagannathan said the directorate in coordination with state authorities and recognised organisations undertakes periodic inspections, audits and certification activities to ensure continued compliance.

According to Ship Recycling Industries Association (India) a total of 119 ships were recycled in India in FY 2026 amounting to 1.08 million light displacement tons – an industry metric that measures the quantity of recyclable material available for processing. The new scheme and initiatives in digitalisation and ease of doing business will help grow the numbers.

Mr. Jagannathan said the ship recycling credit note scheme has seen encouraging traction. Already 41 ship owners have registered and six applications have been received under the scheme.

The first credit note valued ₹29 crore was issued for recycling of a St. Kitts and Nevis flagged capsized vessel called Kosta. The ship owned by Bella Shipping Inc was recycled at the Inducto Steel Limited yard at Alang in April.

"All ships recycled at Hong Kong Convention compliant yards in India are eligible for the credit note, subject to adherence to the scheme's prescribed conditions and procedures," he said. A unified ship recycling portal enables seamless applications, processing, tracking and issuance of digitally signed credit notes bringing together the Directorate, state maritime boards and recycling yards on a single platform, he added.

While the scheme creates a powerful incentive for shipowners to recycle and build in India, its execution will depend on practical considerations whether credit note validity aligns with shipping firm's acquisition plans. A crucial test would also be the Indian shipyard's ability to deliver vessels on time. While India is a leader in ship recycling, it is a laggard in shipbuilding. A S&P Global Commodity Insights report last year said the Indian ship building industry accounts for less than one per cent of the global market while China holds 60 per cent share.

Last year the government unveiled a ₹70,000 crore package to boost shipbuilding and maritime sector in the country. The credit note scheme was a part of the package. The package is seeing signs of success with HD Hyundai signing an MoU for greenfield shipyard in Tamil Nadu. Cochin Shipyard securing a contract for six LNG-powered vessels from shipping line CMA CGM is also seen as a win.

Ship recycling specialist Dr. Anand Hiremath suggests that the government could take further steps.

"New building decisions take time. A three year window for credit note may be too short for serious global owners. A 4-6 year period could make the scheme more attractive," he said.

A pre-approval mechanism could also help owners find out in advance the eligibility and discounts available through credit note mechanism. "The government should support yard capability through completion guarantees, vendor clusters, training support and milestone linked grants. The focus must be on execution," Mr. Hiremath said. Over the years the skilled Indian workforce has moved to shipyards overseas for better career prospects. The government should launch a targeted programme to attract this experienced workforce through incentives, relocation support, skill recognition and long term employment opportunities, he added.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

15J6. India's maritime sector growth gets a push as DG Shipping issues first ship recycling credit note

डीजी शिपिंग द्वारा पहला शिप रीसाइक्लिंग क्रेडिट नोट जारी किए जाने से भारत के समुद्री क्षेत्र की वृद्धि को बढ़ावा

- India's ambitions for **sustainable maritime sector** growth have taken off with the sector regulator issuing the first **ship recycling credit note**.
  सतत समुद्री क्षेत्र की वृद्धि के लिए भारत की महत्वाकांक्षाओं को तब गति मिली जब क्षेत्रीय नियामक ने पहला **शिप रीसाइक्लिंग क्रेडिट नोट** जारी किया।
- On May 28, the **Directorate General of Shipping** issued the credit note to a Liberia-based shipping firm under a scheme to promote safe recycling and shipbuilding.
  28 मई को **डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ शिपिंग** ने सुरक्षित रीसाइक्लिंग और जहाज निर्माण को बढ़ावा देने वाली एक योजना के तहत लाइबेरिया स्थित एक शिपिंग कंपनी को यह क्रेडिट नोट जारी किया।
- India is a global leader in the **ship recycling industry** handling around 30% of dismantled vessels.
  भारत **शिप रीसाइक्लिंग उद्योग** में वैश्विक अग्रणी है और दुनिया में तोड़े जाने वाले लगभग 30% जहाजों का प्रबंधन करता है।
- Ship owners will get a credit note equivalent to **40% of scrap value** upon recycling in certified facilities.
  प्रमाणित सुविधाओं में रीसाइक्लिंग कराने पर जहाज मालिकों को **स्क्रैप मूल्य के 40%** के बराबर क्रेडिट नोट मिलेगा।
- The note will be valid for **three years** and can be redeemed up to **five per cent** of the fair price of a new vessel built in an Indian shipyard.
  यह नोट **तीन वर्षों** तक वैध रहेगा और भारतीय शिपयार्ड में निर्मित नए जहाज के उचित मूल्य के **पाँच प्रतिशत** तक भुनाया जा सकेगा।
- Its launch also aligns with the implementation of the **Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships**.
  इसका शुभारंभ **जहाजों के सुरक्षित और पर्यावरणीय रूप से अनुकूल रीसाइक्लिंग हेतु हांगकांग अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन** के कार्यान्वयन के अनुरूप भी है।
- The convention is a binding global treaty which mandates environmentally sound recycling practices that minimise health risks for yard workers and prevents pollution from its activities.
  यह सम्मेलन एक बाध्यकारी वैश्विक संधि है जो पर्यावरण-अनुकूल रीसाइक्लिंग प्रथाओं को अनिवार्य बनाती है, जिससे यार्ड कर्मियों के स्वास्थ्य जोखिम कम होते हैं और प्रदूषण को रोका जाता है।
- The convention came into force last June.
  यह सम्मेलन पिछले जून से प्रभावी हुआ।

Ensuring compliance
अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करना

- "India currently has **111 ship recycling yards** compliant with the **Hong Kong International Convention (HKC)**, located at **Alang, Gujarat**.
  "भारत में वर्तमान में **111 शिप रीसाइक्लिंग यार्ड** हैं जो **हांगकांग अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन (HKC)** के अनुरूप हैं और **अलंग, गुजरात** में स्थित हैं।
- This represents one of the largest concentrations of HKC-compliant ship recycling facilities anywhere in the world," said Director General of Shipping **Shyam Jagannathan**.
  महानिदेशक **श्याम जगन्नाथन** ने कहा कि यह दुनिया में HKC-अनुपालक शिप रीसाइक्लिंग सुविधाओं के सबसे बड़े समूहों में से एक है।
- Under the convention, recycling yards are required to implement **occupational health and safety measures**, maintain environmental protection systems and ensure proper management of hazardous materials and waste.

इस सम्मेलन के तहत रीसाइक्लिंग यार्डों को **व्यावसायिक स्वास्थ्य एवं सुरक्षा उपाय** लागू करने, पर्यावरण संरक्षण प्रणालियों को बनाए रखने और खतरनाक पदार्थों तथा अपशिष्ट का उचित प्रबंधन सुनिश्चित करने की आवश्यकता होती है।

- Facilities are also required to maintain worker training programmes, emergency preparedness procedures and environmental monitoring mechanisms.
  सुविधाओं को श्रमिक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम, आपातकालीन तैयारी प्रक्रियाएँ और पर्यावरणीय निगरानी तंत्र भी बनाए रखने होते हैं।
- Mr. Jagannathan said the directorate in coordination with state authorities and recognised organisations undertakes periodic inspections, audits and certification activities to ensure continued compliance.
  श्री जगन्नाथन ने कहा कि निदेशालय राज्य प्राधिकरणों और मान्यता प्राप्त संगठनों के साथ मिलकर निरंतर अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए नियमित निरीक्षण, ऑडिट और प्रमाणन गतिविधियाँ संचालित करता है।
- According to **Ship Recycling Industries Association (India)** a total of **119 ships** were recycled in India in FY 2026 amounting to **1.08 million light displacement tons** — an industry metric that measures the quantity of recyclable material available for processing.
  शिप रीसाइक्लिंग इंडस्ट्रीज एसोसिएशन (इंडिया) के अनुसार FY 2026 में भारत में कुल **119 जहाजों** का रीसाइक्लिंग किया गया, जो **1.08 मिलियन लाइट डिस्प्लेसमेंट टन** के बराबर था।
- The first credit note valued **₹29 crore** was issued for recycling of a **St. Kitts and Nevis** flagged capsized vessel called **Kosta**.
  पहला **₹29 करोड़** मूल्य का क्रेडिट नोट **सेंट किट्स एंड नेविस** ध्वज वाले **कोस्टा** नामक पलटे हुए जहाज के रीसाइक्लिंग के लिए जारी किया गया।
- "All ships recycled at **Hong Kong Convention compliant yards** in India are eligible for the credit note, subject to adherence to the scheme's prescribed conditions and procedures," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि भारत में **हांगकांग सम्मेलन-अनुपालक यार्डों** में रीसाइक्लिंग किए गए सभी जहाज क्रेडिट नोट के पात्र हैं, बशर्ते योजना की निर्धारित शर्तों और प्रक्रियाओं का पालन किया जाए।
- A unified **ship recycling portal** enables seamless applications, processing, tracking and issuance of digitally signed credit notes bringing together the Directorate, state maritime boards and recycling yards on a single platform, he added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि एकीकृत **शिप रीसाइक्लिंग पोर्टल** आवेदन, प्रसंस्करण, ट्रैकिंग और डिजिटल हस्ताक्षरित क्रेडिट नोट जारी करने की सुविधा प्रदान करता है तथा निदेशालय, राज्य समुद्री बोर्डों और रीसाइक्लिंग यार्डों को एक मंच पर लाता है।
- A crucial test would also be the Indian shipyard's ability to deliver vessels on time.
  एक महत्वपूर्ण परीक्षा भारतीय शिपयार्डों की समय पर जहाज उपलब्ध कराने की क्षमता भी होगी।
- While India is a leader in ship recycling, it is a laggard in **shipbuilding**.
  जहाँ भारत शिप रीसाइक्लिंग में अग्रणी है, वहीं **जहाज निर्माण** में पिछड़ा हुआ है।
- A **S&P Global Commodity Insights** report last year said the Indian shipbuilding industry accounts for less than **one per cent** of the global market while **China** holds **60 per cent** share.
  पिछले वर्ष की **S&P Global Commodity Insights** रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारतीय जहाज निर्माण उद्योग का वैश्विक बाजार में हिस्सा **एक प्रतिशत से भी कम** है, जबकि **चीन** का हिस्सा **60 प्रतिशत** है।
- Last year the government unveiled a **₹70,000 crore package** to boost shipbuilding and maritime sector in the country.
  पिछले वर्ष सरकार ने जहाज निर्माण और समुद्री क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए **₹70,000 करोड़ का पैकेज** घोषित किया था।
- The credit note scheme was a part of the package.
  क्रेडिट नोट योजना इस पैकेज का एक हिस्सा थी।
- A pre-approval mechanism could also help owners find out in advance the eligibility and discounts available through credit note mechanism.

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

पूर्व-अनुमोदन तंत्र से मालिक पहले ही पात्रता और क्रेडिट नोट के माध्यम से मिलने वाली छूट के बारे में जान सकते हैं।

- Over the years the skilled Indian workforce has moved to shipyards overseas for better career prospects.

वर्षों के दौरान कुशल भारतीय कार्यबल बेहतर करियर संभावनाओं के लिए विदेशी शिपयार्डों में चला गया है।

- The government should launch a targeted programme to attract this experienced workforce through incentives, relocation support, skill recognition and long term employment opportunities, he added.

उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार को प्रोत्साहन, पुनर्वास सहायता, कौशल मान्यता और दीर्घकालिक रोजगार अवसरों के माध्यम से इस अनुभवी कार्यबल को आकर्षित करने हेतु एक लक्षित कार्यक्रम शुरू करना चाहिए।

In Zojila, light at the end of the tunnel

Once a pass known for deaths due to avalanches, shooting stones, and snowfall, the newly constructed Zojila Tunnel builds on India's growing road infrastructure and fortifies the country's strategic interests in the region with its hostile neighbours, China and Pakistan. Peerzada Ashiq reports on how it also offers hope to locals and their economy

Excavation for the Zojila Tunnel was carried out at an altitude of 2,900 metres on the Kashmir side and 3,310 metres on the Ladakh side. The tunnel is expected to be operational by 2028. IMRAN NISSAR

On June 9, when the 13.14-kilometre-long Zojila Tunnel witnessed a construction breakthrough, Muhammad Shafi Sagar, 50, and Ashiq Wazir, 30, unknown to each other, experienced both relief and sadness. Relief that they and their friends will, in a couple of years, be able to travel between Ladakh's Drass district and the Kashmir Valley relatively free of the fear of dangerous terrain. Sadness, because they had both lost loved ones in the treacherous Zojila Pass.

The Zojila Tunnel by-passes the pass that runs across 30 km, cutting through the vertical, craggy Himalayan range in Drass. In the district's Pandrass village, the mountains are parallel walls; there are no trees in sight at this altitude of 10,800 feet. In winter, the temperature drops to less than -25 degrees Celsius. In summer, the peaks are still surrounded by snow, but the melting glaciers relent. They spring out waterfalls from elevated mountain sides, adding to the roar of the Drass river below.

Shepherds from the plains converge on the high-altitude meadows dotted with wild grass and fresh-water bodies. The children are out in Pandrass High School, the sun shining brightly over them and their L-shaped, single-storey campus, but piercing gusts still make wearing a wind-blocker necessary. The night temperature continues to drop below freezing point, even in June.

It is in these conditions that 1,200 people, working from a camp site, have been building the Zojila Tunnel, which will connect Baltal in Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Minamarg in Ladakh's Drass, on National Highway-1. In the past, the pass was rife with tragedy.

"Shooting stones, snow slides, sudden temperature dips, and avalanches have killed travellers on the Zojila Pass for centuries. Kargil (in Ladakh) is full of stories of loss and disappearances," says Sagar, a teacher at the Pandrass High School, who is also an author of a book on the culture of the Shina tribe in Ladakh.

Workers and technicians, mostly from India, but also from abroad, put in 10 million safe working hours. They grappled with the geological uncertainties of young mountains, rock classification changing every couple of hundred metres, and water pouring out of crevices. Built at a cost of ₹6,800 crore, the excavation was carried out between the altitudes of 2,900 metres on the Kashmir side to 3,310 metres on the Ladakh side. It is expected to be operational by 2028, and is designed to stay open through the year.

Danger zone

Sagar tells a story about his colleagues, from 33 years ago. In 1993, the Pandrass High School, located 13 km away from the Zojila Pass, closed for its usual five-month-long winter vacation in December. Two teachers, Shabir Ahmad and Bashir Ahmad, decided to return home to the Kashmir valley. The Union Territory of Ladakh was part of the Kashmir division of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir till 2019.

"Winter had already set in. The two teachers left for home. The sub-zero temperatures near the Zojila Pass killed them. One body was recovered after a week and another body has not been traced to date. Locals feel wild animals may have taken it," says Sagar.

For Sagar, the tunnel has provided a new lease of life to people who live here. "When a local would fall sick and need specialised treatment, the nearest hospital was 279 km away, in Leh. Then the patient would be flown out to Delhi or Srinagar. With the tunnel, it'll be just a 141-km drive to Srinagar," says Sagar. The worries about vegetables, gas, and grocery stocks will be stories from the past.

> Shooting stones, snow slides, sudden temperature dip and avalanches have killed travellers on the Zojila Pass for centuries. Kargil is full of stories of loss and disappearances
>
> **MUHAMMAD SHAFI SAGAR**
> Teacher, Pandrass High School, Drass district, Ladakh

This year on March 27, despite better road management and early warnings compared to the past, an avalanche killed seven persons and injured five others at the Zojila Pass. It was a sudden bright sun that triggered the rockfall around 12.30 p.m. One of the victims of the dread-inducing Zojila Pass was Akbar Ali Shadab, a 36-year-old resident of Tharumsa Pashkum village in Kargil. Shadab had just had a baby, six months before. He worked as a wildlife guard and was respected for his volunteerism.

"News flashed on social media about four vehicles being hit by an avalanche. We reached the spot in the evening. The rescue teams halted operations for the night. My uncle's body was found around 6 the next morning," says Wazir, the victim's nephew.

Now, the conversation around Zojila is changing. Sajjad Kargili, in-charge of political affairs of the Jamiat Ul Ulama Isna Asharia, Kargil, an influential seminary, sees the tunnel as the "realisation of a decades-long dream of locals". He refers to the many leaders who through the years have asked at both the State and Central levels for the tunnel.

Kargili was joined by senior members of the seminary on June 9 to pay tribute "to all those who dedicated their lives to this cause but could not live to witness this historic moment". He remembers those who disappeared or died.

"This is not just an engineering milestone, but also a testament to sacrifices. The historic breakthrough stands as a landmark achievement in a long journey of struggle, hope, and determination. It opens a new chapter of connectivity, progress, and prosperity for the region," says Kargili.

Upto 80% of those working on the site are locals. With the tunnel aiming to be open through winter, the possibility of tourism through the year has opened up.

Scaling heights

Ladakh's Zojila Pass has historically been daunting for India. During the India-Pakistan war of 1947, the it was choked by Pakistan and it took two months in 1948 to drive tanks in, between September and October, to defeat and evict the Pakistan Army. The war spurred construction work on the Zojila Pass to make it motorable. "After the 1962 India-China war, the focus again shifted to the Zojila Pass and its importance. The road saw further widening and attention," say Sagar.

From 2005 to 2019, attempts to award the project failed four times. The project was shelved in 2019 due to financial losses of the company tendered to do the work. The work on the Zojila Tunnel saw a flip in its speed after India and China engaged in a face-off in Galwan on June 15-16 in 2020, and saw casualties on both sides for the first time since the wars of the 1960s.

On October 15, 2020, the construction of the Zojila Tunnel was started by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) and Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Ltd (MEIL). The first blasting at Nilgrar Tunnel was held on October 14, 2020. Approach roads, bridges, the Nilgrar twin tunnels, cut-and-cover works, and snow gallery (to protect the tunnel from heavy snowfall) were constructed to set the stage for the tunnel work.

Six years down the line, the Zojila Tunnel is tipped to be the world's longest single-tube bidirectional road tunnel at an altitude 11,578 feet. The main tunnel is U-shaped and is 9.5 metres wide and 7.57 metres in height.

Harsh weather conditions coupled with the mountain's rock composition posed a major challenge for engineers and workers. The rock classification changed 67 times across the 13.14 km stretch and shifted constantly between good and poor formations. The highly volatile geology was managed with the expertise of skilled crew.

"The Himalayas are considered young mountains. They are just 700 million years old," says Yousef Es'haghpour Rahimabadi, an Iranian engineer who works for the NHIDCL. "The rocks have not solidified or condensed fully yet. We had to work on eight to 10 fault zones, which needed special measures. Water seepage has been a major concern," he adds.

He has 29 years of experience in building tunnels. "I mostly worked in the Middle East," says Rahimabadi, who provided consultation on design as well as at-site solutions.

Rahimabadi says the age of the tunnel is set to be 100 years. During the construction of the project, workers braved temperatures of -20 degree Celsius for nearly 100 days a year. A base camp was established for over 1,100 people, which provided food climate- appropriate food, medical facilities, transportation, and amenities to sustain round-the-clock operations.

A Spanish company also joined the project to provide expert solutions to problems posed by the geology of the mountains.

Over the last five years, the project site faced five major avalanches, two in 2023, two in 2024, and one in 2025. On January 12, 2023, a severe avalanche hit the Sarbal area close to the Nilgrar Tunnels. On January 15, 2023, up to 172 workers were stranded in an avalanche.

To combat heavy snow accumulation in winter, a fleet of small and large snow blowers was deployed. This ensured uninterrupted construction work while simultaneously keeping the highway open for regular vehicular movement. "Procurement was also a major challenge. It took three months to bring gantries to Minamarg, because the bypass in Sonamarg was closed for winter," says Rahimabadi.

Gantries are a huge adaptable moulds designed for shaping concrete within a tunnel excavation. Rahimabadi credits the New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM), which applies the sequential excavation method. "The NATM method uses the blast-and-go-ahead technique. We worked in two shifts in 24 hours to ensure that the deadline was met," says Rahimabadi.

The tunnel has vertical structures to provide fresh air ventilation and emergency safety since there is no separate escape route. It offers automatic and emergency lighting, emergency phone and radio connectivity, and message signalling to ensure the safety of travellers. Vehicles will be able to travel at a speed of 80 km per hour through it. From two hours to cross the Zojila Pass, it will take travellers 30 to 40 minutes to cross the mighty and arduous Himalayan range.

Change at the press of a button

Harpal Singh, chief operating officer of Megha Engineering, recalls spotting batches of bears hibernating close to tunnel mouths in winter. "We would ignore each other. We did not try to disturb their habitat." He also talks about the desolate landscape, when people from Sonamarg would leave in winter. "We'd see only the police and the Army patrolling," says Singh.

Zojila Tunnel has an immense strategic value for India. India shares a 3,488-km-long border with China, of which 1,597 km runs through Ladakh. Besides the threats posed by China to the east, Pakistan is to the west of Ladakh, beyond the Line of Control.

"Earlier, the Zojila Pass would face closure for five to six months due to snowfall. This tunnel will provide an all-weather link with Ladakh and help the Army," says Singh.

The completion of the Zojila Tunnel project has come at a time when massive military activities are being noted on the borders of Ladakh by China and in Gilgit and Baltistan by Pakistan.

When Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on June 9 pressed the button for the final blast inside the tunnel, he underlined the strategic value of the tunnel. "From the perspective of national security, this project will prove to be a gamechanger. With round-the-year connectivity, the movement of the Indian Army, as well as the supply of Army materials, equipment, and logistics, will become faster, safer, and more effective, thereby strengthening the country's strategic preparedness," he said.

Above the booming government voice is that of a school teacher. "The tunnel may dilute local culture. Modernity will pose a challenge to old ways of life in Drass. Tourism will introduce new ways of construction," says a worried Sagar.

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The tunnel in numbers

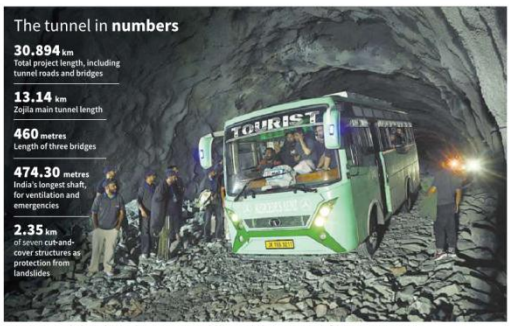
30.894 km Total project length, including tunnel roads and bridges

13.14 km Zojila main tunnel length

460 metres Length of three bridges

474.30 metres India's longest shaft, for ventilation and emergencies

2.35 km of seven cut-and-cover structures as protection from landslides



An inspection inside the Zojila Tunnel, at Minamarg in Ladakh, towards the Eastern Portal of the project. IMRAN NISSAR

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15J6. In Zojila, light at the end of the tunnel
जोजिला में, सुरंग के अंत में रोशनी

- It is in these conditions that **1,200 people**, working from a camp site, have been building the **Zojila Tunnel**, which will connect **Baltal** in Kashmir's **Ganderbal district** and **Minamarg** in Ladakh's Drass, on **National Highway-1**.
  इन्हीं परिस्थितियों में शिविर स्थल से कार्य कर रहे **1,200 लोग जोजिला सुरंग** का निर्माण कर रहे हैं, जो **राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग-1** पर कश्मीर के **गांदरबल जिले के बालटाल** को लद्दाख के द्रास स्थित **मीनामार्ग** से जोड़ेगी।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	Odisha village to get crocodile alert system under 'Smart Village' plan स्मार्ट विलेज' योजना के तहत ओडिशा के एक गांव में मगरमच्छ चेतावनी प्रणाली स्थापित की जाएगी
15J6	Deaths in Brazil raise concerns about India's dengue vaccine, DengiAll ब्राज़ील में हुई मौतों ने भारत के डेंगू टीके, डेंगीऑल, को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ा दी हैं
15J6	The giant world of fungi कवकों (फंगी) की विशाल दुनिया

Odisha village to get crocodile alert system under 'Smart Village' plan

GS III: S&T

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

As the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) accelerates the deployment of technologies in Kusunpur, a remote village in Odisha's Kendrapara district, as part of the 'Smart Village' initiative, residents may soon receive alerts whenever crocodiles stray dangerously close to their homes.

The CSIR laboratories are planning to introduce an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled wild animal detection and alert system. The system is likely to be installed at two key entry points to the village.

Kendrapara has logged one of the worst rates of human-crocodile conflicts in the State, with more than 20 fatalities reported over the past four years.

Kusunpur is set to witness a comprehensive infrastructure upgrade, including a renovated water gate facility, an underground drainage system, a reconstructed community building, community toilets, and a revamped cremation centre. Roads will be developed using innovative methods, including cold mix technology, waste plastic road technology, and cement grouted bituminous mix.

CBRI Director Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla interacting with villagers in Kusunpur on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Under the initiative, the village is expected to emerge as a hub for green livelihoods. The initiative could generate a range of green jobs, while encouraging local entrepreneurs to explore sustainable business opportunities.

Aligned with the CSIR's guiding 'lab to land' principle, a suite of technologies has been proposed for deployment in the village. These include dry flower processing, production of value-added crispy fruits through freeze-drying, and the development of nutritious food products to combat malnutrition.

Other initiatives include biodegradable tableware, small-scale processing units, herbal floor-cleaning liquids, mosquito repellent lotions, and scented candles made from natural beeswax. Plans also include the installation of brick and block-making machines, village-scale rice and green gram milling units, and a scientifically designed parboiled rice processing unit.

"Over the next three years, scientists from 17 CSIR laboratories will visit Kusunpur to ensure smooth deployment of these technologies for the village's overall development," CSIR-Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) Director Pradeep Kumar Ramancharla, who visited the village on Sunday, said.

15J6. Odisha village to get crocodile alert system under 'Smart Village' plan 'स्मार्ट विलेज' योजना के तहत ओडिशा के एक गांव में मगरमच्छ चेतावनी प्रणाली स्थापित की जाएगी

- **As the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) accelerates the deployment of technologies in Kusunpur, a remote village in Odisha's Kendrapara district, as part of the 'Smart Village' initiative, residents may soon receive alerts whenever crocodiles stray dangerously close to their homes.**
  वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद द्वारा **ओडिशा** के **केंद्रापाड़ा जिले** के दूरस्थ गाँव **कुसुनपुर** में **'स्मार्ट विलेज' पहल** के अंतर्गत प्रौद्योगिकियों के क्रियान्वयन को गति दी जा रही है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप ग्रामीणों को शीघ्र ही उस समय चेतावनी संदेश प्राप्त हो सकेंगे जब मगरमच्छ उनके घरों के निकट खतरनाक रूप से पहुँच जाएँगे।
- The CSIR laboratories are planning to introduce an **artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled wild animal detection and alert system**.
  परिषद की प्रयोगशालाएँ **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित वन्य जीव पहचान एवं चेतावनी प्रणाली** स्थापित करने की योजना बना रही हैं।
- **Kendrapara** has logged one of the worst rates of **human-crocodile conflicts** in the State, with more than **20 fatalities** reported over the past four years.
  केंद्रापाड़ा जिले में राज्य के सबसे गंभीर **मानव-मगरमच्छ संघर्षों** में से एक दर्ज किया गया है, जहाँ पिछले चार वर्षों में **20 से अधिक लोगों की मृत्यु** हुई है।
- Roads will be developed using innovative methods, including **cold mix technology, waste plastic road technology, and cement grouted bituminous mix**.
  सड़कों का निर्माण **कोल्ड मिक्स तकनीक, अपशिष्ट प्लास्टिक सड़क तकनीक तथा सीमेंट ग्राउटेड बिटुमिनस मिश्रण** जैसी नवाचार आधारित तकनीकों से किया जाएगा।
- These include **dry flower processing, production of value-added crispy fruits through freeze-drying, and the development of nutritious food products to combat malnutrition**.
  इनमें **सूखे फूलों का प्रसंस्करण, फ्रीज़-ड्राइंग तकनीक द्वारा मूल्यवर्धित कुरकुरे फलों का उत्पादन तथा कुपोषण से निपटने के लिए पौष्टिक खाद्य उत्पादों का विकास** शामिल है।
- Other initiatives include **biodegradable tableware, small-scale processing units, herbal floor-cleaning liquids, mosquito repellent lotions, and scented candles made from natural beeswax**.
  अन्य पहलों में **जैव अपघटनीय भोजन पात्र, लघु प्रसंस्करण इकाइयाँ, हर्बल फर्श सफाई द्रव, मच्छर प्रतिरोधी लोशन तथा प्राकृतिक मधुमक्खी मोम से निर्मित सुगंधित मोमबत्तियाँ** शामिल हैं।

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Deaths in Brazil raise concerns about India's dengue vaccine, DengiAll

Brazilian authorities have stressed that the 42 cases of severe adverse events represent only 0.008% of half-a-million vaccinated; there is no doubt that it is a small risk at the population level; however, at the individual level even one life lost to a severe adverse event is one too many

S. Swaminathan

The recent deaths of two people in Brazil during its dengue vaccination campaign, leading to the shot's suspension on June 8, is a crucial wake-up call for India. This is because the dengue vaccine in Brazil, Butantan-DV, is pretty similar, if not identical, to India's upcoming dengue vaccine, DengiAll.

Both vaccines were several years in the making. Both have live but weakened (attenuated) versions of the dengue viruses (DENVs). And both vaccines are said to be tetravalent because each vaccine is a physical mixture of four live, weakened DENVs.

DENVs come in four versions called serotypes: DENV-1, -2, -3 and -4. All four serotypes are known to be prevalent in Brazil and India. Each DENV serotype has an outer shell adorned with specialised envelope proteins, called E proteins – akin to the spike protein of coronaviruses. Even though the four DENV serotypes are very similar, their E proteins are different enough to warrant immunisation against each of the four serotypes.

When weakened DENV is used in a vaccine, it will prompt two broad types of antibodies: type-specific antibodies and cross-reactive antibodies. Type-specific antibodies are often made in small amounts and recognise only one particular serotype (based on its E proteins) and excel at blocking infections by that serotype alone.

On the other hand, the cross-reactive antibodies are made usually in large amounts and can recognise any of the four serotypes and block an infection – provided they are present at adequate levels. When their levels drop, the cross-reactive antibodies don't just fail to block a new DENV infection: they enhance it, leading to a severe and potentially fatal form of dengue. This phenomenon is called antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE).

The risk of ADE during dengue vaccination is considered a serious adverse event. If untreated, it can lead to death.

In Brazil's dengue vaccination campaign, of 42 vaccine recipients who displayed serious side-effects, two people died and one had to receive intensive care. These side-effects included severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, and bleeding, none of which the phase 3 clinical trials revealed. These signs are reminiscent of the symptoms of severe dengue. Medical researchers should look into whether this could be due to ADE. They should also clarify if DengiAll will manifest a similar risk when it is rolled out in India.

Butantan-DV and DengiAll are both based on a technology developed at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Over many years, scientists weakened each DENV serotype to make monovalent vaccines, assessed each one for its capacity to induce an immune response without causing disease, and finally mixed all four monovalent vaccine viruses to generate tetravalent vaccines. Two of them, called TV003 and TV005, and the monovalent vaccine viruses were licensed to Instituto Butantan in Brazil and Panacea Biotec in India, among others, for further development.

Butantan-DV is not the first dengue vaccine to be linked to such events. A little over a decade ago, Sanofi Pasteur developed the first tetravalent dengue vaccine to be licensed. It differed from the NIH's vaccines because the four weakened serotypes were hybrid viruses, each covered on its surface with the E protein of one of the DENV serotypes (plus another protein).

This shot, called Dengvaxia, was given to more than 8 lakh children in the Phillipines, a dengue-endemic country like Brazil and India. Severe adverse events occurred three years after vaccination.

Further study revealed Dengvaxia worked like a monovalent vaccine, provoking antibodies to only DENV-4. That is, mixing four live yet weakened viruses didn't automatically ensure tetravalent immunity. There is no clear answer why.

The severe adverse events linked to Butantan-DV thus raise many questions. Is Butantan-DV really functionally tetravalent? Is there a possibility of viral interference compromising its functionality? Could ADE be responsible for the deaths?

There was also a lacuna in the vaccine efficacy data collected in the phase 3 trials. Reports in January 2024, November 2024, and March 2026 indicated that Butantan-DV's efficacy against DENV-3 and DENV-4 is unknown as these serotypes were not prevalent in Brazil at the time of the trials.

Panacea Biotec's DengiAll phase 3 trials, together with the Indian Council of Medical Research, completed its enrollment target of 10,335 healthy volunteers in January this year. The trial began in August 2024; its participants will be followed for two years post-vaccination. Once all the data have been analysed, the company will approach the drug regulator for market approval.

There is no solid reason to deny that DengiAll may not face the potentially fatal issues that have come up with Butantan-DV. However, India can take some proactive actions ahead of DengiAll's rollout. First, Panacea must analyse a representative subset of sera from vaccinated volunteers for type-specific antibodies against all four serotypes. And the regulator must ensure such data are available and rules out the risk of ADE.

Once DengiAll is launched, the regulator must implement a robust pharmacovigilance programme for an extended duration to check for viruses, antibodies, and other parameters

Next, once DengiAll is launched, the regulator must implement a robust pharmacovigilance programme for an extended duration. Vaccine recipients must be clinically monitored periodically and their blood must be collected at regular intervals to check for viruses, antibodies, and other parameters to implement remedial measures quickly. Continuous real-world monitoring is key to identifying rare or long-term adverse events.

The ADE concerns also apply to another tetravalent dengue vaccine, Qdenga, which is also a physical mix of four weakened versions of the DENV serotypes. Japan-based Takeda markets it and its India approval is imminent.

Brazilian authorities have stressed that the 42 cases of severe adverse events out of half-a-million vaccinated represent only 0.008%. There is no doubt it is a small risk at the population level. At the individual level, however, even one life lost to a severe adverse event is one too many.

(S. Swaminathan is retired professor of biology from BITS Pilani-Hyderabad and a former scientist in the area of dengue vaccinology at ICGEB, New Delhi. ssn225@gmail.com)

This photograph taken on January 29 shows chief scientific officer Syed Khalid Ali explaining the development of the DengiAll vaccine's clinical sample at Panacea Biotec, a pharmaceutical company in New Delhi. AFP

THE GIST

- The dengue vaccine in Brazil, Butantan-DV, is pretty similar, if not identical, to India's upcoming dengue vaccine, DengiAll. Both have live but weakened versions of the dengue viruses (DENVs)
- Both vaccines are said to be tetravalent because each vaccine is a physical mixture of four live, weakened DENVs
- In Brazil's dengue vaccination campaign, of 42 vaccine recipients who displayed serious side-effects, two people died and one had to receive intensive care
- Medical researchers should look into whether this could be due to antibody-dependent enhancement. They should also clarify if DengiAll will manifest a similar risk when it is rolled out in India

15J6. Deaths in Brazil raise concerns about India's dengue vaccine, DengiAll
ब्राज़ील में हुई मौतों ने भारत के डेंगू टीके, डेंगीऑल, को लेकर चिंताएँ बढ़ा दी हैं

- This is because the dengue vaccine in Brazil, **Butantan-DV**, is pretty similar, if not identical, to India's upcoming dengue vaccine, **DengiAll**.
  ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि ब्राज़ील का **Butantan-DV** डेंगू टीका, यदि पूर्णतः समान नहीं भी है, तो भी भारत के आगामी डेंगू टीके **DengiAll** से काफी हद तक मिलता-जुलता है।
- Both have live but weakened (**attenuated**) versions of the dengue viruses (**DENVs**).
  दोनों में डेंगू वायरस (**DENVs**) के जीवित लेकिन कमजोर (**attenuated**) रूप सम्मिलित हैं।
- And both vaccines are said to be **tetravalent** because each vaccine is a physical mixture of four live, weakened DENVs.
  और दोनों टीकों को **टेट्रावैलेंट (tetravalent)** कहा जाता है क्योंकि प्रत्येक टीका चार जीवित एवं कमजोर किए गए DENVs के भौतिक मिश्रण से बना है।

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- DENVs come in four versions called **serotypes**: **DENV-1, -2, -3 and -4**.
  DENVs के चार प्रकार होते हैं जिन्हें **सीरोटाइप (serotypes)** कहा जाता है: **DENV-1, DENV-2, DENV-3 और DENV-4**।
- All four serotypes are known to be prevalent in Brazil and India.
  ये चारों सीरोटाइप **ब्राज़ील** और **भारत** में प्रचलित पाए जाते हैं।
- Each DENV serotype has an outer shell adorned with specialised **envelope proteins**, called **E proteins** — akin to the **spike protein** of coronaviruses.
  प्रत्येक DENV सीरोटाइप की बाहरी सतह पर विशेष प्रकार के **एनवेलप प्रोटीन (envelope proteins)** होते हैं, जिन्हें **E प्रोटीन** कहा जाता है — जो कोरोनावायरस के **स्पाइक प्रोटीन** के समान होते हैं।
- Even though the four DENV serotypes are very similar, their **E proteins** are different enough to warrant immunisation against each of the four serotypes.
  यद्यपि चारों DENV सीरोटाइप बहुत समान हैं, फिर भी उनके **E प्रोटीन** इतने भिन्न हैं कि प्रत्येक सीरोटाइप के विरुद्ध अलग-अलग प्रतिरक्षण आवश्यक हो जाता है।
- When weakened DENV is used in a vaccine, it will prompt two broad types of **antibodies**: **type-specific antibodies** and **cross-reactive antibodies**.
  जब कमजोर किए गए DENV का उपयोग टीके में किया जाता है, तब यह दो व्यापक प्रकार की **प्रतिरक्षी (antibodies)** उत्पन्न करता है: **प्रकार-विशिष्ट प्रतिरक्षी (type-specific antibodies)** तथा **क्रॉस-रिएक्टिव प्रतिरक्षी (cross-reactive antibodies)**।
- This phenomenon is called **antibody-dependent enhancement (ADE)**.
  इस घटना को **एंटीबॉडी-निर्भर संवर्धन (Antibody-Dependent Enhancement - ADE)** कहा जाता है।
- The risk of **ADE** during dengue vaccination is considered a serious adverse event.
  डेंगू टीकाकरण के दौरान **ADE** का जोखिम एक गंभीर प्रतिकूल घटना माना जाता है।
- These side-effects included severe abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, and bleeding, none of which the **phase 3 clinical trials** revealed.
  इन दुष्प्रभावों में गंभीर पेट दर्द, लगातार उल्टी तथा रक्तस्राव शामिल थे, जिनमें से किसी का भी उल्लेख **फेज-3 क्लिनिकल परीक्षणों (Phase 3 Clinical Trials)** में नहीं हुआ था।
- These signs are reminiscent of the symptoms of **severe dengue**.
  ये लक्षण **गंभीर डेंगू (severe dengue)** के लक्षणों से मिलते-जुलते हैं।
- **Butantan-DV and DengiAll are both based on a technology developed at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH).**
  Butantan-DV और **DengiAll** दोनों ही **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य संस्थान (U.S. National Institutes of Health - NIH)** द्वारा विकसित प्रौद्योगिकी पर आधारित हैं।
- Over many years, scientists weakened each DENV serotype to make **monovalent vaccines**, assessed each one for its capacity to induce an immune response without causing disease, and finally mixed all four monovalent vaccine viruses to generate **tetravalent vaccines**.
  कई वर्षों में वैज्ञानिकों ने प्रत्येक DENV सीरोटाइप को कमजोर करके **मोनोवैलेंट टीके (monovalent vaccines)** विकसित किए, रोग उत्पन्न किए बिना प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रिया उत्पन्न करने की उनकी क्षमता का मूल्यांकन किया, और अंततः चारों मोनोवैलेंट टीका-वायरसों को मिलाकर **टेट्रावैलेंट टीके (tetravalent vaccines)** तैयार किए।
- A little over a decade ago, **Sanofi Pasteur** developed the first **tetravalent dengue vaccine** to be licensed.
  लगभग एक दशक से कुछ अधिक समय पहले, **Sanofi Pasteur** ने लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने वाला पहला **टेट्रावैलेंट डेंगू टीका** विकसित किया था।
- It differed from the **NIH's vaccines** because the four weakened serotypes were hybrid viruses, each covered on its surface with the **E protein** of one of the DENV serotypes (plus another protein).
  यह **NIH** के टीकों से भिन्न था क्योंकि इसके चारों कमजोर किए गए सीरोटाइप संकर (hybrid) वायरस थे, जिनकी सतह पर DENV सीरोटाइपों में से किसी एक का **E प्रोटीन** (तथा एक अन्य प्रोटीन) उपस्थित था।

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- This shot, called **Dengvaxia**, was given to more than **8 lakh children** in the **Philippines**, a dengue-endemic country like Brazil and India.
  Dengvaxia नामक यह टीका **फिलीपींस** में, जो ब्राज़ील और भारत की तरह डेंगू-प्रभावित देश है, **8 लाख से अधिक बच्चों** को दिया गया था।
- Severe adverse events occurred three years after vaccination.
  टीकाकरण के तीन वर्ष बाद गंभीर प्रतिकूल घटनाएँ सामने आईं।
- Further study revealed **Dengvaxia** worked like a **monovalent vaccine**, provoking antibodies to only **DENV-4**.
  आगे के अध्ययन से पता चला कि **Dengvaxia** एक **मोनोवैलेंट टीके** की तरह कार्य करता था और केवल **DENV-4** के विरुद्ध प्रतिरक्षी उत्पन्न करता था।
- **Continuous real-world monitoring** is key to identifying rare or long-term adverse events.
  निरंतर वास्तविक-परिस्थिति निगरानी (Continuous Real-World Monitoring) दुर्लभ अथवा दीर्घकालिक प्रतिकूल घटनाओं की पहचान के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The **ADE concerns** also apply to another **tetravalent dengue vaccine, Qdenga**, which is also a physical mix of four weakened versions of the DENV serotypes.
  ADE संबंधी चिंताएँ एक अन्य **टेट्रावैलेंट डेंगू टीके, Qdenga**, पर भी लागू होती हैं, जो DENV सीरोटाइपों के चार कमजोर रूपों का भौतिक मिश्रण है।
- **Japan-based Takeda** markets it and its India approval is imminent.
  जापान स्थित Takeda इसका विपणन करती है और भारत में इसकी स्वीकृति शीघ्र मिलने की संभावना है।

The giant world of fungi

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

A new study published in *Science* has reported the first global map of the earth's vast underground network of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi.

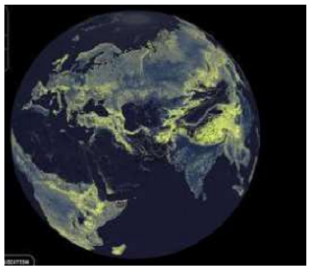
These fungi have sustained plant life for millions of years but their scale and distribution has been largely invisible until now.

Using machine learning and data from more than 16,000 soil cores, an international research team has revealed that topsoils around the world contain some 110 quadrillion km of fungal hyphae — a distance equal to nearly a billion trips from the earth to the sun.

The AM networks also weigh around 300 million tonnes of carbon, which is four- to six-times the weight of the entire human population.

By forming symbiotic relationships with 70% of plant species, trading nutrients for carbon, the AM networks sequester an estimated 4 billion tonnes of CO_2-equivalent a year, or roughly 11% of all human-related carbon emissions.

The study also identified biodiversity hotspots and threats to them. Grassland ecosystems like those in South Sudan, the Tibetan plateau, and India's Banni grasslands house 40% of the world's AM fungal networks. However, the study warned that cropland typically has a 50% lower fungal density relative to wild ecosystems, and because grasslands are being converted to farms four-times faster than forests, these ecosystems are at extreme risk.



A global map of the density of AM fungi. TRUTH & BEAUTY/MORITZ STEFANER JUSTIN STEWART, SPUN

By quantifying the extent of this "living infrastructure", as the Society for the Protection of Underground Networks put it, the work hopes to move fungi from the periphery of environmental policy to the centre of climate action.

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

15J6. The giant world of fungi

कवकों (फंगी) की विशाल दुनिया

- **A new study published in Science has reported the first global map of the earth's vast underground network of arbuscular mycorrhizal (AM) fungi.**

Science पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन ने पृथ्वी के विशाल भूमिगत **आर्बस्क्युलर माइकोराइज़ल (AM) कवकों** के नेटवर्क का पहला वैश्विक मानचित्र प्रस्तुत किया है।

- These fungi have sustained plant life for millions of years but their scale and distribution has been largely invisible until now.

ये कवक लाखों वर्षों से पौधों के जीवन को सहारा देते रहे हैं, किंतु इनका विस्तार और वितरण अब तक काफी हद तक अदृश्य रहा है।

- Using **machine learning** and data from more than **16,000 soil cores**, an international research team has revealed that topsoils around the world contain some **110 quadrillion km of fungal hyphae** — a distance equal to nearly a billion trips from the earth to the sun.

मशीन लर्निंग तथा **16,000 से अधिक मृदा नमूनों (soil cores)** के आंकड़ों का उपयोग करते हुए एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध दल ने खुलासा किया है कि विश्वभर की ऊपरी मिट्टी में लगभग **110 क्वाड्रिलियन किलोमीटर फंगल हाइफी (fungal hyphae)** मौजूद हैं — यह दूरी पृथ्वी से सूर्य तक लगभग एक अरब यात्राओं के बराबर है।

- The **AM networks** also weigh around **300 million tonnes of carbon**, which is four- to six-times the weight of the entire human population.

AM नेटवर्क में लगभग **300 मिलियन टन कार्बन** मौजूद है, जो संपूर्ण मानव आबादी के कुल भार से चार से छह गुना अधिक है।

- By forming **symbiotic relationships** with **70% of plant species**, trading nutrients for carbon, the **AM networks** sequester an estimated **4 billion tonnes of CO2-equivalent a year**, or roughly **11% of all human-related carbon emissions**.
  70% पौधों की प्रजातियों के साथ **सहजीवी संबंध (symbiotic relationships)** स्थापित करके तथा पोषक तत्वों के बदले कार्बन प्राप्त करके, **AM नेटवर्क** प्रतिवर्ष अनुमानित **4 अरब टन CO2-समतुल्य** कार्बन का अवशोषण करते हैं, जो मानव-जनित कुल कार्बन उत्सर्जन का लगभग **11%** है।
- The study also identified **biodiversity hotspots** and threats to them.
  अध्ययन ने **जैव विविधता हॉटस्पॉट्स (biodiversity hotspots)** तथा उनके समक्ष उपस्थित खतरों की भी पहचान की है।
- **Grassland ecosystems** like those in **South Sudan**, the **Tibetan plateau**, and India's **Banni grasslands** house **40% of the world's AM fungal networks**.
  दक्षिण सूडान, **तिब्बती पठार (Tibetan Plateau)** तथा भारत के **बन्नी घासस्थल (Banni Grasslands)** जैसे **घासस्थलीय पारितंत्र (grassland ecosystems)** विश्व के **40% AM फंगल नेटवर्क** को आश्रय प्रदान करते हैं।
- However, the study warned that **cropland** typically has a **50% lower fungal density** relative to wild ecosystems, and because grasslands are being converted to farms **four-times faster than forests**, these ecosystems are at extreme risk.
  हालाँकि, अध्ययन ने चेतावनी दी है कि **कृषि भूमि (cropland)** में सामान्यतः प्राकृतिक पारितंत्रों की तुलना में **50% कम फंगल घनत्व** पाया जाता है, और क्योंकि घासस्थलों को वनों की तुलना में **चार गुना अधिक तीव्र गति से कृषि भूमि में परिवर्तित** किया जा रहा है, इसलिए ये पारितंत्र अत्यधिक जोखिम में हैं।
- By quantifying the extent of this **"living infrastructure"**, as the **Society for the Protection of Underground Networks** put it, the work hopes to move fungi from the periphery of environmental policy to the centre of climate action.
  Society for the Protection of Underground Networks द्वारा वर्णित इस **"जीवित अवसंरचना (living infrastructure)"** के विस्तार का परिमाणीकरण करके, यह अध्ययन कवकों को पर्यावरणीय नीति के हाशिये से निकालकर **जलवायु कार्रवाई (climate action)** के केंद्र में लाने की आशा करता है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	15 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
15J6	CISF trains 7,120 personnel in counter-drone operations post-Operation Sindoor ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद सीआईएसएफ ने 7,120 कर्मियों को ड्रोन-रोधी अभियानों का प्रशिक्षण दिया
15J6	Can India protect its seafarers in the Gulf? क्या भारत खाड़ी क्षेत्र में अपने नाविकों (सीफेरर्स) की सुरक्षा कर सकता है?
15J6	China's ability to launch direct missile strikes on Australia 'growing': report ऑस्ट्रेलिया पर सीधे मिसाइल हमले करने की चीन की क्षमता बढ़ रही है: रिपोर्ट

CISF trains 7,120 personnel in counter-drone operations post-Operation Sindoor

GS III: Internal Security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A year after Operation Sindoor, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has trained over 7,000 personnel in drone and counter-drone operations, a CISF official said.

The training in conjunction with the Indian Air Force (IAF) was initiated amid the growing threat from unauthorised Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

The official said the CISF had been tasked with auditing the security of critical installations such as nuclear power plants and thermal power plants among others.

"It is imperative that the CISF personnel posted at vital installations are aware about the emerging threat scenario from UAVs. They should know how to identify and disable such flying objects. The training is going on an intensive scale," said the official.

The training in conjunction was initiated amid the threat from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

A barrage of attacks by drones along the Pakistan border were thwarted by security forces in May 2025 after Operation Sindoor. So far, the CISF had trained 7,120 personnel in drone and counter-drone operations, which covered piloting the drones, aerial surveillance, mapping, and neutralisation of hostile drones. The CISF was also in the process of establishing dedicated Drone Training Schools in Hyderabad, Bhilai and Behror, with advanced academic programmes planned alongside the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune.

While combating terror and cyberthreats, the CISF continued to be a crucial first responder for industrial disasters, the official said. Its dedicated Fire Wing successfully saving property worth ₹172.55 crore.

Acting on the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) directives, the CISF recently trained 450 State Fire Services personnel from 187 cities in advanced industrial firefighting and disaster management at its Fire Services Training Institute, Hyderabad.

15J6. CISF trains 7,120 personnel in counter-drone operations post-Operation Sindoor ऑपरेशन सिंदूर के बाद सीआईएसएफ ने 7,120 कर्मियों को ड्रोन-रोधी अभियानों का प्रशिक्षण दिया

- The official said the CISF had been tasked with auditing the security of critical installations such as nuclear power plants and thermal power plants among others.

अधिकारी ने बताया कि **केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल** को परमाणु ऊर्जा संयंत्रों, तापीय विद्युत संयंत्रों तथा अन्य महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों की सुरक्षा का आकलन करने का दायित्व सौंपा गया है।

- "It is imperative that the CISF personnel posted at vital installations are aware about the emerging threat scenario from UAVs."

उन्होंने कहा कि महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों पर तैनात **केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल** के कर्मियों के लिए मानवरहित हवाई वाहनों से उत्पन्न हो रहे नए खतरों की जानकारी होना अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

- The CISF was also in the process of establishing dedicated **Drone Training Schools** in **Hyderabad, Bhilai and Behror**, with advanced academic programmes planned alongside the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur** and the **Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune**.

केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल हैदराबाद, भिलाई और बहरोड़ में विशेष **ड्रोन प्रशिक्षण विद्यालयों** की स्थापना की प्रक्रिया में भी है, जहाँ **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कानपुर** तथा **रक्षा उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, पुणे** के सहयोग से उन्नत शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रम संचालित किए जाने की योजना है।

- While combating terror and cyber threats, the CISF continued to be a crucial first responder for industrial disasters, the official said.

अधिकारी ने कहा कि आतंकवाद और साइबर खतरों से निपटने के साथ-साथ **केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल** औद्योगिक आपदाओं में भी एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रथम प्रतिक्रिया बल के रूप में कार्य करता रहा है।

- Its dedicated **Fire Wing** successfully saving property worth **₹172.55 crore**.

इसके विशेष **अग्निशमन प्रकोष्ठ** ने सफलतापूर्वक **172.55 करोड़ रुपये** मूल्य की संपत्ति को बचाया।

- Acting on the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** directives, the CISF recently trained **450 State Fire Services personnel** from **187 cities** in advanced industrial firefighting and disaster management at its **Fire Services Training Institute, Hyderabad**.

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गृह मंत्रालय के निर्देशों के अनुसार **केंद्रीय औद्योगिक सुरक्षा बल** ने हाल ही में **187 शहरों** के **450 राज्य अग्निशमन सेवा कर्मियों** को **हैदराबाद स्थित अग्निशमन सेवा प्रशिक्षण संस्थान** में उन्नत औद्योगिक अग्निशमन तथा आपदा प्रबंधन का प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया।

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Can India protect its seafarers in Gulf?

How many Indian seafarers are working in the Gulf region? What happened to the three vessels attacked by the U.S. Navy? What sanctions were imposed on some ships? Does the foreign-flag status of the vessels limit India's options? Do international maritime laws protect civilian crews?

GS III: Internal Security

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

On June 12, after India summoned U.S. Embassy representative Jason Meeks and lodged its "strong protest" against U.S. missile attacks on merchant vessels carrying Indian crew members, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio told External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar that violations of the American blockade and "illicit transport of Iranian oil" would not be tolerated. Recalling his discussion with Mr. Rubio, Mr. Jaishankar posted on X: "I reiterated India's strong protest at the attacks by the U.S. Navy in the Gulf that killed three Indian mariners. Such lethal actions against commercial shipping are not justified."

How many Indians are working on merchant vessels globally?

There are an estimated 3.5 lakh Indian seafarers manning ships across the world. The Indian government estimates that more than half of them are in active service, mostly in foreign-flagged ships.

This means one in every six seafarers serving on large merchant ships worldwide is Indian. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) estimates that some 20,000 seafarers of all nationalities are stranded on ships in the Persian Gulf region. The DG Shipping of India estimated at the start of the crisis that some 23,000 Indian seafarers are serving in the broader Gulf region in various capacities and facilities, with the UAE accounting for more than half.

What happened to the three vessels targeted by the U.S.?

On June 8, 10, and 11, the U.S. Navy fired precision munitions – Hellfire missiles – on merchant vessels *Marivex*, *Settebello*, and *Jalveer*. The three were tankers carrying Indian crew. While no one was hurt in the case of *Marivex* and *Jalveer*, three Indian seafarers – one chief engineer, one engine fitter, and one deck cadet – died onboard *Settebello*. While *Marivex* was attacked off the coast of Duqm, some 400 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, the others were attacked off the coast of Shinas in Oman, which is closer to the strait.

Videos put out by the United States Central Command (Centcom) show the engine rooms of the ships being hit as well as the steering compartments. These attacks damaged the vessels above the waterline, so water didn't rush in to sink them. But their ability to move and manoeuvre on their own was lost.

In its press releases, the U.S. Centcom has said the crew of *Settebello* and *Marivex* refused to comply with instructions and all of them violated the blockade by attempting to transport Iranian oil. *Marivex* attempted to sail to an Iranian port, it claimed.

While the *Marivex* crew is reported to have informed seafarers' unions that their ship was at anchor while attacked, *Settebello*'s manager, IOS Marine FZE, a firm registered in Ajman, has flatly contradicted the U.S. The company has said *Settebello* was stationary for nearly 10 days in the region. It said the ship had no communication from the U.S. Navy and had no connection with Iranian oil or ports.

What sanctions were imposed on these ships?

Marivex was sanctioned by the U.S. in December 2025 for Iranian connections. *Settebello* had been flagged by a U.S. non-profit advocacy organisation, United Against Nuclear Iran, for alleged Iranian links. U.S. sanctions are not binding on any other country besides the U.S., although the U.S. Treasury Department's sanctions make it difficult for the companies associated with the concerned ship to access the financial system and other business transactions. Quite often, sanctioned ships lose insurance cover, without which ports will not accept calls by the ships, and charterers will refuse to handle cargo through them.

There have been reports of non-compliance of these ships with some maritime regulations. Typically, such violations, not uncommon in merchant shipping, relate to safety aspects. And ships are typically given time to remedy them before the consequences of losing insurance cover can kick in.

Does the foreign-flag status of the vessels limit India's options?

They all carried foreign flags of convenience (FOCs) but had deep Indian links, including in ownership and management. In merchant shipping, ships are often registered in little-known nations with no infrastructure to rigorously supervise and monitor ships. Popular FOCs include Panama, Marshall Islands, Liberia, and Guinea-Bissau. Such FOCs are also popular among ships transporting Russian and Iranian oil.

Yes, technically, an Indian flagged ship will provide legal sanction for possible action. The U.S., during the Iran-Iraq war, ordered many ships to change their flag to the U.S. so it could legally escort the ships in and out of the Strait of Hormuz. But the Indian Navy has acted against Houthis and Somalian pirates to help Indian seafarers onboard foreign-flagged ships.

Further, *Marivex* and *Jalveer* were often serving Indian ports, facilitating India's enormous oil needs. Soon after the ceasefire was announced in early April, *Marivex* headed out of the Strait of Hormuz to call on Mangalore. *Jalveer* is a bitumen carrier – a special type of ship that carries tar-bitumen, popular in laying Indian roads.

Were other options available for the U.S.?

In the last week of April, the U.S. Navy boarded *Tifani*, a sanctioned very large crude carrier in the Indian Ocean past Sri Lanka. The ship had an Indian crew.

This week, U.K. forces boarded *Smyrtos* on the English Channel for its alleged links to drug cartels, Russian oil, and so on.

Merchant ships are defenceless. Typically, merchant ships have wireless channels open for communication with nearby vessels and any instructions from governments and Navies and Coast Guard vessels are immediately complied with. Seafarers are trained to protect crew, cargo and the ship.

Somalian pirates coming in small craft and carrying firearms could easily board and seize massive oil tankers. The only evasive action ships have against attackers is a high-pressure water jet they can direct at them.

What can India do to protect Indian seafarers in the region?

India did launch Operation Sankalp to protect merchant ships against Houthi attacks. Indian Navy and Coast Guard intervened to protect four merchant ships in 2024. India did take action against Somalian pirates. But the belligerents in the Persian Gulf are the U.S. and Iran. Therefore, India's options are rather limited.

Does international maritime law adequately protect civilian crews?

The nodal agency for regulating global shipping is the IMO, a United Nations agency. Though the IMO has the means to regulate the technical, commercial, environmental and safety aspects of global shipping through consensus and rulemaking, it has often fallen short in protecting ships and seafarers. Quite often, national governments take unilateral action, and typical of an UN agency, the IMO has been unable to act to prevent or take remedial action.

The law governing the oceans is the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Its acts and mandates are extensive and are an outcome of decades of negotiations and consensus-building. UNCLOS is thorough and considers various situations, including transits across straits such as the Hormuz. But many nations have not signed on to it. The U.S. refused to sign it on the grounds that UNCLOS considers the deep seabed as the commons. Iran has signed the convention but has not ratified it. There really is no overarching body for enforcement. Things are often left to the good sense of governments.

The Palau-flagged tanker *MT Settebello*, carrying 24 Indian seafarers, was attacked by U.S. forces off the coast of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz. Three Indian crew members were killed in the strike. ANI

Kamlawati Devi, mother of one of three Indian seafarers killed aboard the tanker *MT Settebello*, mourns at her home in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh, on June 12. REUTERS

THE GIST

- India has protested U.S. missile attacks on three merchant vessels carrying Indian crew in the Gulf, in which three Indian seafarers aboard *Settebello* were killed.
- The U.S. says the vessels violated its blockade and were involved in transporting Iranian oil, but ship operators have disputed these claims and said some of the vessels were stationary when attacked.
- With about 23,000 Indian seafarers in the Gulf region, India has limited options because the vessels were foreign-flagged, while international maritime bodies and laws have limited enforcement powers in such situations.

15J6. Can India protect its seafarers in the Gulf?
क्या भारत खाड़ी क्षेत्र में अपने नाविकों (सीफेरर्स) की सुरक्षा कर सकता है?

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- There are an estimated **3.5 lakh Indian seafarers** manning ships across the world.
  अनुमानतः **3.5 लाख भारतीय नाविक** विश्वभर के जहाज़ों पर कार्यरत हैं।
- This means one in every six seafarers serving on large merchant ships worldwide is Indian.
  इसका अर्थ है कि विश्व के बड़े व्यापारिक जहाज़ों पर कार्यरत प्रत्येक छह नाविकों में से एक भारतीय है।
- The International Maritime Organization estimates that some **20,000 seafarers** of all nationalities are stranded on ships in the Persian Gulf region.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन के अनुसार विभिन्न देशों के लगभग **20,000 नाविक** फ़ारस की खाड़ी क्षेत्र में जहाज़ों पर फँसे हुए हैं।

What happened to the three vessels targeted by the U.S.?
अमेरिका द्वारा निशाना बनाए गए तीन जहाज़ों के साथ क्या हुआ?

- On June 8, 10, and 11, the U.S. Navy fired precision munitions — Hellfire missiles — on merchant vessels **Marivex, Settebello, and Jalveer**.
  8, 10 और 11 जून को अमेरिकी नौसेना ने **मारीवेक्स, सेटेबेलो और जलवीर** नामक व्यापारिक जहाज़ों पर सटीक प्रहार करने वाली **हेलफायर मिसाइलों** का उपयोग किया।
- The three were tankers carrying Indian crew.
  ये तीनों भारतीय चालक दल वाले टैंकर जहाज़ थे।
- While no one was hurt in the case of Marivex and Jalveer, three Indian seafarers — one chief engineer, one engine fitter, and one deck cadet — died onboard Settebello.
  मारीवेक्स और **जलवीर** में कोई हताहत नहीं हुआ, किन्तु **सेटेबेलो** पर तीन भारतीय नाविकों — एक मुख्य अभियंता, एक इंजन फिटर और एक डेक कैडेट — की मृत्यु हो गई।
- While Marivex was attacked off the coast of Duqm, some 400 nautical miles from the Strait of Hormuz, the others were attacked off the coast of Shinas in Oman, which is closer to the strait.
  मारीवेक्स पर हमला **दुक्म** तट के निकट, **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से लगभग 400 समुद्री मील दूर हुआ, जबकि अन्य दोनों जहाज़ों पर **ओमान** के **शिनास** तट के पास हमला किया गया, जो जलडमरूमध्य के अधिक निकट है।
- In its press releases, the U.S. Central Command has said the crew of Settebello and Marivex refused to comply with instructions and all of them violated the blockade by attempting to transport Iranian oil.
  अपने आधिकारिक वक्तव्यों में अमेरिकी केंद्रीय सैन्य कमान ने कहा कि **सेटेबेलो** और **मारीवेक्स** के चालक दल ने निर्देशों का पालन करने से इनकार किया तथा सभी ने ईरानी तेल के परिवहन का प्रयास करके नाकाबंदी का उल्लंघन किया।
- Quite often, sanctioned ships lose insurance cover, without which ports will not accept calls by the ships, and charterers will refuse to handle cargo through them.
  अक्सर प्रतिबंधित जहाज़ अपना बीमा संरक्षण खो देते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में बंदरगाह उन्हें प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं देते और माल परिवहन कराने वाले पक्ष उनके माध्यम से माल ढुलाई से इनकार कर देते हैं।
- Popular flags of convenience include **Panama, Marshall Islands, Liberia, and Guinea-Bissau**.
  प्रचलित **सुविधाजनक ध्वजों** में **पनामा, मार्शल द्वीप, लाइबेरिया और गिनी-बिसाऊ** शामिल हैं।
- Such flags are also popular among ships transporting Russian and Iranian oil.
  रूसी और ईरानी तेल का परिवहन करने वाले जहाज़ भी प्रायः ऐसे ध्वजों का उपयोग करते हैं।
- Yes, technically, an Indian-flagged ship will provide legal sanction for possible action.
  हाँ, तकनीकी रूप से भारतीय ध्वज वाला जहाज़ भारत को संभावित कार्रवाई के लिए अधिक स्पष्ट कानूनी आधार प्रदान करता है।
- Jalveer is a bitumen carrier — a special type of ship that carries tar-bitumen, popular in laying Indian roads.
  जलवीर एक बिटुमेन वाहक जहाज़ है, जो सड़क निर्माण में प्रयुक्त तारकोल-बिटुमेन का परिवहन करता है।

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- Typically, merchant ships have wireless channels open for communication with nearby vessels and any instructions from governments and Navies and Coast Guard vessels are immediately complied with.
  सामान्यतः व्यापारिक जहाज़ों के संचार माध्यम खुले रहते हैं और सरकारों, नौसेनाओं तथा तटरक्षक बलों द्वारा दिए गए निर्देशों का तत्काल पालन किया जाता है।

- India did launch **Operation Sankalp** to protect merchant ships against Houthi attacks.
  भारत ने हूती हमलों से व्यापारिक जहाज़ों की सुरक्षा के लिए **ऑपरेशन संकल्प** प्रारम्भ किया था।

Does international maritime law adequately protect civilian crews?
क्या अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री कानून नागरिक चालक दलों को पर्याप्त सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है?

- The nodal agency for regulating global shipping is the **International Maritime Organization**, a United Nations agency.
  वैश्विक नौवहन को विनियमित करने वाली प्रमुख संस्था **अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्री संगठन** है, जो संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक एजेंसी है।
- Though the organization has the means to regulate the technical, commercial, environmental and safety aspects of global shipping through consensus and rulemaking, it has often fallen short in protecting ships and seafarers.
  यद्यपि इस संगठन के पास वैश्विक नौवहन के तकनीकी, वाणिज्यिक, पर्यावरणीय और सुरक्षा पहलुओं को विनियमित करने की क्षमता है, फिर भी जहाज़ों और नाविकों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में यह अनेक बार अपर्याप्त सिद्ध हुआ है।
- The law governing the oceans is the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**.
  महासागरों को नियंत्रित करने वाला प्रमुख विधिक ढाँचा **संयुक्त राष्ट्र समुद्री कानून अभिसमय** है।
- Its acts and mandates are extensive and are an outcome of decades of negotiations and consensus-building.
  इसके प्रावधान और अधिकार व्यापक हैं तथा दशकों की वार्ताओं और सहमति निर्माण का परिणाम हैं।
- The convention is thorough and considers various situations, including transits across straits such as the Hormuz.
  यह अभिसमय अत्यंत व्यापक है और **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** जैसे मार्गों से पारगमन सहित विभिन्न परिस्थितियों को समाहित करता है।
- But many nations have not signed on to it.
  किन्तु अनेक देशों ने इसे स्वीकार नहीं किया है।
- The U.S. refused to sign it on the grounds that the convention considers the deep seabed as the commons.
  अमेरिका ने यह कहते हुए इस अभिसमय पर हस्ताक्षर नहीं किए कि इसमें गहरे समुद्री तल को वैश्विक साझा संपत्ति माना गया है।
- Iran has signed the convention but has not ratified it.
  ईरान ने इस अभिसमय पर हस्ताक्षर तो किए हैं, किन्तु अभी तक उसका अनुमोदन नहीं किया है।
- There really is no overarching body for enforcement.
  वास्तव में इसके प्रभावी प्रवर्तन के लिए कोई सर्वव्यापी वैश्विक प्राधिकरण मौजूद नहीं है।
- Things are often left to the good sense of governments.
  अनेक मामलों में परिस्थितियाँ सरकारों के विवेक और जिम्मेदार आचरण पर ही निर्भर रह जाती हैं।

China's ability to launch direct missile strikes on Australia 'growing': report

GS III: Internal Security

Agence France-Presse

SYDNEY

China is capable of a direct missile strike on Australia and the threat is growing as Beijing amasses long-range and hypersonic weapons and builds islands in the South China Sea, an Australian think tank said on Sunday.

A Lowy Institute report found the main threat to Australia was from Chinese missiles fired from ships, submarines and a new intermediate-range ballistic missile that could reach the island continent from China.

On the watch: China test-fires an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean, at an undisclosed location. FILE PHOTO

China's capacity to strike Australia would grow over the next decade as "the Dong Feng (DF)-27 intermediate-range ballistic missile, and potentially a conventionally armed intercontinental ballistic missile, grow in service numbers", it said.

The DF-27 missile has a range of 5,000 to 8,000 kilometres, the U.S. military said in December.

"I think the growth of the People's Liberation Army is the most important thing to happen to Australian security since the collapse of the Soviet Union," said Sam Roggeveen, the director of the Lowy Institute's International Security Programme.

Australia reshaped its military strategy three years ago in response to China's rapid navy build-up, focusing on deterring an adversary from its northern approaches.

15J6. China's ability to launch direct missile strikes on Australia 'growing': report

ऑस्ट्रेलिया पर सीधे मिसाइल हमले करने की चीन की क्षमता बढ़ रही है: रिपोर्ट

- China's capacity to strike Australia would grow over the next decade as "the **Dong Feng (DF)-27** intermediate-range ballistic missile, and potentially a conventionally armed **intercontinental ballistic missile**, grow in service numbers", it said.
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि अगले दशक में ऑस्ट्रेलिया पर हमला करने की चीन की क्षमता बढ़ेगी क्योंकि **डोंग फेंग (DF)-27** मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल और संभावित रूप से पारंपरिक हथियारों से लैस **अंतरमहाद्वीपीय बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल** की संख्या सेवा में बढ़ेगी।
- The **DF-27 missile** has a range of **5,000 to 8,000 kilometres**, the U.S. military said in December.
  अमेरिकी सेना ने दिसंबर में कहा था कि **DF-27 मिसाइल** की मारक क्षमता **5,000 से 8,000 किलोमीटर** है।

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PATRIOTIC IAS

Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth named next Army Chief

PCS

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The government has appointed Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth, serving as the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, as the next Chief of the Army Staff with effect from the afternoon of June 30.

The present Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, retires from service the same day.

Lt. Gen. Seth assumed charge as the Vice-Chief of the Army Staff on April 1, 2026. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Lt. Gen. Seth was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in 1986. Over a distinguished career spanning nearly four decades, he has served in a variety of operational environments, including extensive counter-insurgency assignments.

Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth

The officer has commanded an armoured regiment in the desert sector, an armoured brigade, and a counter-insurgency force in Jammu and Kashmir. As a Lieutenant-General, he commanded the prestigious Sudarshan Chakra Corps and later served as the General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area.

14J6. Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth named next Army Chief

लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल धीरज सेठ अगले सेना प्रमुख नियुक्त

- The government has appointed **Lieutenant-General Dhiraj Seth**, serving as the **Vice-Chief of the Army Staff**, as the next **Chief of the Army Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **June 30**.

सरकार ने **लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल धीरज सेठ**, जो वर्तमान में **उप सेना प्रमुख** के रूप में कार्यरत हैं, को **30 जून** की दोपहर से प्रभावी अगले **सेना प्रमुख** के रूप में नियुक्त किया है।

- The present **Chief of the Army Staff**, **General Upendra Dwivedi**, retires from service the same day.

वर्तमान **सेना प्रमुख**, **जनरल उपेंद्र द्विवेदी**, उसी दिन सेवा से सेवानिवृत्त हो जाएंगे।

- As a **Lieutenant-General**, he commanded the Sudarshan **Chakra Corps** and later served as the **General Officer Commanding, Delhi Area**.

लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल के रूप में उन्होंने प्रतिष्ठित **सुदर्शन चक्र कोर** की कमान संभाली और बाद में **दिल्ली क्षेत्र के जनरल ऑफिसर कमांडिंग** के रूप में कार्य किया।

PATRIOTIC IAS

The house of cards

FIFA

The governing body of the 'beautiful game', long dogged by allegations of corruption and abuse of power, now faces criticism for its muted response to U.S. immigration authorities denying entry to fans, officials, and team personnel

N. Sudarshan

REUTERS

The Federation Internationale de Football Association, known worldwide by its acronym FIFA, is the most powerful sports body outside the International Olympic Committee. It is the global custodian of football – popularly called 'the beautiful game' – and conducts the World Cup, the most prestigious single-sport competition in the universe.

What started in 1930 as a 13-team tournament has now grown into a behemoth. The ongoing edition in the U.S., Canada and Mexico is the 23rd World Cup, and features a record 48 teams and 104 matches.

Founded in 1904 in Paris, FIFA started with seven members – France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain. Its original mandate was to bring structure to the international game, organise fixtures, and agree on a common set of rules.

The British associations in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, which predated FIFA and had already set in place organised football in their territories, joined FIFA starting in 1905. Though the equation was stormy in the initial decades – with the First World War and disputes over monetary compensation for amateur players competing at the Olympics leading to the British associations' withdrawal on multiple occasions – it stabilised after the Second World War and has remained so until now.

After Jules Rimet took over as president in 1921, FIFA was in charge of football at the Olympics for the first time at Paris 1924. The success of that, and of the event four years later in Amsterdam, prompted FIFA to think of a tournament of its own.

The inaugural World Cup was born in 1930 and was held in Uruguay, the nation which won the Olympic golds in 1924 and 1928. The in-form team, unsurprisingly, also became the first world champion. Since then, such has FIFA's growth been that it now has 211 members, more than the UN. At its core, it is a non-profit organisation that "oversees and promotes the development of football at every level". But it is also among the richest bodies. At the end of 2025, FIFA's reserves, according to its own financial report, amounted to $2.69 billion. Cape Verde, which is competing in North America this summer and is the third-smallest nation ever to qualify (population less than six lakhs), has reserves of $0.78 bn (data from 2024).

Generous powers

Understandably, the FIFA president, who sits atop this edifice, wields enormous power, and with a generous term limit of three four-year periods (consecutive or otherwise), he or she can take decisions that can have lasting consequences. Prior to 2016, term limits weren't enforced. In fact, for 41 years from 1974 to 2015, FIFA just had three presidents – Englishman Stanley Rous for more than 12 years, Brazil's Joao Havelange for a little over 24, and Swiss Sepp Blatter for more than 17.

Before that, Frenchman Rimet – whose name the World Cup trophy carried from 1950 to 1970 – was at the helm for 33 years (from March 1921 to June 1954). Current president Gianni Infantino has been the leading man since early 2016. It is this structure, which allows a FIFA president to turn the organisation into a personal fiefdom, that has given rise to most controversies. The bosses have never shied away from striking friendships with problematic political figures and authoritarian regimes in search of big capital.

FIFA, by virtue of being a non-profit, is duty-bound to redistribute its revenues to member nations. *Prima facie*, it's a democratic move, and even noble, considering that the money ensures the sport's survival and development in many countries. But this dole has often been weaponised in return for votes to keep the head in power for perpetuity. Every FIFA member, big or small, has a vote, and is directly involved in electing the president.

The 1934 World Cup was held in Benito Mussolini's Italy. The 1978 edition was conducted in Argentina, under dictator Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla's rule and Havelange's blessings. Rous was unwavering in his support for Apartheid South Africa while Blatter dangled the monetary carrot to the developing world to keep his throne for as long as he did.

It is ironic that Infantino would preside over a FIFA which has remained unchanged. He vaulted to power promising reforms after serious corruption charges related to the allotment of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups to Russia and Qatar, respectively, brought down Blatter's house of cards.

But he has since cultivated relationships with Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, and attracted a deal worth $1 billion from Saudi Arabia, the country which will host the 2034 World Cup. In 2019, he accepted the Russian Order of Friendship medal from Mr. Putin. Last December, his FIFA created the first-ever Peace Prize – literally out of nowhere – and awarded it to Mr. Trump.

Infantino has also moved to extend his term beyond the 12-year ceiling that was brought in at the Extraordinary FIFA Congress in early 2016 in the aftermath of the corruption scandal. The 56-year-old has said his first three years in office (2016-19) were from Blatter's unfinished term and hence would not stop him from being re-elected in 2027.

At the ongoing World Cup, FIFA has been heavily criticised for its cavalier attitude regarding American immigration authorities' arbitrary actions in denying entry to fans, match-officials and team personnel alike. Most notable was the rejection meted out to Somalian referee Omar Artan, the best men's referee from Africa in 2025.

Limits of influence

Infantino has defended FIFA by saying there are limits to how much the governing body can influence an individual country's immigration policies. But a decade ago, when Mr. Trump had signed an executive order banning immigration from six Muslim-majority countries, Infantino had declared that "there is no World Cup" if supporters and officials do not have access.

While increasing the number of teams in the World Cup to 48 will help enlarge the game's footprint, the FIFA Club World Cup bloating to a 32-team affair starting 2025 from a modest seven outfits earlier further entrenches FIFA's power. The competition, which has replaced the Confederations Cup as a World Cup preparatory event, ran for a month in the U.S. last summer, a slot otherwise reserved for players' rest and recuperation.

Reportedly, there is an urge to make it biennial, and the $85 million Chelsea received as prize money for winning in 2025 is a big enough perk for the participants to agree.

All of this highlights a fundamental conflict at the heart of FIFA's functioning. On the one hand, it is the guardian of the sport, defines laws, puts in place the rules and is expected to act impartially in disputes between its members. At the same time, it has tournaments to sell and a partially self-imposed obligation to generate revenue, forcing it to turn a blind eye when those like the U.S. err.

Can such a system, where the referee is also a player, stay true to the cause?

THE GIST

- Founded in 1904 in Paris, FI started with seven member France, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain
- After Jules Rimet took over president in 1921, FIFA was charge of football at the Olympics for the first time a Paris 1924. The success of t prompted FIFA to think of a tournament of its own
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14J6. The house of cards
ताश का महल

- The governing body of the **'beautiful game'**, long dogged by allegations of **corruption** and **abuse of power**, now faces criticism for its muted response to **U.S. immigration authorities** denying entry to fans, officials, and team personnel.
  'सुंदर खेल' (फुटबॉल) की शासी संस्था, जो लंबे समय से **भ्रष्टाचार** और **सत्ता के दुरुपयोग** के आरोपों से घिरी रही है, अब प्रशंसकों, अधिकारियों और टीम कर्मियों को प्रवेश देने से **अमेरिकी आव्रजन अधिकारियों** द्वारा इनकार किए जाने पर अपनी कमजोर प्रतिक्रिया के कारण आलोचना का सामना कर रही है।
- The **Federation Internationale de Football Association**, known worldwide by its acronym **FIFA**, is the most powerful sports body outside the **International Olympic Committee**.
  फेडरेशन इंटरनेशनल डे फुटबॉल एसोसिएशन, जिसे दुनिया भर में **फीफा (FIFA)** के नाम से जाना जाता है, **अंतरराष्ट्रीय ओलंपिक समिति** के बाहर सबसे शक्तिशाली खेल संस्था है।
- It is the global custodian of football — popularly called **'the beautiful game'** — and conducts the **World Cup**, the most prestigious single-sport competition in the universe.
  यह फुटबॉल का वैश्विक संरक्षक है — जिसे लोकप्रिय रूप से **'सुंदर खेल'** कहा जाता है — और **विश्व कप** का आयोजन करता है, जो दुनिया की सबसे प्रतिष्ठित एकल-खेल प्रतियोगिता है।
- What started in **1930** as a 13-team tournament has now grown into a behemoth.
  जो प्रतियोगिता **1930** में 13 टीमों के टूर्नामेंट के रूप में शुरू हुई थी, वह अब एक विशाल आयोजन बन चुकी है।
- The ongoing edition in the **U.S., Canada and Mexico** is the 23rd World Cup, and features a record **48 teams** and **104 matches**.

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अमेरिका, कनाडा और मेक्सिको में चल रहा वर्तमान संस्करण 23वाँ विश्व कप है, जिसमें रिकॉर्ड **48 टीमें** और **104 मैच** शामिल हैं।

- Founded in **1904** in **Paris**, FIFA started with seven members — **France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Spain**.
  1904 में **पेरिस** में स्थापित फीफा ने सात सदस्यों — **फ्रांस, बेल्जियम, डेनमार्क, नीदरलैंड, स्वीडन, स्विट्जरलैंड और स्पेन** — के साथ शुरुआत की थी।
- Its original mandate was to bring structure to the international game, organise fixtures, and agree on a common set of rules.
  इसका मूल उद्देश्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय खेल को संगठित रूप देना, मैचों का आयोजन करना और नियमों के एक साझा ढाँचे पर सहमति बनाना था।
- The British associations in **England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland**, which predated FIFA and had already set in place organised football in their territories, joined FIFA starting in **1905**.
  इंग्लैंड, स्कॉटलैंड, वेल्स और आयरलैंड के ब्रिटिश संघ, जो फीफा से पहले अस्तित्व में थे और अपने क्षेत्रों में संगठित फुटबॉल स्थापित कर चुके थे, **1905** से फीफा में शामिल होने लगे।
- Though the equation was stormy in the initial decades — with the **First World War** and disputes over monetary compensation for amateur players competing at the Olympics leading to the British associations' withdrawal on multiple occasions — it stabilised after the **Second World War** and has remained so until now.
  हालाँकि शुरुआती दशकों में संबंध तनावपूर्ण रहे — **प्रथम विश्व युद्ध** और ओलंपिक में खेलने वाले शौकिया खिलाड़ियों को आर्थिक मुआवजे को लेकर विवादों के कारण ब्रिटिश संघ कई बार अलग हुए — लेकिन **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद स्थिति स्थिर हो गई और आज तक बनी हुई है।
- After **Jules Rimet** took over as president in **1921**, FIFA was in charge of football at the Olympics for the first time at **Paris 1924**.
  जूल्स रिमे के **1921** में अध्यक्ष बनने के बाद, फीफा पहली बार **पेरिस 1924** ओलंपिक में फुटबॉल का प्रभारी बना।
- The success of that, and of the event four years later in **Amsterdam**, prompted FIFA to think of a tournament of its own.
  उसकी सफलता और चार वर्ष बाद **एम्स्टर्डम** में हुए आयोजन की सफलता ने फीफा को अपना स्वयं का टूर्नामेंट शुरू करने के लिए प्रेरित किया।
- The inaugural **World Cup** was born in **1930** and was held in **Uruguay**, the nation which won the Olympic golds in **1924** and **1928**.
  पहला **विश्व कप 1930** में आयोजित हुआ और इसकी मेजबानी **उरुग्वे** ने की, जिसने **1924** और **1928** के ओलंपिक स्वर्ण पदक जीते थे।
- The in-form team, unsurprisingly, also became the first world champion.
  स्वाभाविक रूप से, शानदार फॉर्म में चल रही टीम ही पहली विश्व चैंपियन बनी।
- Since then, such has FIFA's growth been that it now has **211 members**, more than the **UN**.
  तब से फीफा का विस्तार इतना बढ़ा है कि अब इसके **211 सदस्य** हैं, जो **संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN)** से भी अधिक हैं।
- At its core, it is a **non-profit organisation** that "oversees and promotes the development of football at every level".
  मूल रूप से यह एक **गैर-लाभकारी संगठन** है जो "हर स्तर पर फुटबॉल के विकास की निगरानी और प्रोत्साहन" करता है।
- But it is also among the richest bodies.
  लेकिन यह दुनिया की सबसे समृद्ध संस्थाओं में भी शामिल है।
- At the end of **2025**, FIFA's reserves, according to its own financial report, amounted to **$2.69 billion**.
  2025 के अंत में, फीफा की अपनी वित्तीय रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, उसके भंडार **2.69 अरब डॉलर** थे।
- **Cape Verde**, which is competing in North America this summer and is the third-smallest nation ever to qualify (population less than six lakhs), has reserves of **$0.78 billion**.

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केप वर्डे, जो इस गर्मी में उत्तरी अमेरिका में प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है और विश्व कप के लिए क्वालीफाई करने वाला तीसरा सबसे छोटा देश है (जनसंख्या छह लाख से कम), उसके भंडार **0.78 अरब डॉलर** हैं।

Generous powers
व्यापक शक्तियाँ

- Understandably, the **FIFA president**, who sits atop this edifice, wields enormous power, and with a generous term limit of **three four-year periods** (consecutive or otherwise), he or she can take decisions that can have lasting consequences.
  स्वाभाविक रूप से, इस पूरी संरचना के शीर्ष पर बैठा **फीफा अध्यक्ष** अत्यधिक शक्ति रखता है, और **चार-चार वर्ष के तीन कार्यकालों** की उदार सीमा के कारण ऐसे निर्णय ले सकता है जिनका दीर्घकालिक प्रभाव पड़ता है।
- Prior to **2016**, term limits weren't enforced.
  2016 से पहले कार्यकाल की सीमा लागू नहीं थी।
- In fact, for **41 years** from **1974 to 2015**, FIFA just had three presidents — **Stanley Rous**, **Joao Havelange**, and **Sepp Blatter**.
  वास्तव में, **1974 से 2015** तक **41 वर्षों** में फीफा के केवल तीन अध्यक्ष रहे — **स्टेनली राउस**, **जोआओ हावेलांगे** और **सेप ब्लैटर**।
- Before that, **Jules Rimet** was at the helm for **33 years**.
  उससे पहले **जूल्स रिमे 33 वर्षों** तक नेतृत्व में रहे।
- Current president **Gianni Infantino** has been the leading man since early **2016**.
  वर्तमान अध्यक्ष **जियानी इन्फैन्टिनो 2016** की शुरुआत से पद पर हैं।
- It is this structure, which allows a FIFA president to turn the organisation into a personal **fiefdom**, that has given rise to most controversies.
  यही संरचना, जो फीफा अध्यक्ष को संगठन को व्यक्तिगत **जागीर** में बदलने की अनुमति देती है, अधिकांश विवादों की जड़ रही है।
- The bosses have never shied away from striking friendships with problematic political figures and **authoritarian regimes** in search of big capital.
  फीफा प्रमुखों ने बड़े आर्थिक लाभ की तलाश में विवादास्पद राजनीतिक नेताओं और **सत्तावादी शासन व्यवस्थाओं** से संबंध बनाने में कभी संकोच नहीं किया।
- FIFA, by virtue of being a **non-profit**, is duty-bound to redistribute its revenues to member nations.
  एक **गैर-लाभकारी संस्था** होने के कारण फीफा अपने राजस्व को सदस्य देशों में पुनर्वितरित करने के लिए बाध्य है।
- Prima facie, it's a democratic move, and even noble, considering that the money ensures the sport's survival and development in many countries.
  पहली नज़र में यह एक लोकतांत्रिक और सराहनीय कदम प्रतीत होता है, क्योंकि यह धन कई देशों में खेल के अस्तित्व और विकास को सुनिश्चित करता है।
- But this dole has often been weaponised in return for votes to keep the head in power for perpetuity.
  लेकिन इस आर्थिक सहायता का उपयोग अक्सर वोटों के बदले शीर्ष नेतृत्व को लंबे समय तक सत्ता में बनाए रखने के लिए किया गया है।
- Every FIFA member, big or small, has a vote, and is directly involved in electing the president.
  फीफा का हर सदस्य, चाहे बड़ा हो या छोटा, एक वोट रखता है और अध्यक्ष के चुनाव में सीधे भाग लेता है।
- The **1934 World Cup** was held in **Benito Mussolini's Italy**.
  1934 विश्व कप का आयोजन **बेनिटो मुसोलिनी के इटली** में हुआ था।
- The **1978 edition** was conducted in **Argentina** under dictator **Gen. Jorge Rafael Videla**'s rule and **Havelange's** blessings.

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1978 विश्व कप का आयोजन **अर्जेंटीना** में तानाशाह **जनरल जॉर्ज राफेल विडेला** के शासन और **हावेलांगे** के समर्थन में हुआ।

- **Rous** was unwavering in his support for **Apartheid South Africa** while **Blatter** dangled the monetary carrot to the developing world to keep his throne for as long as he did.
  राउस ने **रंगभेदी दक्षिण अफ्रीका** का लगातार समर्थन किया, जबकि **ब्लैटर** ने विकासशील देशों को आर्थिक लाभ का प्रलोभन देकर अपना पद लंबे समय तक बनाए रखा।
- It is ironic that **Infantino** would preside over a FIFA which has remained unchanged.
  विडंबना यह है कि **इन्फैन्टिनो** ऐसे फीफा का नेतृत्व कर रहे हैं जिसमें मूलभूत बदलाव नहीं हुआ है।
- He vaulted to power promising reforms after serious **corruption charges** related to the allotment of the **2018** and **2022 World Cups** to **Russia** and **Qatar**.
  वे **रूस** और **कतर** को **2018** और **2022 विश्व कप** आवंटित करने से जुड़े गंभीर **भ्रष्टाचार आरोपों** के बाद सुधारों का वादा करते हुए सत्ता में आए थे।
- But he has since cultivated relationships with **Vladimir Putin** and **Donald Trump**, and attracted a deal worth **$1 billion** from **Saudi Arabia**.
  लेकिन बाद में उन्होंने **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** और **डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प** के साथ संबंध विकसित किए तथा **सऊदी अरब** से **1 अरब डॉलर** का समझौता प्राप्त किया।
- In **2019**, he accepted the **Russian Order of Friendship medal** from Mr. Putin.
  2019 में उन्होंने पुतिन से **रूसी ऑर्डर ऑफ फ्रेंडशिप पदक** स्वीकार किया।
- Last December, FIFA created the first-ever **Peace Prize** and awarded it to Mr. Trump.
  पिछले दिसंबर में फीफा ने पहला **पीस प्राइज** बनाया और उसे श्री ट्रम्प को प्रदान किया।
- Infantino has also moved to extend his term beyond the **12-year ceiling** that was brought in at the Extraordinary FIFA Congress in **2016**.
  इन्फैन्टिनो ने **2016** में लागू की गई **12 वर्ष की कार्यकाल सीमा** से आगे अपना कार्यकाल बढ़ाने की दिशा में भी कदम उठाए हैं।
- The 56-year-old has said his first three years in office (**2016-19**) were from Blatter's unfinished term and hence would not stop him from being re-elected in **2027**.
  56 वर्षीय इन्फैन्टिनो का कहना है कि उनके पहले तीन वर्ष (**2016-19**) ब्लैटर के अधूरे कार्यकाल का हिस्सा थे, इसलिए यह उन्हें **2027** में पुनः निर्वाचित होने से नहीं रोकेगा।
- At the ongoing World Cup, FIFA has been heavily criticised for its cavalier attitude regarding American immigration authorities' arbitrary actions in denying entry to fans, match-officials and team personnel alike.
  चल रहे विश्व कप में फीफा की आलोचना अमेरिकी आव्रजन अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रशंसकों, मैच अधिकारियों और टीम कर्मियों को प्रवेश से वंचित करने की मनमानी कार्रवाइयों पर उसके लापरवाह रवैये के कारण हो रही है।
- Most notable was the rejection meted out to **Somalian referee Omar Artan**, the best men's referee from Africa in **2025**.
  सबसे उल्लेखनीय मामला **सोमाली रेफरी उमर आर्टन** का था, जिन्हें **2025** में अफ्रीका का सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरुष रेफरी माना गया था।

Limits of influence
प्रभाव की सीमाएँ

- **Infantino** has defended FIFA by saying there are limits to how much the governing body can influence an individual country's immigration policies.
  इन्फैन्टिनो ने यह कहते हुए फीफा का बचाव किया कि किसी देश की आव्रजन नीतियों को प्रभावित करने की संस्था की क्षमता की सीमाएँ होती हैं।
- But a decade ago, when **Trump** had signed an executive order banning immigration from six Muslim-majority countries, Infantino had declared that "there is no World Cup" if supporters and officials do not have access.

लेकिन एक दशक पहले, जब **ट्रम्प** ने छह मुस्लिम-बहुल देशों से आव्रजन पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला आदेश जारी किया था, तब इन्फैन्टिनो ने कहा था कि यदि समर्थकों और अधिकारियों को प्रवेश नहीं मिलेगा तो "कोई विश्व कप नहीं होगा"।

- While increasing the number of teams in the World Cup to **48** will help enlarge the game's footprint, the **FIFA Club World Cup** bloating to a **32-team** affair further entrenches FIFA's power.
  विश्व कप में टीमों की संख्या **48** करने से खेल का विस्तार होगा, लेकिन **फीफा क्लब विश्व कप** का **32 टीमों** तक बढ़ जाना फीफा की शक्ति को और मजबूत करता है।
- The competition, which has replaced the **Confederations Cup** as a World Cup preparatory event, ran for a month in the **U.S.** last summer.
  यह प्रतियोगिता, जिसने **कन्फेडरेशन कप** का स्थान लिया है, पिछले वर्ष गर्मियों में **अमेरिका** में एक महीने तक चली।
- That slot was otherwise reserved for players' rest and recuperation.
  यह समय सामान्यतः खिलाड़ियों के आराम और पुनर्वास के लिए सुरक्षित रहता था।
- Reportedly, there is an urge to make it **biennial**, and the **$85 million** Chelsea received as prize money for winning in **2025** is a big enough perk for the participants to agree.
  रिपोर्टों के अनुसार इसे **हर दो वर्ष** में आयोजित करने की योजना है, और **2025** में विजेता **चेल्सी** को मिले **85 मिलियन डॉलर** के पुरस्कार ने प्रतिभागियों को इसके लिए सहमत होने हेतु पर्याप्त प्रोत्साहन दिया है।
- All of this highlights a fundamental conflict at the heart of FIFA's functioning.
  यह सब फीफा की कार्यप्रणाली के केंद्र में मौजूद एक मूलभूत संघर्ष को उजागर करता है।
- On the one hand, it is the guardian of the sport, defines laws, puts in place the rules and is expected to act impartially in disputes between its members.
  एक ओर, यह खेल का संरक्षक है, नियम बनाता है और अपने सदस्यों के बीच विवादों में निष्पक्ष भूमिका निभाने की अपेक्षा की जाती है।
- At the same time, it has tournaments to sell and a partially self-imposed obligation to generate revenue, forcing it to turn a blind eye when those like the **U.S.** err.
  दूसरी ओर, उसे अपने टूर्नामेंटों का व्यावसायिक प्रबंधन करना और राजस्व अर्जित करना होता है, जिसके कारण वह **अमेरिका** जैसे देशों की गलतियों पर आँखें मूँद लेता है।
- Can such a system, where the **referee** is also a **player**, stay true to the cause?
  क्या ऐसा तंत्र, जिसमें **रेफरी** ही **खिलाड़ी** भी हो, वास्तव में अपने उद्देश्य के प्रति ईमानदार रह सकता है?

U.S.-Venezuela joint operation kills leader of Tren de Aragua

PCS

CARACAS

The leader of the transnational gang Tren de Aragua was killed in a joint operation by the United States and Venezuela, authorities in the South American nation said on Friday.

Founded in Venezuela, Tren de Aragua has been designated a terrorist organisation by the U.S. and is also active in Colombia, Peru and Chile.

"There were clashes with members of these criminal structures, in which Hector Rusthenford Guerrero Flores, alias 'Nino Guerrero,' was neutralised," Venezuela's Ministry of Communications said in a statement.

U.S. President Donald Trump said earlier Friday that American forces carried out a deadly strike on the gang leader. "At my direction, the United States Southern Command delivered a swift and lethal kinetic strike to successfully execute Nino Guerrero."

UNCLASSIFIED

Explosion following a strike carried out by U.S. forces that killed Nino Guerrero. REUTERS

14J6. U.S.-Venezuela joint operation kills leader of Tren de Aragua

अमेरिका-वेनज़ुएला के संयुक्त अभियान में ट्रेन डी अरागुआ के नेता की मौत

- The leader of the transnational gang **Tren de Aragua** was killed in a joint operation by the **United States** and **Venezuela**, authorities in the South American nation said on Friday.

अंतरराष्ट्रीय गिरोह **ट्रेन डी अरागुआ** का नेता **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** और **वेनज़ुएला** के संयुक्त अभियान में मारा गया, दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश के अधिकारियों ने शुक्रवार को कहा।

- Founded in **Venezuela**, **Tren de Aragua** has been designated a **terrorist organisation** by the U.S. and is also active in **Colombia**, **Peru** and **Chile**.

वेनज़ुएला में स्थापित **ट्रेन डी अरागुआ** को अमेरिका ने एक **आतंकवादी संगठन** घोषित किया है और यह **कोलंबिया**, **पेरू** तथा **चिली** में भी सक्रिय है।

- "There were clashes with members of these **criminal structures**, in which **Hector Rusthenford Guerrero Flores**, alias **'Nino Guerrero,'** was neutralised," **Venezuela's Ministry of Communications** said in a statement.
  "इन **आपराधिक नेटवर्कों** के सदस्यों के साथ झड़पें हुईं, जिनमें **हेक्टर रस्टहेनफोर्ड गुरेरो फ्लोरेस**, उर्फ **'नीनो गुरेरो,'** को मार गिराया गया," **वेनज़ुएला के संचार मंत्रालय** ने एक बयान में कहा।
- **U.S. President Donald Trump** said earlier Friday that American forces carried out a deadly strike on the gang leader.
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने शुक्रवार को पहले कहा कि अमेरिकी बलों ने गिरोह के नेता पर एक घातक हमला किया।
- "At my direction, the **United States Southern Command** delivered a swift and lethal kinetic strike to successfully execute **Nino Guerrero**."
  "मेरे निर्देश पर, **यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स सदर्न कमांड** ने **नीनो गुरेरो** को सफलतापूर्वक समाप्त करने के लिए एक तेज़ और घातक सैन्य हमला किया।"

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PATRIOTIC IAS

Attacks on vessels with Indian seafarers likely to feature in IORA meet

GS II: IR

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

At the 28th meeting of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), commencing on Monday, all eyes will be on India, which may put forth concerns over the U.S.'s recent attacks on four vessels with Indian seafarers on board.

India is the current Chair of the regional maritime cooperative association, which also has Iran, the UAE, Yemen, and Oman as its members – countries which have also been directly affected by the conflict in West Asia.

The U.S. too features as a 'dialogue partner' at the association, in the role of an observer, wherein it participates and discusses issues but does not have voting rights.

Although the IORA's charter explicitly bars members from raising issues that do not concern regional cooperation, in the broader scheme of things, India could look to utilise the forum for airing its concerns in the maritime space.

India is the current Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

The Committee of Senior Officials is the IORA's second-highest decision-making body.

The platform could be an avenue for a dialogue on the prevailing broader maritime concerns, and potentially, cooperation in the realm.

Besides issues specific to India, other member countries too would find themselves in the spotlight, particularly Iran, as it seeks to impose a 'service fee' on the passage of ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

"According to international laws, it is not possible to impose toll on the Strait of Hormuz, but service fees will be collected, and this will be established in the negotiations," Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said.

In the past five days, the U.S. has attacked three foreign-flagged vessels that had Indian seafarers on board, for violating the naval blockade. The blockade imposed by the U.S. bars the use of Iranian ports, and the transportation of Iranian oil.

Speaking to *The Hindu* at 10th Indian Ocean Conference in Mauritius on April 11, 2026, Mauritius' Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful had said the idea of the Indian Ccean as a "zone of peace" had been negated as the "war has come" to the ocean.

While denouncing the U.S. torpedo attack on Iranian ship *IRIS Dena* in the Indian Ocean, killing more than 80 sailors in March 2026, he also expressed his concerns over retaliatory attacks by Iran on the U.S.'s Diego Garcia military base.

14J6. Attacks on vessels with Indian seafarers likely to feature in IORA meet
भारतीय नाविकों वाले जहाज़ों पर हमलों का मुद्दा IORA बैठक में उठने की संभावना

- At the **28th meeting** of the **Committee of Senior Officials** of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, commencing on Monday, all eyes will be on **India**, which may put forth concerns over the **U.S.'s recent attacks** on four vessels with **Indian seafarers** on board.
  सोमवार से शुरू होने वाली **हिन्द महासागर तटीय क्षेत्र संघ (IORA)** की **वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की समिति की 28वीं बैठक** में सबकी निगाहें **भारत** पर होंगी, जो **भारतीय नाविकों** वाले चार जहाज़ों पर **अमेरिका के हालिया हमलों** को लेकर अपनी चिंताएँ रख सकता है।
- **India** is the current **Chair** of the regional maritime cooperative association, which also has **Iran**, the **UAE**, **Yemen**, and **Oman** as its members — countries which have also been directly affected by the conflict in **West Asia**.
  भारत इस क्षेत्रीय समुद्री सहयोग संगठन का वर्तमान **अध्यक्ष** है, जिसके सदस्य **ईरान**, **यूएई**, **यमन** और **ओमान** भी हैं — ऐसे देश जो **पश्चिम एशिया** के संघर्ष से सीधे प्रभावित हुए हैं।

- The **U.S.** too features as a **'dialogue partner'** at the association, in the role of an observer, wherein it participates and discusses issues but does not have voting rights.
  अमेरिका भी इस संगठन में एक **'संवाद साझेदार'** के रूप में पर्यवेक्षक की भूमिका निभाता है, जहाँ वह चर्चाओं में भाग लेता है लेकिन उसे मतदान का अधिकार नहीं है।
- Although the **IORA's charter** explicitly bars members from raising issues that do not concern regional cooperation, in the broader scheme of things, **India** could look to utilise the forum for airing its concerns in the **maritime space**.
  यद्यपि **IORA के चार्टर** में स्पष्ट रूप से उन मुद्दों को उठाने पर रोक है जो क्षेत्रीय सहयोग से संबंधित नहीं हैं, फिर भी व्यापक परिप्रेक्ष्य में **भारत** इस मंच का उपयोग **समुद्री क्षेत्र** से जुड़ी अपनी चिंताओं को व्यक्त करने के लिए कर सकता है।
- The **Committee of Senior Officials** is the **IORA's second-highest decision-making body**.
  वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों की समिति IORA की दूसरी सर्वोच्च निर्णय लेने वाली संस्था है।
- The platform could be an avenue for a dialogue on the prevailing broader **maritime concerns**, and potentially, cooperation in the realm.
  यह मंच वर्तमान व्यापक **समुद्री चिंताओं** पर संवाद तथा संभावित सहयोग का माध्यम बन सकता है।
- Besides issues specific to **India**, other member countries too would end themselves in the spotlight, particularly **Iran**, as it seeks to impose a **'service fee'** on the passage of ships through the **Strait of Hormuz**.
  भारत से जुड़े मुद्दों के अलावा अन्य सदस्य देश भी चर्चा के केंद्र में रहेंगे, विशेषकर **ईरान**, जो **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से गुजरने वाले जहाज़ों पर **'सेवा शुल्क'** लगाने का प्रयास कर रहा है।
- "According to **international laws**, it is not possible to impose toll on the **Strait of Hormuz**, but service fees will be collected, and this will be established in the negotiations," **Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi** has said.
  "**अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनों** के अनुसार **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** पर टोल लगाना संभव नहीं है, लेकिन सेवा शुल्क वसूला जाएगा और इसे वार्ताओं के माध्यम से स्थापित किया जाएगा," **ईरान के विदेश मंत्री अब्बास अराघची** ने कहा।
- In the past • ve days, the **U.S.** has attacked three **foreign-• agged vessels** that had **Indian seafarers** on board, for violating the **naval blockade**.
  पिछले पाँच दिनों में **अमेरिका** ने **भारतीय नाविकों** वाले तीन **विदेशी ध्वजधारी जहाज़ों** पर **नौसैनिक नाकाबंदी** का उल्लंघन करने के आरोप में हमला किया है।
- The blockade imposed by the **U.S.** bars the use of **Iranian ports**, and the transportation of **Iranian oil**.
  अमेरिका द्वारा लगाई गई नाकाबंदी **ईरानी बंदरगाहों** के उपयोग और **ईरानी तेल** के परिवहन पर रोक लगाती है।
- Speaking to **The Hindu** at **10th Indian Ocean Conference** in **Mauritius** on **April 11, 2026**, **Mauritius' Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful** had said the idea of the **Indian Ocean** as a **"zone of peace"** had been negated as the **"war has come"** to the ocean.
  11 अप्रैल 2026 को **मॉरीशस** में आयोजित **10वें भारतीय महासागर सम्मेलन** में **मॉरीशस के विदेश मंत्री धनंजय रामफुल** ने कहा था कि **हिन्द महासागर** को **"शांति का क्षेत्र"** मानने की अवधारणा समाप्त हो गई है क्योंकि **"युद्ध महासागर तक पहुँच चुका है।"**
- While denouncing the **U.S. torpedo attack** on **Iranian ship IRIS Dena** in the **Indian Ocean**, killing more than **80 sailors** in **March 2026**, he also expressed his concerns over retaliatory attacks by **Iran** on the **U.S. 's Diego Garcia military base**.
  मार्च 2026 में **हिन्द महासागर** में **ईरानी जहाज़ IRIS Dena** पर हुए **अमेरिकी टॉरपीडो हमले** की निंदा करते हुए, जिसमें **80 से अधिक नाविकों** की मृत्यु हुई, उन्होंने **ईरान** द्वारा **अमेरिका के डिएगो गार्सिया सैन्य अड्डे** पर संभावित जवाबी हमलों को लेकर भी चिंता व्यक्त की।

Why are there protests in PoK?

Why was the Joint Awami Action Committee formed in 2023 and what are their demands? What are the economic concerns in the region? Why is the demand for the abolishment of reservation for 12 refugee seats in the PoK Assembly at the heart of the protests? How has India reacted?

GS II: IR

Joan Sony Cherian

The story so far:

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is again in the throes of civilian unrest as protests for economic justice and equitable political representation rage across the region. The Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), which called for the protests, has since been banned by the regional government, for "engaging in terrorism".

What is the JAAC and why did it call for protests?

The JAAC, an umbrella organisation of various civil society groups, trade bodies, students organisations and socio-religious groups based in PoK, was formed in 2023, out of protests against rising electricity tariffs and inflation. They brought out a 38-point Charter of Demands which included access to subsidised wheat flour, fair electricity pricing based on hydropower generation costs from the local Mangla dam, and the abolishment of the reservation of 12 seats for refugees in PoK's Legislative Assembly.

While the JAAC was given assurances regarding electricity tariffs, their "non-fulfillment" led to wider protests. In May 2024, the JAAC called for a march to Muzaffarabad over their demands, which led to the police arresting around 70 members of the organisation. Outrage against the arrests resulted in clashes between civilians and the police, leaving at least four dead and hundreds injured. In the wake of this violence, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif approved the grant of a $86.25 million subsidy programme.

In October 2025, protests again emerged due to a breakdown of talks between officials and the JAAC. The ensuing violence killed at least 10 people. The government then agreed to some demands which included providing compensation for those killed in the violence, releasing funds for the implementation of health cards, and issuing a grant of PKR 10 billion for the improvement of the electricity system.

While it was also decided that a high-powered committee comprising legal and constitutional experts would deliberate on the issue of members of the PoK Assembly, the central question remained unaddressed.

The 12 reserved seats are for communities who migrated to Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir during Partition. Over the years, these groups have integrated into Pakistani cities and polity

File photo of protesters of JAAC and activists at a funeral in Muzaffarabad, the capital of PoK, on May 14, 2024. AFP

How did the situation escalate?

Elections to the regional government of PoK have been scheduled for July 27. The JAAC announced that they would take out a protest march to Muzaffarabad, calling for an end to the reservation of the 12 refugee seats, on June 9 – the same day on which the filing of nominations for the elections was to begin.

In an effort to nip the march in the bud, the regional authorities banned the JAAC under a 2014 anti-terrorism law and placed a bounty for its most prominent leaders. They said the organisation had acted in a manner "prejudicial to peace and security" of the state. This led to widespread protests in various cities, particularly Mirpur, Rawalakot and Muzaffarabad, with police personnel clashing with civilian protesters.

On June 8, at least 11 people, including four police officers, were killed and dozens injured when regional authorities opened fire on activists and protesters gathered in Rawalakot for the funeral of a local trade activist who had been killed during an earlier protest.

While the proscribed JAAC has called for strikes, leaving life paralysed in the streets of Muzaffarabad, many parts of the region continue to witness violent clashes, with reports indicating that the death toll has crossed 30.

Regional authorities have deployed paramilitary troops in the region to restore law and order and have also issued a strict travel advisory urging visitors to avoid travelling to the region. Reports also say that Internet in the region has been severely restricted.

Why has the reservation of refugees become a flashpoint?

The political question regarding the 12 reserved refugee seats is at the heart of the protests. The regional Assembly of the PoK has a total of 53 seats. Of these, 45 seats are directly elected by the public (33 are elected by the general public while 12 seats are reserved for refugees). The remaining eight seats are reserved (five for women, one for a technocrat, one for a religious scholar and one is a diaspora seat) and are filled via nominations after the general elections.

The 12 reserved seats are for communities who migrated to Pakistan from Jammu and Kashmir during Partition. Over the years, these groups have integrated into Pakistani cities and polity. In fact, most of these 12 seats have often been won by political parties such as the Pakistan Peoples Party or the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. As the journalist Luv Puri writes, "...the 12 refugee seats account for around 4.36 lakh registered voters, while the remaining 33 directly elected seats in PoK have around 33 lakh voters. In effect, one refugee vote cast from Pakistan carries electoral weight far greater than that of a voter residing in PoK".

Pakistan maintains that PoK, or what it calls 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir', is an independent region with its own polity and that Pakistan supports its right to self-determination. At the same time, candidates who are elected to the regional Parliament have to sign loyalty oaths supporting the "cause of accession of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan". This has led to questions regarding the undue influence of Islamabad in the regional politics of PoK.

In a further setback to such regional demands, on June 7, the Supreme Court of PoK observed that the 12 legislative seats reserved for refugees are constitutionally protected and cannot be abolished through administrative or executive measures; only a constitutional amendment can fulfil the demand to abolish refugee representation.

How have the Indian and Pakistani governments reacted?

On June 9, India asked the international community to hold Pakistan responsible for the civilian killings and human rights abuses in PoK. "There are reports of severe police brutality in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in which several protesters have been killed and many injured. We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal during a press briefing. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah condemned the violence and demanded a probe by the United Nations into the incidents of atrocities.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi dismissed India's statements "in their entirety" and went on to state that "it is untenable" for a country like India which has "consistently denied the people of Jammu and Kashmir their right to self-determination to claim concerns over the rights of Kashmiris."

The unrest has also generated global outrage. Human rights groups such as Amnesty International stated that the regional administration's sweeping crackdown on protests is a continuation of the "alarming deterioration of human rights in the region".

On June 6, a group of nearly 30 British parliamentarians, in a letter to the U.K. Foreign Office, raised concerns over reports of communication disruptions, arrests, and "escalating tensions" in the PoK. They urged the British government to engage proactively and use diplomatic channels to encourage a peaceful de-escalation in the region.

14J6. Why are there protests in PoK?
पीओके में विरोध-प्रदर्शन क्यों हो रहे हैं?

What is the JAAC and why did it call for protests?
जेएएसी (JAAC) क्या है और इसने विरोध प्रदर्शन क्यों बुलाए?

- The **JAAC**, an umbrella organisation of various civil society groups, trade bodies, students organisations and socio-religious groups based in **PoK**, was formed in **2023**, out of protests against rising **electricity tariffs** and **inflation**.
  पीओके (PoK) में स्थित विभिन्न नागरिक समाज समूहों, व्यापारिक संगठनों, छात्र संगठनों और सामाजिक-

धार्मिक समूहों के एक छत्र संगठन **जेएएसी (JAAC)** का गठन **2023** में बढ़ती **बिजली दरों** और **महँगाई** के विरुद्ध हुए विरोध प्रदर्शनों से हुआ था।

- They brought out a **38-point Charter of Demands** which included access to subsidised **wheat flour**, fair electricity pricing based on hydropower generation costs from the local **Mangla Dam**, and the abolishment of the reservation of **12 seats** for refugees in PoK's **Legislative Assembly**.
  उन्होंने **38 सूत्रीय मांग-पत्र** प्रस्तुत किया, जिसमें रियायती **गेहूँ के आटे** की उपलब्धता, स्थानीय **मंगला बांध** से जलविद्युत उत्पादन लागत के आधार पर उचित बिजली मूल्य निर्धारण तथा पीओके की **विधानसभा** में शरणार्थियों के लिए आरक्षित **12 सीटों** को समाप्त करने की मांग शामिल थी।
- While the JAAC was given assurances regarding electricity tariffs, their "**non-fulfillment**" led to wider protests.
  यद्यपि जेएएसी को बिजली दरों के संबंध में आश्वासन दिए गए थे, किंतु उनके "**पूरा न होने**" के कारण व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू हो गए।
- In **May 2024**, the JAAC called for a march to **Muzaffarabad** over their demands, which led to the police arresting around **70 members** of the organisation.
  मई 2024 में जेएएसी ने अपनी मांगों को लेकर **मुजफ्फराबाद** तक मार्च का आह्वान किया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप पुलिस ने संगठन के लगभग **70 सदस्यों** को गिरफ्तार कर लिया।
- Outrage against the arrests resulted in clashes between civilians and the police, leaving at least **four dead** and **hundreds injured**.
  गिरफ्तारियों के विरोध में नागरिकों और पुलिस के बीच झड़पें हुईं, जिनमें कम-से-कम **चार लोगों की मृत्यु** हो गई और **सैकड़ों लोग घायल** हुए।
- In the wake of this violence, **Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif** approved the grant of a **$86.25 million subsidy programme**.
  इस हिंसा के बाद **पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ** ने **8.625 करोड़ डॉलर के सब्सिडी कार्यक्रम** को मंजूरी दी।
- In **October 2025**, protests again emerged due to a breakdown of talks between officials and the JAAC.
  अक्टूबर 2025 में अधिकारियों और जेएएसी के बीच वार्ता विफल होने के कारण पुनः विरोध प्रदर्शन शुरू हुए।
- The ensuing violence killed at least **10 people**.
  इसके बाद हुई हिंसा में कम-से-कम **10 लोगों की मृत्यु** हो गई।
- The government then agreed to some demands which included providing compensation for those killed in the violence, releasing funds for the implementation of **health cards**, and issuing a grant of **PKR 10 billion** for the improvement of the electricity system.
  इसके बाद सरकार ने कुछ मांगें स्वीकार कर लीं, जिनमें हिंसा में मारे गए लोगों को मुआवजा देना, **हेल्थ कार्ड** योजना के क्रियान्वयन हेतु धन जारी करना तथा बिजली व्यवस्था में सुधार के लिए **10 अरब पाकिस्तानी रुपये (PKR 10 billion)** का अनुदान प्रदान करना शामिल था।
- While it was also decided that a **high-powered committee** comprising legal and constitutional experts would deliberate on the issue of members of the PoK Assembly, the central question remained unaddressed.
  यह भी तय किया गया कि विधिक और संवैधानिक विशेषज्ञों से युक्त एक **उच्चस्तरीय समिति** पीओके विधानसभा के सदस्यों से जुड़े मुद्दे पर विचार करेगी, किंतु मूल प्रश्न अब भी अनसुलझा रहा।

How did the situation escalate?
स्थिति कैसे गंभीर हुई?

- Elections to the regional government of **PoK** have been scheduled for **July 27**.
  पीओके की क्षेत्रीय सरकार के चुनाव **27 जुलाई** को निर्धारित किए गए हैं।
- The JAAC announced that they would take out a protest march to **Muzaffarabad**, calling for an end to the reservation of the **12 refugee seats**, on **June 9** — the same day on which the

filing of nominations for the elections was to begin.
जेएएसी ने घोषणा की कि वह **9 जून** को **मुजफ्फराबाद** तक विरोध मार्च निकालेगा और **12 शरणार्थी सीटों** के आरक्षण को समाप्त करने की मांग करेगा — यही वह दिन था जब चुनावों के लिए नामांकन प्रक्रिया प्रारंभ होनी थी।

- In an effort to nip the march in the bud, the regional authorities banned the **JAAC** under a **2014 anti-terrorism law** and placed a bounty for its most prominent leaders.
  मार्च को प्रारंभिक चरण में ही रोकने के प्रयास में क्षेत्रीय प्रशासन ने **2014 के आतंकवाद-निरोधी कानून** के अंतर्गत **जेएएसी** पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया तथा उसके प्रमुख नेताओं पर इनाम घोषित कर दिया।
- They said the organisation had acted in a manner "**prejudicial to peace and security**" of the state.
  प्रशासन ने कहा कि संगठन ने राज्य की "**शांति और सुरक्षा के प्रतिकूल**" कार्य किया है।
- This led to widespread protests in various cities, particularly **Mirpur**, **Rawalakot** and **Muzaffarabad**, with police personnel clashing with civilian protesters.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप विभिन्न शहरों, विशेषकर **मीरपुर**, **रावलाकोट** और **मुजफ्फराबाद** में व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शन हुए, जहाँ पुलिसकर्मियों और नागरिक प्रदर्शनकारियों के बीच झड़पें हुईं।
- On **June 8**, at least **11 people**, including **four police officers**, were killed and dozens injured when regional authorities opened fire on activists and protesters gathered in **Rawalakot** for the funeral of a local trade activist who had been killed during an earlier protest.
  8 जून को कम-से-कम **11 लोगों**, जिनमें **चार पुलिस अधिकारी** भी शामिल थे, की मृत्यु हो गई और दर्जनों लोग घायल हो गए, जब क्षेत्रीय प्रशासन ने **रावलाकोट** में एक स्थानीय व्यापार कार्यकर्ता के अंतिम संस्कार में एकत्रित कार्यकर्ताओं और प्रदर्शनकारियों पर गोलीबारी की। वह कार्यकर्ता पहले हुए एक विरोध प्रदर्शन के दौरान मारा गया था।
- While the proscribed **JAAC** has called for strikes, leaving life paralysed in the streets of **Muzaffarabad**, many parts of the region continue to witness violent clashes, with reports indicating that the **death toll has crossed 30**.
  प्रतिबंधित **जेएएसी** ने हड़ताल का आह्वान किया है, जिससे **मुजफ्फराबाद** की सड़कों पर सामान्य जीवन ठप हो गया है, जबकि क्षेत्र के अनेक हिस्सों में हिंसक झड़पें जारी हैं और रिपोर्टों के अनुसार **मृतकों की संख्या 30 से अधिक** हो चुकी है।
- Regional authorities have deployed **paramilitary troops** in the region to restore law and order and have also issued a strict **travel advisory** urging visitors to avoid travelling to the region.
  कानून-व्यवस्था बहाल करने के लिए क्षेत्रीय प्रशासन ने **अर्द्धसैनिक बलों** को तैनात किया है तथा आगंतुकों से क्षेत्र की यात्रा न करने का आग्रह करते हुए कड़ी **यात्रा परामर्श (Travel Advisory)** भी जारी की है।
- Reports also say that **Internet** in the region has been severely restricted.
  रिपोर्टों के अनुसार क्षेत्र में **इंटरनेट सेवाओं** पर भी गंभीर प्रतिबंध लगाए गए हैं।

Why has the reservation of refugees become a flashpoint?
शरणार्थियों के आरक्षण का मुद्दा विवाद का प्रमुख केंद्र क्यों बन गया है?

- The political question regarding the **12 reserved refugee seats** is at the heart of the protests.
  12 आरक्षित शरणार्थी सीटों से जुड़ा राजनीतिक प्रश्न इन विरोध प्रदर्शनों के केंद्र में है।
- The regional Assembly of the **PoK** has a total of **53 seats**.
  पीओके (PoK) की क्षेत्रीय विधानसभा में कुल **53 सीटें** हैं।
- Of these, **45 seats** are directly elected by the public (**33** are elected by the general public while **12 seats** are reserved for refugees).
  इनमें से **45 सीटों** पर जनता द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष चुनाव होता है (**33 सीटें** सामान्य जनता द्वारा चुनी जाती हैं, जबकि **12 सीटें** शरणार्थियों के लिए आरक्षित हैं)।
- The remaining **eight seats** are reserved (**five for women, one for a technocrat, one for a religious scholar and one is a diaspora seat**) and are filled via nominations after the

general elections.
शेष **आठ सीटें** आरक्षित हैं (**पाँच महिलाओं के लिए, एक तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ के लिए, एक धार्मिक विद्वान के लिए तथा एक प्रवासी समुदाय के लिए**) और इन्हें आम चुनावों के बाद नामांकन के माध्यम से भरा जाता है।

- The **12 reserved seats** are for communities who migrated to Pakistan from **Jammu and Kashmir** during **Partition**.
  ये **12 आरक्षित सीटें** उन समुदायों के लिए हैं जो **विभाजन** के दौरान **जम्मू और कश्मीर** से पाकिस्तान चले गए थे।
- Over the years, these groups have integrated into Pakistani cities and polity.
  समय के साथ ये समूह पाकिस्तान के शहरों और राजनीतिक व्यवस्था में समाहित हो गए हैं।
- In fact, most of these **12 seats** have often been won by political parties such as the **Pakistan Peoples Party** or the **Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf**.
  वास्तव में, इन **12 सीटों** पर अक्सर **पाकिस्तान पीपुल्स पार्टी** या **पाकिस्तान तहरीक-ए-इंसाफ** जैसे राजनीतिक दलों की जीत होती रही है।
- As the journalist **Luv Puri** writes, "...the **12 refugee seats** account for around **4.36 lakh registered voters**, while the remaining **33 directly elected seats** in PoK have around **33 lakh voters**.
  जैसा कि पत्रकार **लव पुरी** लिखते हैं, "...**12 शरणार्थी सीटों** में लगभग **4.36 लाख पंजीकृत मतदाता** हैं, जबकि पीओके की शेष **33 प्रत्यक्ष निर्वाचित सीटों** में लगभग **33 लाख मतदाता** हैं।
- In effect, one refugee vote cast from Pakistan carries electoral weight far greater than that of a voter residing in PoK".
  व्यवहारिक रूप से, पाकिस्तान से डाला गया एक शरणार्थी मत, पीओके में रहने वाले एक मतदाता की तुलना में कहीं अधिक चुनावी महत्व रखता है।"
- **Pakistan** maintains that PoK, or what it calls '**Azad Jammu and Kashmir**', is an independent region with its own polity and that Pakistan supports its **right to self-determination**.
  पाकिस्तान का कहना है कि पीओके, जिसे वह '**आज़ाद जम्मू और कश्मीर**' कहता है, अपनी राजनीतिक व्यवस्था वाला एक स्वतंत्र क्षेत्र है और पाकिस्तान उसके **आत्मनिर्णय के अधिकार** का समर्थन करता है।
- At the same time, candidates who are elected to the regional Parliament have to sign loyalty oaths supporting the "cause of accession of the State of **Jammu and Kashmir** to **Pakistan**".
  साथ ही, क्षेत्रीय संसद के लिए निर्वाचित उम्मीदवारों को **जम्मू और कश्मीर** राज्य के **पाकिस्तान** में विलय के उद्देश्य का समर्थन करने वाली निष्ठा-शपथ पर हस्ताक्षर करने होते हैं।
- This has led to questions regarding the undue influence of **Islamabad** in the regional politics of PoK.
  इससे पीओके की क्षेत्रीय राजनीति में **इस्लामाबाद** के अनुचित प्रभाव को लेकर प्रश्न उठे हैं।
- In a further setback to such regional demands, on **June 7**, the **Supreme Court of PoK** observed that the **12 legislative seats** reserved for refugees are constitutionally protected and cannot be abolished through administrative or executive measures; only a **constitutional amendment** can fulfil the demand to abolish refugee representation.
  ऐसी क्षेत्रीय मांगों को एक और झटका देते हुए **7 जून** को **पीओके के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने कहा कि शरणार्थियों के लिए आरक्षित **12 विधायी सीटें** संवैधानिक रूप से संरक्षित हैं और इन्हें प्रशासनिक अथवा कार्यकारी उपायों से समाप्त नहीं किया जा सकता; शरणार्थी प्रतिनिधित्व समाप्त करने की मांग केवल **संवैधानिक संशोधन** के माध्यम से ही पूरी की जा सकती है।

How have the Indian and Pakistani governments reacted?
भारतीय और पाकिस्तानी सरकारों ने कैसी प्रतिक्रिया दी है?

- On **June 9**, **India** asked the international community to hold **Pakistan** responsible for the civilian killings and human rights abuses in **PoK**.
  9 जून को **भारत** ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय से **पीओके** में नागरिकों की हत्याओं और मानवाधिकार उल्लंघनों के लिए **पाकिस्तान** को उत्तरदायी ठहराने का आग्रह किया।

- "There are reports of severe police brutality in **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** in which several protesters have been killed and many injured.
  "**पाकिस्तान अधिकृत कश्मीर** में गंभीर पुलिस अत्याचार की रिपोर्टें सामने आई हैं, जिनमें कई प्रदर्शनकारी मारे गए हैं और अनेक घायल हुए हैं।
- We hope the international community will hold **Pakistan** accountable for its misdeeds and abuses," said **Ministry of External Affairs** spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** during a press briefing.
  हमें आशा है कि अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय **पाकिस्तान** को उसके कदाचारों और अत्याचारों के लिए उत्तरदायी ठहराएगा," यह बात **विदेश मंत्रालय** के प्रवक्ता **रणधीर जायसवाल** ने एक प्रेस ब्रीफिंग के दौरान कही।
- **National Conference** president **Farooq Abdullah** condemned the violence and demanded a probe by the **United Nations** into the incidents of atrocities.
  नेशनल कॉन्फ्रेंस के अध्यक्ष **फारूक अब्दुल्ला** ने हिंसा की निंदा की और अत्याचारों की घटनाओं की **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** द्वारा जांच की मांग की।
- **Pakistan Foreign Office** spokesperson **Tahir Andrabi** dismissed India's statements "in their entirety" and went on to state that "it is untenable" for a country like **India** which has "consistently denied the people of **Jammu and Kashmir** their right to self-determination to claim concerns over the rights of Kashmiris."
  पाकिस्तान विदेश कार्यालय के प्रवक्ता **ताहिर अंद्राबी** ने भारत के बयानों को "पूर्णतः" खारिज करते हुए कहा कि **भारत** जैसे देश के लिए, जिसने "लगातार **जम्मू और कश्मीर** के लोगों को आत्मनिर्णय के अधिकार से वंचित किया है", कश्मीरियों के अधिकारों को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त करना "अस्वीकार्य" है।
- The unrest has also generated global outrage.
  इस अशांति ने वैश्विक स्तर पर भी आक्रोश उत्पन्न किया है।
- Human rights groups such as **Amnesty International** stated that the regional administration's sweeping crackdown on protests is a continuation of the "**alarming deterioration of human rights** in the region".
  एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल जैसे मानवाधिकार संगठनों ने कहा कि विरोध प्रदर्शनों पर क्षेत्रीय प्रशासन की व्यापक कार्रवाई क्षेत्र में "**मानवाधिकारों की चिंताजनक गिरावट**" की निरंतरता है।
- On **June 6**, a group of nearly **30 British parliamentarians**, in a letter to the **U.K. Foreign Office**, raised concerns over reports of communication disruptions, arrests, and "**escalating tensions**" in the PoK.
  6 जून को लगभग **30 ब्रिटिश सांसदों** के एक समूह ने **यू.के. विदेश कार्यालय** को लिखे पत्र में पीओके में संचार व्यवधान, गिरफ्तारियों और "**बढ़ते तनाव**" की रिपोर्टों पर चिंता व्यक्त की।
- They urged the British government to engage proactively and use diplomatic channels to encourage a peaceful de-escalation in the region.
  उन्होंने ब्रिटिश सरकार से सक्रिय रूप से हस्तक्षेप करने तथा क्षेत्र में शांतिपूर्ण तनाव-नियंत्रण को प्रोत्साहित करने हेतु कूटनीतिक माध्यमों का उपयोग करने का आग्रह किया।

PATRIOTIC IAS

PM Modi's Europe visit begins in Nice, with tech, bilateral relations in focus

GS II: IR

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Nice on Saturday evening, the first stop on his six-day tour of France and Slovakia. The Prime Minister's visit to the French Riviera revolves around a tech summit, Bharat Innovates 2026, on Sunday, which he will inaugurate with French President Emmanuel Macron.

The tech event, as per the government, is aimed at bringing together deep-tech ventures and higher education institutes from India, among others, to explore cooperation in research and co-development, investment and technology transfer.

Following the event, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will lead bilateral discussions between the two sides which are expected to cover a broad range of subjects including defence, tech, regional and global issues.

It is expected that the U.S. and Israel conflict with Iran will be discussed between the sides, with U.S. President Donald Trump saying a settlement was due to be signed on Sunday.

India and France had formally elevated their partnership to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February this year and announced that 2026 was the India-France Year of Innovation.

Narendra Modi

Mr. Modi will travel to Slovakia on Sunday evening and return to France for the G7 Summit in the alpine resort of Évian-les-Bains. India has been invited as an outreach partner, along with other countries. At Évian, there is a possibility of a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trump. Following the G7 Summit, Mr. Modi will arrive in Paris for another tech focused event, VivaTech on June 18. India is the AI Country Partner for the event which is held annually.

The PM's arrival in France was foreshadowed by rising tensions between India and the United States after an attack by U.S. forces killed three Indian seafarers off the coast of Oman.

"In addition to Nice, this France visit includes programmes in Evian and Paris. There will be bilateral and multilateral meetings, which will be aimed at improving India's friendship with key development partners," Mr. Modi wrote on X, shortly after landing in France.

14J6. PM Modi's Europe visit begins in Nice, with tech, bilateral relations in focus

पीएम मोदी की यूरोप यात्रा नीस से शुरू, तकनीक और द्विपक्षीय संबंधों पर रहेगा फोकस

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Nice on Saturday evening, the first stop on his six-day tour of France and Slovakia.
  प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी शनिवार शाम नीस पहुंचे, जो उनकी फ्रांस और स्लोवाकिया की छह दिवसीय यात्रा का पहला पड़ाव है।
- The Prime Minister's visit to the French Riviera revolves around a tech summit, Bharat Innovates 2026, on Sunday, which he will inaugurate with French President Emmanuel Macron.
  प्रधानमंत्री की फ्रेंच रिवेरा यात्रा का केंद्र रविवार को होने वाला तकनीकी शिखर सम्मेलन भारत इनोवेट्स 2026 है, जिसका उद्घाटन वह फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति इमैनुएल मैक्रों के साथ करेंगे।
- The tech event, as per the government, is aimed at bringing together deep-tech ventures and higher education institutes from India, among others, to explore cooperation in research and co-development, investment and technology transfer.
  सरकार के अनुसार, इस तकनीकी कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य भारत सहित विभिन्न देशों के डीप-टेक उपक्रमों और उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों को एक साथ लाना है, ताकि अनुसंधान एवं सह-विकास, निवेश और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण में सहयोग की संभावनाओं का पता लगाया जा सके।
- Following the event, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will lead bilateral discussions between the two sides which are expected to cover a broad range of subjects including defence, tech, regional and global issues.

कार्यक्रम के बाद श्री मोदी और श्री मैक्रों दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय वार्ता का नेतृत्व करेंगे, जिसमें रक्षा, प्रौद्योगिकी, क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक मुद्दों सहित अनेक विषयों पर चर्चा होने की उम्मीद है।

- It is expected that the U.S. and Israel conflict with Iran will be discussed between the sides, with U.S. President Donald Trump saying a settlement was due to be signed on Sunday.
  यह अपेक्षा की जा रही है कि अमेरिका और इज़राइल का ईरान के साथ संघर्ष भी दोनों पक्षों के बीच चर्चा का विषय बनेगा, जबकि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने कहा है कि एक समझौते पर रविवार को हस्ताक्षर होने वाले हैं।
- India and France had formally elevated their partnership to a 'Special Global Strategic Partnership' in February this year and announced that 2026 was the India-France Year of Innovation.
  भारत और फ्रांस ने इस वर्ष फरवरी में अपने संबंधों को औपचारिक रूप से 'विशेष वैश्विक रणनीतिक साझेदारी' के स्तर तक बढ़ाया था और घोषणा की थी कि 2026 को भारत-फ्रांस नवाचार वर्ष के रूप में मनाया जाएगा।
- Mr. Modi will travel to Slovakia on Sunday evening and return to France for the G7 Summit in the alpine resort of Évian-les-Bains.
  श्री मोदी रविवार शाम स्लोवाकिया जाएंगे और उसके बाद फ्रांस लौटकर अल्पाइन रिसॉर्ट एवियां-ले-बैं में होने वाले G7 शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग लेंगे।
- India has been invited as an outreach partner, along with other countries.
  भारत को अन्य देशों के साथ एक आउटरीच पार्टनर के रूप में आमंत्रित किया गया है।
- At Évian, there is a possibility of a bilateral meeting with Mr. Trump.
  एवियां में श्री ट्रंप के साथ द्विपक्षीय बैठक की संभावना है।
- Following the G7 Summit, Mr. Modi will arrive in Paris for another tech focused event, VivaTech on June 18.
  G7 शिखर सम्मेलन के बाद श्री मोदी 18 जून को एक अन्य तकनीक-केंद्रित कार्यक्रम वीवाटेक में भाग लेने के लिए पेरिस पहुंचेंगे।
- India is the AI Country Partner for the event which is held annually.
  भारत इस वार्षिक कार्यक्रम का एआई कंट्री पार्टनर है।

GS Paper III: Economy	14 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14J6	Scented by tradition परंपरा की सुगंध से महकता हुआ
14J6	Why is the Zojila tunnel a game changer? ज़ोजिला सुरंग को गेम चेंजर क्यों माना जा रहा है?

Scented by tradition

Rose farming is a labour of love, and there is no better canvas for these delicate pink blooms than Kashmir where the journey from blossom to by-product is a celebrated tradition, deeply rooted in the heart of the region's local communities

GS III: Economy

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The temperate climate and fertile soil of Kashmir provides an ideal environment for floriculture, particularly for the cultivation of the highly aromatic Damask rose.

Rose farming is a seasonal labour of love and requires the harvest of petals in spring and early summer when the blossoms yield their highest concentration of complex fragrance and essential oils.

Once harvested, these pristine petals are immediately channelled into two traditional products of rose water – *Ark-e-Gulab* and *Gulkand*.

Rose water is prepared using traditional steam distillation. Petals are simmered in large copper stills, and the condensed vapour creates a pure, therapeutic hydrosol used widely in culinary dishes, cosmetics, and religious rituals.

Gulkand is a rich, sweet preserve made by layering fresh rose petals with sugar in airtight glass jars.

The mixture is slow-cured under the natural warmth of the sun for several weeks. This gentle sun-cooking process allows the natural juices to ferment softly with the sugar, transforming the petals into a thick, cooling jam celebrated in Ayurvedic traditions for its digestive benefits.

Local entrepreneurs like Shireen Manhas are instrumental in bridging the gap between these age-old agricultural traditions and modern, premium markets. By establishing structured agro-ventures, Ms. Manhas and fellow innovators empower local farmers, particularly women, through sustainable employment.

Their enterprises focus on maintaining absolute purity – avoiding synthetic additives – while utilising contemporary packaging and supply chains.

This modern entrepreneurial approach not only preserves Kashmir's delicate horticultural heritage but also elevates its organic rose water and *Gulkand* to a competitive luxury status globally.

Purest drops: A worker collects the distillate in Sirhama, Anantnag district.

14J6. Scented by tradition
परंपरा की सुगंध से महकता हुआ

- **Rose farming** is a labour of love, and there is no better canvas for these delicate pink blooms than **Kashmir** where the journey from blossom to by-product is a celebrated tradition, deeply rooted in the heart of the region's local communities.
  गुलाब की खेती प्रेम और समर्पण का कार्य है, और इन नाजुक गुलाबी फूलों के लिए **कश्मीर** से बेहतर स्थान कोई नहीं, जहाँ फूल से उत्पाद बनने तक की यात्रा एक सम्मानित परंपरा है, जो स्थानीय समुदायों के जीवन में गहराई से रची-बसी है।
- The temperate climate and fertile soil of **Kashmir** provides an ideal environment for **horticulture**, particularly for the cultivation of the highly aromatic **Damask rose**.
  कश्मीर की समशीतोष्ण जलवायु और उपजाऊ मिट्टी **पुष्पकृषि (Floriculture)** के लिए आदर्श वातावरण प्रदान करती है, विशेष रूप से अत्यधिक सुगंधित **डैमास्क गुलाब** की खेती के लिए।
- **Rose farming** is a seasonal labour of love and requires the harvest of petals in spring and early summer when the blossoms yield their highest concentration of complex fragrance and **essential oils**.
  गुलाब की खेती एक मौसमी परिश्रमपूर्ण कार्य है और इसमें वसंत तथा शुरुआती ग्रीष्म ऋतु में पंखुड़ियों की कटाई की जाती है, जब फूलों में जटिल सुगंध और **आवश्यक तेलों (Essential Oils)** की मात्रा सबसे अधिक होती है।
- Once harvested, these pristine petals are immediately channelled into two traditional products of rose water — **Ark-e-Gulab** and **Gulkand**.
  कटाई के बाद इन शुद्ध पंखुड़ियों का तुरंत गुलाब जल से बने दो पारंपरिक उत्पादों — **अर्क-ए-गुलाब** और **गुलकंद** — के निर्माण में उपयोग किया जाता है।
- **Rose water** is prepared using traditional **steam distillation**.
  गुलाब जल पारंपरिक **भाप आसवन (Steam Distillation)** विधि से तैयार किया जाता है।
- Petals are simmered in large copper stills, and the condensed vapour creates a pure, therapeutic **hydrosol** used widely in culinary dishes, cosmetics, and religious rituals.
  पंखुड़ियों को बड़े तांबे के पात्रों में उबाला जाता है, और संघनित भाप से एक शुद्ध एवं चिकित्सीय **हाइड्रोसोल** बनता है, जिसका व्यापक उपयोग भोजन, सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों और धार्मिक अनुष्ठानों में किया जाता है।
- **Gulkand** is a rich, sweet preserve made by layering fresh rose petals with sugar in airtight glass jars.
  गुलकंद एक समृद्ध और मीठा संरक्षित खाद्य पदार्थ है, जिसे ताज़ी गुलाब की पंखुड़ियों और चीनी की परतें बनाकर वायुरुद्ध काँच के जारों में तैयार किया जाता है।
- The mixture is slow-cured under the natural warmth of the sun for several weeks.
  इस मिश्रण को कई सप्ताह तक सूर्य की प्राकृतिक गर्माहट में धीरे-धीरे परिपक्व किया जाता है।
- This gentle sun-cooking process allows the natural juices to ferment softly with the sugar, transforming the petals into a thick, cooling jam celebrated in **Ayurvedic traditions** for its digestive benefits.
  यह सौम्य सूर्य-पाक प्रक्रिया प्राकृतिक रसों को चीनी के साथ धीरे-धीरे किण्वित होने देती है, जिससे पंखुड़ियाँ एक गाढ़े और शीतल जैम में बदल जाती हैं, जिसे **आयुर्वेदिक परंपराओं** में पाचन संबंधी लाभों के लिए सराहा जाता है।
- Local entrepreneurs like **Shireen Manhas** are instrumental in bridging the gap between these age-old agricultural traditions and modern, premium markets.
  शिरीन मनहास जैसी स्थानीय उद्यमी इन प्राचीन कृषि परंपराओं और आधुनिक प्रीमियम बाज़ारों के बीच की दूरी को कम करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा रही हैं।
- By establishing structured **agro-ventures**, Ms. Manhas and fellow innovators empower local farmers, particularly women, through sustainable employment.

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संगठित **कृषि-उद्यमों (Agro-Ventures)** की स्थापना करके, सुश्री मनहास और अन्य नवप्रवर्तक स्थानीय किसानों, विशेषकर महिलाओं, को सतत रोजगार के माध्यम से सशक्त बना रहे हैं।

- Their enterprises focus on maintaining absolute purity — avoiding **synthetic additives** — while utilising contemporary packaging and supply chains.
  उनके उद्यम पूर्ण शुद्धता बनाए रखने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करते हैं — **कृत्रिम योजकों (Synthetic Additives)** से बचते हुए — तथा आधुनिक पैकेजिंग और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं का उपयोग करते हैं।
- This modern entrepreneurial approach not only preserves **Kashmir's** delicate horticultural heritage but also elevates its organic **rose water** and **Gulkand** to a competitive luxury status globally.
  यह आधुनिक उद्यमशील दृष्टिकोण न केवल **कश्मीर** की नाजुक बागवानी विरासत को संरक्षित करता है, बल्कि उसके जैविक **गुलाब जल** और **गुलकंद** को वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी विलासिता उत्पादों का दर्जा भी दिलाता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Why is the Zojila tunnel a game changer?

Why is the tunnel an engineering marvel and what were the challenges in building it? How does it improve connectivity and ensure travellers' safety? How does it provide strategic access in the border region? When will it open for civilian traffic?

GS III: Economy

Peerzada Ashiq

The story so far:

The world's longest high-altitude tunnel, spanning 13.14 kilometres at an altitude of 11,578 feet, achieved a breakthrough on June 9, 2026. Built at a cost of ₹6,800 crore, the Zojila tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh, traversing a region that was long considered to be formidable in the Himalayas. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, who pressed the blast button for the 2.5 metre-long last leg, termed the breakthrough "a historic day for India's infrastructure development and a milestone in India's technical expertise, engineering prowess, and indomitable resolve".

What makes the Zojila tunnel an engineering marvel?

Zojila tunnel is India's first longest single-tube bi-directional tunnel and an engineering marvel for several reasons. The underground works were highly challenging due to the difficult terrain. The western Himalayan range around the Zojila Pass has been daunting for engineers and planners, with the fragile geology, sensitive rock formations, avalanche-prone terrain, and harsh winter conditions all complicating the execution of the project.

The Zojila tunnel is expected to provide year-long transportation access to the Indian forces stationed in Ladakh

The Zojila tunnel connects Sonamarg's Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district with Meenamarg in Ladakh's Drass district. To ensure safe passage up to the mouth of the Zojila tunnel at Baltal, additional roadways, three bridges, and two tunnels were constructed over a stretch of 31 km in Sonamarg. These were designed to withstand the vagaries of winter, as avalanches and snow slides are often reported in the area.

It is a combined system of tunnels and roadways that forms a comprehensive corridor between the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The tunnel is equipped with catch dams, protection walls, and deflector dams over a 6-km stretch for protection from snowstorms. It will have automatic and emergency lighting, emergency phone, message signalling, and radio to ensure travellers' safety.

(R-L): J&K LG Manoj Sinha with Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the breakthrough ceremony of Zojila tunnel, in Ladakh. PTI

Why is this a memorable project for engineers?

The tunnel was dug in extreme weather conditions, with temperatures dropping to minus 20 degrees Celsius on the Kashmir side and minus 30 degrees Celsius on the Drass side. Official estimates suggested that extreme weather conditions were prevalent for nearly 100 days a year. Then, there were avalanche risks: five major avalanches left two workers dead and over 172 workers stranded and later rescued. Snow accumulation was dealt with by a fleet of small and large snow blowers. Officials said the rock classification also changed 67 times across the 13-km stretch, "shifting constantly between good and poor formations."

Why is the tunnel significant for strategic connectivity?

India has witnessed repeated military confrontations with China and Pakistan since 1947, particularly in the regions of Ladakh and Kashmir, most notably in 1962 and 1999. India's full-scale military response was always hampered by lack of connectivity and poor mobility of men and material in the region, both along the Line of Control in the west and the Line of Actual Control in the east. Officials believe that restricted movement of military vehicles led to delays. The Zojila tunnel is now expected to provide year-long transportation access to the Indian forces stationed in Ladakh, significantly improving mobility, logistics reliability, and strategic access in the border region. This is why Mr. Gadkari described it as "a game changer from a security perspective and the perspective of national integration".

What does it means for locals?

Ladakh has always been cut off from the Kashmir Valley during winters. Heavy snow and landslides would often close the Zojila Pass for 4-6 months. There have also been frequent reports of commuter deaths on the Zojila Pass due to landslides triggered by rains and avalanches occurring during sunny winters. All this resulted in severe hardships for patients and students in the Kargil-Drass range. Stocks would deplete, but the problem could not be attended to because of road closure. Locals relied on sun-dried vegetables and cereals during winters. Now, the is expected to be movement of people and goods and no more weather-related isolation for the region. Additionally, the tunnel will put a spotlight on activities such as adventure tourism and skiing in Drass, which will contribute to the economy.

When will the tunnel open for civilians?

In spite of the breakthrough, the tunnel is likely to take two years to be fully functional. Water seepage, benching, and electronic layouts are still being worked out. However, officials said the tunnel could be thrown open in case of emergencies, especially to security forces.

The tunnel will also help pilgrims on the Amarnath Yatra, whose base camp is in Baltal. Officials said vehicles can travel at a speed of 80 km per hour through the tunnel. Earlier, drivers could not drive more than 30-40 km per hour on the Zojila Pass, because of steep roads and hair-pin curves.

Officials said the project is moving closer to its long-envisioned goal of seamless all-weather connectivity that will spur long-term benefits in terms of mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience.

14J6. Why is the Zojila tunnel a game changer?
ज़ोजिला सुरंग को गेम चेंजर क्यों माना जा रहा है?

What makes the Zojila tunnel an engineering marvel?
जोजिला सुरंग को इंजीनियरिंग का चमत्कार क्या बनाता है?

- The world's longest **high-altitude tunnel**, spanning **13.14 kilometres** at an altitude of **11,578 feet**, achieved a breakthrough on **June 9, 2026**.
  11,578 फीट की ऊँचाई पर स्थित विश्व की सबसे लंबी **उच्च-ऊंचाई सुरंग**, जिसकी लंबाई **13.14 किलोमीटर** है, ने **9 जून 2026** को महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त की।
- Built at a cost of **₹6,800 crore**, the **Zojila tunnel** will provide all-weather connectivity between the **Kashmir Valley** and **Ladakh**, traversing a region that was long considered to be formidable in the Himalayas.
  ₹6,800 करोड़ की लागत से निर्मित **जोजिला सुरंग**, **कश्मीर घाटी** और **लद्दाख** के बीच सभी मौसमों में संपर्क उपलब्ध कराएगी तथा हिमालय के उस क्षेत्र से होकर गुजरती है जिसे लंबे समय तक अत्यंत दुर्गम माना जाता था।
- Union Minister for **Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari**, who pressed the blast button for the **2.5 metre-long last leg**, termed the breakthrough "a historic day for India's infrastructure development and a milestone in India's technical expertise, engineering prowess, and indomitable resolve".

सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी, जिन्होंने अंतिम **2.5 मीटर** भाग के लिए विस्फोट बटन दबाया, ने इस उपलब्धि को "भारत के अवसंरचना विकास के लिए ऐतिहासिक दिन तथा भारत की तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता, इंजीनियरिंग क्षमता और अदम्य संकल्प का मील का पत्थर" बताया।

- **Zojila tunnel** is India's first longest **single-tube bi-directional tunnel** and an engineering marvel for several reasons.
  जोजिला सुरंग भारत की पहली सबसे लंबी **एकल-ट्यूब द्विदिशीय सुरंग** है और अनेक कारणों से इंजीनियरिंग का अद्भुत उदाहरण है।
- The underground works were highly challenging due to the difficult terrain.
  कठिन भू-भाग के कारण भूमिगत निर्माण कार्य अत्यंत चुनौतीपूर्ण थे।
- The western **Himalayan range** around the **Zojila Pass** has been daunting for engineers and planners, with the fragile geology, sensitive rock formations, avalanche-prone terrain, and harsh winter conditions all complicating the execution of the project.
  जोजिला दर्रे के आसपास की पश्चिमी **हिमालयी श्रृंखला** इंजीनियरों और योजनाकारों के लिए चुनौतीपूर्ण रही है, क्योंकि नाजुक भूगर्भीय संरचना, संवेदनशील चट्टानी संरचनाएँ, हिमस्खलन-प्रवण क्षेत्र तथा कठोर शीतकालीन परिस्थितियों ने परियोजना के क्रियान्वयन को जटिल बना दिया।
- The **Zojila tunnel** connects **Sonamarg's Baltal** in central Kashmir's **Ganderbal district** with **Meenamarg** in Ladakh's **Drass district**.
  जोजिला सुरंग मध्य कश्मीर के **गांदरबल जिले** में स्थित **सोनमर्ग के बालटाल** को लद्दाख के **द्रास जिले** के **मीनामार्ग** से जोड़ती है।
- To ensure safe passage up to the mouth of the **Zojila tunnel** at Baltal, additional roadways, **three bridges**, and **two tunnels** were constructed over a stretch of **31 km** in Sonamarg.
  बालटाल स्थित **जोजिला सुरंग** के प्रवेश द्वार तक सुरक्षित आवागमन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सोनमर्ग में **31 किलोमीटर** के क्षेत्र में अतिरिक्त सड़कें, **तीन पुल** और **दो सुरंगें** निर्मित की गईं।
- These were designed to withstand the vagaries of winter, as avalanches and snow slides are often reported in the area.
  इन्हें शीतकालीन प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियों का सामना करने हेतु डिजाइन किया गया, क्योंकि इस क्षेत्र में अक्सर हिमस्खलन और बर्फ खिसकने की घटनाएँ होती हैं।
- It is a combined system of tunnels and roadways that forms a comprehensive corridor between the **Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.
  यह सुरंगों और सड़कों की एक संयुक्त प्रणाली है जो **जम्मू-कश्मीर और लद्दाख केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों** के बीच एक व्यापक गलियारा बनाती है।
- The tunnel is equipped with **catch dams, protection walls, and deflector dams** over a **6-km stretch** for protection from snowstorms.
  यह सुरंग हिम-तूफानों से सुरक्षा के लिए **6 किलोमीटर** क्षेत्र में **कैच डैम, सुरक्षा दीवारों और डिफ्लेक्टर डैमों** से सुसज्जित है।
- It will have **automatic and emergency lighting, emergency phone, message signalling, and radio** to ensure travellers' safety.
  यात्रियों की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए इसमें **स्वचालित एवं आपातकालीन प्रकाश व्यवस्था, आपातकालीन फोन, संदेश संकेत प्रणाली तथा रेडियो सुविधा** उपलब्ध होगी।

Why is this a memorable project for engineers?
यह परियोजना इंजीनियरों के लिए यादगार क्यों है?

- The tunnel was dug in **extreme weather conditions**, with temperatures dropping to **minus 20 degrees Celsius** on the Kashmir side and **minus 30 degrees Celsius** on the Drass side.
  यह सुरंग **अत्यधिक प्रतिकूल मौसम परिस्थितियों** में खोदी गई, जहाँ कश्मीर की ओर तापमान **माइनस 20 डिग्री सेल्सियस** और द्रास की ओर **माइनस 30 डिग्री सेल्सियस** तक गिर जाता था।

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- Official estimates suggested that extreme weather conditions were prevalent for nearly **100 days a year**.
  आधिकारिक अनुमानों के अनुसार ऐसी प्रतिकूल मौसम स्थितियाँ वर्ष में लगभग **100 दिनों** तक बनी रहती थीं।
- Then, there were **avalanche risks**: five major avalanches left **two workers dead** and over **172 workers stranded and later rescued**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **हिमस्खलन का खतरा** भी था; पाँच बड़े हिमस्खलनों में **दो श्रमिकों की मृत्यु** हो गई तथा **172 से अधिक श्रमिक फँस गए**, जिन्हें बाद में बचाया गया।
- Snow accumulation was dealt with by a fleet of small and large **snow blowers**.
  बर्फ के जमाव से निपटने के लिए छोटे और बड़े **स्नो ब्लोअर्स** के बेड़े का उपयोग किया गया।
- Officials said the **rock classification** also changed **67 times** across the **13-km stretch**, "shifting constantly between good and poor formations."
  अधिकारियों ने बताया कि **13 किलोमीटर** के क्षेत्र में **चट्टानों का वर्गीकरण 67 बार** बदला, जो लगातार अच्छी और खराब संरचनाओं के बीच परिवर्तित होता रहा।

Why is the tunnel significant for strategic connectivity?
रणनीतिक संपर्क के लिए यह सुरंग क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है?

- **India** has witnessed repeated military confrontations with **China** and **Pakistan** since **1947**, particularly in the regions of **Ladakh** and **Kashmir**, most notably in **1962** and **1999**.
  भारत ने **1947** के बाद से **चीन** और **पाकिस्तान** के साथ कई सैन्य संघर्ष देखे हैं, विशेषकर **लद्दाख** और **कश्मीर** क्षेत्रों में, जिनमें **1962** और **1999** के संघर्ष विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय हैं।
- India's full-scale military response was always hampered by lack of connectivity and poor mobility of men and material in the region, both along the **Line of Control (LoC)** in the west and the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in the east.
  भारत की व्यापक सैन्य प्रतिक्रिया हमेशा संपर्क की कमी और सैनिकों तथा सैन्य सामग्री की सीमित आवाजाही के कारण प्रभावित रही, चाहे पश्चिम में **नियंत्रण रेखा (LoC)** हो या पूर्व में **वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC)**।
- Officials believe that restricted movement of military vehicles led to delays.
  अधिकारियों का मानना है कि सैन्य वाहनों की सीमित आवाजाही के कारण विलंब होता था।
- The **Zojila tunnel** is now expected to provide year-long transportation access to the Indian forces stationed in **Ladakh**, significantly improving mobility, logistics reliability, and strategic access in the border region.
  अब **जोजिला सुरंग** से **लद्दाख** में तैनात भारतीय सेनाओं को पूरे वर्ष परिवहन सुविधा उपलब्ध होने की उम्मीद है, जिससे गतिशीलता, रसद विश्वसनीयता और सीमा क्षेत्र में रणनीतिक पहुँच में उल्लेखनीय सुधार होगा।
- This is why Mr. **Gadkari** described it as "a game changer from a security perspective and the perspective of national integration".
  इसी कारण श्री **गडकरी** ने इसे "सुरक्षा और राष्ट्रीय एकीकरण के दृष्टिकोण से गेम चेंजर" बताया।

What does it means for locals?
स्थानीय लोगों के लिए इसका क्या महत्व है?

- **Ladakh** has always been cut off from the **Kashmir Valley** during winters.
  लद्दाख सर्दियों के दौरान हमेशा **कश्मीर घाटी** से कट जाता था।
- Heavy snow and landslides would often close the **Zojila Pass** for **4-6 months**.
  भारी बर्फबारी और भूस्खलन के कारण **जोजिला दर्रा** अक्सर **4 से 6 महीनों** तक बंद रहता था।
- There have also been frequent reports of commuter deaths on the **Zojila Pass** due to landslides triggered by rains and avalanches occurring during sunny winters.
  बारिश से उत्पन्न भूस्खलन और धूप वाले शीतकाल में होने वाले हिमस्खलनों के कारण **जोजिला दर्रे** पर यात्रियों की मृत्यु की घटनाएँ भी बार-बार सामने आती रही हैं।

- All this resulted in severe hardships for patients and students in the **Kargil-Drass** range.
  इन परिस्थितियों के कारण **कारगिल-द्रास** क्षेत्र के मरीजों और विद्यार्थियों को गंभीर कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता था।
- Stocks would deplete, but the problem could not be attended to because of road closure.
  भंडार समाप्त हो जाते थे, किंतु सड़कें बंद होने के कारण समस्या का समाधान नहीं हो पाता था।
- Locals relied on **sun-dried vegetables and cereals** during winters.
  स्थानीय लोग सर्दियों में **धूप में सुखाई गई सब्जियों और अनाजों** पर निर्भर रहते थे।
- Now, there is expected to be movement of people and goods and no more weather-related isolation for the region.
  अब लोगों और वस्तुओं की निरंतर आवाजाही होने की संभावना है तथा क्षेत्र को मौसमजनित अलगाव का सामना नहीं करना पड़ेगा।
- Additionally, the tunnel will put a spotlight on activities such as **adventure tourism** and **skiing** in **Drass**, which will contribute to the economy.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, यह सुरंग **द्रास** में **एडवेंचर पर्यटन** और **स्कीइंग** जैसी गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा देगी, जिससे स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को लाभ होगा।

When will the tunnel open for civilians?
सुरंग आम नागरिकों के लिए कब खुलेगी?

- In spite of the breakthrough, the tunnel is likely to take **two years** to be fully functional.
  महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त होने के बावजूद सुरंग को पूर्ण रूप से चालू होने में लगभग **दो वर्ष** लग सकते हैं।
- **Water seepage, benching, and electronic layouts** are still being worked out.
  जल रिसाव, बेंचिंग तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक व्यवस्थाओं पर अभी भी कार्य जारी है।
- However, officials said the tunnel could be thrown open in case of emergencies, especially to **security forces**.
  हालाँकि अधिकारियों ने कहा कि आपातकालीन परिस्थितियों में, विशेष रूप से **सुरक्षा बलों** के लिए, सुरंग को खोला जा सकता है।
- The tunnel will also help pilgrims on the **Amarnath Yatra**, whose base camp is in **Baltal**.
  यह सुरंग **अमरनाथ यात्रा** के श्रद्धालुओं के लिए भी सहायक होगी, जिनका आधार शिविर **बालटाल** में स्थित है।
- Officials said vehicles can travel at a speed of **80 km per hour** through the tunnel.
  अधिकारियों के अनुसार वाहन सुरंग के भीतर **80 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा** की गति से चल सकेंगे।
- Earlier, drivers could not drive more than **30-40 km per hour** on the **Zojila Pass**, because of steep roads and hair-pin curves.
  पहले चालक **जोजिला दर्रे** पर तीव्र ढलानों और हेयर-पिन मोड़ों के कारण **30-40 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा** से अधिक गति से वाहन नहीं चला सकते थे।
- Officials said the project is moving closer to its long-envisioned goal of **seamless all-weather connectivity** that will spur long-term benefits in terms of **mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience**.
  अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह परियोजना **सभी मौसमों में निर्बाध संपर्क** के अपने दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य के और निकट पहुँच रही है, जिससे **गतिशीलता, आर्थिक एकीकरण और रणनीतिक मजबूती** के क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक लाभ प्राप्त होंगे।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	14 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14J6	Anomaly in PSLV detected and resolved: Jitendra PSLV में आई गड़बड़ी का पता लगाकर उसे दूर कर लिया गया: जितेंद्र
14J6	DRDO showcases critical defence technologies in three light tests

	DRDO ने तीन उड़ान परीक्षणों में महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों का प्रदर्शन किया
14J6	Virulent bacterium विरुलेंट बैक्टीरियम (अत्यंत रोगजनक जीवाणु)
14J6	Meet the frogs that build 'cloudy' nests in South Africa's trees दक्षिण अफ्रीका के पेड़ों में 'बादलों जैसे' घोंसले बनाने वाले मेंढकों से मिलिए
14J6	How ants cope with disease outbreaks चींटियाँ रोग के प्रकोपों का सामना कैसे करती हैं
14J6	Sea star sports nature's optic fibres to focus light समुद्री तारा प्रकाश को केंद्रित करने के लिए प्रकृति के प्रकाशीय तंतुओं का उपयोग करता है
14J6	Nanographene paves way for ultra-porous materials नैनोग्राफीन अति-छिद्रयुक्त पदार्थों के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है
14J6	Do people have a tendency to walk in particular directions? क्या लोगों में किसी विशेष दिशा में चलने की प्रवृत्ति होती है?
14J6	AI sovereignty hawks see red as U.S. moves to block Mythos, Fable models एआई संप्रभुता के समर्थक चिंतित, क्योंकि अमेरिका ने Mythos और Fable मॉडलों पर रोक लगाई
14J6	Dr. Reddy's launches generic cancer drug Bosutinib in the U.S. डॉ. रेड्डीज़ ने अमेरिका में जेनेरिक कैंसर दवा Bosutinib लॉन्च की

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Anomaly in PSLV detected and resolved: Jitendra

GS III: S&T

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh on Saturday said that the anomaly in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) had been resolved.

Dr. Singh said on the sidelines of the Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru, that a national-level expert committee constituted to review the reason for the anomaly had submitted its report and the problem had been detected.

"The report has come out and the anomaly has been detected. However we cannot share that [reason for the anomaly] on a public platform. But experts are working on it, which has been resolved and very soon we will be back on track," Dr. Singh said replying to a query by *The Hindu*.

The PSLV, which is referred to as the workhorse of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), had suffered two back-to-back setbacks.

On January 12, 2026, the PSLV-C62 mission carrying the EOS-N1 earth observation satellite failed to finish its intended trajectory after an anomaly was detected during the end of the third stage of the launch vehicle.

On May 18, 2025, while the ISRO attempted to launch the EOS-09 satellite aboard the PSLV-C61 mission, it couldn't complete it.

Jitendra Singh

It was also due to an anomaly in the third stage of the rocket.

Following this a national-level expert committee was constituted which included K. Vijay Raghavan, former Principal Scientific Adviser, and former ISRO Chairman S. Somanath.

"There is no such thing as failure in a space mission. It is sometimes delayed, sometimes a setback which actually is a learning experience. Even if you... call every unsuccessful or half successful attempt as a failure, statistically our number of so-called failures is much lesser than the USA. Chandrayaan-3 and Mars Orbiter Mission were successful in their very first attempt so that way we have a better statistical record," Dr. Singh said.

ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said that ISRO's next launch, which would be the first one since the PSLV failure in January, would take place next month.

14J6. Anomaly in PSLV detected and resolved: Jitendra

PSLV में आई गड़बड़ी का पता लगाकर उसे दूर कर लिया गया: जितेंद्र

- **Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh** on Saturday said that the anomaly in the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** had been resolved.

विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी राज्य मंत्री जितेंद्र सिंह ने शनिवार को कहा कि **पोलर सैटेलाइट लॉन्च व्हीकल (PSLV)** में आई गड़बड़ी को दूर कर लिया गया है।

- Dr. Singh said on the sidelines of the **Research, Industry, Start-up and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Conclave 2026** in **Bengaluru**, that a **national-level expert committee** constituted to review the reason for the anomaly had submitted its report and the problem had been detected.

बेंगलुरु में आयोजित **रिसर्च, इंडस्ट्री, स्टार्ट-अप एंड एंटरप्रेन्योरशिप (RISE) कॉन्क्लेव 2026** के दौरान डॉ. सिंह ने कहा कि गड़बड़ी के कारणों की समीक्षा के लिए गठित **राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विशेषज्ञ समिति** ने अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंप दी है और समस्या की पहचान कर ली गई है।

- "The report has come out and the anomaly has been detected.

"रिपोर्ट आ गई है और गड़बड़ी की पहचान कर ली गई है।

- However we cannot share that [reason for the anomaly] on a public platform.

हालाँकि हम [गड़बड़ी के कारण] को सार्वजनिक मंच पर साझा नहीं कर सकते।

- But experts are working on it, which has been resolved and very soon we will be back on track," Dr. Singh said replying to a query.

लेकिन विशेषज्ञ इस पर काम कर रहे थे, इसे सुलझा लिया गया है और बहुत जल्द हम फिर से सामान्य गति पर लौट आएँगे," डॉ. सिंह ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा।

- The **PSLV**, which is referred to as the **workhorse** of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, had suffered two back-to-back setbacks.

पीएसएलवी, जिसे **भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO)** का **वर्कहॉर्स (मुख्य प्रक्षेपण यान)** कहा जाता है, लगातार दो असफलताओं का सामना कर चुका था।

- On **January 12, 2026**, the **PSLV-C62 mission** carrying the **EOS-N1 earth observation satellite** failed to finish its intended trajectory after an anomaly was detected during the end of the **third stage** of the launch vehicle.

12 जनवरी 2026 को **EOS-N1 पृथ्वी अवलोकन उपग्रह** को ले जा रहा **PSLV-C62 मिशन** अपने निर्धारित पथ को पूरा नहीं कर सका, क्योंकि प्रक्षेपण यान के **तीसरे चरण** के अंत में एक गड़बड़ी पाई गई थी।

- On **May 18, 2025**, while **ISRO** attempted to launch the **EOS-09 satellite** aboard the **PSLV-C61 mission**, it couldn't complete it.

18 मई 2025 को **ISRO** ने **PSLV-C61 मिशन** के माध्यम से **EOS-09 उपग्रह** को प्रक्षेपित करने का प्रयास किया था, लेकिन मिशन पूरा नहीं हो सका।

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- It was also due to an anomaly in the **third stage** of the rocket.
  यह भी रॉकेट के **तीसरे चरण** में आई गड़बड़ी के कारण हुआ था।
- Following this a **national-level expert committee** was constituted which included **K. Vijay Raghavan**, former **Principal Scienti• c Adviser**, and former **ISRO Chairman S. Somanath**.
  इसके बाद एक **राष्ट्रीय स्तर की विशेषज्ञ समिति** गठित की गई, जिसमें पूर्व **प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार के. विजय राघवन** और पूर्व **ISRO अध्यक्ष एस. सोमनाथ** शामिल थे।
- "There is no such thing as failure in a **space mission**.
  "किसी **अंतरिक्ष मिशन** में वास्तव में विफलता जैसी कोई चीज़ नहीं होती।
- It is sometimes delayed, sometimes a setback which actually is a learning experience.
  कभी इसमें देरी होती है, कभी कोई झटका लगता है, जो वास्तव में सीखने का अनुभव होता है।
- Even if you call every unsuccessful or half successful attempt a failure, statistically our number of so-called failures is much lesser than the **USA**.
  यदि आप हर असफल या आंशिक रूप से सफल प्रयास को विफलता कहें, तब भी सांख्यिकीय रूप से हमारी तथाकथित विफलताओं की संख्या **अमेरिका** से काफी कम है।
- **Chandrayaan-3** and **Mars Orbiter Mission** were successful in their very • rst attempt so that way we have a better statistical record," Dr. Singh said.
  चंद्रयान-3 और **मार्स ऑर्बिटर मिशन** अपने पहले ही प्रयास में सफल रहे थे, इसलिए इस दृष्टि से हमारा सांख्यिकीय रिकॉर्ड बेहतर है," डॉ. सिंह ने कहा।
- **ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan** said that **ISRO's next launch**, which would be the • rst one since the **PSLV failure** in January, would take place next month.
  ISRO अध्यक्ष वी. नारायणन ने कहा कि **ISRO का अगला प्रक्षेपण**, जो जनवरी में हुई **PSLV विफलता** के बाद पहला होगा, अगले महीने किया जाएगा।

DRDO showcases critical defence technologies in three flight tests

GS III: S&T

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated a range of critical defence technologies through three consecutive flight tests conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, significantly enhancing India's capabilities against diverse aerial and maritime threats.

Defence milestone

According to the Ministry of Defence, the tests showcased a multi-layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system and the maiden flight test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), marking a major milestone in India's indigenous defence technology development.

It further mentioned that the multi-layered BMD capability was successfully demonstrated with interceptor missiles engaging and destroying their designated targets.

The tests showcased a multi-layered ballistic missile defence system and the anti-ship missile. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Defence Minister congratulated the DRDO and associated teams on the successful tests

The systems, developed using advanced technologies, are designed to counter emerging missile threats across a broad spectrum.

Anti-ship missile

The successful trials have placed India among a select group of countries possessing BMD capabilities capable of engaging threats up to Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, significantly strengthening the country's strategic defence shield.

In another key achievement, DRDO successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR), demonstrating enhanced anti-ship strike capability at medium ranges.

The flight tests were witnessed by senior officials of DRDO and the Armed Forces.

Rajnath lauds DRDO

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and associated teams for the successful demonstration of the crucial technologies, stating that the achievements would further strengthen India's defence preparedness.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Rajesh Kumar Singh, closely monitored the trials and lauded the combined efforts of DRDO scientists, industry partners and the Armed Forces in achieving the milestone.

14J6. DRDO showcases critical defence technologies in three light tests

DRDO ने तीन उड़ान परीक्षणों में महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों का प्रदर्शन किया

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully demonstrated a range of **critical defence technologies** through three consecutive • ight tests conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, significantly enhancing India's capabilities against diverse **aerial and maritime threats**.
  रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास

संगठन (DRDO) ने बुधवार और गुरुवार को आयोजित लगातार तीन उड़ान परीक्षणों के माध्यम से कई **महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों** का सफल प्रदर्शन किया, जिससे विभिन्न **हवाई और समुद्री खतरों** के विरुद्ध भारत की क्षमता में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है।

Defence milestone
रक्षा क्षेत्र में महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि

- According to the **Ministry of Defence**, the tests showcased a multi-layered **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system** and the maiden • ight test of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR)**, marking a major milestone in India's indigenous defence technology development.
  रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, इन परीक्षणों में बहु-स्तरीय **बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल रक्षा (BMD) प्रणाली** तथा **नेवल एंटी-शिप मिसाइल-मीडियम रेंज (NASM-MR)** का पहला उड़ान परीक्षण प्रदर्शित किया गया, जो भारत की स्वदेशी रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी के विकास में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है।
- It further mentioned that the multi-layered **BMD capability** was successfully demonstrated with **interceptor missiles** engaging and destroying their designated targets.
  मंत्रालय ने यह भी बताया कि बहु-स्तरीय **BMD क्षमता** का सफल प्रदर्शन किया गया, जिसमें **इंटरसेप्टर मिसाइलों** ने अपने निर्धारित लक्ष्यों को भेदकर नष्ट किया।
- The systems, developed using **advanced technologies**, are designed to counter emerging missile threats across a broad spectrum.
  उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों से विकसित ये प्रणालियाँ विभिन्न प्रकार के उभरते मिसाइल खतरों का मुकाबला करने के लिए तैयार की गई हैं।

Anti-ship missile
एंटी-शिप मिसाइल

- The successful trials have placed **India** among a select group of countries possessing **BMD capabilities** capable of engaging threats up to **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles**, significantly strengthening the country's **strategic defence shield**.
  इन सफल परीक्षणों ने **भारत** को उन चुनिंदा देशों की श्रेणी में शामिल कर दिया है जिनके पास **BMD क्षमता** है और जो **अंतरमहाद्वीपीय बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों (ICBM)** तक के खतरों का मुकाबला कर सकते हैं, जिससे देश की **रणनीतिक रक्षा ढाल** और मजबूत हुई है।
- In another key achievement, **DRDO** successfully carried out the maiden • ight test of the **Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Medium Range (NASM-MR)**, demonstrating enhanced anti-ship strike capability at medium ranges.
  एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि में **DRDO** ने **नेवल एंटी-शिप मिसाइल-मीडियम रेंज (NASM-MR)** का पहला उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक किया, जिससे मध्यम दूरी पर एंटी-शिप प्रहार क्षमता का प्रदर्शन हुआ।
- The eight tests were witnessed by senior officials of **DRDO** and the **Armed Forces**.
  इन उड़ान परीक्षणों को **DRDO** और **सशस्त्र बलों** के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने देखा।

Rajnath lauds DRDO
राजनाथ सिंह ने DRDO की सराहना की

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** congratulated **DRDO** and associated teams for the successful demonstration of the crucial technologies, stating that the achievements would further strengthen India's **defence preparedness**.
  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियों के सफल प्रदर्शन के लिए **DRDO** और संबंधित टीमों को बधाई दी तथा कहा कि ये उपलब्धियाँ भारत की **रक्षा तैयारियों** को और मजबूत करेंगी।

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- **Secretary, Department of Defence R&D** and **Chairman DRDO, Rajesh Kumar Singh**, closely monitored the trials and lauded the combined efforts of **DRDO scientists**, **industry partners** and the **Armed Forces** in achieving the milestone.
रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास विभाग के सचिव एवं **DRDO अध्यक्ष राजेश कुमार सिंह** ने परीक्षणों की निकटता से निगरानी की और इस उपलब्धि को हासिल करने में **DRDO वैज्ञानिकों**, **उद्योग भागीदारों** तथा **सशस्त्र बलों** के संयुक्त प्रयासों की सराहना की।

Virulent bacterium

Shigella

Kerala has seen a new outbreak of shigellosis, caused by this gram-negative, contagious bacterium, which infects millions globally every year

GS III: S&T

Ramya Kannan

GETTY IMAGES

Stained, and viewed under a microscope, Shigella is a captivating sight. The rod-shaped bacteria resemble fat, furry cartoon caterpillars. In reality, however, this gram-negative, contagious bacterium, which causes shigellosis, can be remarkably dangerous. Shigella is back in the news, after an outbreak in Kerala that was first detected in late March 2026 and has continued into June. According to the Kerala health department, 132 confirmed cases and about 75 probable cases of shigellosis had been reported till June 12. Three deaths have been linked to the disease this year, two of which were children under five.

Shigellosis is a diarrhoeal disease marked by fever, abdominal cramps, and bloody diarrhoea (dysentery). It was bacteriologist Kiyoshi Shiga, who isolated the shigella dysenteriae, in 1897, after Japan experienced a severe dysentery epidemic. The genus eventually took his name.

Transmission is mostly through the faeco-oral route, when people ingest tiny amounts of faecal matter through contaminated food, water or hands. As low as 10-100 bacteria can cause the infection, and even an outbreak. It is estimated that globally, shigella causes 80-165 million infections annually and about 6,00,000 deaths, particularly among children under five in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In an article in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*, Neelam Taneja and Abhishek Mewara write about the epidemiology of shigella in India. "Though humans and primates are the primary reservoir of shigella, it has been isolated from various sources – aquatic bodies (rivers, surface waters as well as coastal waters), free living amoebae, insects, birds and wild animals."

Taneja and Mewara explain that several aquatic bodies in India have been found to show the presence of shigella. So a potential source of infection could be fish if it is harvested from sewage-contaminated water. Even ingesting small amounts of contaminated water while swimming or bathing, or the consumption of crops cultivated in soil/water contaminated by shigella can cause severe infection. The paper argues that while no individual can be considered immune to shigellosis, "certain individuals are at increased risk. Globally, the incidence of shigellosis is highest among children under five. The incidence of shigellosis has been reported to increase steadily after the age of 40."

Outbreak in Kerala

In late March 2026, Kerala reported a shigellosis outbreak in Kuttikkattoor, Kozhikode, where a three-year-old girl died and over 60 residents (mostly children) fell ill. Soon, clusters came up in Wayanad, Malappuram and Kannur. A major cluster emerged at a Wayanad school where over 300 children were hospitalised. So far, experts have traced the infections to contaminated water and food sources, alongside poor hygiene practices in communal environments such as schools.

This is not Kerala's first brush with shigellosis. In 2009, over 300 people reportedly contracted a food-borne shigella infection across the State. In December 2020, an outbreak, again in Kozhikode, killed an 11-year-old and infected 40 others; in May 2022, shigella was said to be behind a mass food poisoning incident, in Kasargod, where 30 people were hospitalised and a 16-year old girl died. While mild shigella infections typically clear on their own with hydration, severe cases require antibiotics to shorten the duration of the illness, reduce the severity and prevent complications, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. However, some antibiotics are not effective against certain types of shigella. Healthcare providers must order laboratory tests to determine which antibiotics are likely to work.

Taneja and Mewara point out in their article that "there is a nationwide presence of multi-drug resistant shigella developing rapid resistance to most antibiotics available. Thus, judicious use of antibiotics is among the most essential measures to combat shigellosis." This calls for a continuous and strong surveillance of antibiotic resistance across the country for periodic updates of the local antibiograms, in order to allow doctors to effectively identify the right antimicrobial drug to use.

14J6. Virulent bacterium

विरुलेंट बैक्टीरियम (अत्यंत रोगजनक जीवाणु)

- Stained, and viewed under a microscope, **Shigella** is a captivating sight.
माइक्रोस्कोप के नीचे रंगकर और देखने पर **शिगेला (Shigella)** एक आकर्षक दृश्य प्रतीत होता है।
- The rod-shaped bacteria resemble fat, furry cartoon caterpillars.
यह छड़ी (रॉड) के आकार का जीवाणु मोटे और रोएँदार कार्टून कैटरपिलर जैसा दिखाई देता है।
- In reality, however, this **gram-negative**, contagious bacterium, which causes **shigellosis**, can be remarkably dangerous.
लेकिन वास्तव में, **ग्राम-नेगेटिव**, संक्रामक जीवाणु, जो **शिगेलोसिस** उत्पन्न करता है, अत्यंत खतरनाक हो सकता है।
- **Shigella** is back in the news, after an outbreak in **Kerala** that was first detected in late March 2026 and has continued into June.
मार्च 2026 के अंत में पहली बार पहचाने गए **केरल** के प्रकोप के बाद **शिगेला** फिर से समाचारों में है, जो जून तक जारी रहा।
- According to the **Kerala health department**, 132 confirmed cases and about 75 probable cases of **shigellosis** had been reported till June 12.

केरल स्वास्थ्य विभाग के अनुसार, 12 जून तक **शिगेलोसिस** के 132 पुष्ट मामले और लगभग 75 संभावित मामले दर्ज किए गए थे।

- Three deaths have been linked to the disease this year, two of which were children under five.
  इस वर्ष इस बीमारी से तीन मौतों को जोड़ा गया है, जिनमें से दो पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चे थे।
- **Shigellosis** is a diarrhoeal disease marked by fever, abdominal cramps, and bloody diarrhoea (**dysentery**).
  शिगेलोसिस एक दस्त संबंधी रोग है जिसकी पहचान बुखार, पेट में ऐंठन और खून वाले दस्त (**पेचिश**) से होती है।
- It was bacteriologist **Kiyoshi Shiga**, who isolated the **Shigella dysenteriae**, in 1897, after Japan experienced a severe dysentery epidemic.
  1897 में जापान में गंभीर पेचिश महामारी के बाद जीवाणुविज्ञानी **कियोशी शिगा** ने **शिगेला डिसेंटेरिए** को पृथक किया था।
- The genus eventually took his name.
  बाद में इस जीवाणु वंश का नाम उन्हीं के नाम पर रखा गया।
- Transmission is mostly through the **faeco-oral route**, when people ingest tiny amounts of faecal matter through contaminated food, water or hands.
  संक्रमण मुख्यतः **मल-मुख मार्ग (फीकल-ओरल रूट)** से होता है, जब लोग दूषित भोजन, पानी या हाथों के माध्यम से मल के सूक्ष्म कण निगल लेते हैं।
- As low as 10-100 bacteria can cause the infection, and even an outbreak.
  केवल 10-100 जीवाणु भी संक्रमण और यहाँ तक कि प्रकोप का कारण बन सकते हैं।
- It is estimated that globally, **Shigella** causes 80-165 million infections annually and about 6,00,000 deaths, particularly among children under five in **sub-Saharan Africa** and **South Asia**.
  अनुमान है कि विश्वभर में **शिगेला** प्रतिवर्ष 8 से 16.5 करोड़ संक्रमण और लगभग 6,00,000 मौतों का कारण बनता है, विशेष रूप से **उप-सहारा अफ्रीका** और **दक्षिण एशिया** के पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में।
- In an article in the **Indian Journal of Medical Research**, **Neelam Taneja** and **Abhishek Mewara** write about the epidemiology of **Shigella** in India.
  इंडियन जर्नल ऑफ मेडिकल रिसर्च में प्रकाशित एक लेख में **नीलम तनेजा** और **अभिषेक मेवारा** ने भारत में **शिगेला** की महामारी विज्ञान पर लिखा है।
- "Though humans and primates are the primary reservoir of **Shigella**, it has been isolated from various sources — aquatic bodies (rivers, surface waters as well as coastal waters), free living amoebae, insects, birds and wild animals."
  "यद्यपि मनुष्य और प्राइमेट्स **शिगेला** के प्रमुख भंडार हैं, फिर भी इसे विभिन्न स्रोतों—जलीय निकायों (नदियाँ, सतही जल तथा तटीय जल), स्वतंत्र रूप से रहने वाले अमीबा, कीट, पक्षी और जंगली जानवरों—से पृथक किया गया है।"
- Taneja and Mewara explain that several aquatic bodies in India have been found to show the presence of **Shigella**.
  तनेजा और मेवारा बताते हैं कि भारत के कई जलीय निकायों में **शिगेला** की उपस्थिति पाई गई है।
- So a potential source of infection could be fish if it is harvested from sewage-contaminated water.
  इसलिए यदि मछली सीवेज से दूषित जल से पकड़ी जाती है, तो वह संक्रमण का संभावित स्रोत हो सकती है।
- Even ingesting small amounts of contaminated water while swimming or bathing, or the consumption of crops cultivated in soil/water contaminated by **Shigella** can cause severe infection.
  तैराकी या स्नान के दौरान दूषित जल की थोड़ी मात्रा निगलना, अथवा **शिगेला** से दूषित मिट्टी या पानी में उगाई गई फसलों का सेवन भी गंभीर संक्रमण उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- The paper argues that while no individual can be considered immune to **shigellosis**, "certain individuals are at increased risk."

इस शोधपत्र में तर्क दिया गया है कि यद्यपि किसी भी व्यक्ति को **शिगेलोसिस** से पूर्णतः प्रतिरक्षित नहीं माना जा सकता, फिर भी "कुछ व्यक्तियों में जोखिम अधिक होता है।"

- Globally, the incidence of **shigellosis** is highest among children under five.
  वैश्विक स्तर पर **शिगेलोसिस** की घटनाएँ पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में सबसे अधिक हैं।
- The incidence of **shigellosis** has been reported to increase steadily after the age of 40.
  40 वर्ष की आयु के बाद **शिगेलोसिस** की घटनाओं में लगातार वृद्धि देखी गई है।

Outbreak in Kerala
केरल में प्रकोप

- In late March 2026, **Kerala** reported a **shigellosis outbreak** in **Kuttikkattoor, Kozhikode**, where a three-year-old girl died and over 60 residents (mostly children) fell ill.
  मार्च 2026 के अंत में **केरल** ने **कोझिकोड के कुट्टिक्काट्टूर** में **शिगेलोसिस प्रकोप** की सूचना दी, जहाँ तीन वर्ष की एक बच्ची की मृत्यु हो गई और 60 से अधिक निवासी (अधिकांश बच्चे) बीमार पड़ गए।
- Soon, clusters came up in **Wayanad, Malappuram and Kannur**.
  इसके बाद **वायनाड, मलप्पुरम और कन्नूर** में भी संक्रमण के समूह सामने आए।
- A major cluster emerged at a **Wayanad school** where over 300 children were hospitalised.
  एक बड़ा संक्रमण समूह **वायनाड के एक विद्यालय** में सामने आया जहाँ 300 से अधिक बच्चों को अस्पताल में भर्ती करना पड़ा।
- So far, experts have traced the infections to contaminated water and food sources, alongside poor hygiene practices in communal environments such as schools.
  अब तक विशेषज्ञों ने संक्रमण का संबंध दूषित जल और भोजन स्रोतों के साथ-साथ विद्यालयों जैसे सामुदायिक वातावरण में खराब स्वच्छता प्रथाओं से जोड़ा है।
- This is not **Kerala's** first brush with **shigellosis**.
  यह **केरल** का **शिगेलोसिस** से पहला सामना नहीं है।
- In 2009, over 300 people reportedly contracted a food-borne **Shigella** infection across the State.
  2009 में राज्यभर में 300 से अधिक लोगों के खाद्यजनित **शिगेला** संक्रमण से प्रभावित होने की सूचना मिली थी।
- In December 2020, an outbreak, again in **Kozhikode**, killed an 11-year-old and infected 40 others.
  दिसंबर 2020 में **कोझिकोड** में ही एक प्रकोप ने 11 वर्षीय बच्चे की जान ले ली और 40 अन्य लोगों को संक्रमित किया।
- In May 2022, **Shigella** was said to be behind a mass food poisoning incident, in **Kasargod**, where 30 people were hospitalised and a 16-year-old girl died.
  मई 2022 में **कासरगोड** में सामूहिक खाद्य विषाक्तता की घटना के पीछे **शिगेला** को जिम्मेदार बताया गया, जिसमें 30 लोगों को अस्पताल में भर्ती करना पड़ा और 16 वर्षीय लड़की की मृत्यु हो गई।
- While mild **Shigella** infections typically clear on their own with hydration, severe cases require **antibiotics** to shorten the duration of the illness, reduce the severity and prevent complications, according to the **U.S. Centers for Disease Control**.
  अमेरिकी रोग नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम केंद्र (CDC) के अनुसार, हल्के **शिगेला** संक्रमण सामान्यतः पर्याप्त तरल पदार्थ लेने से स्वयं ठीक हो जाते हैं, लेकिन गंभीर मामलों में बीमारी की अवधि कम करने, गंभीरता घटाने और जटिलताओं को रोकने के लिए **एंटीबायोटिक्स** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- However, some antibiotics are not effective against certain types of **Shigella**.
  हालाँकि, कुछ एंटीबायोटिक्स **शिगेला** के कुछ प्रकारों पर प्रभावी नहीं होती हैं।
- Healthcare providers must order laboratory tests to determine which antibiotics are likely to work.

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स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं को यह निर्धारित करने के लिए प्रयोगशाला परीक्षण करवाने चाहिए कि कौन-सी एंटीबायोटिक्स प्रभावी हो सकती हैं।

- Taneja and Mewara point out in their article that "there is a nationwide presence of **multi-drug resistant Shigella** developing rapid resistance to most antibiotics available."
  तनेजा और मेवारा अपने लेख में बताते हैं कि "देशभर में **बहु-औषधि प्रतिरोधी शिगेला (Multi-drug Resistant Shigella)** मौजूद है, जो उपलब्ध अधिकांश एंटीबायोटिक्स के प्रति तेजी से प्रतिरोध विकसित कर रही है।"
- Thus, judicious use of **antibiotics** is among the most essential measures to combat **shigellosis**.
  इसलिए **शिगेलोसिस** से निपटने के लिए **एंटीबायोटिक्स** का विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग सबसे आवश्यक उपायों में से एक है।
- This calls for a continuous and strong surveillance of **antibiotic resistance** across the country for periodic updates of the local antibiograms, in order to allow doctors to effectively identify the right antimicrobial drug to use.
  इसके लिए देशभर में **एंटीबायोटिक प्रतिरोध** की सतत और मजबूत निगरानी आवश्यक है ताकि स्थानीय एंटीबायोग्राम का समय-समय पर अद्यतन किया जा सके और डॉक्टर प्रभावी रूप से सही रोगाणुरोधी दवा का चयन कर सकें।

Meet the frogs that build 'cloudy' nests in South Africa's trees

GS III: S&T

D.P. Kasbekar

For most frogs, life begins as a game of odds. They lay their eggs in the water, where fish and insects gobble up about 98% of them before they even have a chance to hatch. The African grey foam-nest tree frog (*Chiromantis xerampelina*) figured a way out: it took its nest into the air.

In the rainy season between October and February, a female frog finds a branch overhanging a pool and begins secreting a special fluid. As the male and the female mate, the pair uses their hind legs like whisks to churn the secretions into a thick, bubbly froth. The result is a foamy nest.

A few days later, the eggs hatch inside this nest. When the tadpoles are ready, they simply break through the bottom of the foam and drop into the pool below, beginning the next stage of their lives.

While a single pair of frogs can build a nest, these frogs prefer a 'foam party' approach. Researchers from three Australian universities recently studied these frogs in South Africa and found that when it comes to nesting, there is real strength in numbers.

The findings were published in the journal *Evolution* on June 2.

Sometimes, a single female is joined by a dozen or more males. This results in a better home rather than chaos.

More males meant more legs churning, leading to nests up to three times larger than those built by a single pair.

While smaller nests dry out quickly, killing the eggs inside, larger nests hold onto moisture for longer, ensuring more tadpoles survive from the nest.

You might wonder: why would a male frog help build a nest if he is competing with 12 other frogs? Using DNA testing, the researchers found that in these crowded nests, paternity is often split. By cooperating to build a large, moist fortress, the males ensure at least some of their offspring survive, rather than losing all of them to a dried-out nest.

The scientists also suspected that the males' skin and fluids contain surfactants – compounds similar to laundry detergent – that keep the bubbles from popping.

The African grey foam-nest tree frog reminds us that survival is not always about being the strongest or the fastest. Sometimes, it is about having the best teammates, the best chemistry, and the most impressive bubble-making skills in the forest.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist)

14J6. Meet the frogs that build 'cloudy' nests in South Africa's trees
दक्षिण अफ्रीका के पेड़ों में 'बादलों जैसे' घोंसले बनाने वाले मेंढकों से मिलिए

- For most **frogs**, life begins as a game of odds.
  अधिकांश **मेंढकों** के लिए जीवन की शुरुआत अनिश्चितताओं के एक खेल के रूप में होती है।
- They lay their eggs in the water, where **fish** and **insects** gobble up about **98%** of them before they even have a chance to hatch.
  वे अपने अंडे पानी में देते हैं, जहाँ **मछलियाँ** और **कीट** उनके लगभग **98%** अंडों को उनके फूटने का अवसर मिलने से पहले ही खा जाते हैं।
- The **African grey foam-nest tree frog (Chiromantis xerampelina)** figured a way out: it took its nest into the air.
  अफ्रीकी ग्रे फोम-नेस्ट ट्री फ्रॉग (Chiromantis xerampelina) ने इससे बचने का एक उपाय खोज लिया: उसने अपना घोंसला हवा में बनाना शुरू कर दिया।
- In the rainy season between **October and February**, a female frog finds a branch overhanging a pool and begins secreting a special fluid.

अक्टूबर और फरवरी के बीच वर्षा ऋतु में, एक मादा मेंढक जलाशय के ऊपर निकली हुई किसी शाखा को खोजती है और एक विशेष द्रव का स्राव करना शुरू करती है।

- As the male and the female mate, the pair uses their hind legs like whisks to churn the secretions into a thick, bubbly froth.
  जब नर और मादा मैथुन करते हैं, तब यह जोड़ा अपने पिछले पैरों का उपयोग फेंटने वाले उपकरण की तरह करते हुए उस स्राव को गाढ़े और बुलबुलेदार झाग में बदल देता है।
- The result is a **foamy nest**.
  इसका परिणाम एक **झागदार घोंसले** के रूप में सामने आता है।
- A few days later, the eggs hatch inside this nest.
  कुछ दिनों बाद, इसी घोंसले के भीतर अंडों से बच्चे निकल आते हैं।
- When the **tadpoles** are ready, they simply break through the bottom of the foam and drop into the pool below, beginning the next stage of their lives.
  जब **टैडपोल (शिशु मेंढक)** तैयार हो जाते हैं, तो वे झाग की निचली परत को तोड़कर नीचे स्थित जलाशय में गिर जाते हैं और अपने जीवन के अगले चरण की शुरुआत करते हैं।
- While a single pair of frogs can build a nest, these frogs prefer a '**foam party**' approach.
  यद्यपि मेंढकों का एक जोड़ा घोंसला बना सकता है, फिर भी ये मेंढक '**फोम पार्टी**' जैसी सामूहिक पद्धति को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- Researchers from **three Australian universities** recently studied these frogs in **South Africa** and found that when it comes to nesting, there is real strength in numbers.
  ऑस्ट्रेलिया के तीन विश्वविद्यालयों के शोधकर्ताओं ने हाल ही में **दक्षिण अफ्रीका** में इन मेंढकों का अध्ययन किया और पाया कि घोंसला निर्माण के मामले में संख्या में वास्तव में शक्ति होती है।
- The findings were published in the journal **Evolution** on **June 2**.
  ये निष्कर्ष **2 जून** को **Evolution** नामक पत्रिका में प्रकाशित किए गए।
- Sometimes, a single female is joined by a dozen or more males.
  कभी-कभी एक अकेली मादा के साथ एक दर्जन या उससे अधिक नर शामिल हो जाते हैं।
- This results in a better home rather than chaos.
  इससे अव्यवस्था नहीं बल्कि एक बेहतर घर का निर्माण होता है।
- More males meant more legs churning, leading to nests up to **three times larger** than those built by a single pair.
  अधिक नर होने का अर्थ है अधिक पैरों द्वारा झाग तैयार करना, जिससे ऐसे घोंसले बनते हैं जो एक जोड़े द्वारा बनाए गए घोंसलों की तुलना में **तीन गुना बड़े** हो सकते हैं।
- While smaller nests dry out quickly, killing the eggs inside, larger nests hold onto moisture for longer, ensuring more tadpoles survive from the nest.
  जहाँ छोटे घोंसले जल्दी सूख जाते हैं और उनके भीतर के अंडे नष्ट हो जाते हैं, वहीं बड़े घोंसले लंबे समय तक नमी बनाए रखते हैं, जिससे अधिक टैडपोल जीवित रह पाते हैं।
- You might wonder: why would a male frog help build a nest if he is competing with **12 other frogs**?
  आप सोच सकते हैं कि यदि कोई नर मेंढक **12 अन्य मेंढकों** के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रहा है, तो वह घोंसला बनाने में सहायता क्यों करेगा?
- Using **DNA testing**, the researchers found that in these crowded nests, paternity is often split.
  डीएनए परीक्षण का उपयोग करके शोधकर्ताओं ने पाया कि इन भीड़भाड़ वाले घोंसलों में संतानों की पितृत्व जिम्मेदारी अक्सर कई नर में विभाजित होती है।
- By cooperating to build a large, moist fortress, the males ensure at least some of their offspring survive, rather than losing all of them to a dried-out nest.
  एक बड़े और नम किले जैसे घोंसले के निर्माण में सहयोग करके नर यह सुनिश्चित करते हैं कि उनकी कम-से-कम कुछ संताने जीवित रहें, बजाय इसके कि सभी संतानें सूख चुके घोंसले में नष्ट हो जाएँ।
- The scientists also suspected that the males' skin and fluids contain **surfactants** — compounds similar to laundry detergent — that keep the bubbles from popping.

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वैज्ञानिकों को यह भी संदेह है कि नर मेंढकों की त्वचा और द्रवों में **सर्फैक्टेंट्स** होते हैं — जो कपड़े धोने वाले डिटर्जेंट जैसे यौगिक होते हैं — और ये बुलबुलों को फूटने से बचाते हैं।

- The **African grey foam-nest tree frog** reminds us that survival is not always about being the strongest or the fastest.
  अफ्रीकी ग्रे फोम-नेस्ट ट्री फ्रॉग हमें यह याद दिलाता है कि जीवित रहना हमेशा सबसे शक्तिशाली या सबसे तेज़ होने पर निर्भर नहीं करता।
- Sometimes, it is about having the best teammates, the best chemistry, and the most impressive bubble-making skills in the forest.
  कभी-कभी यह सबसे अच्छे साथियों, सर्वोत्तम सामंजस्य और जंगल में सबसे प्रभावशाली बुलबुले बनाने की क्षमता पर निर्भर करता है।

How ants cope with disease outbreaks

GS III: S&T

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Ants are associated with a range of very positive qualities – including a self-motivated work ethic, preparedness and long-term thinking, and a preference for collective effort. Many ant species are also social, and living in social groups offers many advantages. However, there are downsides too.

Among humans, the occurrence of seasonal outbreaks of infections such as influenza and other diseases is the result of the nature of the social structures humans live in. That is how we have learnt the basic rules of limiting these outbreaks' effects. If you notice a general build-up of symptoms, you take leave from your workplace and isolate yourself for a few days.

Altering one's social contact networks reduces the spread of pathogens. This process requires collective discipline – just the kind of qualities that ants are famous for.

So how do ants living in their colonies cope with pathogens? In some ant species, individuals spread antimicrobial secretions from the metapleural gland on themselves, on larvae, and on their fellow nest dwellers. This gives rise to a 'social immunity': every individual in the colony has some protection against infections.

Other, more dramatic measures have been observed. Researchers at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland introduced a worker black ant whose leg had been experimentally injured back among its companions. It was seen that the fellow ants quickly amputated this leg by repeated bites at the joint linking the leg to the body (*Current Biology*, 34, 2024). A wounded limb would have attracted disease-causing microbes and endangered other ants in the colony.

Black garden ants tend to mealybugs. KATJA SCHULZ (CC BY)

A more recent study looked at how ant colonies respond to an epidemic (*Science*, 390, 266, 2025). The ant studied was the black garden ant, which is related to the Indian black ants that we see in and around our homes. The black garden ants build complex underground nests that have one main entrance, a central portion housing the queen, eggs, and larvae, and several satellite chambers used by other ants in the colony and to store food and collect waste. Tunnels connect various parts of the nest. There is a clear division of labour, with some worker ants acting as nurse caretakers and others acting as foragers.

In the experiments, a single queen, with around 200 worker ants, began to build a nest. All ants have miniature QR codes stuck on them and video cameras follow their movements. The scientists monitored the nest structures using micro-CT scans. One day later, 20 worker ants that had been exposed to a pathogenic fungus were introduced to the colony.

Over the next few days, the infected ants exited the nest more often and spent more time outside than their nestmates. This was self-isolating behavior. The architecture of the nest had also adapted: the entrances were spaced further apart than normal. The pace of work became frantic and focused on digging longer tunnels. There were also fewer connections between chambers.

Together, these changes led to more segregation and restricted interactions between the segregated groups. High-value ants like the queen and the nurses had significantly lower exposure to the forager ants and remained healthy.

Sounds familiar? Humans maintain quarantines, wear masks when interacting with others, and wash their hands often when faced with an epidemic in our communities. Ants seem to have evolved their own, very effective social distancing measures.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani, who works in molecular modelling)

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14J6. How ants cope with disease outbreaks
चींटियाँ रोग के प्रकोपों का सामना कैसे करती हैं

- Ants are associated with a range of very positive qualities — including a self-motivated **work ethic**, preparedness and long-term thinking, and a preference for **collective effort**.
  चींटियाँ अनेक सकारात्मक गुणों से जुड़ी होती हैं — जिनमें स्व-प्रेरित **कार्य नैतिकता**, तैयारी, दीर्घकालिक सोच तथा **सामूहिक प्रयास** को प्राथमिकता देना शामिल है।
- Many **ant species** are also social, and living in social groups offers many advantages.
  अनेक **चींटी प्रजातियाँ** सामाजिक होती हैं, और सामाजिक समूहों में रहना अनेक लाभ प्रदान करता है।
- However, there are downsides too.
  हालाँकि, इसके कुछ दुष्परिणाम भी हैं।
- Among humans, the occurrence of seasonal outbreaks of infections such as **influenza** and other diseases is the result of the nature of the social structures humans live in.
  मनुष्यों में **इन्फ्लुएंजा** तथा अन्य रोगों के मौसमी प्रकोप मानव समाज की सामाजिक संरचनाओं का परिणाम होते हैं।
- That is how we have learnt the basic rules of limiting these outbreaks' effects.
  इसी प्रकार हमने इन प्रकोपों के प्रभावों को सीमित करने के मूलभूत नियम सीखे हैं।

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- If you notice a general build-up of symptoms, you take leave from your workplace and isolate yourself for a few days.
  यदि आपको सामान्य रूप से लक्षण दिखाई देने लगते हैं, तो आप अपने कार्यस्थल से अवकाश लेकर कुछ दिनों के लिए स्वयं को अलग कर लेते हैं।
- Altering one's **social contact networks** reduces the spread of pathogens.
  अपने **सामाजिक संपर्क नेटवर्क** में परिवर्तन करने से रोगजनकों का प्रसार कम हो जाता है।
- This process requires collective discipline — just the kind of qualities that ants are famous for.
  इस प्रक्रिया के लिए सामूहिक अनुशासन की आवश्यकता होती है — वही गुण जिनके लिए चींटियाँ प्रसिद्ध हैं।
- So how do ants living in their colonies cope with pathogens?
  तो अपने उपनिवेशों में रहने वाली चींटियाँ रोगजनकों से कैसे निपटती हैं?
- In some ant species, individuals spread **antimicrobial secretions** from the **metapleural gland** on themselves, on larvae, and on their fellow nest dwellers.
  कुछ चींटी प्रजातियों में, सदस्य **मेटाप्ल्यूरल ग्रंथि (Metapleural Gland)** से निकलने वाले **रोगाणुरोधी स्रावों (Antimicrobial Secretions)** को अपने शरीर, लार्वा तथा अन्य घोंसला-निवासियों पर फैलाते हैं।
- This gives rise to a **'social immunity'**: every individual in the colony has some protection against infections.
  इससे **'सामाजिक प्रतिरक्षा (Social Immunity)'** उत्पन्न होती है, जिसके कारण उपनिवेश का प्रत्येक सदस्य संक्रमणों के विरुद्ध कुछ सुरक्षा प्राप्त करता है।
- Other, more dramatic measures have been observed.
  इसके अतिरिक्त कुछ और अधिक नाटकीय उपाय भी देखे गए हैं।
- Researchers at the **University of Lausanne** in **Switzerland** introduced a worker black ant whose leg had been experimentally injured back among its companions.
  स्विट्ज़रलैंड के **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ लॉज़ान** के शोधकर्ताओं ने एक श्रमिक काली चींटी, जिसके पैर को प्रयोगात्मक रूप से घायल किया गया था, पुनः उसके साथियों के बीच छोड़ा।
- It was seen that the fellow ants quickly amputated this leg by repeated bites at the joint linking the leg to the body (**Current Biology, 34, 2024**).
  यह देखा गया कि अन्य चींटियों ने पैर और शरीर को जोड़ने वाले जोड़ पर बार-बार काटकर उस पैर को शीघ्र ही अलग कर दिया (**Current Biology, 34, 2024**)।
- A wounded limb would have attracted disease-causing microbes and endangered other ants in the colony.
  घायल अंग रोग उत्पन्न करने वाले सूक्ष्मजीवों को आकर्षित कर सकता था और उपनिवेश की अन्य चींटियों को भी खतरे में डाल सकता था।
- A more recent study looked at how ant colonies respond to an epidemic (**Science, 390, 266, 2025**).
  एक हालिया अध्ययन में यह देखा गया कि चींटी उपनिवेश किसी महामारी के प्रति किस प्रकार प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं (**Science, 390, 266, 2025**)।
- The ant studied was the **black garden ant**, which is related to the Indian black ants that we see in and around our homes.
  अध्ययन की गई चींटी **ब्लैक गार्डन एंट** थी, जो हमारे घरों के आसपास दिखाई देने वाली भारतीय काली चींटियों से संबंधित है।
- The black garden ants build complex underground nests that have one main entrance, a central portion housing the queen, eggs, and larvae, and several satellite chambers used by other ants in the colony and to store food and collect waste.
  ब्लैक गार्डन चींटियाँ जटिल भूमिगत घोंसले बनाती हैं, जिनमें एक मुख्य प्रवेश द्वार, रानी, अंडों और लार्वा के लिए एक केंद्रीय भाग तथा भोजन भंडारण और अपशिष्ट संग्रह के लिए कई सहायक कक्ष होते हैं।
- Tunnels connect various parts of the nest.
  सुरंगें घोंसले के विभिन्न भागों को आपस में जोड़ती हैं।
- There is a clear division of labour, with some worker ants acting as nurse caretakers and others acting as foragers.

इनमें कार्यों का स्पष्ट विभाजन होता है, जहाँ कुछ श्रमिक चींटियाँ परिचारिका की भूमिका निभाती हैं और अन्य भोजन खोजने का कार्य करती हैं।

- In the experiments, a single queen, with around **200 worker ants**, began to build a nest.
  प्रयोगों में, लगभग **200 श्रमिक चींटियों** के साथ एक रानी ने घोंसला बनाना प्रारंभ किया।
- All ants have miniature **QR codes** stuck on them and video cameras follow their movements.
  सभी चींटियों पर छोटे **QR कोड** लगाए गए थे और वीडियो कैमरे उनकी गतिविधियों पर नज़र रख रहे थे।
- The scientists monitored the nest structures using **micro-CT scans**.
  वैज्ञानिकों ने **माइक्रो-सीटी स्कैन** का उपयोग करके घोंसले की संरचनाओं की निगरानी की।
- One day later, **20 worker ants** that had been exposed to a **pathogenic fungus** were introduced to the colony.
  एक दिन बाद, **20 श्रमिक चींटियों** को, जिन्हें एक **रोगजनक कवक (Pathogenic Fungus)** के संपर्क में लाया गया था, उपनिवेश में शामिल किया गया।
- Over the next few days, the infected ants exited the nest more often and spent more time outside than their nestmates.
  अगले कुछ दिनों में संक्रमित चींटियाँ अपने साथियों की तुलना में अधिक बार घोंसले से बाहर निकलीं और बाहर अधिक समय बिताने लगीं।
- This was **self-isolating behavior**.
  यह **स्व-पृथक्करण (Self-Isolating) व्यवहार** था।
- The architecture of the nest had also adapted: the entrances were spaced further apart than normal.
  घोंसले की संरचना में भी परिवर्तन हुआ: प्रवेश द्वार सामान्य से अधिक दूरी पर बनाए गए।
- The pace of work became frantic and focused on digging longer tunnels.
  कार्य की गति अत्यधिक तीव्र हो गई और ध्यान लंबी सुरंगें खोदने पर केंद्रित हो गया।
- There were also fewer connections between chambers.
  कक्षों के बीच संपर्क भी कम कर दिए गए।
- Together, these changes led to more segregation and restricted interactions between the segregated groups.
  इन परिवर्तनों ने मिलकर अधिक पृथक्करण तथा अलग-अलग समूहों के बीच सीमित संपर्क को जन्म दिया।
- High-value ants like the **queen** and the **nurses** had significantly lower exposure to the forager ants and remained healthy.
  रानी और **परिचारिका चींटियों** जैसी महत्वपूर्ण चींटियों का भोजन खोजने वाली चींटियों से संपर्क बहुत कम रहा और वे स्वस्थ बनी रहीं।
  - Sounds familiar?

  क्या यह परिचित प्रतीत होता है?
  - Humans maintain **quarantines**, wear **masks** when interacting with others, and wash their hands often when faced with an epidemic in our communities.
    मनुष्य महामारी के समय **क्वारंटीन** अपनाते हैं, दूसरों से मिलते समय **मास्क** पहनते हैं और बार-बार हाथ धोते हैं।
  - Ants seem to have evolved their own, very effective **social distancing** measures.
    ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि चींटियों ने भी अपने अत्यंत प्रभावी **सामाजिक दूरी (Social Distancing)** उपाय विकसित कर लिए हैं।

GS III: S&T

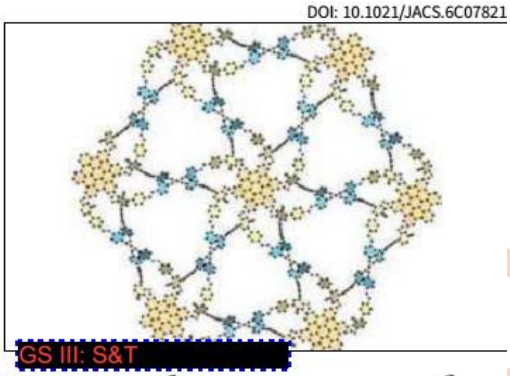
Sea star sports nature's optic fibres to focus light

A remarkable structure in the chocolate-chip sea star (*Protoreaster nodosus*) has come to light. On the tip of each arm, a skeletal part contains an array of cone-shaped structures that, like optic fibres, transmit 70% of incident light and concentrate it nearly 3x at the base. Overall, the array captures light from a 120° field of view and 'brightens' it 8x inside the arm. Scientists said engineers could use the design for lightweight sensors and displays.

14J6. Sea star sports nature's optic fibres to focus light

समुद्री तारा प्रकाश को केंद्रित करने के लिए प्रकृति के प्रकाशीय तंतुओं का उपयोग करता है

- A remarkable structure in the **chocolate-chip sea star (Protoreaster nodosus)** has come to light.
  चॉकलेट-चिप सी स्टार (Protoreaster nodosus) में एक उल्लेखनीय संरचना का पता चला है।
- On the tip of each arm, a skeletal part contains an array of **cone-shaped structures** that, like **optic fibres**, transmit **70% of incident light** and concentrate it nearly **3 times** at the base.
  प्रत्येक भुजा के सिरे पर स्थित एक कंकालीय भाग में **शंकु-आकृति संरचनाओं** का एक समूह होता है, जो **ऑप्टिक फाइबर** की तरह कार्य करते हुए **आपतित प्रकाश का 70%** संचारित करता है और उसे आधार पर लगभग **तीन गुना** अधिक केंद्रित कर देता है।
- Overall, the array captures light from a **120° field of view** and 'brightens' it **8 times** inside the arm.
  समग्र रूप से यह संरचना **120° के दृश्य क्षेत्र (Field of View)** से प्रकाश ग्रहण करती है और उसे भुजा के भीतर **आठ गुना** अधिक 'उज्ज्वल' बना देती है।
- Scientists said engineers could use the design for **lightweight sensors** and **displays**.
  वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि अभियंता इस संरचना के डिजाइन का उपयोग **हल्के सेंसरों** तथा **डिस्प्ले प्रणालियों** के विकास में कर सकते हैं।



GS III: S&T

Nanographene paves way for ultra-porous materials

Scientists, led by Nobel laureate Omar Yaghi, have a new way to build highly porous materials using nanographene. They designed a molecule called HBC-LA12, with 12 connection points arranged in a prism shape. By linking this molecule with others, they created two new 3D structures that are a breakthrough in reticular chemistry. One has a record surface area of 5,000 sq. m per gram. The findings expand the way to design materials to store gases.

14J6. Nanographene paves way for ultra-porous materials

नैनोग्राफीन अति-छिद्रयुक्त पदार्थों के लिए मार्ग प्रशस्त करता है

- Scientists, led by **Nobel laureate Omar Yaghi**, have a new way to build highly **porous materials** using **nanographene**.
  नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता उमर यागी के नेतृत्व में वैज्ञानिकों ने **नैनोग्राफीन** का उपयोग करके अत्यधिक **छिद्रयुक्त पदार्थों (Porous Materials)** के निर्माण की एक नई विधि विकसित की है।
- They designed a molecule called **HBC-LA12**, with **12 connection points** arranged in a **prism shape**.
  उन्होंने **HBC-LA12** नामक एक अणु का निर्माण किया, जिसमें **12 संयोजन बिंदु प्रिज्माकार संरचना** में व्यवस्थित हैं।
- By linking this molecule with others, they created **two new 3D structures** that are a breakthrough in **reticular chemistry**.
  इस अणु को अन्य अणुओं के साथ जोड़कर उन्होंने **दो नई त्रि-आयामी (3D) संरचनाएँ** विकसित कीं, जो **रेटिकुलर रसायन विज्ञान (Reticular Chemistry)** में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि मानी जा रही हैं।
- One has a record **surface area** of **5,000 sq. m per gram**.
  इनमें से एक संरचना का **सतही क्षेत्रफल 5,000 वर्ग मीटर प्रति ग्राम** का रिकॉर्ड स्तर प्राप्त करता है।
- The findings expand the way to design materials to **store gases**.
  ये निष्कर्ष **गैसों के भंडारण** के लिए पदार्थों के डिजाइन और विकास की संभावनाओं का विस्तार करते हैं।

Pattern of walks

Do people have a tendency to walk in particular directions?

GS III: S&T

The answer to this strange question is a stranger 'yes'. When people walk freely in an open space, they often begin to move in a counter-clockwise circle. While scientists believed people were simply following those in front of them or reacting to boundaries, a new study in *Nature Communications* has found a biological bias to turn in that direction. The researchers conducted experiments in Spain and Japan, observing groups of adults, teenagers, and nursery school children. They found that the tendency to move counter-clockwise exists even when a person is walking alone in an empty arena and social norms, such as whether a country drives on the right or the left, didn't change the pattern. The preference also didn't depend on whether one was left- or right-handed and whether they had a 'dominant' eye. The children displayed the preference in the most pronounced manner, which suggested the preference could be an intrinsic part of human locomotion.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

14J6. Do people have a tendency to walk in particular directions?

क्या लोगों में किसी विशेष दिशा में चलने की प्रवृत्ति होती है?

- The answer to this strange question is a stranger '**yes**'.

इस विचित्र प्रश्न का उत्तर और भी विचित्र है — '**हाँ**'।

- When people walk freely in an open space, they often begin to move in a **counter-clockwise circle**.

जब लोग किसी खुले स्थान में स्वतंत्र रूप से चलते हैं, तो वे प्रायः **वामावर्त (Counter-Clockwise) वृत्त** में चलना प्रारम्भ कर देते हैं।

- While scientists believed people were simply following those in front of them or reacting to boundaries, a new study in **Nature Communications** has found a **biological bias** to turn in that direction.

यद्यपि वैज्ञानिकों का मानना था कि लोग केवल अपने आगे चल रहे व्यक्तियों का अनुसरण करते हैं या सीमाओं के प्रति प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं, लेकिन **Nature Communications** में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन ने उस दिशा में मुड़ने की **जैविक प्रवृत्ति (Biological Bias)** का पता लगाया है।

- The researchers conducted experiments in **Spain** and **Japan**, observing groups of adults, teenagers, and nursery school children.

शोधकर्ताओं ने **स्पेन** और **जापान** में प्रयोग किए, जिनमें वयस्कों, किशोरों तथा नर्सरी विद्यालय के बच्चों के समूहों का अवलोकन किया गया।

- They found that the tendency to move **counter-clockwise** exists even when a person is walking alone in an empty arena and social norms, such as whether a country drives on the right or the left, didn't change the pattern.

उन्होंने पाया कि **वामावर्त दिशा** में चलने की प्रवृत्ति तब भी मौजूद रहती है जब कोई व्यक्ति अकेले किसी खाली क्षेत्र में चल रहा हो, और सामाजिक मानदंड, जैसे किसी देश में दाईं या बाईं ओर वाहन चलाने की व्यवस्था, इस प्रवृत्ति को प्रभावित नहीं करते।

- The preference also didn't depend on whether one was **left- or right-handed** and whether they had a '**dominant**' eye.

यह प्रवृत्ति इस बात पर भी निर्भर नहीं करती कि कोई व्यक्ति **बाएँ हाथ** या **दाएँ हाथ** का प्रयोग करता है अथवा उसकी कोई **प्रमुख (Dominant) आँख** है।

- The children displayed the preference in the most pronounced manner, which suggested the preference could be an **intrinsic part of human locomotion**.

बच्चों में यह प्रवृत्ति सबसे अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई दी, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि यह प्रवृत्ति **मानव गमन (Human Locomotion) का एक अंतर्निहित भाग** हो सकती है।

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AI sovereignty hawks see red as U.S. moves to block Mythos, Fable models

GS III: S&T

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The U.S.'s abrupt decision to restrict access to AI firm Anthropic's Mythos and Fable large language models is leading an "I told you so" moment for national security hawks within the Indian government, who had dealt for months with skepticism and sparse resources in supporting sovereign efforts to develop an Indian AI stack.

"Globalisation is dead, and Bharat must find its own way ahead," Sridhar Vembu, founder of Zoho and a member of India's National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), declared on X shortly after Anthropic announced the export controls. "What can our government do right now? Ensure that organisations in India embrace smaller models, both Indian and Chinese open-source ones. With a bit of effort, we can make them work. Anyway, why pay money to people who don't even want to sell to you?," he posted.

The U.S. government ordered Anthropic to disable Mythos and Fable access for non-U.S. nationals, even within its own company, on Friday evening.

Mythos is a model which Anthropic claims has been highly accomplished in finding and patching cybersecurity vulnerabilities that even human researchers had missed over decades.

Amid concerns that AI-generated cyberattacks may be a threat to Indian companies and government entities, India sought access to Mythos, and some entities joined the so-called Project Glasswing to gain some access earlier this month. That access

India had sought access to Mythos amid AI-generated cyberattack concerns.

may now be disrupted. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Ministry of External Affairs, which have been in touch with Anthropic and the U.S. government regarding Project Glasswing, did not respond to queries from *The Hindu*. The Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), which reportedly gained access to Mythos this month, along with the cybersecurity agency CERT-in, which operates under MeitY, also did not respond.

Even some less cybersecurity-focused projects are experiencing disruptions due to the U.S.'s move.

The restriction of Fable, which has been available for all paying users of Claude, had immediate fallout on Saturday.

For instance, Vikram Chandra, an entrepreneur and journalist, said on X, "I have projects that were to run on Fable today – and they will come to a grinding halt... Yes, guardrails for frontier AI are essential – and Anthropic itself has argued for them. But creating national barriers isn't the solution."

India's capabilities to train a frontier AI model lag behind those of China, which itself is a few steps behind the U.S. While Beijing is home to firms like DeepSeek, which uses slightly older graphics processing units (GPUs) in large quantities, with abundant access to data centre capacity and electricity, to try to catch up to the more efficient U.S. models made by firms like Anthropic and ChatGPT, India has a relatively limited capacity of such resources to train large language models (LLMs) like Claude's Opus, Mythos, and Fable.

While a hypothetical Indian alternative to Mythos wouldn't be subject to abrupt geopolitical interruptions, actually creating such an LLM is dependent on the availability of abundant quantities of expensive AI chips from firms like Nvidia, data centre capacity, and electricity availability to boot.

Since the costs run into tens of billions of dollars, sovereign AI proponents' ambitions have been limited. Even Mr. Vembu, who has been critical of over-reliance on foreign tech and whose firm has been appointed to run email inboxes of Union government employees, struck a realistic note on the potential.

"We must deepen our R&D," Mr. Vembu said.

"Sarvam has been on it and we have been on it, but remember that the latest models cost not only huge GPU budgets to train; the GPUs themselves are restricted. So, we can't afford the scale of money (of the order of $100+ billion to even get in the game!), and even if we could come up with the money, we can't get all the GPUs. I would not like to ask the government to fund tens of billions of dollars on this anyway – the money has far better uses," he said. He advocated lower-cost research like what Zoho was undertaking.

"We are way behind and need a national mission to get going quickly," T.V. Mohandas Pai, former CFO of Infosys, who consults closely with the government on technology-related issues, said on X.

"Existing government programs are too slow, way too small to make any large impact. We need an annual ₹50,000 crore fund for deep tech and AI, a ₹2,00,000 crore ELGS [Emergency Credit Line] Guarantee Fund to build Hyper cloud, hardware and chips."

At least one firm has seen some progress, however: Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI launched a 105 billion parameter LLM that is specifically trained with an Indian bias (to counter the U.S.-centricity in most LLMs). While this model is capable of coding tasks, it is far from a frontier-class model for ambitious cybersecurity work.

"A few Indian friends of mine who had access to the Mythos model told me genuinely how terrifying it was," C.S. Akshay, a cybersecurity researcher who has uncovered several vulnerabilities in Indian government and private websites in the past, said in a LinkedIn post. "You just point it to anything and it does uncover vulnerabilities unlike anything they have seen before." While responses to Mythos are occasionally tempered by less advanced LLMs discovering similar software bugs, its true potential remains gatekept to Project Glasswing members of whom there are only a few dozens, most in the U.S.

14J6. AI sovereignty hawks see red as U.S. moves to block Mythos, Fable models

एआई संप्रभुता के समर्थक चिंतित, क्योंकि अमेरिका ने Mythos और Fable मॉडलों पर रोक लगाई

- The **U.S.'s** abrupt decision to restrict access to AI firm **Anthropic's Mythos and Fable large language models** is leading an "I told you so" moment for **national security hawks** within

the Indian government, who had dealt for months with skepticism and sparse resources in supporting **sovereign efforts** to develop an Indian **AI stack**.

अमेरिका के **Anthropic के Mythos और Fable बड़े भाषा मॉडलों** तक पहुंच को सीमित करने के अचानक निर्णय ने भारत सरकार के भीतर **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा समर्थकों** को यह कहने का अवसर दिया है कि उन्होंने पहले ही चेतावनी दी थी। ये लोग कई महीनों से भारतीय **एआई स्टैक** विकसित करने के लिए **संप्रभु प्रयासों** का समर्थन करते हुए संदेह और सीमित संसाधनों का सामना कर रहे थे।

- "**Globalisation** is dead, and **Bharat** must find its own way ahead," **Sridhar Vembu**, founder of **Zoho** and a member of India's **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)**, declared on X shortly after Anthropic announced the export controls.

  "**वैश्वीकरण** समाप्त हो चुका है, और **भारत** को आगे बढ़ने का अपना रास्ता स्वयं खोजना होगा," **Zoho** के संस्थापक और भारत के **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार बोर्ड (NSAB)** के सदस्य **श्रीधर वेम्बू** ने Anthropic द्वारा निर्यात नियंत्रण की घोषणा के तुरंत बाद X पर कहा।
- "What can our government do right now? Ensure that organisations in India embrace **smaller models**, both Indian and Chinese **open-source** ones. With a bit of effort, we can make them work. Anyway, why pay money to people who don't even want to sell to you?," he posted.

  "हमारी सरकार अभी क्या कर सकती है? यह सुनिश्चित करे कि भारत के संगठन **छोटे मॉडलों** को अपनाएं, चाहे वे भारतीय हों या चीनी **ओपन-सोर्स** मॉडल। थोड़े प्रयास से हम उन्हें उपयोगी बना सकते हैं। वैसे भी, उन लोगों को पैसा क्यों दें जो आपको बेचने तक नहीं चाहते?" उन्होंने पोस्ट किया।
- The **U.S. government** ordered Anthropic to disable **Mythos and Fable** access for non-U.S. nationals, even within its own company, on Friday evening.

  अमेरिकी सरकार ने शुक्रवार शाम Anthropic को अपने ही संगठन के भीतर गैर-अमेरिकी नागरिकों के लिए **Mythos और Fable** की पहुंच बंद करने का आदेश दिया।
- **Mythos** is a model which Anthropic claims has been highly accomplished in finding and patching **cybersecurity vulnerabilities** that even human researchers had missed over decades.

  Mythos एक ऐसा मॉडल है जिसके बारे में Anthropic का दावा है कि यह उन **साइबर सुरक्षा कमजोरियों** को खोजने और ठीक करने में अत्यधिक सक्षम है जिन्हें मानव शोधकर्ता दशकों तक नहीं पहचान सके।
- Amid concerns that **AI-generated cyberattacks** may be a threat to Indian companies and government entities, India sought access to Mythos, and some entities joined the so-called **Project Glasswing** to gain some access earlier this month.

  इस चिंता के बीच कि **एआई-जनित साइबर हमले** भारतीय कंपनियों और सरकारी संस्थाओं के लिए खतरा बन सकते हैं, भारत ने Mythos तक पहुंच की मांग की और कुछ संस्थाएं इस महीने की शुरुआत में **Project Glasswing** से जुड़ीं ताकि सीमित पहुंच प्राप्त की जा सके।
- That access may now be disrupted.

  अब वह पहुंच बाधित हो सकती है।
- The **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs**, which have been in touch with Anthropic and the U.S. government regarding Project Glasswing, did not respond to queries from The Hindu.

  इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) तथा **विदेश मंत्रालय**, जो Project Glasswing के संबंध में Anthropic और अमेरिकी सरकार के संपर्क में थे, ने The Hindu के प्रश्नों का उत्तर नहीं दिया।
- The **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)**, which reportedly gained access to Mythos this month, along with the cybersecurity agency **CERT-In**, which operates under MeitY, also did not respond.

  भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र (I4C), जिसे इस महीने Mythos तक पहुंच मिली थी, तथा MeitY के अंतर्गत कार्यरत साइबर सुरक्षा एजेंसी **CERT-In** ने भी कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया।
- Even some less cybersecurity-focused projects are experiencing disruptions due to the U.S.'s move.

  अमेरिका के इस कदम के कारण कुछ कम साइबर सुरक्षा-केंद्रित परियोजनाएं भी प्रभावित हो रही हैं।

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- The restriction of **Fable**, which has been available for all paying users of **Claude**, had immediate fallout on Saturday.
  Claude के सभी भुगतान करने वाले उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए उपलब्ध **Fable** पर लगाए गए प्रतिबंध का प्रभाव शनिवार को तुरंत दिखाई दिया।
- For instance, **Vikram Chandra**, an entrepreneur and journalist, said on X, "I have projects that were to run on Fable today — and they will come to a grinding halt... Yes, guardrails for frontier AI are essential — and Anthropic itself has argued for them. But creating national barriers isn't the solution."
  उदाहरण के लिए, उद्यमी और पत्रकार **विक्रम चंद्रा** ने X पर कहा, "मेरी कुछ परियोजनाएं आज Fable पर चलनी थीं — और अब वे पूरी तरह रुक जाएंगी... हां, उन्नत एआई के लिए सुरक्षा उपाय आवश्यक हैं — और Anthropic स्वयं भी इसके पक्ष में रहा है। लेकिन राष्ट्रीय बाधाएं बनाना समाधान नहीं है।"
- India's capabilities to train a **frontier AI model** lag behind those of China, which itself is a few steps behind the U.S.
  फ्रंटियर एआई मॉडल विकसित करने की भारत की क्षमता चीन से पीछे है, और चीन स्वयं अमेरिका से कुछ कदम पीछे है।
- While Beijing is home to firms like **DeepSeek**, which uses slightly older **GPUs** in large quantities, with abundant access to **data centre capacity** and electricity, to try to catch up to the more efficient U.S. models made by firms like Anthropic and ChatGPT, India has a relatively limited capacity of such resources to train **large language models (LLMs)** like Claude's Opus, Mythos, and Fable.
  जहां बीजिंग में **DeepSeek** जैसी कंपनियां बड़ी संख्या में अपेक्षाकृत पुराने **GPU** का उपयोग करते हुए पर्याप्त **डेटा सेंटर क्षमता** और बिजली की उपलब्धता के सहारे Anthropic और ChatGPT जैसे अमेरिकी मॉडलों की बराबरी करने का प्रयास कर रही हैं, वहीं भारत के पास Claude के Opus, Mythos और Fable जैसे **बड़े भाषा मॉडलों (LLMs)** को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए अपेक्षाकृत सीमित संसाधन हैं।
- While a hypothetical Indian alternative to Mythos wouldn't be subject to abrupt geopolitical interruptions, actually creating such an LLM is dependent on the availability of abundant quantities of expensive **AI chips** from firms like **Nvidia**, data centre capacity, and electricity availability to boot.
  हालांकि Mythos का कोई भारतीय विकल्प अचानक भू-राजनीतिक व्यवधानों से प्रभावित नहीं होगा, लेकिन ऐसा **LLM** विकसित करना **Nvidia** जैसी कंपनियों के महंगे **एआई चिप्स**, डेटा सेंटर क्षमता और बिजली की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करता है।
- Since the costs run into tens of billions of dollars, **sovereign AI** proponents' ambitions have been limited.
  चूंकि इसकी लागत कई अरब डॉलर तक पहुंचती है, इसलिए **संप्रभु एआई** समर्थकों की महत्वाकांक्षाएं सीमित रही हैं।
- Even Mr. Vembu, who has been critical of over-reliance on foreign tech and whose firm has been appointed to run email inboxes of Union government employees, struck a realistic note on the potential.
  विदेशी तकनीक पर अत्यधिक निर्भरता की आलोचना करने वाले और जिनकी कंपनी को केंद्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों के ईमेल इनबॉक्स संचालित करने की जिम्मेदारी दी गई है, श्री वेम्बू ने भी इस विषय पर यथार्थवादी दृष्टिकोण प्रस्तुत किया।
- "We must deepen our **R&D**," Mr. Vembu said.
  "हमें अपने **अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D)** को और गहरा करना होगा," श्री वेम्बू ने कहा।
- "Sarvam has been on it and we have been on it, but remember that the latest models cost not only huge **GPU budgets** to train; the GPUs themselves are restricted. So, we can't afford the scale of money (of the order of **$100+ billion** to even get in the game!), and even if we could come up with the money, we can't get all the GPUs. I would not like to ask the government to fund tens of billions of dollars on this anyway — the money has far better uses," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "**Sarvam** और हम इस दिशा में काम कर रहे हैं, लेकिन याद रखें कि नवीनतम मॉडलों को प्रशिक्षित करने के लिए केवल बड़े **GPU बजट** ही नहीं चाहिए, बल्कि स्वयं GPU भी प्रतिबंधित हैं। इसलिए हम

100 अरब डॉलर से अधिक की राशि खर्च नहीं कर सकते, और यदि पैसा उपलब्ध भी हो जाए तो भी सभी GPU नहीं मिल पाएंगे। मैं सरकार से इस पर इतने अरबों डॉलर खर्च करने का आग्रह नहीं करूंगा — इस धन के और भी बेहतर उपयोग हैं।"

- He advocated lower-cost research like what Zoho was undertaking.
  उन्होंने Zoho द्वारा किए जा रहे कम-लागत वाले अनुसंधान का समर्थन किया।
- "We are way behind and need a **national mission** to get going quickly," **T.V. Mohandas Pai**, former CFO of **Infosys**, who consults closely with the government on technology-related issues, said on X.
  "हम बहुत पीछे हैं और तेजी से आगे बढ़ने के लिए एक **राष्ट्रीय मिशन** की आवश्यकता है," तकनीकी मामलों में सरकार के सलाहकार और **Infosys** के पूर्व CFO **टी.वी. मोहनदास पाई** ने X पर कहा।
- "Existing government programs are too slow, way too small to make any large impact. We need an annual **₹50,000 crore fund** for deep tech and AI, a **₹2,00,000 crore ELGS (Emergency Credit Line) Guarantee Fund** to build Hyper cloud, hardware and chips."
  "मौजूदा सरकारी कार्यक्रम बहुत धीमे और बहुत छोटे हैं, जिनका बड़ा प्रभाव नहीं पड़ सकता। हमें **डीप टेक और एआई** के लिए प्रतिवर्ष **₹50,000 करोड़ का कोष** तथा Hyper Cloud, हार्डवेयर और चिप निर्माण के लिए **₹2,00,000 करोड़ का ELGS (Emergency Credit Line) Guarantee Fund** चाहिए।"
- At least one firm has seen some progress, however: **Bengaluru-based Sarvam AI** launched a **105 billion parameter LLM** that is specifically trained with an Indian bias (to counter the U.S.-centricity in most LLMs).
  हालांकि कम से कम एक कंपनी ने कुछ प्रगति की है: **बेंगलुरु स्थित Sarvam AI** ने **105 बिलियन पैरामीटर वाला LLM** लॉन्च किया है, जिसे विशेष रूप से भारतीय दृष्टिकोण के साथ प्रशिक्षित किया गया है ताकि अधिकांश LLMs में मौजूद अमेरिकी-केंद्रितता का मुकाबला किया जा सके।
- While this model is capable of coding tasks, it is far from a **frontier-class model** for ambitious cybersecurity work.
  हालांकि यह मॉडल कोडिंग कार्य करने में सक्षम है, लेकिन महत्वाकांक्षी साइबर सुरक्षा कार्यों के लिए यह अभी **फ्रंटियर-स्तरीय मॉडल** से काफी दूर है।
- "A few Indian friends of mine who had access to the **Mythos model** told me genuinely how terrifying it was," **C.S. Akshay**, a cybersecurity researcher who has uncovered several vulnerabilities in Indian government and private websites in the past, said in a LinkedIn post.
  "मेरे कुछ भारतीय मित्रों, जिन्हें **Mythos मॉडल** तक पहुंच मिली थी, ने मुझे बताया कि यह वास्तव में कितना भयावह रूप से शक्तिशाली था," भारतीय सरकारी और निजी वेबसाइटों की कई कमजोरियों का खुलासा कर चुके साइबर सुरक्षा शोधकर्ता **सी.एस. अक्षय** ने LinkedIn पोस्ट में कहा।
- "You just point it to anything and it does uncover vulnerabilities unlike anything they have seen before."
  "आप इसे किसी भी प्रणाली की ओर निर्देशित करें और यह ऐसी कमजोरियों का पता लगा लेता है जैसी उन्होंने पहले कभी नहीं देखीं।"
- While responses to Mythos are occasionally tempered by less advanced LLMs discovering similar software bugs, its true potential remains gatekept to **Project Glasswing** members of whom there are only a few dozens, most in the U.S.
  हालांकि कभी-कभी कम उन्नत LLM भी समान सॉफ्टवेयर त्रुटियां खोज लेते हैं, फिर भी Mythos की वास्तविक क्षमता अभी भी **Project Glasswing** के सीमित सदस्यों तक ही सीमित है, जिनकी संख्या केवल कुछ दर्जन है और जिनमें अधिकांश अमेरिका में हैं।

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Dr. Reddy's launches generic cancer drug Bosutinib in U.S.

GS III: S&T

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories announced on Saturday the first-to-market launch of Bosutinib Tablets 400 mg, a generic equivalent of Pfizer subsidiary Wyeth's cancer drug Bosulif, in the U.S. Bosutinib Tablets (400mg) was a first-to-file product and thus eligible for 180-days of generic drug exclusivity for this strength, in the U.S., Dr. Reddy's said.

While the exclusive marketing rights for the product in the U.S. rest with Dr. Reddy's, another Hyderabad-based generic drugmaker MSN Laboratories is responsible for the development and manufacturing of the product, the company said.

A view of Dr. Reddy's Laboratories in Hyderabad

The Bosulif brand (400 mg) had U.S. sales of approximately $253.8 million for the latest 12-month period ended April 2026, it said, citing IQVIA National Sales Perspectives data.

"With this launch, we remain focused on strengthening our oncology portfolio and partnering across the healthcare system to ensure that critical treatments are both accessible and affordable," CEO-North America of Dr. Reddy's Milan Kalawadia said.

The successful development and commercialisation of Bosutinib Tablets demonstrates MSN's strong scientific, regulatory, and manufacturing capabilities in complex oncology products, said Bharat Reddy, Executive Director of MSN Laboratories.

According to the U.S. FDA, Bosulif is a kinase inhibitor indicated for the treatment of adult patients with newly-diagnosed chronic phase Ph+ chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML); and chronic, accelerated or blast phase Ph+ CML with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy.

14J6. Dr. Reddy's launches generic cancer drug Bosutinib in the U.S. डॉ. रेड्डीज़ ने अमेरिका में जेनेरिक कैंसर दवा Bosutinib लॉन्च की

- **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories** announced on Saturday the **first-to-market launch** of **Bosutinib Tablets 400 mg**, a generic equivalent of **Pfizer subsidiary Wyeth's** cancer drug **Bosulif**, in the U.S.

डॉ. रेड्डीज़ लेबोरेटरीज ने शनिवार को अमेरिका में **Bosutinib Tablets 400 mg** के **पहले बाज़ार लॉन्च** की घोषणा की, जो **Pfizer** की सहायक कंपनी **Wyeth** की कैंसर दवा **Bosulif** का जेनेरिक समकक्ष है।

- **Bosutinib Tablets (400mg)** was a **first-to-file product** and thus eligible for **180-days of generic drug exclusivity** for this strength, in the U.S., Dr. Reddy's said.

डॉ. रेड्डीज़ ने कहा कि **Bosutinib Tablets (400mg)** एक **first-to-file product** था और इसलिए अमेरिका में इस शक्ति के लिए **180 दिनों की जेनेरिक दवा विशिष्टता (generic drug exclusivity)** का पात्र बना।

- While the **exclusive marketing rights** for the product in the U.S. rest with **Dr. Reddy's**, another Hyderabad-based generic drugmaker **MSN Laboratories** is responsible for the development and manufacturing of the product, the company said.

कंपनी ने कहा कि अमेरिका में इस उत्पाद के **विशेष विपणन अधिकार डॉ. रेड्डीज़** के पास हैं, जबकि हैदराबाद स्थित एक अन्य जेनेरिक दवा निर्माता **MSN Laboratories** इस उत्पाद के विकास और निर्माण के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

- The **Bosulif** brand (400 mg) had U.S. sales of approximately **$253.8 million** for the latest 12-month period ended April 2026, it said, citing **IQVIA National Sales Perspectives** data.

कंपनी ने **IQVIA National Sales Perspectives** के आंकड़ों का हवाला देते हुए कहा कि **Bosulif** ब्रांड (400 mg) की अप्रैल 2026 तक समाप्त पिछले 12 महीनों की अवधि में अमेरिका में लगभग **253.8 मिलियन डॉलर** की बिक्री हुई।

- "With this launch, we remain focused on strengthening our **oncology portfolio** and partnering across the healthcare system to ensure that critical treatments are both **accessible** and **affordable**," **CEO-North America** of Dr. Reddy's **Milan Kalawadia** said.

"इस लॉन्च के साथ, हम अपने **ऑन्कोलॉजी पोर्टफोलियो** को मजबूत करने और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रणाली में

साझेदारी बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित हैं ताकि महत्वपूर्ण उपचार **सुलभ** और **किफायती** दोनों बने रहें," डॉ. रेड्डीज़ के **CEO-North America मिलान कलावाडिया** ने कहा।

- The successful development and commercialisation of **Bosutinib Tablets** demonstrates **MSN's** strong scientific, regulatory, and manufacturing capabilities in complex oncology products, said **Bharat Reddy**, Executive Director of MSN Laboratories.
  MSN Laboratories के कार्यकारी निदेशक **भारत रेड्डी** ने कहा कि **Bosutinib Tablets** का सफल विकास और व्यावसायीकरण जटिल ऑन्कोलॉजी उत्पादों में MSN की मजबूत **वैज्ञानिक, नियामकीय और विनिर्माण क्षमताओं** को दर्शाता है।
- According to the **U.S. FDA**, **Bosulif** is a **kinase inhibitor** indicated for the treatment of adult patients with newly-diagnosed **chronic phase Ph+ chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML)**; and chronic, accelerated or blast phase **Ph+ CML** with resistance or intolerance to prior therapy.
  अमेरिकी FDA के अनुसार, **Bosulif** एक **किनेज़ अवरोधक (kinase inhibitor)** है, जिसका उपयोग नव-निदानित **क्रॉनिक फेज़ Ph+ क्रॉनिक मायलोजेनस ल्यूकेमिया (CML)** वाले वयस्क रोगियों के उपचार में किया जाता है; तथा ऐसे **Ph+ CML** रोगियों में भी किया जाता है जिनमें पूर्व उपचार के प्रति प्रतिरोध या असहिष्णुता हो और रोग क्रॉनिक, त्वरित (accelerated) या ब्लास्ट फेज़ में हो।

GS Paper III: Environment	14 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14J6	Teeming peacock population poses new challenges to farmers, foresters बढ़ती मोर आबादी किसानों और वन अधिकारियों के लिए नई चुनौतियाँ पैदा कर रही है

Teeming peacock population poses new challenges to farmers, foresters

GS III: Environment

K. Umashanker
KUPPAM

In the rural areas of Kuppam region in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district, flanked by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, peacocks are as much a part of the landscape as the granite outcrops and scrub forests that define the tri-State terrain.

Till a decade ago, the Indian peafowl was confined to the forest fringes, but now the bird is a frequent visitor to villages, agricultural fields, and even institutional campuses across the region.

At home: A peacock perched on a tree on the outskirts of Kuppam in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The forest authorities of Chittoor confirm that the bird's population is growing steadily. "The peacock is a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, enjoying the same level of legal protection as the tiger. But unlike the tiger, whose conservation remains a challenge in many parts of the country, peacock numbers have been increasing consistently, not only in Kuppam but across India," says District Forest Officer G. Subburaj.

The forests of the Kuppam region continue to provide an ideal habitat for peafowl. Open forests, cultivated fields, seasonal water sources, and rocky elevations offer abundant food and safe roosting sites.

Across several hamlets and semi-urban villages as well, farmers express concern over increasing crop damage caused by peacocks. Paddy fields are the worst hit, while vegetable crops and cereal plantations also bear the brunt.

14J6. Teeming peacock population poses new challenges to farmers, foresters
बढ़ती मोर आबादी किसानों और वन अधिकारियों के लिए नई चुनौतियाँ पैदा कर रही है

- In the rural areas of **Kuppam region** in **Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district**, ranked by **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka**, peacocks are as much a part of the landscape as the granite outcrops and scrub forests that de• ne the tri-State terrain.
  आंध्र प्रदेश के चित्तूर जिले के **कुप्पम क्षेत्र** के ग्रामीण इलाकों में, जो **तमिलनाडु** और **कर्नाटक** से घिरा हुआ है, मोर वहाँ के परिदृश्य का उतना ही अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं जितने कि ग्रेनाइट चट्टानी उभार और झाड़ीदार वन, जो इस त्रि-राज्यीय भूभाग की पहचान हैं।

- Till a decade ago, the **Indian peafowl** was confined to the forest fringes, but now the bird is a frequent visitor to villages, agricultural fields, and even institutional campuses across the region.
  लगभग एक दशक पहले तक **भारतीय मोर (Indian Peafowl)** केवल जंगलों के किनारों तक सीमित था, लेकिन अब यह पक्षी गाँवों, कृषि क्षेत्रों और यहाँ तक कि पूरे क्षेत्र के संस्थागत परिसरों में भी नियमित रूप से दिखाई देता है।
- The forest authorities of **Chittoor** confirm that the bird's population is growing steadily.
  चित्तूर के वन अधिकारी पुष्टि करते हैं कि इस पक्षी की आबादी लगातार बढ़ रही है।
- "The **peacock** is a **Schedule-I species** under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act**, enjoying the same level of legal protection as the **tiger**.
  "**मोर वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम** के तहत **अनुसूची-I प्रजाति** है और इसे **बाघ** के समान कानूनी संरक्षण प्राप्त है।
- But unlike the tiger, whose conservation remains a challenge in many parts of the country, peacock numbers have been increasing consistently, not only in **Kuppam** but across **India**," says **District Forest O• cer G. Subburaj**.
  लेकिन **बाघ** के विपरीत, जिसका संरक्षण अभी भी देश के कई हिस्सों में चुनौती बना हुआ है, मोरों की संख्या लगातार बढ़ रही है, केवल **कुप्पम** में ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे **भारत** में," **जिला वन अधिकारी जी. सुब्बुराज** कहते हैं।
- The forests of the **Kuppam region** continue to provide an ideal habitat for peafowl.
  कुप्पम क्षेत्र के वन अब भी मोरों के लिए एक आदर्श आवास प्रदान करते हैं।
- Open forests, cultivated • elds, seasonal water sources, and rocky elevations o• er abundant food and safe roosting sites.
  खुले वन, खेती वाले खेत, मौसमी जल स्रोत और चट्टानी ऊँचाइयाँ उन्हें भरपूर भोजन और सुरक्षित विश्राम स्थल उपलब्ध कराती हैं।
- Across several hamlets and semi-urban villages as well, farmers express concern over increasing crop damage caused by **peacocks**.
  कई बस्तियों और अर्ध-शहरी गाँवों में भी किसान **मोरों** द्वारा बढ़ते फसल नुकसान को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त कर रहे हैं।
- **Paddy • elds** are the worst hit, while vegetable crops and cereal plantations also bear the brunt.
  धान के खेत सबसे अधिक प्रभावित हैं, जबकि सब्ज़ी फसलें और अनाज की खेती भी इसका गंभीर प्रभाव झेल रही हैं।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	14 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14J6	An-32 cargo plane crash kills 5 IAF men in Assam असम में An-32 मालवाहक विमान दुर्घटना में भारतीय वायुसेना के 5 जवानों की मौत
14J6	Swedish fighters intercept two Russian combat jets near border स्वीडिश लड़ाकू विमानों ने सीमा के पास दो रूसी लड़ाकू विमानों को रोका

An-32 cargo plane crash kills 5 IAF men in Assam

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Five Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel were killed after an An-32 cargo aircraft met with an accident while landing at the Jorhat airbase in eastern Assam on Saturday.

The deceased were Squadron Leader Prashant Singh, Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar, Sergeant Jitendra Sharma, Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat, and Agniveervayu Danish Alam, the IAF said in a statement.

Six personnel were on the plane and the co-pilot is undergoing treatment at a military hospital in Jorhat for injuries, the news agency PTI reported.

Landing accident: Remains of the transport aircraft of the IAF that crashed while landing in Jorhat district, Assam, on Saturday. PTI

The IAF did not provide details of the accident, but said it occurred at 10 a.m. while the aircraft, belonging to 43 Squadron, was landing at its airbase in the Rowriah area of Jorhat.

"A court of inquiry is being constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF statement read.

The PTI reported that the aircraft was set to fly to Chabua from Jorhat, but requested a landing shortly after taking off.

The aircraft lost control upon touchdown and skidded off the runway, hurtling across a parallel taxiway and snapping into two segments before being engulfed in flames, the PTI added, citing sources.

A Defence spokesperson said the entire Air Force Station was sealed after the accident, and no entry was allowed.

Minister mourns loss

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh mourned the loss of the five airmen. "Their courage and service to the nation will always be remembered with pride and gratitude," Mr. Singh said.

"On behalf of the people of Assam, I offer my thoughts and prayers with the bereaved families. The Government of Assam is in touch with the concerned authorities and is ready to offer any support and assistance," Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted onm X.

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, Assam Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi called for a proper inquiry into the deaths of the five personnel.

"I urge the government and the Defence Ministry to conduct a proper inquiry into the mishap and identify the primary cause so that measures are taken to prevent such accidents in the future," he said in a social media post.

(With PTI inputs)

14J6. An-32 cargo plane crash kills 5 IAF men in Assam
असम में An-32 मालवाहक विमान दुर्घटना में भारतीय वायुसेना के 5 जवानों की मौत

- An-32 **cargo plane** crash kills **5 IAF men** in **Assam**.
  असम में **An-32 मालवाहक विमान** दुर्घटना में **भारतीय वायुसेना (IAF)** के **5 जवानों** की मौत हो गई।
- Five **Indian Air Force (IAF)** personnel were killed after an **An-32 cargo aircraft** met with an accident while landing at the **Jorhat airbase** in eastern **Assam** on Saturday.
  शनिवार को पूर्वी **असम** के **जोरहाट एयरबेस** पर उतरते समय एक **An-32 मालवाहक विमान** दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गया, जिसमें **भारतीय वायुसेना (IAF)** के पाँच कर्मियों की मृत्यु हो गई।
- The deceased were **Squadron Leader Prashant Singh**, **Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar**, **Sergeant Jitendra Sharma**, **Agniveervayu Khemaram Kumawat**, and **Agniveervayu Danish Alam**, the IAF said in a statement.
  IAF ने एक बयान में कहा कि मृतकों में **स्क्वाड्रन लीडर प्रशांत सिंह**, **फ्लाइट लेफ्टिनेंट शुभम कुमार**, **सार्जेंट जितेंद्र शर्मा**, **अग्निवीरवायु खेमाराम कुमावत** और **अग्निवीरवायु दानिश आलम** शामिल हैं।
- Six personnel were on the plane and the **co-pilot** is undergoing treatment at a military hospital in **Jorhat** for injuries, the news agency **PTI** reported.
  समाचार एजेंसी **पीटीआई** के अनुसार विमान में छह कर्मी सवार थे और **सह-पायलट** घायल होने के कारण **जोरहाट** के एक सैन्य अस्पताल में उपचाराधीन है।
- The IAF did not provide details of the accident, but said it occurred at **10 a.m.** while the aircraft, belonging to **43 Squadron**, was landing at its airbase in the **Rowriah** area of Jorhat.
  IAF ने दुर्घटना का विस्तृत विवरण नहीं दिया, लेकिन कहा कि यह सुबह **10 बजे** उस समय हुई जब **43 स्क्वाड्रन** का विमान जोरहाट के **रोवरिया (Rowriah)** क्षेत्र स्थित अपने एयरबेस पर उतर रहा था।
- " A **court of inquiry** is being constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," the IAF statement read.
  IAF के बयान में कहा गया, "दुर्घटना के कारणों का पता लगाने के लिए **जांच न्यायालय (Court of Inquiry)** का गठन किया जा रहा है।"
- The **PTI** reported that the aircraft was set to fly to **Chabua** from Jorhat, but requested a landing shortly after taking off.

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पीटीआई ने बताया कि विमान जोरहाट से **छाबुआ** जाने वाला था, लेकिन उड़ान भरने के तुरंत बाद उसने उतरने का अनुरोध किया।

- The aircraft lost control upon touchdown and skidded off the runway, hurtling across a parallel taxiway and snapping into two segments before being engulfed in flames, the PTI added, citing sources.
  पीटीआई ने सूत्रों के हवाले से बताया कि विमान के जमीन छूते ही उसका नियंत्रण खो गया और वह रनवे से फिसलकर बाहर निकल गया, समानांतर टैक्सीवे को पार करता हुआ दो हिस्सों में टूट गया और उसके बाद आग की लपटों में घिर गया।
- A **Defence spokesperson** said the entire **Air Force Station** was sealed after the accident, and no entry was allowed.
  एक **रक्षा प्रवक्ता** ने कहा कि दुर्घटना के बाद पूरे **वायुसेना स्टेशन** को सील कर दिया गया और किसी को भी प्रवेश की अनुमति नहीं दी गई।

Minister mourns loss
मंत्री ने शोक व्यक्त किया

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** mourned the loss of the **five airmen**.
  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने **पाँच वायुसेना कर्मियों** की मृत्यु पर शोक व्यक्त किया।
- "Their **courage** and **service to the nation** will always be remembered with pride and gratitude," Mr. Singh said.
  श्री सिंह ने कहा, "उनका **साहस** और **राष्ट्र के प्रति सेवा** हमेशा गर्व और कृतज्ञता के साथ याद की जाएगी।"
- "On behalf of the people of **Assam**, I offer my thoughts and prayers with the bereaved families.
  "**असम** की जनता की ओर से मैं शोक संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति अपनी संवेदनाएँ और प्रार्थनाएँ व्यक्त करता हूँ।
- The **Government of Assam** is in touch with the concerned authorities and is ready to offer any support and assistance," **Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma** posted on **X**.
  असम सरकार संबंधित अधिकारियों के संपर्क में है और हर संभव सहायता एवं सहयोग देने के लिए तैयार है," **मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा** ने **X** पर पोस्ट किया।
- Expressing his condolences to the bereaved families, **Assam Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi** called for a proper inquiry into the deaths of the **five personnel**.
  शोक संतप्त परिवारों के प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त करते हुए **असम कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष गौरव गोगोई** ने **पाँच कर्मियों** की मृत्यु की उचित जांच की मांग की।
- "I urge the government and the **Defence Ministry** to conduct a proper inquiry into the mishap and identify the primary cause so that measures are taken to prevent such accidents in the future," he said in a **social media post**.
  उन्होंने एक **सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट** में कहा, "मैं सरकार और **रक्षा मंत्रालय** से आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस दुर्घटना की उचित जांच कर इसके मूल कारण की पहचान करें, ताकि भविष्य में ऐसी दुर्घटनाओं को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाए जा सकें।

Scented by tradition
परंपरा की सुगंध से महकता हुआ

- **Rose farming** is a labour of love, and there is no better canvas for these delicate pink blooms than **Kashmir** where the journey from blossom to by-product is a celebrated tradition, deeply rooted in the heart of the region's **local communities**.
  गुलाब की खेती प्रेम और समर्पण का कार्य है, और इन नाजुक गुलाबी फूलों के लिए **कश्मीर** से बेहतर कोई स्थान नहीं है, जहाँ फूल से लेकर उससे बनने वाले उत्पादों तक की यात्रा एक प्रतिष्ठित परंपरा है, जो क्षेत्र के **स्थानीय समुदायों** के हृदय में गहराई से रची-बसी हुई है।

Swedish fighters intercept two Russian combat jets near border

AFP

GS III: Internal Security

Sweden said on Saturday it had scrambled two pairs of JAS 39 Gripen fighter jets a day earlier to intercept two Russian combat aircraft flying over the Baltic Sea near its airspace. The two incidents occurred on Friday in the southern and northern parts of the Baltic Sea. Swedish airspace was not violated, it said. AFP

14J6. Swedish fighters intercept two Russian combat jets near border

स्वीडिश लड़ाकू विमानों ने सीमा के पास दो रूसी लड़ाकू विमानों को रोका

- **Sweden** said on Saturday it had scrambled two pairs of **JAS 39 Gripen fighter jets** a day earlier to intercept two **Russian combat aircraft** flying over the **Baltic Sea** near its airspace.
  स्वीडन ने शनिवार को कहा कि उसने एक दिन पहले अपने **JAS 39 ग्रिपेन लड़ाकू विमानों** की दो जोड़ियों को अपने वायुक्षेत्र के पास **बाल्टिक सागर** के ऊपर उड़ रहे दो **रूसी लड़ाकू विमानों** को रोकने के लिए तैनात किया था।
- The two incidents occurred on Friday in the **southern** and **northern parts** of the **Baltic Sea**.
  ये दोनों घटनाएँ शुक्रवार को **बाल्टिक सागर** के **दक्षिणी** और **उत्तरी हिस्सों** में हुईं।
- **Swedish airspace** was not violated, it said.
  उसने कहा कि **स्वीडिश वायुक्षेत्र** का उल्लंघन नहीं किया गया।

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PCS Special:	13 June 2026
13J6	David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88 परिदृश्य चित्रों के लिए प्रसिद्ध प्रतिष्ठित ब्रिटिश कलाकार डेविड हॉकनी का 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन
13J6	Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies अपने कानूनी कार्यों के लिए प्रसिद्ध थाई राजकुमारी बज्रकितियाभा का निधन

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David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88

PCS

AFP

British artist David Hockney, famed for his shimmering pool paintings and colourful iPad drawings, has died at his London home aged 88. Over a seven-decade career, he became one of Britain's most celebrated contemporary artists, with record-breaking auction sales and global acclaim for his innovative work. AP

13J6. David Hockney, iconic British artist known for landscapes, dies at 88

परिदृश्य चित्रों के लिए प्रसिद्ध प्रतिष्ठित ब्रिटिश कलाकार डेविड हॉकनी का 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- British artist **David Hockney**, famed for his shimmering **pool paintings** and colourful **iPad drawings**, has died at his **London** home aged 88.

ब्रिटिश कलाकार **डेविड हॉकनी**, जो अपनी चमकदार **पूल पेंटिंग्स** और रंगीन **आईपैड चित्रों** के लिए प्रसिद्ध थे, का **लंदन** स्थित उनके घर पर 88 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

- Over a **seven-decade career**, he became one of Britain's most celebrated **contemporary artists**, with record-breaking **auction sales** and global acclaim for his innovative work.

अपने **सात दशकों के करियर** के दौरान वे ब्रिटेन के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित **समकालीन कलाकारों** में से एक बन गए, जिन्हें रिकॉर्ड तोड़ **नीलामी बिक्री** और उनके नवोन्मेषी कार्यों के लिए वैश्विक प्रशंसा प्राप्त हुई।

Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies

PCS

AFP

Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, a lawyer and the eldest of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's children, has died at 47, the Bureau of the Royal Household said. She died on Thursday evening at a Bangkok hospital where she had been cared for since falling unconscious due to illness three years ago, it said. AP

13J6. Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies

अपने कानूनी कार्यों के लिए प्रसिद्ध थाई राजकुमारी बज्रकितियाभा का निधन

- Thailand's Princess **Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol**, a **lawyer** and the eldest of **King Maha Vajiralongkorn's** children, has died at 47, the **Bureau of the Royal Household** said.

थाईलैंड की राजकुमारी **बज्रकितियाभा महिदोल**, जो एक **वकील** थीं और **राजा महा वजिरालोंगकोर्न** की सबसे बड़ी संतान थीं, का 47 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया है, ऐसा **रॉयल हाउसहोल्ड ब्यूरो** ने कहा।

- She died on Thursday evening at a **Bangkok hospital** where she had been cared for since falling unconscious due to illness three years ago, it said.

ब्यूरो के अनुसार, उनका निधन गुरुवार शाम एक **बैंकॉक अस्पताल** में हुआ, जहाँ तीन वर्ष पहले बीमारी के कारण बेहोश हो जाने के बाद से उनका उपचार और देखभाल की जा रही थी।

GS Paper 1: Society	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति 'गहरी जड़ें जमाए' पक्षपात समाज में अब भी मौजूद: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

'Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC

GS I: Society

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has observed that though the country's child sex ratio has shown "clear signs of improvement", the continued prevalence of sex selection practices reflects "deep-seated patriarchal preferences" for a male child.

A Bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and P.K. Mishra made the observation while dismissing a Maharashtra doctor's appeal challenging criminal proceedings against him under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act).

Referring to various schemes introduced by State governments to curb female foeticide, the court said these reflected sustained efforts to address the systemic discrimination faced by "the girl child in an inherently patriarchal" society.

The court noted that the country continues to face significant gaps in gender parity

However, it pointed out that several States continue to record sex ratios at birth below the national average. "...the country's sex ratio has shown clear signs of improvement in recent years... Nonetheless, several States still report sex ratios at birth below the national average. This shows the continuing presence of deep-seated patriarchal preferences towards a male child and the 'behind the curtains' prevalence of sex selection practices," the Bench said.

Accordingly, the top court stressed that strict enforcement of the PCPNDT Act would remain essential until entrenched social attitudes towards the girl child undergo change.

The judges also noted the country continues to face significant challenges in achieving gender parity when assessed against global indicators. "On a global level though, unfortunately, the data does not present a positive outlook. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025 records a drop in our ranking in terms of overall gender parity score from the previous year to 131 out of 148, from 129 the previous year", the Bench said.

Accordingly, the Bench refused to quash the criminal proceedings against the doctor, underlining that "letting infractions slide" would defeat the purpose of the PCPNDT Act.

13J6. 'Deep-seated' bias for male child persists in society: SC

पुरुष बच्चे के प्रति 'गहरी जड़ें जमाए' पक्षपात समाज में अब भी मौजूद: सुप्रीम कोर्ट

- The **Supreme Court** has observed that though the country's **child sex ratio** has shown "clear signs of improvement", the continued prevalence of **sex selection practices** reflects "deep-seated **patriarchal preferences**" for a **male child**.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा है कि यद्यपि देश के **बाल लिंगानुपात** में "सुधार के स्पष्ट संकेत" दिखाई दिए हैं, फिर भी **लिंग चयन की प्रथाओं** का लगातार बने रहना **पुरुष बच्चे** के प्रति "गहरी जड़ें जमाए **पितृसत्तात्मक प्राथमिकताओं**" को दर्शाता है।

- A Bench of Justices **Sanjay Karol** and **P.K. Mishra** made the observation while dismissing a Maharashtra doctor's appeal challenging criminal proceedings against him under the **Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act)**.

न्यायमूर्ति **संजय करोल** और **पी.के. मिश्रा** की पीठ ने यह टिप्पणी महाराष्ट्र के एक डॉक्टर की उस अपील को खारिज करते हुए की, जिसमें उसने **पूर्व गर्भाधान एवं प्रसवपूर्व निदान तकनीक (लिंग चयन निषेध) अधिनियम, 1994 (PCPNDT Act)** के तहत उसके विरुद्ध चल रही आपराधिक कार्यवाही को चुनौती दी थी।

- Referring to various schemes introduced by **State governments** to curb **female foeticide**, the court said these reflected sustained efforts to address the systemic discrimination faced by "the **girl child** in an inherently patriarchal" society.

कन्या भ्रूण हत्या को रोकने के लिए **राज्य सरकारों** द्वारा शुरू की गई विभिन्न योजनाओं का उल्लेख करते हुए न्यायालय ने कहा कि ये एक स्वाभाविक रूप से **पितृसत्तात्मक समाज** में "**बालिका**" द्वारा झेले जाने वाले व्यवस्थित भेदभाव को दूर करने के निरंतर प्रयासों को दर्शाती हैं।

- However, it pointed out that several States continue to record **sex ratios at birth** below the national average.

हालाँकि, न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि कई राज्य अब भी जन्म के समय **लिंगानुपात** के मामले में राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे हैं।

- "...the country's **sex ratio** has shown clear signs of improvement in recent years... Nonetheless, several States still report **sex ratios at birth** below the national average. This shows the continuing presence of deep-seated **patriarchal preferences** towards a **male child** and the 'behind the curtains' prevalence of **sex selection practices**," the Bench said.

पीठ ने कहा, "...देश के **लिंगानुपात** में हाल के वर्षों में सुधार के स्पष्ट संकेत दिखाई दिए हैं... फिर भी कई राज्य अब भी जन्म के समय **लिंगानुपात** के मामले में राष्ट्रीय औसत से नीचे हैं। यह **पुरुष बच्चे** के प्रति गहरी जड़ें जमाए **पितृसत्तात्मक प्राथमिकताओं** तथा पर्दे के पीछे जारी **लिंग चयन की प्रथाओं** की मौजूदगी को दर्शाता है।"

- Accordingly, the top court stressed that strict enforcement of the **PCPNDT Act** would remain essential until entrenched social attitudes towards the **girl child** undergo change.

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तदनुसार, शीर्ष अदालत ने जोर देकर कहा कि **बालिका** के प्रति समाज में जमी हुई सोच में परिवर्तन आने तक **PCPNDT Act** का सख्ती से पालन आवश्यक रहेगा।

- The judges also noted the country continues to face significant challenges in achieving **gender parity** when assessed against global indicators.

न्यायाधीशों ने यह भी कहा कि वैश्विक संकेतकों के आधार पर आकलन करने पर देश को **लैंगिक समानता** प्राप्त करने में अब भी महत्वपूर्ण चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।

- "On a global level though, unfortunately, the data does not present a positive outlook. The **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025** records a drop in our ranking in terms of overall **gender parity score** from the previous year to **131 out of 148**, from **129** the previous year", the Bench said.

पीठ ने कहा, "वैश्विक स्तर पर दुर्भाग्यवश आँकड़े सकारात्मक तस्वीर प्रस्तुत नहीं करते। **विश्व आर्थिक मंच की ग्लोबल जेंडर गैप रिपोर्ट 2025** के अनुसार समग्र **लैंगिक समानता स्कोर** के मामले में हमारी रैंकिंग पिछले वर्ष के **129** से घटकर **148 देशों में 131वें स्थान** पर आ गई है।"

- Accordingly, the Bench refused to quash the criminal proceedings against the doctor, underlining that "letting infractions slide" would defeat the purpose of the **PCPNDT Act**.

तदनुसार, पीठ ने डॉक्टर के विरुद्ध आपराधिक कार्यवाही को समाप्त करने से इनकार कर दिया और कहा कि उल्लंघनों को "अनदेखा करना" **PCPNDT Act** के उद्देश्य को विफल कर देगा।

GS Paper II: Polity	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination राज्यसभा नामांकन खारिज होने के खिलाफ कांग्रेस नेता की याचिका SC ने खारिज की

SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Observing that courts should refrain from intervening in electoral processes, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's plea challenging the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination papers from Madhya Pradesh.

A Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and A.S. Chandurkar observed that in view of Article 329(b) of the Constitution, it had no jurisdiction to interfere with the order of the Returning Officer (RO) and that an election petition was the only remedy available in such cases.

The provision stipulates that no election to either House of Parliament or a State legislature can be called in question except through an election petition.

> Whenever an attempt is made to invoke this court's or the High Court's writ jurisdiction to interject during the conduct of elections, on every occasion the court has rejected such an attempt, keeping in view the principles contained in Article 329 of the Constitution
> SUPREME COURT

"...Whenever an attempt is made to invoke this court's or the High Court's writ jurisdiction to interject during the conduct of elections, on every occasion, the court has rejected such an attempt, keeping in view the principles contained in Article 329 of the Constitution," the Bench said.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Ms. Natarajan, the Congress's sole candidate for one of the three Rajya Sabha seats from Madhya Pradesh, challenging a June 9 order of the RO and Madhya Pradesh Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma rejecting her nomination on the ground that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her affidavit. BJP candidates Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agrawal and Mahesh Kewat were declared elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Appearing for Ms. Natarajan, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi argued that the RO's decision suffered from a "patent error" and warranted interference by the court. He also questioned the EC's decision to proceed with the results despite the top court being cognisant of the matter.

13J6. SC dismisses Congress leader's plea on rejection of Rajya Sabha nomination

राज्यसभा नामांकन खारिज होने के खिलाफ कांग्रेस नेता की याचिका SC ने खारिज की

- A Bench of Justices **Prashant Kumar Mishra** and **A.S. Chandurkar** observed that in view of **Article 329(b)** of the Constitution, it had no jurisdiction to interfere with the order of the **Returning Officer (RO)** and that an **election petition** was the only remedy available in such cases.

  न्यायमूर्ति प्रशांत कुमार मिश्रा और **ए.एस. चंदुरकर** की पीठ ने कहा कि संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 329(b)** को देखते हुए उसके पास **रिटर्निंग ऑफिसर (RO)** के आदेश में हस्तक्षेप करने का अधिकार क्षेत्र नहीं है तथा ऐसे मामलों में केवल **निर्वाचन याचिका** ही उपलब्ध उपाय है।
- The provision stipulates that no election to either House of Parliament or a State legislature can be called in question except through an election petition.

  यह प्रावधान निर्धारित करता है कि **संसद** के किसी भी सदन या किसी **राज्य विधानमंडल** के चुनाव को केवल **निर्वाचन याचिका** के माध्यम से ही चुनौती दी जा सकती है।
- The top court was hearing a plea filed by **Ms. Natarajan**, the **Congress's** sole candidate for one of the three **Rajya Sabha** seats from **Madhya Pradesh**, challenging a **June 9** order of the **RO** and **Madhya Pradesh Assembly Principal Secretary Arvind Sharma** rejecting her nomination on the ground that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in **Hyderabad** in her affidavit.

  शीर्ष न्यायालय **मीनाक्षी नटराजन** द्वारा दायर याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रहा था, जो **मध्य प्रदेश** से तीन **राज्यसभा** सीटों में से एक के लिए **कांग्रेस** की एकमात्र उम्मीदवार थीं। उन्होंने **9 जून** के उस आदेश को चुनौती दी थी जिसमें **RO** तथा **मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा** के **प्रधान सचिव अरविंद शर्मा** ने उनका नामांकन इस आधार पर खारिज कर दिया था कि उन्होंने अपने शपथपत्र में **हैदराबाद** में लंबित एक आपराधिक मामले का खुलासा नहीं किया था।
- **BJP** candidates **Tarun Chugh, Rajneesh Agrawal and Mahesh Kewat** were declared elected unopposed to **Rajya Sabha** on Thursday.

  भाजपा उम्मीदवार **तरुण चुघ, रजनीश अग्रवाल और महेश केवट** को गुरुवार को **राज्यसभा** के लिए निर्विरोध निर्वाचित घोषित किया गया।

GS Paper II: Governance	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools केवी विद्यालयों में कक्षा 6 और 9 के लिए कम से कम एक संस्कृत बैच अनिवार्य
13J6	Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback सरकार ने टीवी और रेडियो के लिए मसौदा दूरसंचार नियमों पर सुझाव आमंत्रित किए
13J6	Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए समान व्यवहार

Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools

GS II: Governance

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Every Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) must maintain a minimum of one dedicated section of students learning Sanskrit as a third language in Classes 6 and 9, according to a circular issued by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), an autonomous body under the Union Education Ministry.

There are currently 1,288 functional KVs across the country, along with three operating internationally in Moscow, Kathmandu, and Tehran. The circular, dated May 29 and accessed by *The Hindu*, is meant for all KVs in India and abroad.

"KVS has ensured that the policy remains sensitive to its transferable student population by maintaining Sanskrit as a common option across all KVs, while offering regional languages as an alternative for those who are not subject to frequent transfers," a senior KVS official said, on the condition of anonymity.

The circular clarifies that the R3 choice (Sanskrit or a regional or State language from the scheduled languages) must be distinct from R1 (Hindi) and R2 (English).

Staffing and resources

The official acknowledged that a few KVs face challenges such as limited teacher availability and resource constraints, but insisted that the use of contractual teachers for regional languages, phased roll-out, and adoption of SCERT materials will help mitigate these constraints.

13J6. Minimum one Sanskrit batch required for Classes 6 & 9 in KV schools

केवी विद्यालयों में कक्षा 6 और 9 के लिए कम से कम एक संस्कृत बैच अनिवार्य

- Every **Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV)** must maintain a minimum of one dedicated section of students learning **Sanskrit** as a third language in **Classes 6 and 9**, according to a circular issued by **Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS)**, an autonomous body under the **Union Education Ministry**.

केंद्रीय विद्यालय (KV) में कक्षा **6 और 9** के विद्यार्थियों के लिए तीसरी भाषा के रूप में **संस्कृत** पढ़ने वाला कम से कम एक समर्पित सेक्शन होना अनिवार्य होगा। यह निर्देश **केंद्रीय विद्यालय संगठन (KVS)** द्वारा जारी एक परिपत्र में दिया गया है, जो **केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्रालय** के अधीन एक स्वायत्त निकाय है।

- There are currently **1,288 functional KVs** across the country, along with three operating internationally in **Moscow, Kathmandu, and Tehran**.

वर्तमान में देशभर में **1,288 कार्यरत केंद्रीय विद्यालय** हैं, जबकि तीन विद्यालय अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर **मॉस्को, काठमांडू और तेहरान** में संचालित हो रहे हैं।

- The circular, dated **May 29** and accessed by *The Hindu*, is meant for all KVs in India and abroad.

29 मई दिनांकित यह परिपत्र, जिसे *द हिन्दू* ने प्राप्त किया, भारत तथा विदेशों में स्थित सभी केंद्रीय विद्यालयों के लिए लागू है।

- "**KVS** has ensured that the policy remains sensitive to its transferable student population by maintaining **Sanskrit** as a common option across all KVs, while offering **regional languages** as an alternative for those who are not subject to frequent transfers," a senior **KVS official** said, on the condition of anonymity.

"**केवीएस** ने यह सुनिश्चित किया है कि यह नीति स्थानांतरण होने वाले विद्यार्थियों की आवश्यकताओं के प्रति संवेदनशील बनी रहे। इसके लिए सभी केंद्रीय विद्यालयों में **संस्कृत** को एक समान विकल्प के रूप में बनाए रखा गया है, जबकि जिन विद्यार्थियों का बार-बार स्थानांतरण नहीं होता, उनके लिए **क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं** का विकल्प भी उपलब्ध कराया गया है," एक वरिष्ठ **केवीएस अधिकारी** ने गुमनाम रहने की शर्त पर कहा।

- The circular clarifies that the **R3 choice** (**Sanskrit** or a **regional or State language** from the scheduled languages) must be distinct from **R1 (Hindi)** and **R2 (English)**.

परिपत्र में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि **R3 विकल्प** (**संस्कृत** अथवा अनुसूचित भाषाओं में से कोई **क्षेत्रीय या राज्य भाषा**) **R1 (हिंदी)** और **R2 (अंग्रेज़ी)** से भिन्न होना चाहिए।

Staffing and resources
स्टाफिंग और संसाधन

- The official acknowledged that a few KVs face challenges such as limited **teacher availability** and **resource constraints**, but insisted that the use of **contractual teachers** for regional languages, phased roll-out, and adoption of **SCERT materials** will help mitigate these constraints.

अधिकारी ने स्वीकार किया कि कुछ केंद्रीय विद्यालयों में **शिक्षकों की सीमित उपलब्धता** और **संसाधनों की कमी** जैसी चुनौतियाँ हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के लिए **संविदा शिक्षकों** की नियुक्ति, चरणबद्ध क्रियान्वयन तथा **SCERT सामग्री** को अपनाने से इन समस्याओं को कम करने में सहायता मिलेगी।

Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback

GS II: Governance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has published the draft Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026, for public consultation. They have been framed to consolidate the various guidelines issued for television and radio services under the erstwhile Telegraph Act, within the framework of the newly enacted Telecommunications Act, 2023. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry administers the provisions relating to television, radio, and associated services.

Unified rule-book

In the draft rules, existing terms and conditions of authorisation have been harmonised and rationalised to facilitate continuity, while enabling reforms and provision for a single regulatory framework in place of multiple guidelines. "With this set of rules, the industry will now have a unified and significantly simplified rule book. These rules are designed to simplify the existing regime while promoting ease of doing business in the television and radio broadcasting sector," said the Ministry.

Once notified, the rules will replace various existing guidelines governing broadcasting services.

Digital implementation of the authorisation process, simplified authorisation procedures, removal of the requirement for signing Grant of Permission Agreement, and provision of transparent adjudication mechanism are the other key features.

13J6. Govt. opens draft telecom rules on TV, radio for feedback

सरकार ने टीवी और रेडियो के लिए मसौदा दूरसंचार नियमों पर सुझाव आमंत्रित किए

- The Centre has published the draft **Telecommunications (Television, Radio and Associated Services) Rules, 2026**, for public consultation.

केंद्र सरकार ने सार्वजनिक परामर्श के लिए **दूरसंचार (टेलीविजन, रेडियो और संबद्ध सेवाएं) नियम, 2026** का मसौदा प्रकाशित किया है।

- They have been framed to consolidate the various guidelines issued for **television and radio services** under the erstwhile **Telegraph Act**, within the framework of the newly enacted **Telecommunications Act, 2023**.

इन नियमों को पूर्व **टेलीग्राफ अधिनियम** के तहत **टेलीविजन और रेडियो सेवाओं** के लिए जारी विभिन्न दिशानिर्देशों को नव अधिनियमित **दूरसंचार अधिनियम, 2023** के ढांचे में समेकित करने के लिए तैयार किया गया है।

- The **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** administers the provisions relating to television, radio, and associated services.

सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय टेलीविजन, रेडियो और संबद्ध सेवाओं से संबंधित प्रावधानों का प्रशासन करता है।

Unified rule-book

एकीकृत नियम-पुस्तिका

- In the draft rules, existing terms and conditions of **authorisation** have been harmonised and rationalised to facilitate continuity, while enabling reforms and provision for a single **regulatory framework** in place of multiple guidelines.

मसौदा नियमों में **प्राधिकरण** की मौजूदा शर्तों एवं नियमों को निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए समन्वित और युक्तिसंगत बनाया गया है, साथ ही सुधारों को सक्षम करते हुए अनेक दिशानिर्देशों के स्थान पर एकल **नियामक ढांचे** का प्रावधान किया गया है।

- "With this set of rules, the industry will now have a **unified** and significantly **simplified rule book**.

"इन नियमों के साथ अब उद्योग के पास एक **एकीकृत** और काफी हद तक **सरलीकृत नियम-पुस्तिका** होगी।

- These rules are designed to simplify the existing regime while promoting **ease of doing business** in the television and radio broadcasting sector," said the Ministry.

मंत्रालय ने कहा कि ये नियम मौजूदा व्यवस्था को सरल बनाने के साथ-साथ टेलीविजन और रेडियो प्रसारण क्षेत्र में **व्यवसाय सुगमता (Ease of Doing Business)** को बढ़ावा देने के लिए तैयार किए गए हैं।

- Once notified, the rules will replace various existing guidelines governing **broadcasting services**.

अधिसूचित होने के बाद ये नियम **प्रसारण सेवाओं** को नियंत्रित करने वाले विभिन्न मौजूदा दिशानिर्देशों का स्थान ले लेंगे।

- **Digital implementation** of the authorisation process, simplified authorisation procedures, removal of the requirement for signing **Grant of Permission Agreement**, and provision of

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transparent **adjudication mechanism** are the other key features.

प्राधिकरण प्रक्रिया के डिजिटल कार्यान्वयन, सरलीकृत प्राधिकरण प्रक्रियाएं, **Grant of Permission Agreement** पर हस्ताक्षर की आवश्यकता को समाप्त करना तथा पारदर्शी **न्ययनिर्णय तंत्र (Adjudication Mechanism)** का प्रावधान इसकी अन्य प्रमुख विशेषताएं हैं।

Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities

GS II: Governance

Addressing the digital divide through the Digital India Mission, India has marched on towards becoming a global "best practice" model of a digital welfare state. Yet, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) remain largely excluded from this promise of universal outreach. Disability pensions, contrary to the very principles underlying disability rights, are determined not by the nature or extent of disability but by domicile, the discretionary decisions of State governments, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes. As a result, a vulnerable section of citizens continues to remain outside the ambit of a welfare architecture that otherwise prides itself on inclusivity and last-mile delivery.

Sushil Kumar

Former Secretary, Government of India, and an Advocate in the Supreme Court and High Court

An inadequate safety net

The 2011 Census recorded 2.68 crore PwDs. Today, accounting for population growth and changing disease profiles, their number is conservatively estimated at 4.5 crore-6 crore. Although the Supreme Court of India has recognised the right to live with dignity as a fundamental right and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides legal protection, disability benefits – especially pensions – remain fragmented, discretionary, and inadequate. As a result, the Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme covers only a small fraction of PwDs, while pension amounts in most States range from just ₹300 to ₹500 a month, with a few offering ₹1,000-₹3,000.

India spends barely 0.02% of GDP on disability welfare including pensions. South Africa spends 0.12%-0.15% of GDP (six times more); Brazil 0.45%-0.50% (20 times more); OECD countries 2.2% (110 times more) and Australia 0.35%-0.40% (20 times more).

Beyond politics, sound economics demands the inclusion of PwDs. The World Bank and UNDP estimate that low- and middle-income countries lose 3%-7% of GDP when PwDs are excluded from education, employment, and social security. Disability income improves household stability, rural consumption, and labour participation. Studies show fiscal multipliers of 1.4-1.6, while the 2025 Pro Bono Economics report found that the socio-economic returns from disability pensions exceed their costs by nearly 48%. Far from being a welfare expense, disability pensions are an investment and an effective economic stimulus.

India must establish a Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR) to give effect to the state's constitutional obligation, under Article 41, to provide public assistance to persons with disabilities, and to operationalise Section 24 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, which guarantees adequate social security, including pension benefits. Such a measure would translate the promise of inclusive growth and "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" into reality by shifting disability pensions from a matter of charity and discretion to a matter of citizenship rights. While ensuring that no disabled person receives less than a minimum pension regardless of where they live, a MUDPFR would still allow States to provide additional top-ups.

India must adopt a minimum universal disability pension floor rate

This is not an unrealistic proposal. South Africa provides a national disability grant with uniform eligibility norms; Brazil's BPC guarantees a national minimum income; and Australia and New Zealand operate nationwide disability pension systems. Several developing countries, including Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand and Indonesia, also provide disability income support at the national level. International experience shows that centrally set standards promote uniformity, universality and portability.

A MUDPFR of ₹8,000 per month for 40 lakh beneficiaries would cost about ₹38,400 crore annually (0.08% of GDP), while ₹10,000 for 65 lakh beneficiaries would cost ₹78,000 crore. Even a pension of ₹15,000 per month would keep expenditure below 0.2% of GDP. Such spending is fiscally manageable when compared with allocations for food subsidies (₹2.05 lakh crore), rural development (₹1.80 lakh crore), tax concessions and revenue foregone (₹1.72 lakh crore), and infrastructure (₹11.11 lakh crore). Yet, disability pensions and inclusion continue to receive only a tiny fraction of public expenditure.

From fragmentation to integration

The current disability pension system, shared between the Ministry of Rural Development and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, leads to duplication, delays and diffused accountability. Countries that have faced similar challenges have addressed them through a single national authority – South Africa's SASSA, Australia's NDIA, Brazil's INSS and Ireland's Department of Social Protection. India too needs a National Disability Pension Authority to oversee eligibility norms, a national registry, portability, digital integration, grievance redress and State-wise performance monitoring – one standard, one system, one nation.

Implementing a robust disability pension system would strengthen India's bid for a UN Security Council seat by translating its commitments into action under Article 28 of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ILO Recommendation No. 202, SDG 1.3, and the G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration, all of which endorse social protection as a cornerstone of inclusive development.

Combining pensions with employment support can move persons with disabilities from mere survival to productive participation. A MUDPFR could also yield economic benefits. Countries such as Singapore, South Korea, South Africa and Brazil integrate disability pensions with employment and social security systems. India should similarly strengthen its fragmented Disability Employment Incentive Scheme. Models abroad include employer tax incentives in Nigeria, the U.K.'s Access to Work programme, and Australia's wage subsidies. Existing schemes such as PM-DAKSH, NAPS and State-level employer incentives provide a foundation for expansion.

Constitutional imperative

A MUDPFR would give effect to the Constitution's guarantees of equality, equal protection, dignity and the right to life. India has already standardised major welfare programmes – from food security and health care to PM-KISAN and pensions – and delivers benefits at scale through DBT and UPI. The capacity and technology exist. What is needed is the political will to prioritise dignity. Disability pensions remain one of the few entitlements determined by where a person lives. If dignity is a constitutional right, geography cannot decide the minimum support for survival.

More than an economic or administrative reform, a MUDPFR is a moral one. It affirms that persons with disabilities are rights-bearing citizens, not recipients of charity. By transforming the state from a benevolent provider into a constitutional guarantor, it strengthens dignity, inclusion and citizenship.

Should India continue with a system in which disability pensions vary according to State budgets, political priorities and bureaucratic complexities, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to hardship? Or should the Republic guarantee a minimum level of support for all? A Viksit Bharat cannot leave its most vulnerable citizens at the mercy of a postcode lottery. Federalism cannot be a justification for inequality.

A MUDPFR is the next logical step in India's welfare architecture, building on rights-based entitlements enabled by digital inclusion and DBT. It would humanise the state, uphold the dignity of persons with disabilities and strengthen the Republic.

Over the past 75 years, India has steadily expanded its welfare state in pursuit of social justice. With the necessary platforms and delivery systems now in place, the time has come to secure the foundation. The real question is whether India recognises dignity for persons with disabilities as a constitutional right and a collective obligation. That promise is long overdue, and a MUDPFR offers a way to fulfil it.

13J6. Equality of treatment for Persons with Disabilities
दिव्यांग व्यक्तियों के लिए समान व्यवहार

- Addressing the **digital divide** through the **Digital India Mission**, India has marched on towards becoming a global **"best practice"** model of a **digital welfare state**.
  डिजिटल इंडिया मिशन के माध्यम से **डिजिटल विभाजन** को कम करते हुए भारत एक वैश्विक **"सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण"** वाले **डिजिटल कल्याणकारी राज्य** के रूप में आगे बढ़ा है।

- Yet, **Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)** remain largely excluded from this promise of universal outreach.
  फिर भी **दिव्यांगजन (PwDs)** इस सार्वभौमिक पहुँच के वादे से बड़े पैमाने पर वंचित बने हुए हैं।
- **Disability pensions**, contrary to the very principles underlying disability rights, are determined not by the nature or extent of disability but by **domicile**, the discretionary decisions of **State governments**, and cumbersome bureaucratic processes.
  दिव्यांग पेंशन, जो दिव्यांग अधिकारों के मूल सिद्धांतों के विपरीत है, दिव्यांगता की प्रकृति या गंभीरता के आधार पर नहीं, बल्कि **निवास**, **राज्य सरकारों** के विवेकाधीन निर्णयों और जटिल नौकरशाही प्रक्रियाओं के आधार पर निर्धारित की जाती है।
- As a result, a vulnerable section of citizens continues to remain outside the ambit of a welfare architecture that otherwise prides itself on **inclusivity** and **last-mile delivery**.
  परिणामस्वरूप नागरिकों का एक संवेदनशील वर्ग उस कल्याणकारी व्यवस्था से बाहर बना हुआ है जो अन्यथा **समावेशिता** और **अंतिम छोर तक सेवा पहुँचाने** पर गर्व करती है।

An inadequate safety net
अपर्याप्त सामाजिक सुरक्षा तंत्र

- The **2011 Census** recorded **2.68 crore PwDs**.
  2011 की जनगणना में **2.68 करोड़ दिव्यांगजन** दर्ज किए गए थे।
- Today, accounting for population growth and changing disease profiles, their number is conservatively estimated at **4.5 crore-6 crore**.
  आज जनसंख्या वृद्धि और बदलते रोग-परिदृश्य को ध्यान में रखते हुए उनकी संख्या का अनुमान **4.5 करोड़ से 6 करोड़** के बीच लगाया जाता है।
- Although the **Supreme Court of India** has recognised the right to live with dignity as a **fundamental right** and the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** provides legal protection, disability benefits — especially pensions — remain fragmented, discretionary, and inadequate.
  यद्यपि **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने गरिमा के साथ जीवन जीने के अधिकार को **मौलिक अधिकार** माना है और **दिव्यांगजन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016** कानूनी संरक्षण प्रदान करता है, फिर भी दिव्यांग लाभ — विशेषकर पेंशन — खंडित, विवेकाधीन और अपर्याप्त बने हुए हैं।
- As a result, the **Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme** covers only a small fraction of PwDs, while pension amounts in most States range from just **₹300 to ₹500 a month**, with a few offering **₹1,000-₹3,000**.
  परिणामस्वरूप **इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग पेंशन योजना** केवल सीमित संख्या में दिव्यांगजनों को कवर करती है, जबकि अधिकांश राज्यों में पेंशन राशि केवल **₹300 से ₹500 प्रति माह** है, और कुछ राज्य **₹1,000 से ₹3,000** तक प्रदान करते हैं।
- India spends barely **0.02% of GDP** on disability welfare including pensions.
  भारत दिव्यांग कल्याण और पेंशन पर अपने **GDP का केवल 0.02%** व्यय करता है।
- **South Africa** spends **0.12%-0.15% of GDP** (six times more); **Brazil 0.45%-0.50%** (20 times more); **OECD countries 2.2%** (110 times more) and **Australia 0.35%-0.40%** (20 times more).
  दक्षिण अफ्रीका अपने GDP का **0.12%-0.15%** (लगभग छह गुना अधिक), **ब्राज़ील 0.45%-0.50%** (लगभग 20 गुना अधिक), **OECD देश 2.2%** (लगभग 110 गुना अधिक) तथा **ऑस्ट्रेलिया 0.35%-0.40%** (लगभग 20 गुना अधिक) व्यय करते हैं।
- Beyond politics, sound economics demands the inclusion of **PwDs**.
  राजनीति से परे, सुदृढ़ अर्थशास्त्र भी **दिव्यांगजनों** के समावेशन की मांग करता है।
- The **World Bank** and **UNDP** estimate that low- and middle-income countries lose **3%-7% of GDP** when PwDs are excluded from education, employment, and social security.

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विश्व बैंक और **यूएनडीपी** का अनुमान है कि निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देश शिक्षा, रोजगार और सामाजिक सुरक्षा से दिव्यांगजनों के बहिष्कार के कारण **GDP का 3%-7%** तक खो देते हैं।

- Disability income improves **household stability**, **rural consumption**, and **labour participation**.
  दिव्यांग आय **परिवारिक स्थिरता**, **ग्रामीण उपभोग** और **श्रम भागीदारी** में सुधार लाती है।
- Studies show **fiscal multipliers of 1.4-1.6**, while the **2025 Pro Bono Economics report** found that the socio-economic returns from disability pensions exceed their costs by nearly **48%**.
  अध्ययनों से **1.4-1.6 के राजकोषीय गुणक** प्राप्त हुए हैं, जबकि **2025 प्रो बोनो इकोनॉमिक्स रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार दिव्यांग पेंशन से मिलने वाला सामाजिक-आर्थिक प्रतिफल उसकी लागत से लगभग **48% अधिक** है।
- Far from being a welfare expense, disability pensions are an **investment** and an effective **economic stimulus**.
  दिव्यांग पेंशन केवल कल्याणकारी व्यय नहीं बल्कि एक महत्वपूर्ण **निवेश** और प्रभावी **आर्थिक प्रोत्साहन** है।
- India must establish a **Minimum Universal Disability Pension Floor Rate (MUDPFR)** to give effect to the state's constitutional obligation, under **Article 41**, to provide public assistance to persons with disabilities, and to operationalise **Section 24** of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**, which guarantees adequate social security, including pension benefits.
  भारत को **न्यूनतम सार्वभौमिक दिव्यांग पेंशन आधार दर (MUDPFR)** स्थापित करनी चाहिए ताकि **अनुच्छेद 41** के अंतर्गत दिव्यांगजनों को सार्वजनिक सहायता प्रदान करने के राज्य के संवैधानिक दायित्व तथा **दिव्यांगजन अधिकार अधिनियम, 2016** की **धारा 24** को प्रभावी बनाया जा सके, जो पर्याप्त सामाजिक सुरक्षा और पेंशन लाभों की गारंटी देती है।
- Such a measure would translate the promise of **inclusive growth** and **"Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas"** into reality by shifting disability pensions from a matter of charity and discretion to a matter of **citizenship rights**.
  ऐसा कदम **समावेशी विकास** और **"सबका साथ, सबका विकास"** के वादे को वास्तविकता में बदल देगा तथा दिव्यांग पेंशन को दान या विवेकाधीन सहायता के बजाय **नागरिक अधिकार** का स्वरूप प्रदान करेगा।
- While ensuring that no disabled person receives less than a minimum pension regardless of where they live, a **MUDPFR** would still allow States to provide additional **top-ups**.
  यह सुनिश्चित करते हुए कि किसी भी दिव्यांग व्यक्ति को उसके निवास स्थान की परवाह किए बिना न्यूनतम पेंशन से कम राशि न मिले, **MUDPFR** राज्यों को अतिरिक्त **पेंशन वृद्धि (टॉप-अप)** प्रदान करने की स्वतंत्रता भी देगा।
- This is not an unrealistic proposal.
  यह कोई अवास्तविक प्रस्ताव नहीं है।
- **South Africa** provides a national **disability grant** with uniform eligibility norms.
  दक्षिण अफ्रीका समान पात्रता मानदंडों के साथ राष्ट्रीय **दिव्यांग अनुदान** प्रदान करता है।
- **Brazil's BPC** guarantees a national minimum income.
  ब्राज़ील की BPC योजना राष्ट्रीय न्यूनतम आय की गारंटी देती है।
- **Australia** and **New Zealand** operate nationwide **disability pension systems**.
  ऑस्ट्रेलिया और **न्यूज़ीलैंड** देशव्यापी **दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणालियाँ** संचालित करते हैं।
- Several developing countries, including **Kenya, Rwanda, Thailand and Indonesia**, also provide disability income support at the national level.
  केन्या, रवांडा, थाईलैंड और इंडोनेशिया सहित कई विकासशील देश भी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर दिव्यांग आय सहायता प्रदान करते हैं।
- International experience shows that centrally set standards promote **uniformity, universality and portability**.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव दर्शाता है कि केंद्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित मानक **एकरूपता, सार्वभौमिकता और पोर्टेबिलिटी** को बढ़ावा देते हैं।

- A **MUDPFR** of **₹8,000 per month** for **40 lakh beneficiaries** would cost about **₹38,400 crore annually (0.08% of GDP)**.
  40 लाख लाभार्थियों के लिए **₹8,000 प्रतिमाह** की **MUDPFR** व्यवस्था पर लगभग **₹38,400 करोड़ प्रतिवर्ष (GDP का 0.08%)** व्यय होगा।
- While **₹10,000** for **65 lakh beneficiaries** would cost **₹78,000 crore**.
  वहीं **65 लाख लाभार्थियों** के लिए **₹10,000 प्रतिमाह** की व्यवस्था पर **₹78,000 करोड़** का व्यय होगा।
- Even a pension of **₹15,000 per month** would keep expenditure below **0.2% of GDP**.
  यहाँ तक कि **₹15,000 प्रतिमाह** की पेंशन भी कुल व्यय को **GDP के 0.2%** से नीचे रखेगी।
- Such spending is fiscally manageable when compared with allocations for **food subsidies (₹2.05 lakh crore)**, **rural development (₹1.80 lakh crore)**, **tax concessions and revenue foregone (₹1.72 lakh crore)**, and **infrastructure (₹11.11 lakh crore)**.
  ऐसा व्यय **खाद्य सब्सिडी (₹2.05 लाख करोड़)**, **ग्रामीण विकास (₹1.80 लाख करोड़)**, **कर रियायतों एवं राजस्व हानि (₹1.72 लाख करोड़)** तथा **अवसंरचना (₹11.11 लाख करोड़)** पर होने वाले व्यय की तुलना में वित्तीय रूप से प्रबंधनीय है।
- Yet, disability pensions and inclusion continue to receive only a tiny fraction of public expenditure.
  फिर भी दिव्यांग पेंशन और समावेशन को सार्वजनिक व्यय का केवल अत्यंत छोटा हिस्सा ही प्राप्त होता है।

From fragmentation to integration
विखंडन से एकीकरण की ओर

- The current disability pension system, shared between the **Ministry of Rural Development** and the **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**, leads to duplication, delays and diffused accountability.
  वर्तमान दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणाली, जो **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय** और **दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग** के बीच विभाजित है, दोहराव, विलंब और उत्तरदायित्व के बिखराव को जन्म देती है।
- Countries that have faced similar challenges have addressed them through a **single national authority**.
  जिन देशों ने इसी प्रकार की चुनौतियों का सामना किया है, उन्होंने उनका समाधान **एकल राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण** के माध्यम से किया है।
- **South Africa's SASSA**, **Australia's NDIA**, **Brazil's INSS** and **Ireland's Department of Social Protection** are examples.
  दक्षिण अफ्रीका का SASSA, **ऑस्ट्रेलिया का NDIA**, **ब्राज़ील का INSS** और **आयरलैंड का सामाजिक संरक्षण विभाग** इसके उदाहरण हैं।
- India too needs a **National Disability Pension Authority** to oversee eligibility norms, a national registry, portability, digital integration, grievance redress and State-wise performance monitoring — **one standard, one system, one nation**.
  भारत को भी पात्रता मानदंडों, राष्ट्रीय रजिस्ट्री, पोर्टेबिलिटी, डिजिटल एकीकरण, शिकायत निवारण और राज्यवार प्रदर्शन निगरानी के लिए एक **राष्ट्रीय दिव्यांग पेंशन प्राधिकरण** की आवश्यकता है — **एक मानक, एक प्रणाली, एक राष्ट्र**।
- Implementing a robust disability pension system would strengthen India's bid for a **UN Security Council** seat by translating its commitments into action under **Article 28 of the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, **ILO Recommendation No. 202**, **SDG 1.3**, and the **G-20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration**.
  एक सुदृढ़ दिव्यांग पेंशन प्रणाली लागू करने से **संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद** की सदस्यता के लिए भारत की दावेदारी मजबूत होगी, क्योंकि इससे **दिव्यांगजन अधिकारों पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र अभिसमय के अनुच्छेद 28**, **ILO अनुशंसा संख्या 202**, **SDG 1.3** और **G-20 नई दिल्ली नेता घोषणा** के अंतर्गत की गई प्रतिबद्धताओं को व्यवहार में लागू किया जा सकेगा।

- All of these endorse **social protection** as a cornerstone of inclusive development.
  ये सभी **सामाजिक सुरक्षा** को समावेशी विकास की आधारशिला मानते हैं।
- Combining pensions with **employment support** can move persons with disabilities from mere survival to productive participation.
  पेंशन को **रोज़गार सहायता** के साथ जोड़ने से दिव्यांगजन केवल जीवित रहने की स्थिति से आगे बढ़कर उत्पादक भागीदारी की ओर बढ़ सकते हैं।
- A **MUDPFR** could also yield economic benefits.
  MUDPFR आर्थिक लाभ भी प्रदान कर सकती है।
- Countries such as **Singapore, South Korea, South Africa and Brazil** integrate disability pensions with employment and social security systems.
  सिंगापुर, दक्षिण कोरिया, दक्षिण अफ्रीका और ब्राज़ील जैसे देश दिव्यांग पेंशन को रोजगार और सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रणालियों के साथ एकीकृत करते हैं।
- India should similarly strengthen its fragmented **Disability Employment Incentive Scheme**.
  भारत को भी अपनी खंडित **दिव्यांग रोजगार प्रोत्साहन योजना** को सुदृढ़ बनाना चाहिए।
- Models abroad include **employer tax incentives** in **Nigeria**, the **Access to Work programme** in the **United Kingdom**, and **wage subsidies** in **Australia**.
  विदेशों में **नाइजीरिया** में **नियोक्ता कर प्रोत्साहन**, **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** का **एक्सेस टू वर्क कार्यक्रम**, तथा **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** में **वेतन सब्सिडी** जैसे मॉडल उपलब्ध हैं।
- Existing schemes such as **PM-DAKSH**, **NAPS** and **State-level employer incentives** provide a foundation for expansion.
  PM-DAKSH, **NAPS** तथा **राज्य स्तरीय नियोक्ता प्रोत्साहन योजनाएँ** विस्तार के लिए एक मजबूत आधार प्रदान करती हैं।

Constitutional imperative
संवैधानिक अनिवार्यता

- A **MUDPFR** would give effect to the Constitution's guarantees of **equality**, **equal protection**, **dignity** and the **right to life**.
  एक **MUDPFR** संविधान द्वारा प्रदत्त **समानता**, **समान संरक्षण**, **गरिमा** तथा **जीवन के अधिकार** की गारंटियों को वास्तविक रूप से लागू करेगा।
- India has already standardised major welfare programmes — from **food security** and **health care** to **PM-KISAN** and **pensions** — and delivers benefits at scale through **DBT** and **UPI**.
  भारत पहले ही **खाद्य सुरक्षा**, **स्वास्थ्य सेवा**, **पीएम-किसान** तथा **पेंशन** जैसी प्रमुख कल्याणकारी योजनाओं का मानकीकरण कर चुका है और **डीबीटी** तथा **यूपीआई** के माध्यम से बड़े पैमाने पर लाभ पहुँचा रहा है।
- The capacity and technology exist.
  आवश्यक क्षमता और प्रौद्योगिकी पहले से उपलब्ध हैं।
- What is needed is the political will to prioritise **dignity**.
  आवश्यकता केवल **गरिमा** को प्राथमिकता देने की राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति की है।
- **Disability pensions** remain one of the few entitlements determined by where a person lives.
  दिव्यांग पेंशन उन कुछ अधिकारों में से एक है जो अब भी व्यक्ति के निवास स्थान के आधार पर निर्धारित होते हैं।
- If dignity is a constitutional right, geography cannot decide the minimum support for survival.
  यदि गरिमा एक संवैधानिक अधिकार है, तो भौगोलिक स्थिति यह निर्धारित नहीं कर सकती कि जीवित रहने के लिए न्यूनतम सहायता कितनी होगी।
- More than an economic or administrative reform, a **MUDPFR** is a moral one.
  एक **MUDPFR** केवल आर्थिक या प्रशासनिक सुधार नहीं, बल्कि एक नैतिक सुधार भी है।
- It affirms that **persons with disabilities** are **rights-bearing citizens**, not recipients of charity.
  यह पुष्टि करता है कि **दिव्यांगजन** दया या परोपकार के पात्र नहीं, बल्कि **अधिकार-संपन्न नागरिक** हैं।

- By transforming the state from a benevolent provider into a constitutional guarantor, it strengthens **dignity**, **inclusion** and **citizenship**.
  राज्य को एक दयालु प्रदाता से संवैधानिक संरक्षक में परिवर्तित करके यह **गरिमा**, **समावेशन** और **नागरिकता** को सुदृढ़ बनाता है।
- Should India continue with a system in which disability pensions vary according to **State budgets**, **political priorities** and **bureaucratic complexities**, leaving persons with disabilities vulnerable to hardship?
  क्या भारत ऐसी व्यवस्था जारी रखे जिसमें दिव्यांग पेंशन **राज्य के बजट**, **राजनीतिक प्राथमिकताओं** और **नौकरशाही जटिलताओं** के अनुसार बदलती रहे तथा दिव्यांगजन कठिनाइयों के प्रति असुरक्षित बने रहें?
- Or should the Republic guarantee a minimum level of support for all?
  या फिर गणराज्य सभी के लिए न्यूनतम स्तर की सहायता की गारंटी दे?
- A **Viksit Bharat** cannot leave its most vulnerable citizens at the mercy of a **postcode lottery**.
  एक **विकसित भारत** अपने सबसे कमजोर नागरिकों को उनके निवास क्षेत्र के आधार पर मिलने वाली अनिश्चित सुविधाओं के भरोसे नहीं छोड़ सकता।
- **Federalism** cannot be a justification for **inequality**.
  संघवाद को **असमानता** का औचित्य नहीं बनाया जा सकता।
- A **MUDPFR** is the next logical step in India's welfare architecture, building on **rights-based entitlements** enabled by **digital inclusion** and **DBT**.
  MUDPFR भारत की कल्याणकारी संरचना का अगला तार्किक कदम है, जो **डिजिटल समावेशन** और **डीबीटी** द्वारा समर्थित **अधिकार-आधारित लाभों** पर आधारित है।
- It would humanise the state, uphold the dignity of **persons with disabilities** and strengthen the Republic.
  यह राज्य को अधिक मानवीय बनाएगा, **दिव्यांगजनों** की गरिमा को बनाए रखेगा और गणराज्य को सशक्त करेगा।
- Over the past **75 years**, India has steadily expanded its welfare state in pursuit of **social justice**.
  पिछले **75 वर्षों** में भारत ने **सामाजिक न्याय** की प्राप्ति के लिए अपने कल्याणकारी राज्य का निरंतर विस्तार किया है।
- With the necessary platforms and delivery systems now in place, the time has come to secure the foundation.
  अब जब आवश्यक मंच और सेवा वितरण प्रणालियाँ स्थापित हो चुकी हैं, तो समय आ गया है कि इस आधार को मजबूत किया जाए।
- The real question is whether India recognises **dignity for persons with disabilities** as a **constitutional right** and a **collective obligation**.
  वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या भारत **दिव्यांगजनों की गरिमा** को एक **संवैधानिक अधिकार** और **सामूहिक दायित्व** के रूप में स्वीकार करता है।
- That promise is long overdue, and a **MUDPFR** offers a way to fulfil it.
  यह वादा बहुत पहले पूरा हो जाना चाहिए था, और **MUDPFR** उसे पूरा करने का एक प्रभावी माध्यम प्रदान करता है।

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GS III: Economy

Long overdue

Coal exchanges can balance out energy scarcities across India

Unveiled at a time of record domestic coal production, the Coal Exchange Rules, 2026, are a case of better-late-than-never. They will create a broad market-based mechanism through regulated trading platforms for the lynchpin of India's energy system – coal. They are aimed at enhancing price discovery, transparency, access for small consumers, as well as, one would hope, reduce bilateral agreements that are often opaque and come with a whiff of graft, too often. Today, most coal transactions between producers and buyers take place through long-term contracts, primarily for the power sector, followed by auctions, imports and captive mining. While India's commodity exchanges are well established, they function largely as financial markets rather than physical delivery platforms. Coal exchanges, however, appear closer in design to power exchanges, which, despite modest volumes, play a role in price discovery, market signalling and the development of secondary markets. As if to prove this point, coal exchanges are expected to serve the non-regulated sector, which relies on Coal India auctions where coal is often sold at a premium to the highest bidder. Power exchanges are not merely niche trading platforms; they serve as points of reference for the broader power market. They have enhanced price discovery and served as a balancing market without replacing long-term power purchase agreements. Initially the power exchanges were only balancing shortages, but eventually the spot prices became a barometer of the broader power market indicating scarcity, surplus and system stresses for all electricity stakeholders. Perhaps the first role of coal exchanges could be to open up inventories, allowing surpluses to balance out shortages across India.

The templates for the two exchanges are not very different though the specific rules framed by the Coal Controller Organisation of India will determine the success of coal exchanges. Just as with the successes, the failures of power exchanges can also serve as lessons learned for coal. Coal is not as fungible as electricity, which once generated is the same everywhere requiring only minimum standards. Coal quality varies widely. Therefore, robust standards and quality assurance are as important as contract design, liquidity creation and enforcement. The latter set of requirements will ensure that major producers and consumers are drawn to the coal exchanges. The emphasis should be on facilitating participation of retail consumers unlike power exchanges, which are dominated by discoms. Coal India's stance will be crucial. Besides safeguards against volatility, dispute resolution mechanisms and improved transportation logistics will be important too, since the coal exchanges will be physical delivery platforms.

13J6. Long overdue
बहुत समय से अपेक्षित

- **Coal exchanges** can balance out **energy scarcities** across **India**.

कोयला विनिमय मंच भारत भर में **ऊर्जा की कमी** को संतुलित कर सकते हैं।

Coal Exchange Rules, 2026: A market-based mechanism for coal trading
कोयला विनिमय नियम, 2026: कोयला व्यापार के लिए बाज़ार-आधारित तंत्र

- Unveiled at a time of record domestic **coal production**, the **Coal Exchange Rules, 2026**, are a case of **better-late-than-never**.

रिकॉर्ड स्तर के घरेलू **कोयला उत्पादन** के समय प्रस्तुत किए गए **कोयला विनिमय नियम, 2026**, "**देर आए दुरुस्त आए**" की कहावत का उदाहरण हैं।

- They will create a broad **market-based mechanism** through regulated trading platforms for the lynchpin of India's energy system — **coal**.

ये नियम भारत की ऊर्जा व्यवस्था की आधारशिला **कोयला** के लिए विनियमित व्यापारिक मंचों के माध्यम से एक व्यापक **बाज़ार-आधारित तंत्र** स्थापित करेंगे।

- They are aimed at enhancing **price discovery**, **transparency**, access for **small consumers**, as well as, one would hope, reduce bilateral agreements that are often opaque and come with a whiff of graft, too often.

इनका उद्देश्य **मूल्य निर्धारण की पारदर्शिता**, **पारदर्शकता**, **छोटे उपभोक्ताओं** की पहुँच बढ़ाना तथा उन द्विपक्षीय समझौतों को कम करना है जो प्रायः अपारदर्शी होते हैं और जिनमें भ्रष्टाचार की आशंका बनी रहती है।

- Today, most coal transactions between producers and buyers take place through **long-term contracts**, primarily for the **power sector**, followed by auctions, imports and captive mining.

वर्तमान में उत्पादकों और खरीदारों के बीच अधिकांश कोयला लेन-देन **दीर्घकालिक अनुबंधों** के माध्यम से होता है, विशेष रूप से **विद्युत क्षेत्र** के लिए, इसके बाद नीलामी, आयात और कैप्टिव खनन का स्थान आता है।

- While India's **commodity exchanges** are well established, they function largely as financial markets rather than physical delivery platforms.

यद्यपि भारत के **वस्तु विनिमय बाज़ार** अच्छी तरह स्थापित हैं, वे मुख्यतः वित्तीय बाज़ारों के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, न कि भौतिक आपूर्ति मंचों के रूप में।

- **Coal exchanges**, however, appear closer in design to **power exchanges**, which, despite modest volumes, play a role in **price discovery**, **market signalling** and the development of

secondary markets.
हालाँकि **कोयला विनिमय मंच** संरचना की दृष्टि से **विद्युत विनिमय मंचों** के अधिक निकट प्रतीत होते हैं, जो सीमित व्यापार मात्रा के बावजूद **मूल्य खोज**, **बाज़ार संकेतों** और **द्वितीयक बाज़ारों** के विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

- As if to prove this point, coal exchanges are expected to serve the **non-regulated sector**, which relies on **Coal India auctions** where coal is often sold at a premium to the highest bidder.
इस बात की पुष्टि करते हुए, कोयला विनिमय मंचों से **गैर-विनियमित क्षेत्र** को सेवा मिलने की अपेक्षा है, जो **कोल इंडिया की नीलामियों** पर निर्भर रहता है जहाँ कोयला अक्सर उच्चतम बोलीदाता को प्रीमियम मूल्य पर बेचा जाता है।
- **Power exchanges** are not merely niche trading platforms; they serve as points of reference for the broader power market.
विद्युत विनिमय मंच केवल विशेष व्यापारिक मंच नहीं हैं; वे व्यापक विद्युत बाज़ार के लिए संदर्भ बिंदु के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- They have enhanced **price discovery** and served as a **balancing market** without replacing long-term power purchase agreements.
उन्होंने **मूल्य निर्धारण प्रक्रिया** को बेहतर बनाया है तथा दीर्घकालिक विद्युत खरीद समझौतों को प्रतिस्थापित किए बिना **संतुलन बाज़ार** के रूप में कार्य किया है।
- Initially the power exchanges were only balancing shortages, but eventually the **spot prices** became a barometer of the broader power market indicating scarcity, surplus and system stresses for all electricity stakeholders.
प्रारंभ में विद्युत विनिमय मंच केवल कमी की पूर्ति करते थे, किन्तु बाद में **स्पॉट मूल्य** पूरे विद्युत बाज़ार के संकेतक बन गए, जो कमी, अधिशेष तथा प्रणालीगत दबावों को दर्शाते हैं।
- Perhaps the first role of coal exchanges could be to open up **inventories**, allowing surpluses to balance out shortages across India.
संभवतः कोयला विनिमय मंचों की पहली भूमिका **भंडारों** को खोलना हो सकती है, जिससे अधिशेष कोयला देशभर में कमी की भरपाई कर सके।
- The templates for the two exchanges are not very different though the specific rules framed by the **Coal Controller Organisation of India** will determine the success of coal exchanges.
दोनों प्रकार के विनिमय मंचों की संरचना में बहुत अधिक अंतर नहीं है, किन्तु **कोल कंट्रोलर ऑर्गनाइजेशन ऑफ इंडिया** द्वारा बनाए गए विशिष्ट नियम कोयला विनिमय मंचों की सफलता निर्धारित करेंगे।
- Just as with the successes, the failures of power exchanges can also serve as lessons learned for coal.
जिस प्रकार विद्युत विनिमय मंचों की सफलताएँ उपयोगी हैं, उसी प्रकार उनकी असफलताएँ भी कोयला क्षेत्र के लिए सीख का कार्य कर सकती हैं।
- Coal is not as **fungible** as electricity, which once generated is the same everywhere requiring only minimum standards.
कोयला बिजली की तरह पूर्णतः **विनिमेय (फंजिबल)** नहीं है, क्योंकि एक बार उत्पादित बिजली हर स्थान पर समान होती है और केवल न्यूनतम मानकों की आवश्यकता होती है।
- **Coal quality** varies widely.
कोयले की गुणवत्ता में व्यापक भिन्नता पाई जाती है।
- Therefore, robust **standards** and **quality assurance** are as important as contract design, liquidity creation and enforcement.
इसलिए मजबूत **मानक** और **गुणवत्ता आश्वासन** उतने ही महत्वपूर्ण हैं जितने अनुबंध निर्माण, तरलता सृजन और नियमों का अनुपालन।
- The latter set of requirements will ensure that major producers and consumers are drawn to the coal exchanges.

ये आवश्यकताएँ सुनिश्चित करेंगी कि प्रमुख उत्पादक और उपभोक्ता कोयला विनिमय मंचों की ओर आकर्षित हों।

- The emphasis should be on facilitating participation of **retail consumers** unlike power exchanges, which are dominated by **discoms**.
  ज़ोर **खुदरा उपभोक्ताओं** की भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने पर होना चाहिए, जबकि विद्युत विनिमय मंचों पर मुख्यतः **डिस्कॉम्स** का प्रभुत्व रहता है।
- **Coal India's** stance will be crucial.
  कोल इंडिया का रुख अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होगा।
- Besides safeguards against **volatility**, **dispute resolution mechanisms** and improved **transportation logistics** will be important too, since the coal exchanges will be **physical delivery platforms**.
  चूँकि कोयला विनिमय मंच **भौतिक आपूर्ति मंच** होंगे, इसलिए **मूल्य अस्थिरता** से सुरक्षा, प्रभावी **विवाद समाधान तंत्र** तथा बेहतर **परिवहन लॉजिस्टिक्स** भी अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण होंगे।

The 8th CPC — a chance to reform pay commissions

GS III: Economy

Prem Kumar Nair
Retired Indian Army officer (colonel) with an interest in governing architecture and systems

As India moves toward the 8th Central Pay Commission (CPC), public discussion has largely centred on familiar themes – fitment factors, salary revisions and arrears. Yet, the larger question may not be how much compensation should increase, but whether the framework for determining public compensation remains coherent, equitable, and fiscally sustainable. This is not merely an administrative matter. The manner in which the state structures salaries, allowances and pensions reflects broader institutional priorities and influences public confidence in governance.

The framework deficit

Over the decades, Pay Commissions have become far more than wage-revision exercises. Their recommendations shape inter-service parity, long-term fiscal commitments and the institutional balance within the state. Yet, the process remains narrow, with a small, time-bound body tasked with evaluating a diverse ecosystem of civil, military and technical services, largely on the basis of representations from the services themselves. A key challenge is the absence of a common evaluative framework. Services operate under different structures, career trajectories and working conditions, but there is no universally accepted method for comparing risk, responsibility, technical complexity or career progression. As a result, the system often seeks parity without clearly defining its basis.

This challenge is most visible in questions of parity. Officers across services with very different career paths and responsibilities may, at certain stages, receive comparable compensation. The issue is not one of competition between services but institutional coherence. If parity is to be maintained, the principles governing it must be transparent, consistent and objectively justified.

The comparison between civilian services and the armed forces illustrates this complexity. Military careers follow a sharply pyramidal structure, with limited promotional opportunities and earlier retirement. Civilian services generally offer broader avenues for advancement and longer careers. Aligning compensation across such different systems requires careful consideration of these structural differences.

The 8th Central Pay Commission should reform compensation frameworks, not merely salaries

Another significant trend is the reduction in experience required for senior administrative positions. While faster career progression may reflect changing governance needs, complex policy challenges still demand institutional memory and seasoned judgment. Efficiency is important, but it cannot fully substitute for experience. Questions also arise over allowances. While they are intended to compensate for hardship, remoteness or operational risk, there is no uniform and transparent framework for assessing such conditions across services. This can create disparities that are difficult to justify and may foster perceptions of inconsistency.

Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) raises a related concern. By allowing financial advancement without a corresponding increase in responsibility, it weakens the link between role, accountability and compensation. Though introduced to address slower promotion avenues, the NFU continues to generate debate over equity and institutional rationale.

The pension challenge

Pensions add another layer of complexity. India currently operates multiple pension systems, including legacy defined-benefit schemes, contributory plans for newer entrants, and separate arrangements for elected representatives. According to the Reserve Bank of India's State Finances Report (2023), salaries, pensions and interest payments consume a large share of State expenditure, limiting fiscal space for development. As a result, concerns about sustainability and inter-generational equity are becoming increasingly important.

Taken together, these issues highlight the need for a more coherent approach to public compensation. At present, pay frameworks for the executive, legislature and judiciary evolve through different processes. While constitutionally distinct, this fragmentation can create inconsistencies and reduce transparency in compensation decisions.

Public trust depends not only on fairness, but also on transparency and explainability.

A new compensation architecture

Many countries have gradually moved towards continuous and institutionalised mechanisms for reviewing public sector compensation. Independent authorities, clearly defined benchmarks and periodic review mechanisms have replaced infrequent, large-scale revisions. India's decadal Pay Commission model may therefore warrant reconsideration.

A more durable framework – whether a National Compensation Authority or a specialised public service body – could bring greater consistency to public sector pay. Rather than be a centralising authority, it could establish common principles for assessing responsibility, experience and hardship while preserving flexibility for different services and States.

Importantly, any such reform must respect India's federal structure. States should retain autonomy over implementation while operating within a broader framework of transparency, comparability and fiscal discipline. Greater coherence across branches of government, without affecting constitutional independence, would strengthen both credibility and public confidence.

Ultimately, public compensation is not simply about salaries and pensions. It is part of the larger relationship between the state and the citizen. In a democratic system, compensation structures must not only be financially sustainable, but also publicly explainable.

The 8th Pay Commission presents an opportunity to move beyond periodic revision and engage with these deeper structural questions. Whether that opportunity is utilised meaningfully may shape public trust in institutional governance for years to come.

13J6. The 8th CPC — a chance to reform pay commissions
आठवाँ वेतन आयोग — वेतन आयोगों में सुधार का एक अवसर

- As India moves toward the **8th Central Pay Commission (CPC)**, public discussion has largely centred on familiar themes — **fitment factors**, **salary revisions** and **arrears**.
  जैसे-जैसे भारत **आठवें केंद्रीय वेतन आयोग (CPC)** की ओर बढ़ रहा है, सार्वजनिक चर्चा मुख्यतः **फिटमेंट फैक्टर**, **वेतन संशोधन** और **बकाया राशि** जैसे परिचित विषयों पर केंद्रित रही है।

- Yet, the larger question may not be how much compensation should increase, but whether the framework for determining public compensation remains **coherent**, **equitable**, and **fiscally sustainable**.
  किन्तु बड़ा प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि वेतन कितना बढ़ना चाहिए, बल्कि यह है कि सार्वजनिक वेतन निर्धारण का ढाँचा **सुसंगत**, **न्यायसंगत** और **राजकोषीय रूप से टिकाऊ** है या नहीं।
- This is not merely an administrative matter.
  यह केवल एक प्रशासनिक विषय नहीं है।
- The manner in which the state structures **salaries**, **allowances** and **pensions** reflects broader institutional priorities and influences public confidence in governance.
  राज्य जिस प्रकार **वेतन**, **भत्तों** और **पेंशन** की संरचना निर्धारित करता है, वह व्यापक संस्थागत प्राथमिकताओं को दर्शाता है तथा शासन के प्रति जनविश्वास को प्रभावित करता है।

The framework deficit
ढाँचागत कमी

- Over the decades, **Pay Commissions** have become far more than wage-revision exercises.
  समय के साथ **वेतन आयोग** केवल वेतन संशोधन तक सीमित नहीं रहे हैं।
- Their recommendations shape **inter-service parity**, **long-term fiscal commitments** and the **institutional balance** within the state.
  उनकी सिफारिशें **सेवाओं के बीच समानता**, **दीर्घकालिक राजकोषीय दायित्वों** तथा राज्य के भीतर **संस्थागत संतुलन** को प्रभावित करती हैं।
- Yet, the process remains narrow, with a small, time-bound body tasked with evaluating a diverse ecosystem of **civil**, **military** and **technical services**, largely on the basis of representations from the services themselves.
  फिर भी यह प्रक्रिया सीमित बनी हुई है, जिसमें एक छोटा और समयबद्ध निकाय मुख्यतः सेवाओं द्वारा प्रस्तुत अभ्यावेदनों के आधार पर **नागरिक**, **सैन्य** और **तकनीकी सेवाओं** के विविध ढाँचे का मूल्यांकन करता है।
- A key challenge is the absence of a common **evaluative framework**.
  एक प्रमुख चुनौती समान **मूल्यांकन ढाँचे** का अभाव है।
- Services operate under different structures, career trajectories and working conditions, but there is no universally accepted method for comparing **risk**, **responsibility**, **technical complexity** or **career progression**.
  विभिन्न सेवाएँ अलग-अलग संरचनाओं, कैरियर मार्गों और कार्य परिस्थितियों में कार्य करती हैं, किन्तु **जोखिम**, **उत्तरदायित्व**, **तकनीकी जटिलता** अथवा **कैरियर प्रगति** की तुलना करने के लिए कोई सर्वमान्य पद्धति उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- As a result, the system often seeks **parity** without clearly defining its basis.
  परिणामस्वरूप व्यवस्था अक्सर **समानता** स्थापित करने का प्रयास करती है, परंतु उसके आधार को स्पष्ट रूप से परिभाषित नहीं करती।
- This challenge is most visible in questions of **parity**.
  यह चुनौती विशेष रूप से **समानता** से जुड़े प्रश्नों में दिखाई देती है।
- Officers across services with very different career paths and responsibilities may, at certain stages, receive comparable compensation.
  भिन्न-भिन्न कैरियर मार्गों और उत्तरदायित्वों वाली सेवाओं के अधिकारी कुछ चरणों में समान वेतन प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।
- The issue is not one of competition between services but **institutional coherence**.
  यह मुद्दा सेवाओं के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा का नहीं, बल्कि **संस्थागत सुसंगति** का है।
- If parity is to be maintained, the principles governing it must be **transparent**, **consistent** and **objectively justified**.
  यदि समानता बनाए रखनी है, तो उसके सिद्धांत **पारदर्शी**, **सुसंगत** और **वस्तुनिष्ठ रूप से उचित** होने चाहिए।

- The comparison between **civilian services** and the **armed forces** illustrates this complexity.
  नागरिक सेवाओं और **सशस्त्र बलों** के बीच तुलना इस जटिलता को स्पष्ट करती है।
- Military careers follow a sharply **pyramidal structure**, with limited promotional opportunities and earlier retirement.
  सैन्य सेवाएँ एक स्पष्ट **पिरामिडीय संरचना** का अनुसरण करती हैं, जिसमें पदोन्नति के अवसर सीमित होते हैं और सेवानिवृत्ति अपेक्षाकृत जल्दी होती है।
- Civilian services generally offer broader avenues for advancement and longer careers.
  नागरिक सेवाएँ सामान्यतः उन्नति के अधिक अवसर और लंबा सेवा काल प्रदान करती हैं।
- Aligning compensation across such different systems requires careful consideration of these **structural differences**.
  ऐसी भिन्न प्रणालियों में वेतन संरचना को संतुलित करने के लिए इन **संरचनात्मक भिन्नताओं** का सावधानीपूर्वक विचार आवश्यक है।
- Another significant trend is the reduction in **experience** required for senior administrative positions.
  एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण प्रवृत्ति वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक पदों के लिए आवश्यक **अनुभव** में कमी है।
- While faster career progression may reflect changing governance needs, complex policy challenges still demand **institutional memory** and **seasoned judgment**.
  यद्यपि तेज़ कैरियर प्रगति बदलती प्रशासनिक आवश्यकताओं को दर्शा सकती है, फिर भी जटिल नीतिगत चुनौतियों के लिए **संस्थागत स्मृति** और **अनुभवी निर्णय क्षमता** की आवश्यकता बनी रहती है।
- Efficiency is important, but it cannot fully substitute for experience.
  दक्षता महत्वपूर्ण है, किन्तु यह अनुभव का पूर्ण विकल्प नहीं बन सकती।
- Questions also arise over **allowances**.
  भत्तों को लेकर भी प्रश्न उठते हैं।
- While they are intended to compensate for **hardship**, **remoteness** or **operational risk**, there is no uniform and transparent framework for assessing such conditions across services.
  यद्यपि इनका उद्देश्य **कठिन परिस्थितियों**, **दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों** अथवा **संचालन संबंधी जोखिमों** की भरपाई करना है, फिर भी विभिन्न सेवाओं में इन परिस्थितियों के मूल्यांकन के लिए कोई समान और पारदर्शी ढाँचा नहीं है।
- This can create disparities that are difficult to justify and may foster perceptions of inconsistency.
  इससे ऐसी असमानताएँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं जिन्हें उचित ठहराना कठिन होता है और जो असंगति की धारणा को बढ़ावा देती हैं।
- **Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU)** raises a related concern.
  गैर-कार्यात्मक उन्नयन (NFU) भी इसी प्रकार की चिंता उत्पन्न करता है।
- By allowing financial advancement without a corresponding increase in responsibility, it weakens the link between **role**, **accountability** and **compensation**.
  यह बिना समान स्तर की अतिरिक्त जिम्मेदारी दिए वित्तीय उन्नति प्रदान करता है, जिससे **भूमिका**, **जवाबदेही** और **पारिश्रमिक** के बीच संबंध कमजोर पड़ जाता है।
- Though introduced to address slower promotion avenues, the **NFU** continues to generate debate over **equity** and **institutional rationale**.
  यद्यपि **NFU** को धीमी पदोन्नति की समस्या दूर करने के लिए लागू किया गया था, फिर भी यह **न्यायसंगतता** और **संस्थागत औचित्य** को लेकर निरंतर बहस का विषय बना हुआ है।

The pension challenge
पेंशन की चुनौती

- **Pensions** add another layer of complexity.
  पेंशन इस विषय में जटिलता की एक और परत जोड़ती है।
- India currently operates multiple **pension systems**, including legacy **defined-benefit schemes**, **contributory plans** for newer entrants, and separate arrangements for **elected**

representatives.
भारत वर्तमान में अनेक **पेंशन प्रणालियाँ** संचालित करता है, जिनमें पुरानी **परिभाषित-लाभ योजनाएँ**, नए कर्मचारियों के लिए **अंशदायी योजनाएँ**, तथा **निर्वाचित जनप्रतिनिधियों** के लिए अलग व्यवस्थाएँ शामिल हैं।

- According to the **Reserve Bank of India's State Finances Report (2023)**, **salaries**, **pensions** and **interest payments** consume a large share of State expenditure, limiting fiscal space for development.
भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की राज्य वित्त रिपोर्ट (2023) के अनुसार **वेतन**, **पेंशन** तथा **ब्याज भुगतान** राज्यों के व्यय का बड़ा हिस्सा ग्रहण कर लेते हैं, जिससे विकास के लिए उपलब्ध राजकोषीय संसाधन सीमित हो जाते हैं।
- As a result, concerns about **sustainability** and **inter-generational equity** are becoming increasingly important.
परिणामस्वरूप **दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता** तथा **पीढ़ियों के बीच न्यायसंगतता** से जुड़ी चिंताएँ लगातार महत्वपूर्ण होती जा रही हैं।
- Taken together, these issues highlight the need for a more **coherent approach** to public compensation.
इन सभी मुद्दों को एक साथ देखने पर सार्वजनिक पारिश्रमिक व्यवस्था के लिए अधिक **सुसंगत दृष्टिकोण** की आवश्यकता स्पष्ट होती है।
- At present, pay frameworks for the **executive**, **legislature** and **judiciary** evolve through different processes.
वर्तमान में **कार्यपालिका**, **विधायिका** और **न्यायपालिका** के वेतन ढाँचे अलग-अलग प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से विकसित होते हैं।
- While constitutionally distinct, this fragmentation can create inconsistencies and reduce transparency in compensation decisions.
यद्यपि ये संवैधानिक रूप से अलग संस्थाएँ हैं, फिर भी यह विखंडन वेतन निर्धारण संबंधी निर्णयों में असंगतियाँ उत्पन्न कर सकता है और पारदर्शिता को कम कर सकता है।
- Public trust depends not only on **fairness**, but also on **transparency** and **explainability**.
जनविश्वास केवल **निष्पक्षता** पर ही नहीं, बल्कि **पारदर्शिता** और **स्पष्ट व्याख्यात्मकता** पर भी निर्भर करता है।

A new compensation architecture
एक नई पारिश्रमिक संरचना

- Many countries have gradually moved towards continuous and institutionalised mechanisms for reviewing **public sector compensation**.
अनेक देशों ने **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के पारिश्रमिक** की समीक्षा के लिए क्रमिक रूप से निरंतर और संस्थागत तंत्र विकसित किए हैं।
- **Independent authorities**, clearly defined **benchmarks** and periodic review mechanisms have replaced infrequent, large-scale revisions.
स्वतंत्र प्राधिकरणों, स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित **मानकों** तथा नियमित समीक्षा प्रणालियों ने अनियमित और बड़े पैमाने पर होने वाले संशोधनों का स्थान ले लिया है।
- India's **decadal Pay Commission model** may therefore warrant reconsideration.
इसलिए भारत के **दशकीय वेतन आयोग मॉडल** पर पुनर्विचार किया जाना उचित हो सकता है।
- A more durable framework — whether a **National Compensation Authority** or a specialised public service body — could bring greater consistency to public sector pay.
एक अधिक स्थायी ढाँचा — चाहे वह **राष्ट्रीय पारिश्रमिक प्राधिकरण** हो या कोई विशेष सार्वजनिक सेवा निकाय — सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के वेतन में अधिक सुसंगति ला सकता है।
- Rather than be a centralising authority, it could establish common principles for assessing **responsibility**, **experience** and **hardship** while preserving flexibility for different services and States.
एक केंद्रीकृत संस्था बनने के बजाय यह **उत्तरदायित्व**, **अनुभव** और **कठिन परिस्थितियों** के मूल्यांकन के लिए

समान सिद्धांत निर्धारित कर सकती है, जबकि विभिन्न सेवाओं और राज्यों के लिए आवश्यक लचीलापन भी बनाए रख सकती है।

- Importantly, any such reform must respect India's **federal structure**.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, किसी भी ऐसे सुधार को भारत की **संघीय संरचना** का सम्मान करना चाहिए।
- States should retain autonomy over implementation while operating within a broader framework of **transparency**, **comparability** and **fiscal discipline**.
  राज्यों को कार्यान्वयन में स्वायत्तता बनाए रखनी चाहिए, जबकि वे **पारदर्शिता**, **तुलनात्मकता** और **राजकोषीय अनुशासन** के व्यापक ढाँचे के भीतर कार्य करें।
- Greater coherence across branches of government, without affecting **constitutional independence**, would strengthen both credibility and public confidence.
  संवैधानिक स्वतंत्रता को प्रभावित किए बिना शासन की विभिन्न शाखाओं के बीच अधिक सुसंगति स्थापित करना विश्वसनीयता और जनविश्वास दोनों को सुदृढ़ करेगा।
- Ultimately, public compensation is not simply about **salaries** and **pensions**.
  अंततः सार्वजनिक पारिश्रमिक केवल **वेतन** और **पेंशन** तक सीमित विषय नहीं है।
- It is part of the larger relationship between the **state** and the **citizen**.
  यह **राज्य** और **नागरिक** के बीच व्यापक संबंध का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।
- In a democratic system, compensation structures must not only be financially sustainable, but also publicly explainable.
  एक लोकतांत्रिक व्यवस्था में पारिश्रमिक संरचनाएँ केवल वित्तीय रूप से टिकाऊ ही नहीं, बल्कि जनता के समक्ष स्पष्ट रूप से समझाई जा सकने योग्य भी होनी चाहिए।
- The **8th Pay Commission** presents an opportunity to move beyond periodic revision and engage with these deeper structural questions.
  आठवाँ वेतन आयोग केवल समय-समय पर होने वाले संशोधनों से आगे बढ़कर इन गहरे संरचनात्मक प्रश्नों पर विचार करने का अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Whether that opportunity is utilised meaningfully may shape public trust in **institutional governance** for years to come.
  इस अवसर का कितना सार्थक उपयोग किया जाता है, यह आने वाले वर्षों में **संस्थागत शासन** के प्रति जनता के विश्वास को प्रभावित कर सकता है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	The human cost of a deadly weed killer एक घातक खरपतवारनाशी की मानवीय कीमत
13J6	Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off पहले के झटकों के बाद जापान का H3 रॉकेट सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ

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A farmer sprays pesticides in a paddy field on the outskirts of Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

The human cost of a deadly weed killer

In March, Telangana banned paraquat, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so. The herbicide is responsible for hundreds of deaths each year, most of them suicides and some accidental. **Serish Nanisetti** reports on the campaign that led to the ban and why much more remains to be done

GS III: S&T

At 50, Banoth Goud (name changed) has lived to tell a tale. "I may look normal, but I become breathless when I climb stairs or even walk more than five minutes. The doctor says my lungs got affected," he says.

About three years ago, on a sweltering afternoon, Goud opened his refrigerator, took out a small plastic bottle labelled with a popular juice brand, and took a sip. The drink did not have the sweet, tart apple flavour that he was used to; instead, it tasted flat. He began vomiting.

Goud did not know that he had drunk paraquat, a highly toxic herbicide and one of the most effective weed killers in the world. Paraquat, a colourless and tasteless liquid, is most often fatal for both humans and animals.

It was a mistake that resulted in Goud fighting for his life. "I had asked my nephew to get the *gaddi mandu* (the local term for the weedicide) to clear weeds in front of our house," he recalls. "He kept the bottle on a table inside the house. My wife thought it was a cool drink and placed it inside the fridge." While wholesale traders store paraquat in drums, farmers and others often fill up stray bottles with the weedicide.

Goud was rushed from his house in Paloncha to a hospital in Kothegudem, about 11 kilometres away. The doctors were sure he would die.

Being an employee of TSGENCO (Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited), Goud had an ESIC (Employee State Insurance Corporation) card, necessary for workers below a certain salary level to access free medical care and financial benefits at ESIC dispensaries and hospitals across the State. He was quickly ferried in an ambulance to a tertiary-care facility in Hyderabad, roughly 285 km away.

Dr. Verrana Addanki, a General Medicine practitioner, noticed that Goud had a 'paraquat mouth' – the severe, corrosive damage that occurs when a person swallows or is exposed to paraquat – and put him on continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). Over the next 40 days, Goud's condition slowly improved.

"His family had given up on him," remembers Dr. Addanki. "But we persisted and he had the will to survive too. Now, he has photographs of his family as his WhatsApp display picture."

On March 31, 2026, Telangana banned the sale, distribution, manufacture, and use of paraquat, to protect the safety and health of people, especially farmers. It became only the third State to do so, after Kerala and Odisha. The Government Order was issued days after intense lobbying by doctors, clinicians, and public representatives calling for the ban of the weedicide, which has been often used for self-harm. Neighbouring Andhra Pradesh followed suit in May.

Bans and bust-ups

Paraquat wreaks havoc due to its immense potential for harm, easy availability, low price (₹280 per litre), and widespread use in India. The only law to regulate hazardous chemicals such as paraquat is the Insecticides Act, 1968.

> A ban by one State without the involvement of e-commerce sites is just a ban on paper. It is ineffectual.
>
> **DILEEP KUMAR**
> Pesticide Action Network

Goud's story is an exception: the weedicide has killed thousands of people, as is evident from autopsy reports from hospitals across the world. Paraquat is banned in 74 countries. In India, Kerala became the first State to ban it in 2011. However, in February 2022, the Kerala High Court overturned the ban following a plea by a cardamom growers' collective. While the Kerala Agriculture Department's notification specifically named the chemical along with 13 others, the High Court struck down the ban on the technical ground that the State did not have the authority to enforce it beyond 60+30 days (as per Section 27 of the Insecticides Act).

In October 2022, Kerala was rocked by the murder of Sharon Raj, who was allegedly poisoned with a paraquat-laced drink by his fiancée, Greeshma. He died at the Medical College Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram, triggering a public uproar as details of the case quickly emerged in the public domain.

"We can still order it online," says Dileep Kumar of Pesticide Action Network, a global coalition of over 600 NGOs, institutions, and individuals across 90 countries dedicated to eliminating hazardous chemical pesticides. "A ban by one State without the involvement of e-commerce sites is just a ban on paper. It is ineffectual," he points out.

Kumar adds that the country needs stronger laws and regulations to manage the crisis. "Even the Bhopal gas tragedy [in 1984] did not lead to new laws to regulate pesticides," he says.

The problem is not just limited regulation of pesticides, weedicides, and insecticides; it is also low awareness about safe use. According to a statement by the Minister of State for Agriculture in the Lok Sabha, 79,185 farmers were made aware of the safe and judicious use of pesticides between 2020 and 2026. This is a low share in a country where 46.1% of the population is dependent on agriculture, as per the Economic Survey of 2025-26.

Ambulance vans stand outside the Gandhi Hospital mortuary in Hyderabad, where 217 paraquat victims were brought in for postmortem examination between 2024 and 2025. NAGARA GOPAL

As per the Act, the ban in Telangana was for 60 days and can be extended by 30 more days. On the day that the Telangana issued a Government Order imposing a ban on paraquat, the Legislative Assembly passed a bipartisan resolution asking the Central government to ban the chemical across the country.

Lobbying for a ban

On the afternoon of February 12, Dr. Marri Mahesh Reddy, the founder of a grassroots movement called Doctors Against Paraquat, called for a gathering of farmers in Potharam village in Karimnagar. The emerald green village, with endless paddy fields, is on the eastern side of the Sriramsagar flood flow canal that carries water from the Godavari river. This whistle-stop tour and meeting with farmers was part of a campaign by Dr. Reddy.

"If we don't use this, can't we do agriculture?" Dr. Reddy said, addressing the gathering. "Didn't we do agriculture before this? Brush-cutter *leva, vere mandulu leva. Dina valla yavaruki upogam?* (We have brush-cutters, sickles, and other chemicals. Why use this toxic substance?)"

He explained what made paraquat particularly dangerous. "I used to get emergency cases of snake bites and poisoning," he said. "There were antidotes for snakebites and the venom was not always so toxic. But paraquat is in a different league. It destroys the cell structure and there is no antidote."

Doctors Against Paraquat comprises 202 doctors drawn from different parts of Telangana, who lobbied with politicians, farmers, and bureaucrats relentlessly for a ban on paraquat. Using social media and personal connections, Dr. Reddy reached out to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office, the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office, the Prime Minister's Office, and politicians.

Yet, Potharam and other farming villages have found paraquat useful. As labour shortage is rising and the cost of hiring farm workers is increasing, farmers use paraquat, which is labelled and sold as non-selective contact herbicide (meaning, it does not differentiate between one plant and another), to clean up residual plants and weeds. Paraquat imports to India rose from 8,598 tonnes in 2019-20 to 20,786 tonnes in 2022-23, according to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2542 under the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in 2025.

> Without any oversight or intervention by officials from the agriculture department, there is a runaway use of paraquat in most parts of the country.
>
> **KODANDA REDDY**
> Chairperson of the Telangana Agriculture Farmers Welfare Commission

"Without any oversight or intervention by officials from the agriculture department, there is a runaway use of paraquat in most parts of the country. There are many accidental deaths due to careless use as well," says Kodanda Reddy, Chairperson of the Telangana Agriculture Farmers Welfare Commission, who has also worked to get the ban imposed in the State.

"Currently we are working with e-commerce companies as well as cyber crime officials to ensure that the product is not available in online stores," he adds. This lobbying appears to have paid off, as two big e-commerce sites – Flipkart and Amazon – no longer list the chemical in Telangana. However, it is easily available from smaller agriculture commerce sites.

A rush to save patients

Bodies are constantly wheeled in and out of the Department of Forensic Medicine, Toxicology and Autopsy Complex at Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad. Families wait in grief and the police mill around. There is an overpowering odour of bleach, urine, and putrefying flesh.

The toll of paraquat poisoning is evident here. According to Dr. Atmudi Vivek Sai Ram's Doctor of Medicine dissertation, 'An autopsy based study on deaths due to Paraquat poisoning in Gandhi Hospital', the facility recorded 217 cases of paraquat poisoning in 2024 and 2025. Of these, 54% of the patients were farmers and 16% students. Of the 100 cases studied for the dissertation, 94% were suicide cases and 5% were accidental.

"There is no treatment for paraquat poisoning, no antidote. We only receive clues from the family when bottles with labels are found near the victim or there is an oral statement," says Dr. Krupal Singh, the head of department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology. He is also part of Doctors Against Paraquat.

"All we can do is symptomatic treatment," Dr. Singh adds. "As a result, treatment remains largely supportive, focusing on early gastrointestinal decontamination, organ support, and prevention of further oxidative damage. If the patient is put on a ventilator, the progress of the chemical is accelerated, with multiple organ failure and fibrosis of lungs being irreversible."

Inside the nephrology ward of the century-old Osmania General Hospital in Hyderabad, patients sit in rows. "Every month, we get 4-5 paraquat-related cases. Most of the patients die within days," says Dr. Manisha Shenoy, Head of the Nephrology Department, who is the first doctor to be called in once a patient suspected of imbibing paraquat is wheeled into the hospital.

"The prognosis is bleak even with advanced treatment like CRRT," she explains. "The chemical causes rapid damage, first to the kidneys, then the liver, and eventually the lungs. Intubation of a patient on a ventilator accelerates damage to the lungs." She does not remember any survivors.

Poor regulatory efforts

While the dangers of paraquat and its misuse have drawn global attention, regulatory efforts in India have largely escaped public scrutiny.

Paraquat's origins date back to the 1880s, when it was first developed as a chemical dye. Its herbicidal properties were discovered in the 1950s, and Imperial Chemical Industries began marketing it as Gramoxone in the 1960s. Concerns about its toxicity surfaced early in India. In 1989, G. Vijaya Rama Rao, a doctor from Siddipet, raised the issue in the Lok Sabha, but the Agriculture Minister said the government had received no reports of harmful effects.

However, Imperial Chemical Industries documents suggest the company was aware of the risks. An agenda paper by the company dated November 19, 1987, and accessed by *The Hindu*, noted: "Suicidal abuse of the product will not be eliminated." According to the paper, the company also chose not to dilute the chemical to make it safer, calculating that this would increase packaging size fivefold. It noted that "usage by farmers would reduce significantly because of bulk inconvenience/higher prices."

During these years, Imperial Chemical Industries was earning significant revenues from paraquat. In 1987, sales of the product reached 15,000 tonnes, generating £192 million, according to a document from October 4, 1988, and accessed by *The Hindu*.

In August 2025, the Lok Sabha was informed that there are 1,503 licensed manufacturers of paraquat in the country. While Telangana banned the herbicide on March 31, on April 16, the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee, at its 471st meeting, cleared seven applications for formulation under indigenous manufacture as "satisfactory."

India has not been a passive player in the regulation of paraquat; it has also, at times, been an enabler in its continued use. In May 2013, India joined Guatemala in opposing the listing of paraquat as a "severely hazardous pesticide formulation" under Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention, a multi-lateral environmental agreement. Such a listing would not have led to a banning of the chemical, but it would have required exporting countries to notify and obtain prior consent from importing countries before shipment. The proposal was supported by 118 countries but did not go through because the treaty's voting rules require complete consensus.

CropLife India, representing 17 agro-chemical companies, said to *The Hindu*, "Sudden restrictions on paraquat dichloride and carbosulfan, just as kharif sowing begins, could raise input costs, disrupt crop protection, and deepen farmer vulnerability." Paraquat is used on nearly 80 lakh acres in India and remains a low-cost weed-control option for small farmers, it added.

In Karimnagar, however, the ban has already had a visible impact. "Deaths due to paraquat have dropped from around 30-50 per month before the ban to 3-5 now, according to data from pulmonologists and nephrologists," says Dr. Reddy. "We can reach zero deaths if the ban is imposed across the country and the chemical is removed from shelves and online stores. All doctors will breathe easier if that happens."

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies could seek help and counselling by calling any of the following numbers: 1Life - 78930-78930

serish.n@thehindu.co.in

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur
Email Id : info@patrioticias.in
Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in

13J6. The human cost of a deadly weed killer
एक घातक खरपतवारनाशी की मानवीय कीमत

- In March, **Telangana** banned **paraquat**, one of the world's most widely used and highly toxic weedicides, becoming only the third State in India to do so.
  मार्च में **तेलंगाना** ने **पैराक्वाट** पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया, जो दुनिया में सबसे अधिक उपयोग किए जाने वाले और अत्यधिक विषैले खरपतवारनाशियों में से एक है, और ऐसा करने वाला भारत का तीसरा राज्य बन गया।
- The herbicide is responsible for hundreds of deaths each year, most of them suicides and some accidental.
  यह खरपतवारनाशी हर वर्ष सैकड़ों मौतों के लिए जिम्मेदार है, जिनमें अधिकांश आत्महत्याएं और कुछ दुर्घटनावश होती हैं।
- **Serish Nanisetti** reports on the campaign that led to the ban and why much more remains to be done.
  सेरिश नानिसेट्टी उस अभियान पर रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करते हैं जिसने इस प्रतिबंध का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया और बताते हैं कि अभी भी बहुत कुछ किया जाना बाकी है।
- At 50, **Banoth Goud** (name changed) has lived to tell a tale.
  50 वर्ष की आयु में **बनोथ गौड़** (नाम बदला गया है) जीवित हैं और अपनी कहानी सुना सकते हैं।
- "I may look normal, but I become breathless when I climb stairs or even walk more than five minutes. The doctor says my lungs got affected," he says.
  वे कहते हैं, "मैं सामान्य दिख सकता हूँ, लेकिन सीढ़ियाँ चढ़ते समय या पाँच मिनट से अधिक चलने पर मेरी सांस फूल जाती है। डॉक्टर कहते हैं कि मेरे फेफड़े प्रभावित हो गए हैं।"
- About three years ago, on a sweltering afternoon, Goud opened his refrigerator, took out a small plastic bottle labelled with a popular juice brand, and took a sip.
  लगभग तीन वर्ष पहले, एक तपती दोपहर में, गौड़ ने अपना रेफ्रिजरेटर खोला, एक लोकप्रिय जूस ब्रांड के लेबल वाली छोटी प्लास्टिक की बोतल निकाली और एक घूंट लिया।
- The drink did not have the sweet, tart apple flavour that he was used to; instead, it tasted flat.
  उस पेय में वह मीठा और हल्का खट्टा सेब का स्वाद नहीं था जिसकी उन्हें आदत थी; इसके बजाय उसका स्वाद फीका था।
- He began vomiting.
  उन्हें उल्टियाँ होने लगीं।
- Goud did not know that he had drunk **paraquat**, a highly toxic herbicide and one of the most effective weed killers in the world.
  गौड़ को यह नहीं पता था कि उन्होंने **पैराक्वाट** पी लिया है, जो अत्यधिक विषैला खरपतवारनाशी और दुनिया के सबसे प्रभावी खरपतवार नाशकों में से एक है।
- **Paraquat**, a colourless and tasteless liquid, is most often fatal for both humans and animals.
  पैराक्वाट, जो रंगहीन और स्वादहीन तरल है, मनुष्यों और जानवरों दोनों के लिए अक्सर घातक सिद्ध होता है।
- It was a mistake that resulted in Goud fighting for his life.
  यह एक ऐसी गलती थी जिसने गौड़ को जीवन के लिए संघर्ष करने पर मजबूर कर दिया।
- "I had asked my nephew to get the gaddi mandu (the local term for the weedicide) to clear weeds in front of our house," he recalls.
  वे याद करते हैं, "मैंने अपने भतीजे से हमारे घर के सामने उगी खरपतवार साफ करने के लिए गड्डी मंडु (स्थानीय नाम) लाने को कहा था।"
- "He kept the bottle on a table inside the house. My wife thought it was a cool drink and placed it inside the fridge."
  "उसने बोतल घर के अंदर एक मेज पर रख दी। मेरी पत्नी ने उसे शीतल पेय समझकर फ्रिज में रख दिया।"

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- While wholesale traders store paraquat in drums, farmers and others often fill up stray bottles with the weedicide.
  जहाँ थोक व्यापारी पैराक्वाट को ड्रमों में रखते हैं, वहीं किसान और अन्य लोग अक्सर इसे खाली बोतलों में भर लेते हैं।
- Goud was rushed from his house in **Paloncha** to a hospital in **Kothegudem**, about 11 kilometres away.
  गौड़ को **पालोनचा** स्थित घर से लगभग 11 किलोमीटर दूर **कोठागुडेम** के अस्पताल ले जाया गया।
- The doctors were sure he would die.
  डॉक्टरों को विश्वास था कि उनकी मृत्यु हो जाएगी।
- Being an employee of **TSGENCO (Telangana State Power Generation Corporation Limited)**, Goud had an **ESIC (Employee State Insurance Corporation)** card, necessary for workers below a certain salary level to access free medical care and financial benefits at ESIC dispensaries and hospitals across the State.
  TSGENCO (तेलंगाना स्टेट पावर जनरेशन कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड) के कर्मचारी होने के कारण गौड़ के पास **ESIC (कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम)** कार्ड था, जो एक निश्चित वेतन स्तर से नीचे के कर्मचारियों को राज्य भर में निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधा और वित्तीय लाभ प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक होता है।
- He was quickly ferried in an ambulance to a tertiary-care facility in **Hyderabad**, roughly 285 km away.
  उन्हें तुरंत एम्बुलेंस द्वारा लगभग 285 किलोमीटर दूर **हैदराबाद** के एक तृतीयक चिकित्सा केंद्र ले जाया गया।
- **Dr. Verrana Addanki**, a General Medicine practitioner, noticed that Goud had a **'paraquat mouth'** — the severe, corrosive damage that occurs when a person swallows or is exposed to paraquat — and put him on continuous renal replacement therapy (**CRRT**).
  जनरल मेडिसिन विशेषज्ञ **डॉ. वेराना अड्डांकी** ने देखा कि गौड़ को **'पैराक्वाट माउथ'** हो गया था — यह वह गंभीर संक्षारक क्षति है जो किसी व्यक्ति द्वारा पैराक्वाट निगलने या उसके संपर्क में आने पर होती है — और उन्हें **CRRT** पर रखा गया।
- Over the next 40 days, Goud's condition slowly improved.
  अगले 40 दिनों में गौड़ की स्थिति धीरे-धीरे सुधरने लगी।
- "His family had given up on him," remembers Dr. Addanki.
  डॉ. अड्डांकी याद करते हैं, "उनके परिवार ने उनसे उम्मीद छोड़ दी थी।"
- "But we persisted and he had the will to survive too. Now, he has photographs of his family as his WhatsApp display picture."
  "लेकिन हमने प्रयास जारी रखा और उनमें भी जीवित रहने की इच्छा थी। अब उन्होंने अपने परिवार की तस्वीर को व्हाट्सएप डिस्प्ले पिक्चर बनाया हुआ है।"
- On **March 31, 2026**, Telangana banned the sale, distribution, manufacture, and use of **paraquat**, to protect the safety and health of people, especially farmers.
  31 मार्च 2026 को तेलंगाना ने लोगों, विशेषकर किसानों, की सुरक्षा और स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा के लिए **पैराक्वाट** की बिक्री, वितरण, निर्माण और उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया।
- It became only the third State to do so, after **Kerala** and **Odisha**.
  केरल और **ओडिशा** के बाद ऐसा करने वाला यह तीसरा राज्य बना।
- The Government Order was issued days after intense lobbying by doctors, clinicians, and public representatives calling for the ban of the weedicide, which has been often used for self-harm.
  यह सरकारी आदेश डॉक्टरों, चिकित्सकों और जनप्रतिनिधियों द्वारा इस खरपतवारनाशी पर प्रतिबंध लगाने की जोरदार मांग के कुछ दिनों बाद जारी किया गया, जिसका अक्सर आत्म-हानि के लिए उपयोग किया जाता रहा है।
- Neighbouring **Andhra Pradesh** followed suit in May.
  पड़ोसी **आंध्र प्रदेश** ने भी मई में यही कदम उठाया।

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Bans and bust-ups
प्रतिबंध और टकराव

- Paraquat wreaks havoc due to its immense potential for harm, easy availability, low price (₹280 per litre), and widespread use in India.
  पैराक्वाट अपनी अत्यधिक हानिकारक क्षमता, आसान उपलब्धता, कम कीमत (₹280 प्रति लीटर) और भारत में व्यापक उपयोग के कारण भारी विनाश करता है।
- The only law to regulate hazardous chemicals such as paraquat is the **Insecticides Act, 1968**.
  पैराक्वाट जैसे खतरनाक रसायनों को विनियमित करने वाला एकमात्र कानून **कीटनाशक अधिनियम, 1968** है।
- Goud's story is an exception: the weedicide has killed thousands of people, as is evident from autopsy reports from hospitals across the world.
  गौड़ की कहानी एक अपवाद है; यह खरपतवारनाशी दुनिया भर के अस्पतालों की पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्टों के अनुसार हजारों लोगों की जान ले चुका है।
- **Paraquat** is banned in 74 countries.
  पैराक्वाट 74 देशों में प्रतिबंधित है।
- In India, **Kerala** became the first State to ban it in 2011.
  भारत में **केरल** 2011 में इस पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाला पहला राज्य बना।
- However, in February 2022, the **Kerala High Court** overturned the ban following a plea by a cardamom growers' collective.
  हालाँकि, फरवरी 2022 में **केरल उच्च न्यायालय** ने इलायची उत्पादकों के एक समूह की याचिका पर यह प्रतिबंध रद्द कर दिया।
- (लेख अत्यंत विस्तृत है। एक ही उत्तर में पूर्ण अंग्रेज़ी एवं समानांतर हिन्दी अनुवाद देने पर उत्तर बहुत लंबा हो जाएगा और तकनीकी सीमा पार कर सकता है। कृपया "Continue" लिखें, मैं शेष भाग को उसी प्रारूप में, बिना कोई शब्द छोड़े, आगे जारी कर दूँगा।)

Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off

GS III: S&T

Agence France Presse

TOKYO

Japan's flagship H3 rocket successfully blasted off on Friday, live footage showed, months after its previous mission to put a geolocation satellite into orbit ended in failure.

The H3 was developed to boost the international competitiveness of Japan's rocket industry, and the country's space agency has come under pressure to increase the success rate of launches.

The rocket has been mooted as a rival to SpaceX's Falcon 9, and could one day deliver cargo to bases on the moon. On Friday, the rocket – which was carrying six small satellites – lifted off at 9:53 a.m. (0053 GMT) from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan.

"The second-stage combustion, action control and trajectory are all normal," the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in a live YouTube broadcast, about six minutes after blast-off.

The satellites loaded onto the rocket included Tokyo University of Science's "Umitsubame", which observes earth and other targets with a high-performance camera, and Shizuoka University's "Shiraito", which is testing space debris capture technology, according to JAXA.

Designed for "high flexibility, high reliability, and high cost performance", JAXA had toasted five successful launches of the H3 before Friday, but there have been two failures, including the last one in December.

H3 project manager Makoto Arita said prior to lift-off that the latest attempt was "crucial for our comeback" following December's failed mission, in which a second-stage engine terminated prematurely. The space agency is targeting up to eight H3 rocket launches a year, according to a JAXA official.

13J6. Following earlier setbacks, Japan's H3 rocket lifts off
पहले के झटकों के बाद जापान का H3 रॉकेट सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ

- Japan's flagship **H3 rocket** successfully blasted off on Friday, live footage showed, months after its previous mission to put a **geolocation satellite** into orbit ended in failure.
  लाइव फुटेज के अनुसार जापान का प्रमुख **H3 रॉकेट** शुक्रवार को सफलतापूर्वक प्रक्षेपित हुआ, जबकि कुछ महीने पहले **भू-स्थान निर्धारण उपग्रह (Geolocation Satellite)** को कक्षा में स्थापित करने का उसका मिशन विफल हो गया था।
- The **H3** was developed to boost the international competitiveness of Japan's **rocket industry**, and the country's **space agency** has come under pressure to increase the success rate of launches.
  H3 को जापान के **रॉकेट उद्योग** की अंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाने के लिए विकसित किया गया था और देश की **अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी** पर प्रक्षेपणों की सफलता दर बढ़ाने का दबाव रहा है।
- The rocket has been mooted as a rival to **SpaceX's Falcon 9**, and could one day deliver cargo to bases on the **moon**.
  इस रॉकेट को **स्पेसएक्स के फाल्कन 9** के प्रतिद्वंद्वी के रूप में देखा गया है और यह भविष्य में **चंद्रमा** पर स्थित ठिकानों तक माल पहुंचा सकता है।
- On Friday, the rocket — which was carrying **six small satellites** — lifted off at **9:53 a.m. (0053 GMT)** from **Tanegashima Space Center** in southern Japan.

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शुक्रवार को यह रॉकेट, जिसमें **छह छोटे उपग्रह** थे, दक्षिणी जापान के **तानेगाशिमा स्पेस सेंटर** से **सुबह 9:53 बजे (0053 GMT)** प्रक्षेपित हुआ।

- "The **second-stage combustion**, **action control** and **trajectory** are all normal," the **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** said in a live YouTube broadcast, about six minutes after blast-off.
  जापान एयरोस्पेस एक्सप्लोरेशन एजेंसी (JAXA) ने प्रक्षेपण के लगभग छह मिनट बाद एक लाइव यूट्यूब प्रसारण में कहा, "**द्वितीय चरण का दहन**, **एक्शन कंट्रोल** और **प्रक्षेपवक्र (Trajectory)** सभी सामान्य हैं।"
- The satellites loaded onto the rocket included **Tokyo University of Science's "Umitsubame"**, which observes earth and other targets with a high-performance camera, and **Shizuoka University's "Shiraito"**, which is testing **space debris capture technology**, according to JAXA.
  JAXA के अनुसार रॉकेट में **टोक्यो यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस** का **"उमित्सुबामे"** उपग्रह शामिल था, जो उच्च-प्रदर्शन कैमरे से पृथ्वी और अन्य लक्ष्यों का अवलोकन करता है, तथा **शिजुओका यूनिवर्सिटी** का **"शिराइतो"** उपग्रह भी था, जो **अंतरिक्ष मलबा पकड़ने की तकनीक (Space Debris Capture Technology)** का परीक्षण कर रहा है।
- Designed for "**high flexibility, high reliability, and high cost performance**", JAXA had toasted **five successful launches** of the H3 before Friday, but there have been **two failures**, including the last one in December.
  "**उच्च लचीलापन, उच्च विश्वसनीयता और उच्च लागत-प्रदर्शन**" के लिए डिज़ाइन किए गए H3 के शुक्रवार से पहले **पाँच सफल प्रक्षेपण** हो चुके थे, लेकिन इसमें **दो विफलताएँ** भी रही हैं, जिनमें दिसंबर का अंतिम मिशन शामिल है।
- **H3 project manager Makoto Arita** said prior to lift-off that the latest attempt was "**crucial for our comeback**" following December's failed mission, in which a **second-stage engine** terminated prematurely.
  H3 परियोजना प्रबंधक मकोतो अरिता ने प्रक्षेपण से पहले कहा कि दिसंबर के विफल मिशन के बाद यह नवीनतम प्रयास "**हमारी वापसी के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण**" है, जिसमें **दूसरे चरण का इंजन** समय से पहले बंद हो गया था।
- The **space agency** is targeting up to **eight H3 rocket launches a year**, according to a JAXA official.
  JAXA के एक अधिकारी के अनुसार **अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी** का लक्ष्य प्रति वर्ष **आठ H3 रॉकेट प्रक्षेपण** तक पहुंचना है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	13 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13J6	Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई एनएससीएस के सैन्य सलाहकार नियुक्त
13J6	Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath प्रोजेक्ट कुशा, हमारी स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा ढाल, एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगी : राजनाथ सिंह

Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai

Lieutenant-General Rajiv Ghai, who is currently serving as the Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and who spearheaded military operations as Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) during Operation Sindoor last year, has been appointed the new Military Adviser (MA) to the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS).

This marks the first time that a serving military officer has been appointed Military Adviser to the NSCS, which functions under National Security Adviser Ajit Doval.

Lieutenant-General Ghai, whose tenure in service extends till December 2027, was appointed to the post earlier this week. He is expected to assume charge shortly. The position was previously held by General N.S. Raja Subramani before he was appointed Chief of Defence Staff. Prior to him, the post was occupied by Air Marshal Sandeep Singh and, earlier, by General Anil Chauhan.

Commissioned into the Kumaon Regiment, Lieutenant-General Ghai has held several key operational and command appointments during his distinguished military career. His appointment is being seen as a significant move aimed at strengthening military inputs and operational expertise within the country's highest national security decision-making framework.

13J6. Lt.-Gen. Rajiv Ghai appointed Military Adviser to NSCS

लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राजीव घई एनएससीएस के सैन्य सलाहकार नियुक्त

- Lieutenant-General **Rajiv Ghai**, who is currently serving as the **Deputy Chief of the Indian Army** and who spearheaded military operations as **Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO)** during **Operation Sindoor** last year, has been appointed the new **Military Adviser (MA)** to the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)**.
- लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल **राजीव घई**, जो वर्तमान में **भारतीय सेना के उप प्रमुख (Deputy Chief of the Indian Army)** के रूप में कार्यरत हैं और जिन्होंने पिछले वर्ष **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के दौरान **महानिदेशक सैन्य संचालन (DGMO)** के रूप में सैन्य अभियानों का नेतृत्व किया था, उन्हें **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा परिषद सचिवालय (NSCS)** का नया **सैन्य सलाहकार (MA)** नियुक्त किया गया है।
- This marks the first time that a serving military officer has been appointed **Military Adviser** to the **NSCS**, which functions under **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval**.
- यह पहली बार है कि किसी सेवारत सैन्य अधिकारी को **एनएससीएस** में **सैन्य सलाहकार** नियुक्त किया गया है, जो **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल** के अधीन कार्य करता है।
- Lieutenant-General **Ghai**, whose tenure in service extends till **December 2027**, was appointed to the post earlier this week.
- लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल **घई**, जिनका सेवा कार्यकाल **दिसंबर 2027** तक है, को इस सप्ताह की शुरुआत में इस पद पर नियुक्त किया गया।
- He is expected to assume charge shortly.
- उनके शीघ्र ही पदभार ग्रहण करने की अपेक्षा है।
- The position was previously held by **General N.S. Raja Subramani** before he was appointed **Chief of Defence Staff**.
- इस पद पर पहले **जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि** थे, जिन्हें बाद में **चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ** नियुक्त किया गया।
- Prior to him, the post was occupied by **Air Marshal Sandeep Singh** and, earlier, by **General Anil Chauhan**.
- उनसे पहले यह पद **एयर मार्शल संदीप सिंह** और उससे पहले **जनरल अनिल चौहान** के पास था।
- Commissioned into the **Kumaon Regiment**, Lieutenant-General **Ghai** has held several key operational and command appointments during his distinguished military career.
- **कुमाऊँ रेजिमेंट** में कमीशन प्राप्त करने वाले लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल **घई** ने अपने विशिष्ट सैन्य करियर के दौरान कई महत्वपूर्ण परिचालन और कमान संबंधी नियुक्तियाँ संभाली हैं।
- His appointment is being seen as a significant move aimed at strengthening military inputs and operational expertise within the country's highest national security decision-making framework.

PATRIOTIC IAS

- उनकी नियुक्ति को देश के सर्वोच्च **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा निर्णय-निर्माण ढाँचे** में सैन्य योगदान और **परिचालन विशेषज्ञता** को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम माना जा रहा है।

Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath

GS III: Internal Security

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday described the indigenous Project Kusha air defence programme as a "game changer" for India's security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

Addressing scientists and officials in Hyderabad, after inaugurating the Advanced Weapon System Complex at the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL) in the Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, Mr. Singh said India's indigenous air defence capabilities had successfully thwarted enemy intentions during the operation.

"Today I predict that Project Kusha will be a game changer for India's security scenario. It is a world-class indigenous air defence system. Just as the Govardhan hill protected the entire region of Braj in the *Dvapara Yuga*, our air defence system provided a protective umbrella during that period (Operation Sindoor)," he said.

Project Kusha is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the DRDO to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.

Rajnath Singh

The Defence Minister praised the DRDO's Missile Systems and Strategic Systems cluster for strengthening India's technological excellence, strategic autonomy and national security. He said indigenous systems such as Akash and BrahMos had proved India's capability to compete in the global defence technology ecosystem.

Changing warfare

Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, Mr. Singh said emerging technologies such as precision-strike systems, integrated air defence networks, hypersonic weapons, autonomous platforms, artificial intelligence and electronic warfare were reshaping modern battlefields. In this environment, he stressed the need for both resilience and deterrence.

Referring to the government's ambitious "Mission Sudarshan Chakra", announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day address in 2025, Mr. Singh said the initiative would establish a multi-layered missile defence shield capable of protecting military assets, critical infrastructure and civilian establishments across the country.

"The system will provide robust protection while ensuring citizens face minimal inconvenience. It will also possess the capability to deliver a decisive response whenever required," he said.

The Defence Minister lauded the DRDO's progress in indigenous missile technologies, stating that the recent successes in strategic and tactical weapon programmes reflected India's growing self-reliance and confidence in defence manufacturing.

13J6. Project Kusha, our indigenous air defence shield, will be a game changer, says Rajnath

प्रोजेक्ट कुशा, हमारी स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा ढाल, एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगी : राजनाथ सिंह

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on Friday described the indigenous **Project Kusha air defence programme** as a "game changer" for India's security architecture, asserting that its importance had already been demonstrated during **Operation Sindoor**.

  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने शुक्रवार को स्वदेशी **प्रोजेक्ट कुशा वायु रक्षा कार्यक्रम** को भारत की सुरक्षा संरचना के लिए एक "गेम चेंजर" बताया और कहा कि इसका महत्व **ऑपरेशन सिंदूर** के दौरान पहले ही प्रदर्शित हो चुका है।
- Addressing scientists and officials in **Hyderabad**, after inaugurating the **Advanced Weapon System Complex** at the **Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)** in the **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Missile Complex**, Mr. Singh said India's indigenous air defence capabilities had successfully thwarted enemy intentions during the operation.

  हैदराबाद में वैज्ञानिकों और अधिकारियों को संबोधित करते हुए, **डॉ. ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम मिसाइल कॉम्प्लेक्स** में स्थित **रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO)** की **डिफेन्स रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट लेबोरेटरी (DRDL)** के **एडवांस्ड वेपन सिस्टम कॉम्प्लेक्स** का उद्घाटन करने के बाद, श्री सिंह ने कहा कि भारत की स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा क्षमताओं ने इस अभियान के दौरान दुश्मन की मंशाओं को सफलतापूर्वक विफल कर दिया।
- "Today I predict that **Project Kusha** will be a game changer for India's security scenario. It is a world-class indigenous air defence system. Just as the **Govardhan hill** protected the entire region of **Braj** in the **Dvapara Yuga**, our air defence system provided a protective umbrella during that period (**Operation Sindoor**)," he said.

  "आज मैं भविष्यवाणी करता हूँ कि **प्रोजेक्ट कुशा** भारत की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था के लिए एक गेम चेंजर साबित होगा। यह विश्वस्तरीय स्वदेशी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली है। जिस प्रकार **द्वापर युग** में **गोवर्धन पर्वत** ने पूरे **ब्रज क्षेत्र** की रक्षा की थी, उसी प्रकार हमारी वायु रक्षा प्रणाली ने उस अवधि (**ऑपरेशन सिंदूर**) के दौरान सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान किया," उन्होंने कहा।

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- **Project Kusha** is a long-range air defence missile system being developed by the **DRDO** to provide a comprehensive shield against a wide range of aerial threats.
  प्रोजेक्ट कुशा एक लंबी दूरी की वायु रक्षा मिसाइल प्रणाली है, जिसे **DRDO** द्वारा विभिन्न प्रकार के हवाई खतरों के विरुद्ध व्यापक सुरक्षा कवच प्रदान करने के लिए विकसित किया जा रहा है।
- The Defence Minister praised the **DRDO's Missile Systems and Strategic Systems cluster** for strengthening India's technological excellence, strategic autonomy and national security.
  रक्षा मंत्री ने भारत की तकनीकी उत्कृष्टता, रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता और राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए **DRDO के मिसाइल सिस्टम्स और स्ट्रेटेजिक सिस्टम्स क्लस्टर** की प्रशंसा की।
- He said indigenous systems such as **Akash** and **BrahMos** had proved India's capability to compete in the global defence technology ecosystem.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **आकाश** और **ब्रह्मोस** जैसी स्वदेशी प्रणालियों ने वैश्विक रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकी तंत्र में प्रतिस्पर्धा करने की भारत की क्षमता को सिद्ध किया है।

Changing warfare
युद्ध की बदलती प्रकृति

- Highlighting the changing nature of warfare, Mr. Singh said emerging technologies such as **precision-strike systems**, **integrated air defence networks**, **hypersonic weapons**, **autonomous platforms**, **artificial intelligence** and **electronic warfare** were reshaping modern battlefields.
  युद्ध की बदलती प्रकृति पर प्रकाश डालते हुए, श्री सिंह ने कहा कि **प्रिसिजन-स्ट्राइक सिस्टम**, **एकीकृत वायु रक्षा नेटवर्क**, **हाइपरसोनिक हथियार**, **स्वायत्त प्लेटफॉर्म**, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता** और **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध** जैसी उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियाँ आधुनिक युद्धक्षेत्रों को नया स्वरूप दे रही हैं।
- In this environment, he stressed the need for both resilience and deterrence.
  इस परिदृश्य में उन्होंने **लचीलापन** और **निवारक क्षमता** दोनों की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।
- Referring to the government's ambitious **"Mission Sudarshan Chakra"**, announced by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** during his **Independence Day** address in 2025, Mr. Singh said the initiative would establish a multi-layered missile defence shield capable of protecting military assets, critical infrastructure and civilian establishments across the country.
  वर्ष 2025 में प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** द्वारा **स्वतंत्रता दिवस** संबोधन के दौरान घोषित सरकार की महत्वाकांक्षी **"मिशन सुदर्शन चक्र"** योजना का उल्लेख करते हुए श्री सिंह ने कहा कि यह पहल एक बहु-स्तरीय मिसाइल रक्षा कवच स्थापित करेगी, जो देशभर में सैन्य परिसंपत्तियों, महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना और नागरिक प्रतिष्ठानों की सुरक्षा करने में सक्षम होगी।
- "The system will provide robust protection while ensuring citizens face minimal inconvenience. It will also possess the capability to deliver a decisive response whenever required," he said.
  "यह प्रणाली नागरिकों को न्यूनतम असुविधा सुनिश्चित करते हुए मजबूत सुरक्षा प्रदान करेगी। आवश्यकता पड़ने पर यह निर्णायक जवाब देने की क्षमता भी रखेगी," उन्होंने कहा।
- The Defence Minister lauded the **DRDO's** progress in indigenous missile technologies, stating that the recent successes in strategic and tactical weapon programmes reflected India's growing self-reliance and confidence in defence manufacturing.
  रक्षा मंत्री ने स्वदेशी मिसाइल प्रौद्योगिकियों में **DRDO** की प्रगति की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि रणनीतिक और सामरिक हथियार कार्यक्रमों में हाल की सफलताएँ भारत की बढ़ती **आत्मनिर्भरता** और रक्षा विनिर्माण में बढ़ते **आत्मविश्वास** को दर्शाती हैं।

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

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Opening salvo

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

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

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

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI/NEW DELHI

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

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

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

On Thursday, the Ministry, while emphasising that the "attacks came from the U.S. Navy stationed there", described the strikes as "deeply worrisome" but blamed them on the ongoing conflict between U.S.-Israel and Iran in the region. U.S. Centcom has said in a statement that two Hellfire missiles were fired into *Jalveer*'s engine room after the "crew repeatedly failed to comply with directions from U.S. forces". The ship was attacked for "attempting to transport Iranian oil."

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

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

U.S. aircraft attacked Palau-flagged tankers *Marivex* and *Settebello* on Monday and Wednesday, respectively. Three Indian seafarers on *Settebello* died in the attack, which the Indian government confirmed on Thursday.

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

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

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

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

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

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

भारतीय नाविकों वाले तीसरे जहाज़ पर अमेरिकी हमला, चालक दल सुरक्षित

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

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

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

ऐतिहासिक कदम में, कोलंबिया ने महिला जननांग विकृति पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का संकल्प लिया

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

AFP

PCS

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

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

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

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Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia

PCS

Towhid Hridoy hit an unbeaten 40 as Bangladesh won the second One-Day International by five wickets on Thursday to seal its first-ever series win against Australia in the 50-over format. Chasing a DLS revised victory target of 192 in 41 overs in a rain-hit match, Bangladesh eased home with 36 balls to spare to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Australia posted 187 for eight in 42 overs with its innings cut short and ended by rain after Marnus Labuschagne, who made an unbeaten 55, and Xavier Bartlett, who hit 52, rescued the visitor from 0-3. Opening bowlers Mustafizur Rahman and Taskin Ahmed took three wickets each. The victory extended Bangladesh's winning streak to five consecutive home ODI series, following triumphs over Sri Lanka, West Indies, Pakistan and New Zealand.

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

12J6. Bangladesh wins maiden ODI series against Australia

बांग्लादेश ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के खिलाफ पहली बार ODI श्रृंखला जीती

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

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

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

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

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

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Should India incentivise bigger families?

Aparajita Chattopadhyay
Professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences

Neelanjan Sircar
Political scientist teaching at Ahmedabad University

GS I: Society

PARLEY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nowadays, the entire world is going through a polycrisis shock. There is a lot of instability in geopolitics, the economy, and the climate. Moreover, there are both altruistic and individualistic attitudes to fertility. The younger generation is quite aspirational. They need their prosperity – a good job and savings. So, you cannot ask them to go and have more children.

Until women confirm that there is security in every possible sense, they will not reverse the fertility rate because there are plenty of tangible and intangible costs for a woman or for the society to have an additional child. So at this juncture, I believe that incentivisation may not work. In India, especially, it is not required because we have a huge population base, so there may not actually be a scarcity of working age labourers if you improve their skills, give them better job opportunities, improve the savings and investment scenario, and promote the silver ageing economy.

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

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

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

AC: With regard to Andhra Pradesh, if you look at the recent NFHS statistics, there are a number of areas, instead of cash incentives, where they can spend money in order to get lower middle class people to reproduce more. Almost one in four women aged 20 to 24 got married before turning 18. Only 30% of households have women who own any assets, and only 48% of women work. If Andhra Pradesh thinks that they're demographically advanced and can behave like Europe to reverse fertility trends, then the women in the workforce should be at 80%.

In European countries, the motherhood penalty is almost negligible. There is enough parental leave, and workforce participation is very high. So only when your economy and social security is perfect can you think of having a reversal of fertility trends.

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

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

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

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

Migration is an economic phenomenon that is almost independent of the fertility rate, given what the economic condition of these States might be. The people who are being birthed there are very unlikely to be willing to do those jobs that people coming from north India are doing today in south India.

It boggles the mind that somebody is trying to reverse what is a very standard social phenomenon and demographic trend at this stage of development. I understand that there are challenges in Europe where countries are well below replacement rates. But this entire debate is bizarre for the very simple reason that there are so many things the government could be spending this kind of money on which would actually address the needs of an ageing population and an underemployed population. This is a very peculiar policy decision.

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12J6. Should India incentivise bigger families?
क्या भारत को बड़े परिवारों को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए?

- For decades, Indian policymakers have encouraged **population control**, with the familiar slogan of '**Hum Do, Humare Do**' (We two, our two).
  दशकों से भारतीय नीति-निर्माता **जनसंख्या नियंत्रण** को प्रोत्साहित करते रहे हैं, जिसके लिए '**हम दो, हमारे दो**' का प्रसिद्ध नारा दिया गया था।
- However, the recent drop in India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** — the average number of children a woman would have in her lifetime — has now dropped to **1.9**, below the replacement rate of **2.1**, with some southern States seeing their TFR drop to **1.3**.
  हालाँकि, भारत की **कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR)** — अर्थात एक महिला द्वारा अपने जीवनकाल में जन्म दिए जाने वाले बच्चों की औसत संख्या — अब घटकर **1.9** रह गई है, जो **2.1** के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है, जबकि कुछ दक्षिणी राज्यों में यह घटकर **1.3** तक पहुँच गई है।
- Last month, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu** announced cash incentives of **₹30,000** and **₹40,000** to women having their third and fourth child respectively, in a bid to reverse that trend.
  पिछले महीने **आंध्र प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री चंद्रबाबू नायडू** ने इस प्रवृत्ति को पलटने के प्रयास में तीसरे और चौथे बच्चे को जन्म देने वाली महिलाओं के लिए क्रमशः **₹30,000** और **₹40,000** की नकद प्रोत्साहन राशि की घोषणा की।
- Several other southern States have indicated that they also see the benefits of boosting population growth, though not through a cash payout.
  कई अन्य दक्षिणी राज्यों ने भी संकेत दिया है कि वे जनसंख्या वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के लाभ देखते हैं, हालांकि नकद प्रोत्साहन के माध्यम से नहीं।

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

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

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

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

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

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

What has been the international experience of attempting to boost population growth?
जनसंख्या वृद्धि को बढ़ावा देने के प्रयासों का अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव क्या रहा है?

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

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

Falling fertility rates are an uneven phenomenon. What does this portend for Indian federalism?
घटती प्रजनन दर एक असमान प्रवृत्ति है। इसका भारतीय संघवाद पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ सकता है?

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

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

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

What are some key findings of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India?
भारत में दीर्घकालिक वृद्धावस्था अध्ययन (Longitudinal Ageing Study in India) के कुछ प्रमुख निष्कर्ष क्या हैं?

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

If population growth incentives don't work, then lower-fertility rate States may increase their working age population through migration from other States. What is the political fallout of that?
यदि जनसंख्या वृद्धि प्रोत्साहन प्रभावी नहीं होते, तो निम्न प्रजनन दर वाले राज्य अन्य राज्यों से प्रवासन के माध्यम से अपनी कार्यशील आयु वर्ग की जनसंख्या बढ़ा सकते हैं। इसका राजनीतिक प्रभाव क्या होगा?

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

12J6. Security pact with China to remain undisclosed: Solomon Islands govt.
चीन के साथ सुरक्षा समझौता गोपनीय ही रहेगा: सोलोमन द्वीप सरकार

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

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

REUTERS

GS I: Geography

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

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

- The deal struck in **2022** rattled **Washington** and **Canberra** because of concern it opened the door to a permanent **Chinese military presence**.
  2022 में हुए इस समझौते ने **वॉशिंगटन** और **कैनबरा** को चिंतित कर दिया था क्योंकि आशंका थी कि इससे स्थायी **चीनी सैन्य उपस्थिति** का रास्ता खुल सकता है।

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

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

GS II: Polity

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

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

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

The commission's mandate included examining whether Scheduled Caste status can be granted to Dalits who have converted to any faith other than those mentioned in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950. Currently, only Dalits of Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh faiths are entitled to a Scheduled Caste classification, unlike the Scheduled Tribe status, which does not have a religion criterion. The Commission was initially given a two-year deadline to finish its work and submit a report to the government. Since 2024, the Commission has been given multiple extensions, the last one in April this year, which set the latest deadline at June 10, 2026. Gazette records do not show any further extension granted to the Commission.

Justice K.G. Balakrishnan

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

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

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

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

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

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- The **Union Social Justice Ministry** has made multiple submissions to the **Supreme Court** in these matters, arguing that the **Scheduled Caste status** should be denied to people who had converted to faiths like **Islam and Christianity**.
केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय ने इन मामलों में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के समक्ष कई प्रस्तुतियाँ दी हैं, जिनमें यह तर्क दिया गया है कि **इस्लाम और ईसाई धर्म** जैसे धर्मों को अपनाने वाले लोगों को **अनुसूचित जाति का दर्जा** नहीं दिया जाना चाहिए।

GS II: Polity

Lows of the land

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

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

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

12J6. Lows of the land
लोकतंत्र का निम्न स्तर

- Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by the **Returning Officer (RO)** following objections that she had failed to disclose a pending criminal case in Hyderabad in her election affidavit.
श्रीमती नटराजन का नामांकन **रिटर्निंग अधिकारी (RO)** द्वारा इस आपत्ति के आधार पर अस्वीकार कर दिया गया कि उन्होंने अपने चुनावी शपथपत्र में हैदराबाद में लंबित एक आपराधिक मामले का उल्लेख नहीं किया था।
- As the **All-India Congress Committee (AICC)** in-charge of Telangana, she was named as one of the respondents in a private complaint filed by a former Telugu Desam Party corporator before the court of the Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Hyderabad, in 2025.
तेलंगाना की **अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस समिति (AICC)** प्रभारी के रूप में, वर्ष 2025 में हैदराबाद के अतिरिक्त महानगरीय मजिस्ट्रेट की अदालत में एक पूर्व तेलुगु देशम पार्टी पार्षद द्वारा दायर निजी शिकायत में उन्हें प्रतिवादियों में से एक के रूप में नामित किया गया था।
- The complaint was not even against Ms. Natarajan; it was against another Congress leader for alleged inappropriate behaviour and criminal intimidation, and she was mentioned in the petition for allegedly not taking appropriate action against the leader.
यह शिकायत स्वयं श्रीमती नटराजन के विरुद्ध नहीं थी; यह एक अन्य कांग्रेस नेता के कथित अनुचित व्यवहार और आपराधिक धमकी के आरोपों से संबंधित थी, तथा याचिका में उनका उल्लेख उस नेता के विरुद्ध उचित कार्रवाई न करने के आरोप के कारण किया गया था।
- Unlike a conventional police case, a private complaint originates directly before a court.
सामान्य पुलिस मामले के विपरीत, एक निजी शिकायत सीधे न्यायालय के समक्ष प्रस्तुत की जाती है।
- The court had issued notices to the persons named in the complaint, including Ms. Natarajan.
न्यायालय ने शिकायत में नामित व्यक्तियों, जिनमें श्रीमती नटराजन भी शामिल थीं, को नोटिस जारी किए थे।
- **Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act** requires disclosure only of those cases that carry a punishment of two years or more and, above all, only of those cases in which charges have been framed.
जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की धारा 33A केवल उन मामलों के प्रकटीकरण की अपेक्षा करती है जिनमें दो वर्ष या उससे अधिक की सजा का प्रावधान हो तथा विशेष रूप से उन मामलों का, जिनमें आरोप निर्धारित किए जा चुके हों।
- **Framing of charges** is a judicial step, which follows the filing of

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

- The RO's position that material facts had been concealed and the nomination papers were incomplete is not merely a misinterpretation of the law, but an insult to common sense.
RO का यह मत कि महत्वपूर्ण तथ्यों को छिपाया गया और नामांकन पत्र अपूर्ण थे, केवल कानून की गलत व्याख्या नहीं बल्कि सामान्य बुद्धि का भी अपमान है।
- The disclosure regime has been designed to ensure transparency regarding candidates' criminal antecedents and pending cases.
प्रकटीकरण व्यवस्था को उम्मीदवारों के आपराधिक इतिहास और लंबित मामलों के संबंध में पारदर्शिता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बनाया गया है।

GS II: Polity

Fair and square

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

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

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

12J6. Fair and square
निष्पक्ष और न्यायसंगत

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Why is Nicobar debating elections?

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

GS II: Polity

EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

The story so far:

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

What do the draft rules propose?

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

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

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

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

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

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

How do the Nicobarese tribal councils function today?

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

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

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

The idea of the tribal council, however, emerged only in the 1990s to facilitate and ease the community's entry into Government developmental activities, specifically in relation to a Central government scheme of the time for poverty alleviation. Today, the Nicobar district says that the Village leadership and the tribal councils have become "the link between the Local Administration and the tribal people of the island... most of the developmental schemes are being implemented through them only".

How are leaders currently chosen in Nicobarese communities?

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

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

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

Villagers mostly think about candidates' level of education, fluency in Hindi (the language of government officials), "foreign" trips (an indicator of exposure to the world outside the islands), and "smartness" (the ability to deal appropriately with officials and outsiders, according to R. Venkat Ramanujam, Simron Jit Singh & Arild Vatn (2012). What Ramanujam et. al. noted, however, was that even though the Captains and Council were elected, "decisions were taken after popular consultation, usually through community meetings, and the tribal council did not have unilateral decision-making powers. Consequently, the captains were neither seen as lawmakers nor as "leaders" balancing social and political concerns."

Why are the proposed changes causing concern?

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

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

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

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

THE GIST

- Draft rules propose formal elections for Nicobarese Villag and Tribal Councils, including constituencies, voter rolls, anc reservations for women.
- Traditional governance is consensus-based, with village captains chosen through community meetings and locally conducted ballots rather than a fixed bureaucratic electoral system.
- Tribal leaders fear the proposed electoral system could bureaucratise their traditional governance structure and alter existing decision-making processes.

12J6. Why is Nicobar debating elections?
निकोबार में चुनावों को लेकर बहस क्यों हो रही है?

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

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

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

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

How do the Nicobarese tribal councils function today?
वर्तमान में निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदें कैसे कार्य करती हैं?

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

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

- Including the Tribal Council of **Little and Great Nicobar**, seven Tribal Councils represent the Nicobarese community in islands like **Car Nicobar, Nancowry, Kamorta, Teressa**, and others.
  लिटिल निकोबार और ग्रेट निकोबार की जनजातीय परिषदों सहित कुल सात जनजातीय परिषदें **कार निकोबार, नैनकौरी, कामोर्टा, तेरेसा** तथा अन्य द्वीपों में निकोबारी समुदाय का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।
- Since at least the mid-1970s, experts and scholars have observed that the Nicobarese have been picking village captains through **adult franchise**.
  कम-से-कम 1970 के दशक के मध्य से विशेषज्ञों और विद्वानों ने यह देखा है कि निकोबारी समुदाय **वयस्क मताधिकार** के माध्यम से ग्राम कप्तानों का चयन करता रहा है।
- The concept of **captaincy** as village leadership first emerged in the **16th Century**, when the Nicobarese who would go on board passing ships of colonial empires to negotiate began calling themselves captains.
  ग्राम नेतृत्व के रूप में **कप्तानी व्यवस्था** की अवधारणा पहली बार **16वीं शताब्दी** में उभरी, जब निकोबारी लोग औपनिवेशिक साम्राज्यों के गुजरने वाले जहाजों पर बातचीत करने के लिए जाते थे और स्वयं को कप्तान कहने लगे।
- The British colonists were, however, the first to start legitimising the Captaincy structure as representative leadership of the community for their own administrative advantage towards the end of the **19th Century**.
  हालाँकि, **19वीं शताब्दी** के अंत में ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवादियों ने अपने प्रशासनिक लाभ के लिए कप्तानी व्यवस्था को समुदाय के प्रतिनिधिक नेतृत्व के रूप में वैधता प्रदान करना प्रारम्भ किया।
- This structure eventually developed into a supplement to the social structure of large joint families, often referred to as **Tuhets**, that could become a formal channel of communication with the government.
  यह व्यवस्था आगे चलकर बड़े संयुक्त पारिवारिक समूहों की सामाजिक संरचना, जिन्हें प्रायः **तुहेत (Tuhets)** कहा जाता है, के पूरक रूप में विकसित हुई और सरकार के साथ औपचारिक संवाद का माध्यम बन गई।
- The idea of the tribal council, however, emerged only in the **1990s** to facilitate and ease the community's entry into Government developmental activities, specifically in relation to a Central government scheme of the time for **poverty alleviation**.
  हालाँकि, जनजातीय परिषद की अवधारणा केवल **1990 के दशक** में उभरी, ताकि समुदाय को सरकारी विकासात्मक गतिविधियों, विशेष रूप से उस समय की केंद्र सरकार की **गरीबी उन्मूलन** योजना से जोड़ना और उसे सरल बनाना संभव हो सके।
- Today, the **Nicobar district** says that the Village leadership and the tribal councils have become "the link between the Local Administration and the tribal people of the island… most of the developmental schemes are being implemented through them only".
  आज **निकोबार जिला प्रशासन** का कहना है कि ग्राम नेतृत्व और जनजातीय परिषदें "स्थानीय प्रशासन और द्वीप के जनजातीय लोगों के बीच सेतु" बन गई हैं तथा अधिकांश विकास योजनाएँ इन्हीं के माध्यम से लागू की जा रही हैं।

How are leaders currently chosen in Nicobarese communities?
वर्तमान में निकोबारी समुदायों में नेताओं का चयन कैसे किया जाता है?

- Even though authorities in the **Nicobar district administration** have maintained that under the current system, village captains are usually elected every **four years**, Anthropologist and community leader **Anstice Justin** has told The Hindu that "there is actually not much documentation on how exactly the leadership of the existing tribal councils operate".
  यद्यपि **निकोबार जिला प्रशासन** का कहना है कि वर्तमान व्यवस्था में ग्राम कप्तानों का चुनाव सामान्यतः

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

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

Why are the proposed changes causing concern?
प्रस्तावित परिवर्तन चिंता का कारण क्यों बन रहे हैं?

- **Tribal Council** leaders who have spoken to The Hindu about the implications of the new **Draft Rules** said that the proposed structure is largely being seen as something that would disrupt their traditional ways of perceiving governance.
  जनजातीय परिषद के जिन नेताओं ने नए **मसौदा नियमों** के प्रभावों पर अपने विचार व्यक्त किए, उनका कहना है कि प्रस्तावित संरचना को ऐसी व्यवस्था के रूप में देखा जा रहा है जो शासन को समझने और संचालित करने के उनके पारंपरिक तरीकों को बाधित कर सकती है।
- The tribal council leader from **Great Nicobar** said, "We have been using this way of governing our villages for generations."
  ग्रेट निकोबार के एक जनजातीय परिषद नेता ने कहा, "हम पीढ़ियों से अपने गाँवों का संचालन इसी तरीके से करते आ रहे हैं।"
- "We hold elections through consensus when needed, and our traditional ways of living are so well integrated into how we oversee the islands and villages."
  "जब आवश्यकता होती है, तब हम सर्वसम्मति के माध्यम से चुनाव कराते हैं, और हमारे पारंपरिक जीवन-तरीके द्वीपों और गाँवों के प्रशासन के साथ गहराई से जुड़े हुए हैं।"
- "This looks like it will turn all of this into an **office job** that we will have to do in addition to the lives we live on the islands."
  "ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि यह पूरी व्यवस्था एक **कार्यालयी कार्य** में बदल जाएगी, जिसे हमें अपने द्वीपीय जीवन के अतिरिक्त निभाना पड़ेगा।"
- Meanwhile, **Mr. Justin** has noted that there is a real chance that an attempt to notify the Rules has come now in light of the opposition the government is facing from the Tribal Council on **GNI**.
  इस बीच, **श्री जस्टिन** ने कहा है कि यह वास्तविक संभावना है कि नियमों को अधिसूचित करने का प्रयास ऐसे समय में किया जा रहा है जब सरकार को **GNI** की जनजातीय परिषद से विरोध का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।
- Even though he acknowledged that systemic problems of **opacity** have riddled the existing system of Tribal Councils and Village Captaincy.
  हालाँकि उन्होंने यह भी स्वीकार किया कि **पारदर्शिता की कमी** जैसी संरचनात्मक समस्याएँ वर्तमान जनजातीय परिषद और ग्राम कप्तानी व्यवस्था में मौजूद हैं।
- "For instance, in several Island Tribal Councils, it remains unclear when the Chairperson was last elected and what kind of authority they wield," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "उदाहरण के लिए, कई द्वीपीय जनजातीय परिषदों में यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि अध्यक्ष का अंतिम चुनाव कब हुआ था और उनके पास वास्तव में कितने अधिकार हैं।"
- But experts like **Mr. Justin**, who have worked with the government on engaging with the indigenous communities of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&NI)**, have doubted whether the entire Nicobarese community in the islands will have the time and resources to understand the Draft Rules as they have been notified.
  किन्तु **श्री जस्टिन** जैसे विशेषज्ञ, जिन्होंने **अंडमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह (A&NI)** की स्वदेशी समुदायों के साथ सरकारी स्तर पर कार्य किया है, इस बात को लेकर संदेह व्यक्त करते हैं कि क्या पूरा निकोबारी समुदाय अधिसूचित मसौदा नियमों को समझने के लिए पर्याप्त समय और संसाधन जुटा पाएगा।
- The context of the **Regulation** under which they will be implemented, and the implications of introducing such a system for their village-level governance.
  साथ ही वे उस **विनियमन** की पृष्ठभूमि और इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था को ग्राम-स्तरीय शासन में लागू करने के प्रभावों को भी समझ पाएँगे या नहीं, यह भी प्रश्न बना हुआ है।
- The **Tribal Welfare Department** of the A&NI administration has said that it will wait till **June 15** for suggestions and objections, after which a final version may be notified.
  A&NI प्रशासन के **जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग** ने कहा है कि वह **15 जून** तक सुझावों और आपत्तियों की प्रतीक्षा करेगा, जिसके बाद अंतिम संस्करण अधिसूचित किया जा सकता है।

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

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

FCRA Bill — expanding state control over civil society

GS II: Governance

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

From oversight to overreach

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

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

The gravest concern is Section 16A under the new Chapter IIIA. It states that when an FCRA registration is cancelled, surrendered, or deemed to have ceased, all foreign contributions and assets derived from them automatically "provisionally vest" in a government-designated authority, without prior judicial review or independent adjudication. This means that a simple administrative decision can strip organisations of control over their funds and property. As cancellation under Section 14 can be based on broad and subjective grounds such as "public interest," organisations risk losing control of their assets even for minor, procedural, or disputed violations. Because cancellation under Section 14 triggers the application of Section 16A, organisations risk losing assets even for procedural, minor, or disputed breaches. The designated authority would then be empowered to manage, transfer, or dispose of these assets, with sale proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India. The provision is particularly sweeping because it may cover assets funded both domestically and from abroad–potentially bringing schools, hospitals, orphanages, religious institutions, charitable organisations, and places of worship such as churches, mosques, and temples built over decades under government control. The powers granted to the Designated Authority are extraordinary. It can take control of assets, manage institutions, oversee finances, and alter operations in the vaguely defined "public interest," giving the executive wide discretion. If an organisation fails to secure restoration or re-registration within the prescribed period, the vesting becomes permanent. The Authority may then transfer or sell the assets, with the proceeds credited to the Consolidated Fund of India – effectively enabling executive confiscation through legal process.

P. Wilson

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

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

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

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

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

Limited accountability

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

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

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

Constitutional rights under threat

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

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

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

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

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

From oversight to overreach
निगरानी से अतिक्रमण तक

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

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

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

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

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

Limited accountability
सीमित जवाबदेही

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

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

- But the fact remains that the government is systematically targeting organisations one after another, and between 2014 and 2026, about **22,000 FCRA licences** have been cancelled for no valid or credible reasons.
  किन्तु यह तथ्य बना हुआ है कि सरकार क्रमशः संगठनों को निशाना बना रही है, और 2014 से 2026 के बीच लगभग **22,000 FCRA लाइसेंस** बिना किसी वैध या विश्वसनीय कारण के रद्द किए गए हैं।
- It could be stated with concern that the government appears to be eyeing the properties of minorities, which in reality benefits the majority.
  चिंता के साथ यह कहा जा सकता है कि सरकार की दृष्टि अल्पसंख्यकों की संपत्तियों पर प्रतीत होती है, जबकि वास्तव में उनका लाभ मुख्यतः बहुसंख्यक समाज को प्राप्त होता है।
- Cancellations of **FCRA licences** threaten ongoing efforts in **child protection**, immunisation, neonatal health, nutrition, early childhood education, parental involvement, youth skills development, and access to government schemes in affected regions.
  FCRA लाइसेंसों की निरस्तीकरण प्रक्रिया **बाल संरक्षण**, टीकाकरण, नवजात स्वास्थ्य, पोषण, प्रारंभिक बाल्यकाल शिक्षा, अभिभावकीय सहभागिता, युवा कौशल विकास तथा प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में सरकारी योजनाओं तक पहुँच के लिए चल रहे प्रयासों को खतरे में डालती है।
- The sector contributes significantly to the economy—around **2% of GDP**—with roughly four lakh to eight lakh individuals per organisation losing access to vital services due to revoked licences.
  यह क्षेत्र अर्थव्यवस्था में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान देता है—लगभग **GDP का 2%**—और लाइसेंस निरस्त होने के कारण प्रति संगठन लगभग चार लाख से आठ लाख व्यक्तियों की आवश्यक सेवाओं तक पहुँच प्रभावित होती है।
- According to the **2014 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation report**, civil society organisations generate **27 lakh jobs** and 34 lakh full-time volunteers, surpassing public sector employment.
  सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय की 2014 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, नागरिक समाज संगठन **27 लाख रोजगार** और 34 लाख पूर्णकालिक स्वयंसेवकों का सृजन करते हैं, जो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के रोजगार से अधिक है।
- A separate survey of 515 NGOs found that 47% are the main source of employment in more than half the localities where they operate.
  515 गैर-सरकारी संगठनों पर किए गए एक अलग सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि उनमें से 47% उन क्षेत्रों में रोजगार का प्रमुख स्रोत हैं जहाँ वे कार्यरत हैं।
- These amendments threaten not only the existence of organisations but also the infrastructure and community resources relied upon by millions.
  ये संशोधन केवल संगठनों के अस्तित्व को ही नहीं बल्कि उन अवसंरचनाओं और सामुदायिक संसाधनों को भी खतरे में डालते हैं जिन पर लाखों लोग निर्भर हैं।

Constitutional rights under threat
संवैधानिक अधिकारों पर संकट

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

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

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

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

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

GS III: Economy

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

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

The ruling came in an appeal arising from a motor accident claim in Punjab where a woman named Reshma died in a road accident in November 2001. Her husband and three children approached the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal seeking compensation. While the tribunal awarded compensation in 2003, they approached the High Court to enhance the amount. On appeal, the High Court enhanced the compensation to ₹8.43 lakh with 7.5% interest, providing for a higher rate of interest in case of delay in payment.

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

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

Shift to 'homemaker'

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

The top court also noted the need to shift from the stereotypical terminology of daily usage from "housewife" to "homemaker".

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

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

It clarified that this amount would be treated as the minimum value of a homemaker's unpaid work and would increase by 10% every three years. If the homemaker also had a paid job, this amount would be awarded in addition to her income.

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

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

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

Supreme Court recognises homemakers as "nation builders"
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने गृहिणियों को "राष्ट्र निर्माता" के रूप में मान्यता दी

- Observing that **homemakers** deserve to be recognised as **"nation builders"**, the **Supreme Court** on Thursday ruled that the unpaid domestic work performed by them must be monetised at a minimum of **₹30,000 per month** while calculating compensation for deaths in road accidents.
  यह टिप्पणी करते हुए कि **गृह-प्रबंधकों (होममेकर्स)** को **"राष्ट्र निर्माता"** के रूप में मान्यता मिलनी चाहिए, **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने गुरुवार को निर्णय दिया कि सड़क दुर्घटनाओं में मृत्यु के मामलों में मुआवज़े की गणना करते समय उनके द्वारा किए गए अवैतनिक घरेलू कार्य का न्यूनतम **₹30,000 प्रति माह** के आधार पर आर्थिक मूल्यांकन किया जाना चाहिए।
- The ruling came in an appeal arising from a **motor accident claim** in **Punjab** where a woman named **Reshma** died in a road accident in **November 2001**.
  यह निर्णय **पंजाब** में एक **मोटर दुर्घटना दावा** मामले से संबंधित अपील में दिया गया, जिसमें **रेशमा** नामक महिला की **नवंबर 2001** में सड़क दुर्घटना में मृत्यु हो गई थी।
- Her husband and three children approached the **Motor Accident Claims Tribunal** seeking compensation.
  उनके पति और तीन बच्चों ने मुआवज़े की मांग करते हुए **मोटर दुर्घटना दावा अधिकरण (MACT)** का दरवाज़ा खटखटाया।

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

Shift to 'homemaker'
'हाउसवाइफ' से 'होममेकर' की ओर परिवर्तन

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

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

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Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable

GS III: Economy

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Labour Code Rules leave workers' concerns unaddressed

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

Critical gaps

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

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

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

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

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

Gig workers remain vulnerable

The Social Security Code (Central) Rules make no attempt to clarify the employment relationship in the gig economy. Gig and platform workers continue to be treated as self-employed and remain part of the unorganised workforce. The Rules are also silent on the mandatory gratuity insurance envisaged under the Code. Such insurance could protect workers against non-payment of gratuity by employers. However, the Rules fail to specify the modalities for implementing this safeguard, leaving an important worker protection mechanism undefined. The Industrial Relations Code (Central) Rules provide that a sole registered trade union must have at least 30% membership to be recognised. This means that registration alone does not guarantee recognition. In large establishments, smaller or newly formed unions may find it difficult to meet this threshold, further weakening their ability to represent workers at a time when the bargaining power of trade unions has already been declining for decades. Notably, the 30% threshold does not appear in the Code itself. The Rules also fail to provide further clarity on the engagement and renewal of fixed-term employees, leaving significant scope for ambiguity and potential misuse.

Missing safeguards for workers

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

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

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

12J6. Implementation complete, but workers still vulnerable
कार्यान्वयन पूर्ण, किन्तु श्रमिक अब भी असुरक्षित \

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

Critical gaps
महत्वपूर्ण कमियाँ

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

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

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

Gig workers remain vulnerable
गिग श्रमिक अब भी असुरक्षित हैं

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

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

Missing safeguards for workers
श्रमिकों के लिए सुरक्षा उपायों का अभाव

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

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Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments

GS III: Economy

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

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

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

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

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

Higher yarn exports

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

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

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

More automation

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

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

12J6. Indian textile sector witnessing revival of investments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Higher yarn exports

यार्न निर्यात में वृद्धि

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

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

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

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

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

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

इस बीच, कहा जा रहा है कि **वस्त्र मिलें आधुनिकीकरण** और **विस्तार परियोजनाओं** दोनों में निवेश कर रही हैं, हालांकि सटीक निवेश आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं।

More automation
अधिक स्वचालन

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

उद्योग सूत्रों के अनुसार, कुछ मिलें **वैल्यू एडेड यार्न** बनाने के लिए निवेश कर रही हैं और कुछ अन्य अधिक **स्वचालन** अपनाकर आधुनिकीकरण कर रही हैं।

- Implementation of the **Free Trade Agreement** with the **U.K.** is expected to bring in more orders for garments and made-ups.

यू.के. के साथ **मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (FTA)** के कार्यान्वयन से परिधानों और मेड-अप्स के लिए अधिक ऑर्डर मिलने की उम्मीद है।

- Another **$10 billion** increase in exports will support the entire **textile value chain**.

निर्यात में अतिरिक्त **10 अरब डॉलर** की वृद्धि पूरे **वस्त्र मूल्य श्रृंखला** को समर्थन देगी।

- However, the **West Asia war** and uncertainties in the **U.S. tariff** are of concern, sources said.

हालांकि, **पश्चिम एशिया का युद्ध** और **अमेरिकी टैरिफ** से जुड़ी अनिश्चितताएं चिंता का विषय हैं, सूत्रों ने कहा।

PATRIOTIC IAS

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

GS III: Economy

Reuters

NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

मामले की जानकारी रखने वाले दो सूत्रों के अनुसार, भारतीय औद्योगिक समूह **रिलायंस**, **वेदांता** और **अडानी** ने **आंध्र प्रदेश** राज्य के महत्वपूर्ण **दुर्लभ मृदा खनिजों (रेयर अर्थ मिनरल्स)** के बड़े भंडारों के प्रसंस्करण हेतु सुविधाएं विकसित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।

- With **New Delhi** seeking to cut India's dependence on **China** for rare earths, the three companies are among about **10** who have expressed interest in setting up rare earth facilities in the southern state, one of the sources said.

एक सूत्र ने कहा कि **नई दिल्ली** द्वारा दुर्लभ मृदा खनिजों के लिए **चीन** पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करने के प्रयासों के बीच, ये तीनों कंपनियां उन लगभग **10** कंपनियों में शामिल हैं जिन्होंने दक्षिणी राज्य में दुर्लभ मृदा सुविधाएं स्थापित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।

- The sources declined to be identified as they were not authorised to speak to the media.

सूत्रों ने अपनी पहचान बताने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि वे मीडिया से बात करने के लिए अधिकृत नहीं थे।

- **Andhra Pradesh** holds **211 million metric tonne** of beach sand mineral resources, including rare earths, across **16 identified coastal deposits**, as per a draft document.

एक मसौदा दस्तावेज़ के अनुसार, **आंध्र प्रदेश** में **16 चिन्हित तटीय भंडारों** में दुर्लभ मृदा सहित **211 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन** समुद्री तट रेत खनिज संसाधन मौजूद हैं।

- India has **482.6 million tonne** of rare earth ore resources, according to the **Geological Survey of India**.

भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (GSI) के अनुसार, भारत के पास **482.6 मिलियन टन** दुर्लभ मृदा अयस्क संसाधन हैं।

- The interest comes as **New Delhi** steps up efforts to build domestic rare earth mining, processing and **magnet manufacturing capacity**, while **Andhra Pradesh** aims to attract **₹50,000 crore ($5.2 billion)** in rare earth and titanium investments over the next decade.

यह रुचि ऐसे समय में सामने आई है जब **नई दिल्ली** घरेलू दुर्लभ मृदा खनन, प्रसंस्करण और **चुंबक निर्माण क्षमता** विकसित करने के प्रयास तेज कर रही है, जबकि **आंध्र प्रदेश** अगले दशक में दुर्लभ मृदा और टाइटेनियम क्षेत्र में **₹50,000 करोड़ (5.2 अरब डॉलर)** का निवेश आकर्षित करने का लक्ष्य रखता है।

- The plans were set out in a draft government document.

इन योजनाओं का उल्लेख एक मसौदा सरकारी दस्तावेज़ में किया गया है।

- The **Andhra Pradesh government**, **Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)**, **Vedanta Ltd.** and **Adani Enterprises Ltd.** did not respond to Reuters emails seeking comments.

आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार, **रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज़ लिमिटेड (RIL)**, **वेदांता लिमिटेड** और **अडानी एंटरप्राइजेज लिमिटेड** ने टिप्पणी मांगने वाले रॉयटर्स के ईमेल का कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया।

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Once an Arab oil embargo victim, U.S. now becomes world's top oil exporter

U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about 10.5 million barrels per day in May as Saudi, Russian exports disrupted by conflict and sanctions; EU officials warn of risks in growing dependence on U.S. energy supplies; U.S. oil boom driven by private firms, contrasting with state-led output in rivals

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
HOUSTON

Oil power: A pump jack operates near a crude oil reserve in the Permian Basin oil field, U.S. REUTERS

The United States has become the world's largest oil exporter, upending a decades-old order long dominated by Saudi Arabia and Russia, a shift that tightens American companies' grip on energy markets as Washington's war with Iran reshapes global energy trade. America's ascendancy to the top spot marks a stunning reversal-for a country that was dependent on Middle Eastern oil for decades and suffered from an oil embargo imposed by some OPEC members in 1973 to retaliate against U.S. support for Israel.

Change in fortune

U.S. fortunes began to change after 2010, when oil and gas output from its shale formations soared, first making it the world's top gas and then the world's top oil producer.

With the U.S.-Iran war disrupting Saudi oil exports since February 2026 and Russian oil exports suffering from Ukrainian drone attacks and U.S. sanctions on Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. has become the world's leading oil exporter.

U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about 10.5 million barrels per day in May on the back of high output and the release of strategic reserves, data from ship tracking services Vortexa showed, making the U.S. the top global exporter for the third month in a row.

Russian exports stood at 7 million bpd in May, according to *Reuters*' calculations, while Saudi Arabia's exports stood at 5.9 million bpd, according to Vortexa.

In comparison, Saudi Arabia exported about 8.1 million bpd in 2025, while the United States shipped out 6.6 million bpd,and Russian exports stood at about 5.8 million bpd, according toVortexa data.

"Washington has a new tool they didn't realise they had before the Iran war – energy exports," said Michelle Brouhard, head of policy at ship tracking firm Kpler.

> Russian exports stood at 7 million bpd in May, according to *Reuters*' calculations, while Saudi Arabia's exports stood at 5.9 million bpd, according to Vortexa.

OPEC price weaking

The new U.S. dominance could weaken the pricing power that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies have historically held over oil markets. U.S. President Donald Trump has long criticised OPEC for manipulating the markets. The group also suffered a blow in May when one of its biggest members, the United Arab Emirates, left the organization after nearly 60 years. The biggest oil exporter spot will give Washington a powerful new lever in talks with allies and rivals in addition to its global military supremacy and its dominance of financial markets thanks to the U.S. dollar's role as the world's reserve currency.

U.S. leverage

"You can see now the leverage the United States has over some of these countries because they are dependent on the U.S. for their oil or gas," Brouhard said, adding that the U.S. was the largest provider of crude to Europe and the second-largest provider of distillates. EU officials, who initially welcomed the U.S. oil and gas boom as an alternative to Russian and Middle Eastern supply, have grown more skeptical and warned of risks of becoming too dependent on American companies.

Oil, tariffs

The warning coincided with the EU clashing with the U.S. administration over trade tariffs and green regulations. Moscow is also finding it hard to hide frustration. U.S. energy companies were the main beneficiaries of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Igor Sechin, the boss of the Kremlin oil major Rosneft and one of the closest allies of President Vladimir Putin, said this month.

But long before the U.S.-Iran war started, both Saudi Arabia and Russia were trailing far behind U.S. companies on production growth. Crude and liquids output in the United States has nearly tripled to about 22 million bpd since 2000. Saudi crude and liquids output has largely fluctuated between 10 million and 12 million bpd depending on OPEC quotas between 2000 and 2026.

Russian oil and liquids output soared to 10 million bpd from 6 million bpd between 2000 and 2010, grew by a further 2 million bpd during the 2010s, but has largely stagnated and declined to below 10 million bpd since 2020.

Global oil demand grew to 104 million bpd last year from 87 million in 2010, meaning the lion's share of the global growth of the past 15 years has been mostly met by the U.S. oil boom.

In 2015, the United States repealed a 40-year export ban it had in place since the Arab oil embargo, opening the gates for its oil boom to the wider world. Fast forward 10 years, it has become the biggest oil exporter, proving skeptics wrong that the growth would be short-lived as fields deplete.

Unlike in Saudi Arabia and Russia, where governments fully or partially set production and export targets, the U.S. boom hinges on private companies' decisions and is primarily driven by profits.

When oil prices rise, U.S. firms will respond by raising production, which will help bring prices down. When prices are weak, U.S. firms will cut output, which will boost prices, said Kenneth Medlock III, a fellow in Energy and Resource Economics at the Baker Institute for Public Policy. "In many ways, it's kind of a similar role to what OPEC and Saudi Arabia have been doing with spare production capacity, butit's more of a market mechanism than a strategic device," he said.

12J6. Once an Arab oil embargo victim, U.S. now becomes world's top oil exporter

कभी अरब तेल प्रतिबंध का शिकार रहा अमेरिका, अब बना दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक

- **U.S. exports** of crude and fuel climbed to about **10.5 million barrels per day** in May as **Saudi** and **Russian exports** were disrupted by conflict and sanctions.
  मई में **अमेरिकी निर्यात** कच्चे तेल और ईंधन के मामले में बढ़कर लगभग **10.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया क्योंकि **सऊदी** और **रूसी निर्यात** संघर्ष और प्रतिबंधों से प्रभावित हुए।
- **EU officials** warn of risks in growing dependence on **U.S. energy supplies**.
  यूरोपीय संघ के अधिकारियों ने **अमेरिकी ऊर्जा आपूर्ति** पर बढ़ती निर्भरता के जोखिमों को लेकर चेतावनी दी है।
- The **U.S. oil boom** is driven by private firms, contrasting with state-led output in rivals.
  अमेरिकी तेल उछाल निजी कंपनियों द्वारा संचालित है, जो प्रतिस्पर्धी देशों में सरकार-नियंत्रित उत्पादन से भिन्न है।
- The **United States** has become the world's largest oil exporter, upending a decades-old order long dominated by **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia**, a shift that tightens American companies' grip on energy markets as **Washington's war with Iran** reshapes global energy trade.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक बन गया है, जिससे **सऊदी अरब** और **रूस** के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे प्रभुत्व वाली व्यवस्था बदल गई है। यह परिवर्तन ऊर्जा बाजारों पर अमेरिकी कंपनियों की

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पकड़ को मजबूत करता है क्योंकि **ईरान के साथ वाशिंगटन का युद्ध** वैश्विक ऊर्जा व्यापार को नया स्वरूप दे रहा है।

- America's ascendancy to the top spot marks a stunning reversal for a country that was dependent on **Middle Eastern oil** for decades and suffered from an **oil embargo** imposed by some **OPEC** members in **1973** to retaliate against U.S. support for Israel.
  शीर्ष स्थान पर अमेरिका का पहुंचना उस देश के लिए एक आश्चर्यजनक बदलाव है जो दशकों तक **मध्य-पूर्वी तेल** पर निर्भर रहा और **1973** में इज़राइल के समर्थन के प्रतिशोध में कुछ **ओपेक** सदस्यों द्वारा लगाए गए **तेल प्रतिबंध** का शिकार बना था।

Change in fortune
भाग्य में परिवर्तन

- U.S. fortunes began to change after **2010**, when oil and gas output from its **shale formations** soared, first making it the world's top gas and then the world's top oil producer.
  2010 के बाद अमेरिका की स्थिति बदलनी शुरू हुई जब उसके **शेल भंडारों** से तेल और गैस उत्पादन तेजी से बढ़ा, जिससे वह पहले दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा गैस उत्पादक और फिर सबसे बड़ा तेल उत्पादक बना।
- With the **U.S.-Iran war** disrupting Saudi oil exports since **February 2026** and Russian oil exports suffering from **Ukrainian drone attacks** and **U.S. sanctions** on Moscow for the invasion of Ukraine, the U.S. has become the world's leading oil exporter.
  फरवरी 2026 से **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्ध** के कारण सऊदी तेल निर्यात प्रभावित होने और यूक्रेन पर आक्रमण के कारण रूस पर लगाए गए **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों** तथा **यूक्रेनी ड्रोन हमलों** से रूसी निर्यात प्रभावित होने के चलते अमेरिका दुनिया का अग्रणी तेल निर्यातक बन गया है।
- U.S. exports of crude and fuel climbed to about **10.5 million barrels per day** in May on the back of high output and the release of **strategic reserves**, data from ship tracking services **Vortexa** showed, making the U.S. the top global exporter for the third month in a row.
  जहाज ट्रैकिंग सेवा **वोर्टेक्सा** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, उच्च उत्पादन और **रणनीतिक भंडारों** की रिहाई के कारण मई में अमेरिका का कच्चे तेल और ईंधन निर्यात बढ़कर लगभग **10.5 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया, जिससे वह लगातार तीसरे महीने दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा निर्यातक बना।
- Russian exports stood at **7 million bpd** in May, according to Reuters' calculations, while **Saudi Arabia's exports** stood at **5.9 million bpd**, according to Vortexa.
  रॉयटर्स की गणनाओं के अनुसार मई में रूसी निर्यात **7 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** रहा, जबकि वोर्टेक्सा के अनुसार **सऊदी अरब का निर्यात 5.9 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** रहा।
- In comparison, **Saudi Arabia** exported about **8.1 million bpd** in **2025**, while the **United States** shipped out **6.6 million bpd**, and Russian exports stood at about **5.8 million bpd**, according to Vortexa data.
  तुलनात्मक रूप से, **2025** में **सऊदी अरब** ने लगभग **8.1 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** निर्यात किया, जबकि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने **6.6 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** और रूस ने लगभग **5.8 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** निर्यात किया।
- "**Washington** has a new tool they didn't realise they had before the Iran war — **energy exports**," said **Michelle Brouhard**, head of policy at ship tracking firm **Kpler**.
  जहाज ट्रैकिंग कंपनी **क्प्लर** की नीति प्रमुख **मिशेल ब्रूहार्ड** ने कहा, "**वाशिंगटन** के पास अब एक नया साधन है जिसका उसे ईरान युद्ध से पहले एहसास नहीं था — **ऊर्जा निर्यात**।"

OPEC price weakening
ओपेक की मूल्य निर्धारण शक्ति कमजोर

- The new U.S. dominance could weaken the pricing power that the **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and its allies have historically held over oil markets.

अमेरिका का नया प्रभुत्व तेल बाजारों पर **ओपेक** और उसके सहयोगियों की ऐतिहासिक मूल्य निर्धारण शक्ति को कमजोर कर सकता है।

- **U.S. President Donald Trump** has long criticised OPEC for manipulating the markets.
  अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप लंबे समय से ओपेक पर बाजार में हेरफेर करने का आरोप लगाते रहे हैं।
- The group also suffered a blow in May when one of its biggest members, the **United Arab Emirates**, left the organization after nearly **60 years**.
  मई में समूह को एक और झटका लगा जब उसके सबसे बड़े सदस्यों में से एक **संयुक्त अरब अमीरात** लगभग **60 वर्षों** बाद संगठन से बाहर हो गया।
- The biggest oil exporter spot will give **Washington** a powerful new lever in talks with allies and rivals in addition to its global military supremacy and its dominance of financial markets thanks to the **U.S. dollar's** role as the world's reserve currency.
  दुनिया के सबसे बड़े तेल निर्यातक का दर्जा **वाशिंगटन** को अपने वैश्विक सैन्य प्रभुत्व और **अमेरिकी डॉलर** की आरक्षित मुद्रा की भूमिका के अतिरिक्त सहयोगियों और प्रतिद्वंद्वियों के साथ वार्ता में एक नया शक्तिशाली साधन प्रदान करेगा।

U.S. leverage
अमेरिका की बढ़ी हुई प्रभाव क्षमता

- "You can see now the leverage the **United States** has over some of these countries because they are dependent on the U.S. for their oil or gas," Brouhard said, adding that the U.S. was the largest provider of crude to **Europe** and the second-largest provider of distillates.
  ब्रूहार्ड ने कहा, "अब आप देख सकते हैं कि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** का कुछ देशों पर कितना प्रभाव है क्योंकि वे अपने तेल या गैस के लिए अमेरिका पर निर्भर हैं।" उन्होंने कहा कि अमेरिका **यूरोप** को कच्चे तेल का सबसे बड़ा और डिस्टिलेट्स का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता है।
- **EU officials**, who initially welcomed the U.S. oil and gas boom as an alternative to Russian and Middle Eastern supply, have grown more skeptical and warned of risks of becoming too dependent on American companies.
  यूरोपीय संघ के अधिकारी, जिन्होंने शुरू में अमेरिकी तेल और गैस उछाल का स्वागत रूसी और मध्य-पूर्वी आपूर्ति के विकल्प के रूप में किया था, अब अधिक संशय में हैं और अमेरिकी कंपनियों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर होने के जोखिमों की चेतावनी दे रहे हैं।

Oil, tariffs
तेल और शुल्क

- The warning coincided with the **EU** clashing with the **U.S. administration** over trade tariffs and green regulations.
  यह चेतावनी ऐसे समय आई जब **यूरोपीय संघ** और **अमेरिकी प्रशासन** के बीच व्यापार शुल्क और हरित नियमों को लेकर टकराव चल रहा है।
- **Moscow** is also finding it hard to hide frustration.
  मॉस्को के लिए भी अपनी निराशा छिपाना कठिन हो रहा है।
- U.S. energy companies were the main beneficiaries of the closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, **Igor Sechin**, the boss of the Kremlin oil major **Rosneft** and one of the closest allies of President **Vladimir Putin**, said this month.
  इस महीने **रोसनेफ्ट** के प्रमुख और राष्ट्रपति **व्लादिमीर पुतिन** के करीबी सहयोगी **इगोर सेचिन** ने कहा कि **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** के बंद होने से सबसे अधिक लाभ अमेरिकी ऊर्जा कंपनियों को हुआ।
- But long before the **U.S.-Iran war** started, both **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia** were trailing far behind U.S. companies on production growth.

लेकिन **अमेरिका-ईरान युद्ध** शुरू होने से बहुत पहले ही **सऊदी अरब** और **रूस** उत्पादन वृद्धि के मामले में अमेरिकी कंपनियों से काफी पीछे थे।

- Crude and liquids output in the **United States** has nearly tripled to about **22 million bpd** since **2000**.
  2000 के बाद से **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** में कच्चे तेल और तरल पदार्थों का उत्पादन लगभग तीन गुना बढ़कर **22 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया है।
- Saudi crude and liquids output has largely fluctuated between **10 million** and **12 million bpd** depending on **OPEC quotas** between **2000 and 2026**.
  2000 से 2026 के बीच **ओपेक कोटा** के अनुसार सऊदी उत्पादन अधिकांश समय **10 से 12 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** के बीच रहा है।
- Russian oil and liquids output soared to **10 million bpd** from **6 million bpd** between **2000 and 2010**, grew by a further **2 million bpd** during the 2010s, but has largely stagnated and declined to below **10 million bpd** since **2020**.
  2000 से 2010 के बीच रूसी तेल और तरल उत्पादन **6 मिलियन** से बढ़कर **10 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गया, 2010 के दशक में इसमें और **2 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** की वृद्धि हुई, लेकिन **2020** के बाद यह ठहर गया और **10 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** से नीचे आ गया।
- Global oil demand grew to **104 million bpd** last year from **87 million** in **2010**, meaning the lion's share of the global growth of the past **15 years** has been mostly met by the **U.S. oil boom**.
  वैश्विक तेल मांग **2010** के **87 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** से बढ़कर पिछले वर्ष **104 मिलियन बैरल प्रतिदिन** हो गई, जिसका अर्थ है कि पिछले **15 वर्षों** की अधिकांश वैश्विक वृद्धि की पूर्ति मुख्यतः **अमेरिकी तेल उछाल** ने की है।
- In **2015**, the **United States** repealed a **40-year export ban** it had in place since the Arab oil embargo, opening the gates for its oil boom to the wider world.
  2015 में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने अरब तेल प्रतिबंध के बाद लागू **40 वर्ष पुराने निर्यात प्रतिबंध** को समाप्त कर दिया, जिससे उसके तेल उछाल के लिए वैश्विक बाजार खुल गए।
- Fast forward **10 years**, it has become the biggest oil exporter, proving skeptics wrong that the growth would be short-lived as fields deplete.
  10 वर्ष बाद अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल निर्यातक बन गया, जिससे उन संदेहों को गलत साबित किया गया कि भंडार समाप्त होने के साथ यह वृद्धि अल्पकालिक होगी।
- Unlike in **Saudi Arabia** and **Russia**, where governments fully or partially set production and export targets, the **U.S. boom** hinges on private companies' decisions and is primarily driven by profits.
  सऊदी अरब और **रूस** के विपरीत, जहां सरकारें उत्पादन और निर्यात लक्ष्य निर्धारित करती हैं, **अमेरिकी उछाल** निजी कंपनियों के निर्णयों पर आधारित है और मुख्य रूप से लाभ से संचालित होता है।
- When oil prices rise, **U.S. firms** will respond by raising production, which will help bring prices down.
  जब तेल की कीमतें बढ़ती हैं, तो **अमेरिकी कंपनियां** उत्पादन बढ़ाती हैं, जिससे कीमतों को नीचे लाने में मदद मिलती है।
- When prices are weak, **U.S. firms** will cut output, which will boost prices, said **Kenneth Medlock III**, a fellow in Energy and Resource Economics at the **Baker Institute for Public Policy**.
  बेकर इंस्टीट्यूट फॉर पब्लिक पॉलिसी के ऊर्जा एवं संसाधन अर्थशास्त्र विशेषज्ञ **केनेथ मेडलॉक III** ने कहा कि जब कीमतें कमजोर होती हैं तो **अमेरिकी कंपनियां** उत्पादन घटा देती हैं, जिससे कीमतें बढ़ती हैं।
- "In many ways, it's kind of a similar role to what **OPEC** and **Saudi Arabia** have been doing with spare production capacity, but it's more of a market mechanism than a strategic device," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "कई मायनों में यह उसी तरह की भूमिका है जैसी **ओपेक** और **सऊदी अरब** अतिरिक्त उत्पादन

क्षमता के माध्यम से निभाते रहे हैं, लेकिन यह एक रणनीतिक उपकरण की बजाय अधिक **बाजार आधारित तंत्र** है।"

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
12J6	Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister निपाह प्रकोप को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयास जारी: केरल मंत्री
12J6	Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala केरल में बैसिलरी पेचिश के मामलों में वृद्धि
12J6	Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6 गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग और महिलाओं द्वारा वहन किया जाने वाला भार: NFHS-6 से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियाँ
12J6	Ingredient for sunscreen सनस्क्रीन के लिए घटक
12J6	Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि भ्रांतियाँ पुरुषों को नसबंदी करवाने से अब भी हतोत्साहित करती हैं
12J6	The Darwin of Botany वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन

Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister

Contact list of persons who might have interacted with the patient drawn up; no containment zone needed as none other than the patient had shown symptoms, says K. Muraleedharan

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Health Department in Kerala is maintaining maximum vigilance and taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that the current Nipah outbreak in Kozhikode is contained and that no nosocomial or human-to-human transmission of the virus occurs.

The patient, a 43-year-old man from Ramanattukara, who was transferred from a private hospital to the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode on Wednesday with encephalitis symptoms, is stable and on ventilator support.

Health workers at the Nipah isolation ward at the Government Medical College Hospital in Kozhikode on Thursday. K. RAGESH

Health Minister K. Muraleedharan, who spoke to mediapersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, after holding a high-level meeting with Health and medical college officials, said that a contact list of 77 persons who might have closely interacted with the patient had been drawn up. The list includes 58 healthcare workers, 14 family members of the patient, and five co-workers and friends.

Of the 77 persons, two have been categorised as being at the "highest risk", 13 at "high risk", and 62 at low risk. He said that as of now, there was no need for earmarking a containment zone as none other than the patient had shown any symptoms.

The Health Department was preparing the patient's route map, and he appeared to have visited several healthcare establishments from May 10 before reaching the Kozhikode medical college, Mr. Muraleedharan said.

The Rapid Response Team in Kozhikode had met and adequate stocks of personal protection equipment and medicines were being made available. A control room has been opened at Kozhikode district medical administration's office.

12J6. Efforts on to contain Nipah outbreak: Kerala Minister

निपाह प्रकोप को नियंत्रित करने के प्रयास जारी: केरल मंत्री

- **Health workers** at the **Nipah isolation ward** at the **Government Medical College Hospital** in **Kozhikode** on Thursday.
गुरुवार को **कोझिकोड** स्थित **सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल** के **निपाह आइसोलेशन वार्ड** में **स्वास्थ्यकर्मी**।
- **Contact list** of persons who might have interacted with the **patient** drawn up.
उन व्यक्तियों की **संपर्क सूची** तैयार की गई है जो **रोगी** के संपर्क में आए हो सकते हैं।

- No **containment zone** needed as none other than the patient had shown **symptoms**, says **K. Muraleedharan**.
  के. मुरलीधरन ने कहा कि **रोगी** के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य व्यक्ति में **लक्षण** नहीं पाए गए हैं, इसलिए किसी **नियंत्रण क्षेत्र (कंटेनमेंट ज़ोन)** की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

Kerala maintains maximum vigilance amid Nipah outbreak
निपाह प्रकोप के बीच केरल में उच्चतम स्तर की सतर्कता बरकरार

- The **Health Department** in **Kerala** is maintaining maximum vigilance and taking all possible preventive measures to ensure that the current **Nipah outbreak** in **Kozhikode** is contained and that no **nosocomial** or **human-to-human transmission** of the virus occurs.
  केरल का **स्वास्थ्य विभाग** अधिकतम सतर्कता बनाए हुए है और सभी संभावित निवारक उपाय कर रहा है ताकि **कोझिकोड** में वर्तमान **निपाह प्रकोप** को नियंत्रित किया जा सके तथा वायरस का **अस्पताल-जनित (नोसोकोमियल)** या **मानव-से-मानव संक्रमण** न हो।
- The patient, a **43-year-old man** from **Ramanattukara**, who was transferred from a private hospital to the **Government Medical College Hospital (MCH), Kozhikode** on Wednesday with **encephalitis symptoms**, is stable and on **ventilator support**.
  रामनट्टुकारा के **43 वर्षीय व्यक्ति**, जिन्हें **एन्सेफलाइटिस के लक्षणों** के साथ बुधवार को एक निजी अस्पताल से **सरकारी मेडिकल कॉलेज अस्पताल (एमसीएच), कोझिकोड** स्थानांतरित किया गया था, उनकी स्थिति स्थिर है और वे **वेंटिलेटर सहायता** पर हैं।
- **Health Minister K. Muraleedharan**, who spoke to mediapersons in **Thiruvananthapuram** on Thursday, after holding a high-level meeting with Health and medical college officials, said that a **contact list** of **77 persons** who might have closely interacted with the patient had been drawn up.
  स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के. मुरलीधरन ने गुरुवार को **तिरुवनंतपुरम** में स्वास्थ्य विभाग और मेडिकल कॉलेज अधिकारियों के साथ उच्चस्तरीय बैठक के बाद मीडिया से बातचीत करते हुए कहा कि रोगी के निकट संपर्क में आए संभावित **77 व्यक्तियों** की **संपर्क सूची** तैयार कर ली गई है।
- The list includes **58 healthcare workers**, **14 family members** of the patient, and **five co-workers and friends**.
  इस सूची में **58 स्वास्थ्यकर्मी**, रोगी के **14 परिजन**, तथा **पाँच सहकर्मी और मित्र** शामिल हैं।
- Of the **77 persons**, two have been categorised as being at the **"highest risk"**, 13 at **"high risk"**, and 62 at **low risk**.
  इन **77 व्यक्तियों** में से दो को **"अत्यधिक जोखिम"**, 13 को **"उच्च जोखिम"**, तथा 62 को **निम्न जोखिम** श्रेणी में रखा गया है।
- He said that as of now, there was no need for earmarking a **containment zone** as none other than the patient had shown any symptoms.
  उन्होंने कहा कि फिलहाल **नियंत्रण क्षेत्र (कंटेनमेंट ज़ोन)** घोषित करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि रोगी के अतिरिक्त किसी अन्य व्यक्ति में कोई लक्षण नहीं पाए गए हैं।
- The **Health Department** was preparing the patient's **route map**, and he appeared to have visited several healthcare establishments from **May 10** before reaching the Kozhikode medical college, Mr. Muraleedharan said.
  श्री मुरलीधरन ने कहा कि **स्वास्थ्य विभाग** रोगी का **यात्रा मार्ग मानचित्र (रूट मैप)** तैयार कर रहा है और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि कोझिकोड मेडिकल कॉलेज पहुँचने से पहले वह **10 मई** से कई स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों में गया था।
- The **Rapid Response Team** in Kozhikode had met and adequate stocks of **personal protective equipment (PPE)** and medicines were being made available.
  कोझिकोड की **रैपिड रिस्पॉन्स टीम** की बैठक हो चुकी है तथा पर्याप्त मात्रा में **व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा उपकरण (पीपीई)** और दवाओं की उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित की जा रही है।
- A **control room** has been opened at Kozhikode district medical administration's office.
  कोझिकोड जिला चिकित्सा प्रशासन के कार्यालय में एक **नियंत्रण कक्ष (कंट्रोल रूम)** स्थापित किया गया है।

Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

More cases of shigellosis (bacillary dysentery), a highly contagious bacterial diarrhoeal disease caused by shigella, are being reported across Kerala, with a total of 34 cases reported in June alone.

Thiruvananthapuram has reported six cases, Kollam and Idukki one each, Alapuzha three, Malappuram and Kannur two each, Kozhikode 11 and Wayanad eight.

Three more children tested positive for shigellosis at Wayanad Mar Baselios HSS on Thursday, where around 514 children have shown symptoms of the infection. The results of seven more samples are awaited, Health Minister K. Muraleedharan said here on Thursday.

He said that 47 people are currently undergoing treatment in hospitals, both public and private, in Wayanad, while three people were hospitalised in Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram, and two others in Kollam.

Mr. Muraleedharan said that water samples from both the borewell as well as the well in Mar Baselios school had been sent for testing and that the well water was found to be highly contaminated.

Shigellosis is sporadically reported from all districts every year, with occasional outbreaks. Last year, a total of 133 cases had been reported, with zero deaths.

Shigellosis is a severe form of diarrhoeal outbreak involving intestinal tissue invasion by the bacteria, causing highly infectious, bloody, and mucoid stools (bacillary dysentery) accompanied by high fever and severe abdominal cramps.

The infection spreads through contaminated water, food and contact from infected surfaces and is extremely infectious. Ingesting as few as 10 to 100 bacteria can cause an infection. It spreads rapidly via the fecal-oral route.

12J6. Bacillary dysentery cases rise in Kerala

केरल में बैसिलरी पेचिश के मामलों में वृद्धि

- More cases of **shigellosis (bacillary dysentery)**, a highly contagious **bacterial diarrhoeal disease** caused by **Shigella**, are being reported across **Kerala**, with a total of **34 cases** reported in **June** alone.
  शिगेलोसिस (बैसिलरी पेचिश), जो **शिगेला** जीवाणु से होने वाला अत्यधिक संक्रामक **जीवाणुजनित अतिसार रोग** है, के मामले पूरे **केरल** में बढ़ रहे हैं। केवल **जून माह** में ही इसके **34 मामले** दर्ज किए गए हैं।
- Mr. Muraleedharan said that **water samples** from both the **borewell** as well as the **well** in **Mar Baselios School** had been sent for testing and that the well water was found to be **highly contaminated**.
  श्री मुरलीधरन ने बताया कि **मार बेसेलियोस स्कूल** के **बोरवेल** और **कुएँ** दोनों के **जल नमूने** परीक्षण के लिए भेजे गए थे तथा कुएँ का पानी **अत्यधिक दूषित** पाया गया है।
- Shigellosis is sporadically reported from all districts every year, with occasional outbreaks.
  शिगेलोसिस के मामले प्रत्येक वर्ष राज्य के सभी जिलों से छिटपुट रूप में सामने आते हैं और समय-समय पर इसके प्रकोप भी देखे जाते हैं।
- Shigellosis is a severe form of diarrhoeal outbreak involving **intestinal tissue invasion** by the bacteria, causing highly infectious, **bloody and mucoid stools (bacillary dysentery)** accompanied by **high fever** and **severe abdominal cramps**.
  शिगेलोसिस अतिसार का एक गंभीर रूप है, जिसमें जीवाणु **आंतों के ऊतकों पर आक्रमण** करते हैं, जिससे अत्यधिक संक्रामक **रक्तयुक्त एवं श्लेष्मायुक्त मल (बैसिलरी पेचिश)**, **उच्च ज्वर** तथा **गंभीर पेट दर्द और ऐंठन** की समस्या उत्पन्न होती है।
- The infection spreads through **contaminated water**, **food** and contact from **infected surfaces** and is extremely infectious.
  यह संक्रमण **दूषित जल**, **दूषित भोजन** तथा **संक्रमित सतहों के संपर्क** से फैलता है और अत्यंत संक्रामक होता है।
- Ingesting as few as **10 to 100 bacteria** can cause an infection.
  केवल **10 से 100 जीवाणुओं** के शरीर में प्रवेश करने से भी संक्रमण हो सकता है।
- It spreads rapidly via the **fecal-oral route**.
  यह संक्रमण **मल-मुख मार्ग (फीकल-ओरल रूट)** से अत्यंत तीव्र गति से फैलता है।

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Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6

India must invest in policies that move contraceptive use from compliance to choice: this will involve ensuring no girl is married before the age of 18, investing in rural secondary education, and increasing access to reversible scientific contraception methods

GS III: S&T [illegible]

Trishna Sarkar
C. Saratchand

Reproductive agency, the power to decide whether, when, and how to bear children is a vital and necessary component of women's empowerment, and yet, is often not taken into account when metrics of income, education, mobility and political representation are analysed.

India's demographic transition, as reflected in the latest round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023-24), besides revealing incremental changes in health indicators, also signals a structural shift in the domain of reproductive agency. Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency.

History of contraceptive use

India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility.

The following data, drawn from the NFHS-6 (2023-24) survey of currently married women aged 15- 49 years, maps the reproductive and contraceptive landscape across urban and rural India, and against the NFHS-5 baseline:

A striking finding in the NFHS-6 data is the persistence of early marriage. Nationally, 20.1% of women aged 20-24 was married before the age of 18, with the rural figure reaching 23.3% – unchanged from NFHS-5. Among men, 15.9% aged 25-29 were married before 21. These trends are not only legal failures, they are also healthcare setbacks.

A girl married before she has had the opportunity to complete secondary education or enter the paid workforce, confronts a significantly extended reproductive window. When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences. The data bears this out: 6.7% of women aged 15-19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey rising to 7.9% in rural areas.

From a public health standpoint, early marriage is not merely a social problem, it is a reproductive health emergency with lifelong consequences. Girls married young are less likely to know their contraceptive options, less likely to be able to negotiate their use, and more likely to undergo less spaced-out pregnancies. The cumulative physiological burden of anaemia, obstetric complications and maternal mortality is concentrated precisely in this demographic. Yet policy conversations about fertility routinely overlook the role of early marital unions, seeking to unsuccessfully treat the symptom (high fertility) while ignoring the structural cause (constrained reproductive agency).

The rural-urban divide in these figures is striking. Urban women tend to marry later, complete more schooling, and are exposed to a broader suite of contraceptive options. Rural women face the inverse: earlier marital unions, relatively less agency, and a healthcare infrastructure that, as we shall see, defaults to unattainable permanent solutions rather than investing in what is relevant: public healthcare.

Reproductive rights: India's engagement with contraception dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official family planning programme but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility. FILE PHOTO

On sterilisation

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method in India, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas. Male sterilisation, by contrast, stands at a negligible 0.5%. This gargantuan skew is the consequence of policy design and gender disempowerment.

The NFHS-6 data also shows a modest decline in female sterilisation from 37.9% (NFHS-5) to 36.5%, alongside a sharp rise in traditional method use (from 10.3% to 16.4%) and a slight decline in modern reversible methods (from 56.4% to 52.7%). Read together, these trends suggest that some women are able to step back from sterilisation – but into informal, less medically supported methods rather than towards reversible scientific methods that would authentically enhance reproductive autonomy.

Female sterilisation remains the dominant contraceptive method, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas

Female sterilisation in India's public health system has a troubled history. The mass sterilisation camps epitomised by the Bilaspur tragedy of 2014, in which 13 women died following a single-day mass sterilisation drive are not aberrations but logical consequences of a system that treats women's reproductive capacity as a population management problem to be solved at scale, cheaply and rapidly. Tubectomies and sterilisation surgeries done in rural government hospitals can sometimes be risky – these facilities are overcrowded, staff are not always well-trained, and the focus is on performing as many procedures as possible rather than on scientific patient care. Women who go through these surgeries can get infections, complications from maladministered anaesthesia or failed procedures resulting in persistent morbidity. Most women are compelled to access what they can afford, namely underfunded public healthcare. Most women undergoing such procedures are not empowered to make an informed choice due to their being at the short end of the stick of the social reproduction and social production processes.

Towards reproductive agency

An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture.

Three policy imperatives follow from such an analysis. First, early marriage must be addressed as a reproductive health crisis by retaining girls in school, fully implementing the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act and investing in rural secondary education for girls. Second, policy must pivot from unsustainable permanent methods of contraception toward increasing access for reversible scientific contraception through augmenting community based public healthcare. Third, the diminishing of the gender skew in contraception must become a programmatic priority of policy. Sustainable demographic transition presupposes reproductive agency of women.

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THE GIST

- Contraception, once framed primarily as an instrument of population control, is increasingly emerging as a marker of women's reproduction agency
- When contraceptive access is limited, awareness of healthcare attenuated, or agency within the family is negligible, unhealthy pregnancies, unsustainably more births, and heightened maternal and child health risk are the consequences
- An analysis of the NFHS-6 data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling reproductive agency by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture

12J6. Contraceptive use and the weight women carry: insights from NFHS-6 गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग और महिलाओं द्वारा वहन किया जाने वाला भार: NFHS-6 से प्राप्त अंतर्दृष्टियाँ

- **Reproductive agency**, the power to decide whether, when, and how to bear children is a vital and necessary component of **women's empowerment**, and yet, is often not taken into account when metrics of income, education, mobility and political representation are analysed.

  प्रजनन स्वायत्तता, अर्थात यह निर्णय लेने की शक्ति कि बच्चे कब, कैसे और कितने हों, **महिला सशक्तिकरण**

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का एक महत्वपूर्ण और आवश्यक घटक है, फिर भी आय, शिक्षा, गतिशीलता और राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व के मापदण्डों का विश्लेषण करते समय इसे प्रायः ध्यान में नहीं रखा जाता है।

- Reproductive agency means that a woman can make decisions regarding marriage, pregnancy, childbirth, and contraception without coercion or social pressure.
- India's **demographic transition**, as reflected in the latest round of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6, 2023–24)**, besides revealing incremental changes in health indicators, also signals a structural shift in the domain of **reproductive agency**.
  भारत का **जनसांख्यिकीय संक्रमण**, जैसा कि **राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-6, 2023–24)** के नवीनतम दौर में परिलक्षित होता है, स्वास्थ्य संकेतकों में क्रमिक परिवर्तनों को दर्शाने के साथ-साथ **प्रजनन स्वायत्तता** के क्षेत्र में एक संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन का भी संकेत देता है।

History of contraceptive use
गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग का इतिहास

- India's engagement with **contraception** dates back to 1952, when it became the first country to launch an official **family planning programme** but with women bearing a disproportionate share of the required responsibility.
  भारत में **गर्भनिरोध** के साथ जुड़ाव 1952 से प्रारम्भ होता है, जब वह आधिकारिक **परिवार नियोजन कार्यक्रम** शुरू करने वाला पहला देश बना, किन्तु इसकी अपेक्षित जिम्मेदारी का असंगत रूप से बड़ा हिस्सा महिलाओं को वहन करना पड़ा।
- A striking finding in the **NFHS-6** data is the persistence of **early marriage**.
  NFHS-6 के आँकड़ों में एक उल्लेखनीय निष्कर्ष **बाल विवाह** की निरंतरता है।
- Nationally, 20.1% of women aged 20–24 was married before the age of 18, with the rural figure reaching 23.3% — unchanged from NFHS-5.
  राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, 20–24 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की 20.1% महिलाएँ 18 वर्ष की आयु से पहले विवाह कर चुकी थीं, जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह आँकड़ा 23.3% तक पहुँच गया — जो NFHS-5 की तुलना में अपरिवर्तित है।
- Among men, 15.9% aged 25–29 were married before 21.
  पुरुषों में, 25–29 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के 15.9% व्यक्तियों का विवाह 21 वर्ष की आयु से पहले हो गया था।
- The data bears this out: 6.7% of women aged 15–19 were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the survey rising to 7.9% in rural areas.
  आँकड़े इसकी पुष्टि करते हैं: 15–19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की 6.7% महिलाएँ सर्वेक्षण के समय या तो पहले से माताएँ थीं अथवा गर्भवती थीं, जबकि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह आँकड़ा बढ़कर 7.9% हो गया था।
- Girls married young are less likely to know their **contraceptive options**, less likely to be able to negotiate their use, and more likely to undergo less spaced-out pregnancies.
  कम आयु में विवाह करने वाली लड़कियाँ अपने **गर्भनिरोधक विकल्पों** के बारे में कम जानती हैं, उनके उपयोग पर निर्णय लेने में कम सक्षम होती हैं, और उनके गर्भधारण के बीच पर्याप्त अंतर होने की संभावना भी कम होती है।
- The cumulative physiological burden of **anaemia**, **obstetric complications** and **maternal mortality** is concentrated precisely in this demographic.
  एनीमिया, **प्रसूति संबंधी जटिलताओं** और **मातृ मृत्यु दर** का संचयी शारीरिक भार मुख्य रूप से इसी जनसमूह पर केंद्रित होता है।
- Urban women tend to marry later, complete more schooling, and are exposed to a broader suite of **contraceptive options**.
  शहरी महिलाएँ सामान्यतः देर से विवाह करती हैं, अधिक शिक्षा प्राप्त करती हैं और **गर्भनिरोधक विकल्पों** की व्यापक श्रृंखला तक उनकी पहुँच होती है।

On sterilisation
नसबंदी पर

- **Female sterilisation** remains the dominant contraceptive method in India, accounting for 36.5% of all contraceptive use nationally and is as high as 38.1% in rural areas.
  महिला नसबंदी भारत में अब भी प्रमुख गर्भनिरोधक उपाय बनी हुई है, जो राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कुल गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग का 36.5% है तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में यह 38.1% तक पहुँच जाती है।
- **Male sterilisation**, by contrast, stands at a negligible 0.5%.
  इसके विपरीत, **पुरुष नसबंदी** का स्तर मात्र 0.5% है।
- This gargantuan skew is the consequence of **policy design** and **gender disempowerment**.
  यह अत्यधिक असंतुलन **नीतिगत संरचना** और **लैंगिक असशक्तिकरण** का परिणाम है।
- The **NFHS-6** data also shows a modest decline in female sterilisation from 37.9% (NFHS-5) to 36.5%, alongside a sharp rise in **traditional method** use (from 10.3% to 16.4%) and a slight decline in **modern reversible methods** (from 56.4% to 52.7%).
  NFHS-6 के आँकड़े यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि महिला नसबंदी 37.9% (NFHS-5) से घटकर 36.5% हुई है, जबकि **पारंपरिक विधियों** के उपयोग में तीव्र वृद्धि (10.3% से 16.4%) और **आधुनिक प्रतिवर्ती विधियों** में हल्की गिरावट (56.4% से 52.7%) दर्ज की गई है।
- The mass sterilisation camps epitomised by the **Bilaspur tragedy of 2014**, in which 13 women died following a single-day mass sterilisation drive are not aberrations but logical consequences of a system that treats women's reproductive capacity as a **population management** problem to be solved at scale, cheaply and rapidly.
  2014 की बिलासपुर त्रासदी, जिसमें एक दिवसीय सामूहिक नसबंदी अभियान के बाद 13 महिलाओं की मृत्यु हो गई थी, कोई अपवाद नहीं थी, बल्कि उस व्यवस्था का तार्किक परिणाम थी जो महिलाओं की प्रजनन क्षमता को बड़े पैमाने पर, सस्ते और त्वरित तरीके से हल किए जाने वाले **जनसंख्या प्रबंधन** के प्रश्न के रूप में देखती है।
- **Tubectomies and sterilisation surgeries** done in rural government hospitals can sometimes be risky — these facilities are overcrowded, staff are not always well-trained, and the focus is on performing as many procedures as possible rather than on scientific **patient care**.
  ग्रामीण सरकारी अस्पतालों में की जाने वाली ट्यूबेक्टॉमी और नसबंदी शल्यक्रियाएँ कभी-कभी जोखिमपूर्ण हो सकती हैं — ये संस्थान अत्यधिक भीड़भाड़ वाले होते हैं, कर्मचारी सदैव पर्याप्त रूप से प्रशिक्षित नहीं होते, और ध्यान वैज्ञानिक **रोगी देखभाल** के बजाय अधिक से अधिक प्रक्रियाएँ करने पर केंद्रित रहता है।
- Women who go through these surgeries can get infections, complications from maladministered anaesthesia or failed procedures resulting in persistent **morbidity**.
  इन शल्यक्रियाओं से गुजरने वाली महिलाओं को संक्रमण, गलत तरीके से दिए गए एनेस्थीसिया से उत्पन्न जटिलताएँ अथवा असफल प्रक्रियाओं के कारण दीर्घकालिक **रोगग्रस्तता** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- Most women undergoing such procedures are not empowered to make an informed choice due to their being at the short end of the stick of the **social reproduction** and **social production** processes.
  ऐसी प्रक्रियाओं से गुजरने वाली अधिकांश महिलाएँ **सामाजिक पुनरुत्पादन** और **सामाजिक उत्पादन** की प्रक्रियाओं में प्रतिकूल स्थिति में होने के कारण सूचित निर्णय लेने में सक्षम नहीं होतीं।

Towards reproductive agency
प्रजनन स्वायत्तता की ओर

- An analysis of the **NFHS-6** data demonstrates that contraception in India is no longer merely about limiting births, but about enabling **reproductive agency** by overcoming the underlying unequal social architecture.
  NFHS-6 के आँकड़ों का विश्लेषण दर्शाता है कि भारत में गर्भनिरोध अब केवल जन्मों को सीमित करने का विषय नहीं रह गया है, बल्कि असमान सामाजिक संरचना को दूर करके **प्रजनन स्वायत्तता** को सक्षम बनाने का माध्यम बन गया है।
- First, **early marriage** must be addressed as a reproductive health crisis by retaining girls in school, fully implementing the **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act** and investing in rural secondary education for girls.

प्रथम, **बाल विवाह** को प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य संकट के रूप में संबोधित किया जाना चाहिए, जिसके लिए लड़कियों को विद्यालय में बनाए रखना, **बाल विवाह प्रतिषेध अधिनियम** का पूर्ण क्रियान्वयन करना तथा ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लड़कियों की माध्यमिक शिक्षा में निवेश करना आवश्यक है।

- Second, policy must pivot from unsustainable **permanent methods of contraception** toward increasing access for **reversible scientific contraception** through augmenting community based public healthcare.
  द्वितीय, नीति को अस्थिर **स्थायी गर्भनिरोधक विधियों** से हटकर समुदाय-आधारित सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को सुदृढ़ करते हुए **प्रतिवर्ती वैज्ञानिक गर्भनिरोधक साधनों** की पहुँच बढ़ाने पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए।
- Third, the diminishing of the **gender skew** in contraception must become a programmatic priority of policy.
  तृतीय, गर्भनिरोध में विद्यमान **लैंगिक असंतुलन** को कम करना नीति की एक कार्यक्रमगत प्राथमिकता बनना चाहिए।

Ingredient for sunscreen

Reuters

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday said it added bemotrizinol to its list of permitted active ingredients, marking the first new UV (Ultraviolet) filter to be cleared for over-the-counter sunscreens since the late 1990s.

Bemotrizinol helps protect against both ultraviolet A and B rays and has low levels of absorption through the skin into the body, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said.

12J6. Ingredient for sunscreen
सनस्क्रीन के लिए घटक

- **The U.S. Food and Drug Administration** on Tuesday said it added **bemotrizinol** to its list of permitted active ingredients, marking the first new **UV (Ultraviolet) filter** to be cleared for **over-the-counter sunscreens** since the late 1990s.

मंगलवार को **अमेरिकी खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन (U.S. Food and Drug Administration)** ने कहा कि उसने **बेमोट्रिजिनोल (bemotrizinol)** को अनुमत सक्रिय अवयवों की सूची में शामिल कर लिया है, जिससे यह 1990 के दशक के उत्तरार्ध के बाद **ओवर-द-काउंटर सनस्क्रीन** के लिए स्वीकृत किया जाने वाला पहला नया **यूवी (पराबैंगनी) फ़िल्टर** बन गया है।

- **Bemotrizinol** helps protect against both **ultraviolet A and B rays** and has low levels of absorption through the skin into the body, the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** said.

बेमोट्रिजिनोल पराबैंगनी A तथा B किरणों दोनों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करने में सहायता करता है और त्वचा के माध्यम से शरीर में इसका अवशोषण बहुत कम मात्रा में होता है, ऐसा **अमेरिकी खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन** ने कहा।

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Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts

GS III: S&T

Athira Elssa Johnson

A study published in the journal BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India

According to the findings of the sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has remained at 2.0 children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1. The survey also points to improved access to family planning services, with the contraceptive prevalence rate increasing from 66.7% in NFHS-5 to 69.1%. The burden of contraception, however, continues to remain shouldered largely by women.

Sterilisation, accounts for a significant chunk of contraception methods used in India. As per NFHS-6, male sterilisation (vasectomy) remains at a dismal 0.5%, barely a change from 0.3% in NFHS-5.

Experts say misconceptions surrounding vasectomy continue to discourage men from taking a more active role in family planning, placing a disproportionate share of the burden on women. A study published in the journal *BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health* found that fears about loss of libido and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India, with uptake declining from 3.31% in the early 1990s.

Experts note that vasectomy is a simple, safe and highly effective long term contraceptive method that does not affect sexual performance or libido, contrary to these widespread myths. One of the most persistent misconceptions surrounding vasectomy is that it diminishes sexual function. However, there is no evidence to support these claims.

N. Ragavan, senior consultant-urologist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, said the belief is cultural and has no clinical basis. "Fertility should not be tied to misconceptions that equate a man's reproductive capacity with his masculinity as though fewer sperm somehow mean less manhood," he said, adding that vasectomy does not affect testosterone levels or sexual drive. The procedure merely involves blocking the sperm-carrying tube and does not interfere with blood supply to the testes or their normal function. It has nothing to do with libido or erectile function, he said.

Muthu Veeramani, director and senior consultant, urology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, added that studies have consistently shown that vasectomy does not affect testosterone production, sexual desire or sexual performance.

Experts also sought to dispel the notion that vasectomy is a major surgery associated with serious health risks.

Vasantharaja Ramasamy, senior consultant, urology, MGM Malar Hospital, Chennai, said the procedure is usually carried out under local anaesthesia. After identifying the vas deferens (sperm duct) through palpation, a small incision is made and the tube is divided and sealed to prevent reconnection. Patients are discharged within a few hours and can resume routine activities after a couple of days, although heavy physical activity should be avoided for about a week.

Myths from social media

Doctors also rejected several myths circulating on social media, including claims that vasectomy causes obesity, cancer, infections or long-term health complications. Dr. Ragavan said there was no indication that the procedure increased the risk of obesity or cancer, and no scientific evidence to support such claims.

Despite being simpler and less invasive than female sterilisation, vasectomy continues to have low acceptance, especially in India. One major concern among men is that vasectomy is irreversible and could lead to regrets later in life. Experts emphasise that recanalisation procedures performed within three years of vasectomy have success rates exceeding 90%. Additionally, advances in microscopic surgery have improved outcomes when reversals are undertaken after proper counselling.

Greater male participation in reproductive health, doctors noted, would make reproductive healthcare more equitable.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

12J6. Misconceptions continue to deter men from getting vasectomies, say experts

विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि भ्रांतियाँ पुरुषों को नसबंदी करवाने से अब भी हतोत्साहित करती हैं

- According to the findings of the sixth **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6)**, India's **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** has remained at 2.0 children per woman, below the replacement level of 2.1.
  छठे **राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS-6)** के निष्कर्षों के अनुसार, भारत की **कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR)** प्रति महिला 2.0 बच्चों पर बनी हुई है, जो 2.1 के प्रतिस्थापन स्तर से कम है।
- The survey also points to improved access to **family planning services**, with the **contraceptive prevalence rate** increasing from 66.7% in NFHS-5 to 69.1%.
  सर्वेक्षण में **परिवार नियोजन सेवाओं** तक बेहतर पहुँच का भी संकेत मिला है, जिसमें **गर्भनिरोधक उपयोग दर** NFHS-5 के 66.7% से बढ़कर 69.1% हो गई है।
- **Sterilisation**, accounts for a significant chunk of contraception methods used in India.
  नसबंदी, भारत में उपयोग किए जाने वाले गर्भनिरोधक उपायों का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है।
- As per NFHS-6, **male sterilisation (vasectomy)** remains at a dismal 0.5%, barely a change from 0.3% in NFHS-5.
  NFHS-6 के अनुसार, **पुरुष नसबंदी (वेसेक्टॉमी)** की दर मात्र 0.5% है, जो NFHS-5 के 0.3% से बहुत कम वृद्धि दर्शाती है।
- A study published in the journal **BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health** found that fears about loss of **libido** and physical weakness, social stigma, poor awareness and health system barriers continue to impede acceptance of vasectomy among married men in India, with uptake declining from 3.31% in the early 1990s.

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पत्रिका **BMJ Sexual & Reproductive Health** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **कामेच्छा** में कमी, शारीरिक कमजोरी, सामाजिक कलंक, जागरूकता की कमी तथा स्वास्थ्य व्यवस्था की बाधाओं से जुड़ी आशंकाएँ भारत के विवाहित पुरुषों में वेसेक्टॉमी की स्वीकृति को अब भी बाधित करती हैं, और इसका उपयोग 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में 3.31% से घट गया है।

- Experts note that vasectomy is a simple, safe and highly effective **long term contraceptive method** that does not affect sexual performance or libido, contrary to these widespread myths.
  विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि वेसेक्टॉमी एक सरल, सुरक्षित और अत्यधिक प्रभावी **दीर्घकालिक गर्भनिरोधक विधि** है, जो यौन क्षमता या कामेच्छा को प्रभावित नहीं करती, जबकि इसके विपरीत कई भ्रांतियाँ प्रचलित हैं।
- One of the most persistent misconceptions surrounding vasectomy is that it diminishes **sexual function**.
  वेसेक्टॉमी से जुड़ी सबसे प्रचलित भ्रांतियों में से एक यह है कि यह **यौन कार्यक्षमता** को कम कर देती है।
- "Fertility should not be tied to misconceptions that equate a man's reproductive capacity with his masculinity as though fewer sperm somehow mean less manhood," he said, adding that vasectomy does not affect **testosterone levels** or **sexual drive**.
  उन्होंने कहा, "प्रजनन क्षमता को उन भ्रांतियों से नहीं जोड़ा जाना चाहिए जो पुरुष की प्रजनन क्षमता को उसकी पुरुषत्व से जोड़ती हैं, मानो कम शुक्राणु होने का अर्थ कम पुरुषत्व हो।" उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वेसेक्टॉमी **टेस्टोस्टेरोन स्तर** या **यौन इच्छा** को प्रभावित नहीं करती।
- The procedure merely involves blocking the **sperm-carrying tube** and does not interfere with blood supply to the testes or their normal function.
  इस प्रक्रिया में केवल **शुक्राणु ले जाने वाली नलिका** को अवरुद्ध किया जाता है और यह वृषणों की रक्त आपूर्ति या उनकी सामान्य कार्यप्रणाली में कोई हस्तक्षेप नहीं करती।
- It has nothing to do with libido or erectile function, he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि इसका कामेच्छा या स्तंभन क्षमता से कोई संबंध नहीं है।
- Muthu Veeramani, director and senior consultant, urology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, added that studies have consistently shown that vasectomy does not affect testosterone production, sexual desire or sexual performance.
  चेन्नई के SIMS अस्पताल के निदेशक एवं वरिष्ठ मूत्ररोग विशेषज्ञ **मुथु वीरमणि** ने कहा कि अध्ययनों ने लगातार यह सिद्ध किया है कि वेसेक्टॉमी टेस्टोस्टेरोन उत्पादन, यौन इच्छा या यौन प्रदर्शन को प्रभावित नहीं करती।
- **Experts also sought to dispel the notion that vasectomy is a major surgery associated with serious health risks.**
  विशेषज्ञों ने इस धारणा को भी खारिज किया कि वेसेक्टॉमी एक बड़ी शल्यक्रिया है जो गंभीर स्वास्थ्य जोखिमों से जुड़ी होती है।
- Vasantharaja Ramasamy, senior consultant, urology, MGM Malar Hospital, Chennai, said the procedure is usually carried out under **local anaesthesia**.
  चेन्नई के MGM मलार अस्पताल के वरिष्ठ मूत्ररोग विशेषज्ञ **वसंथराजा रामासामी** ने कहा कि यह प्रक्रिया सामान्यतः **स्थानीय संवेदनाहारी** के तहत की जाती है।
- After identifying the **vas deferens (sperm duct)** through palpation, a small incision is made and the tube is divided and sealed to prevent reconnection.
  स्पर्श परीक्षण द्वारा **वास डिफरेंस (शुक्रवाहिनी)** की पहचान करने के बाद एक छोटा चीरा लगाया जाता है और नलिका को काटकर सील कर दिया जाता है ताकि वह दोबारा न जुड़ सके।
- Patients are discharged within a few hours and can resume routine activities after a couple of days, although heavy physical activity should be avoided for about a week.
  रोगियों को कुछ घंटों के भीतर छुट्टी दे दी जाती है और वे कुछ दिनों बाद सामान्य गतिविधियाँ शुरू कर सकते हैं, हालांकि लगभग एक सप्ताह तक भारी शारीरिक कार्य से बचना चाहिए।

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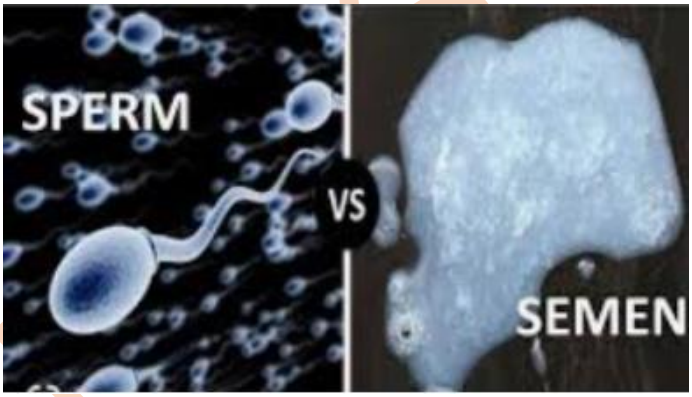
Myths from social media
सोशल मीडिया से फैलने वाली भ्रांतियाँ

- Doctors also rejected several myths circulating on social media, including claims that vasectomy causes **obesity**, **cancer**, infections or long-term health complications.
  चिकित्सकों ने सोशल मीडिया पर फैल रही कई भ्रांतियों को भी खारिज किया, जिनमें यह दावा शामिल है कि वेसेक्टॉमी से **मोटापा**, **कैंसर**, संक्रमण या दीर्घकालिक स्वास्थ्य जटिलताएँ होती हैं।
- Despite being simpler and less invasive than **female sterilisation**, vasectomy continues to have low acceptance, especially in India.
  महिला नसबंदी की तुलना में अधिक सरल और कम जटिल होने के बावजूद, वेसेक्टॉमी की स्वीकृति विशेषकर भारत में अभी भी कम है।
- One major concern among men is that vasectomy is irreversible and could lead to regrets later in life.
  पुरुषों के बीच एक प्रमुख चिंता यह है कि वेसेक्टॉमी अपरिवर्तनीय है और बाद में जीवन में पछतावे का कारण बन सकती है।



- Experts emphasise that **recanalisation procedures** performed within three years of vasectomy have success rates exceeding 90%.
  विशेषज्ञों ने जोर देकर कहा कि वेसेक्टॉमी के तीन वर्षों के भीतर की जाने वाली **रिकैनलाइज़ेशन प्रक्रियाओं** की सफलता दर 90% से अधिक होती है।
- Additionally, advances in **microscopic surgery** have improved outcomes when reversals are undertaken after proper counselling.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **सूक्ष्म शल्यचिकित्सा** में हुई प्रगति ने उचित परामर्श के बाद की जाने वाली पुनर्स्थापन प्रक्रियाओं के परिणामों में सुधार किया है।
- Greater male participation in **reproductive health**, doctors noted, would make reproductive healthcare more equitable.
  चिकित्सकों ने कहा कि **प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य** में पुरुषों की अधिक भागीदारी प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को अधिक न्यायसंगत और संतुलित बनाएगी।

The Darwin of Botany
GS III: S&T

London, June 11: Sir Jagdish Chandra Bose was entertained at a luncheon to-day by the British Indian Union. Lord Lee of Fareham, who presided, paid a tribute to Sir J.C. Bose's work in the cause of science and humanity. He stated that he understood that this "Darwin of Botany" hoped to make it possible to substitute plants for animals for vivisection.

Sir Jagdish emphasising the importance of science, said for the economic welfare of a vast continent like India, there must be two complementary activities, industry and agriculture, both depending on science.

12J6. The Darwin of Botany

वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन

- **London, June 11:** Sir **Jagdish Chandra Bose** was entertained at a luncheon to-day by the **British Indian Union**.
  लंदन, 11 जून: सर **जगदीश चंद्र बोस** के सम्मान में आज **ब्रिटिश इंडियन यूनियन** द्वारा एक भोज का आयोजन किया गया।
- **Lord Lee of Fareham**, who presided, paid a tribute to Sir **J.C. Bose's** work in the cause of **science** and **humanity**.
  अध्यक्षता कर रहे **लॉर्ड ली ऑफ फेयरहैम** ने **विज्ञान** और **मानवता** के क्षेत्र में सर **जे.सी. बोस** के कार्यों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।
- He stated that he understood that this **"Darwin of Botany"** hoped to make it possible to substitute **plants** for **animals** for **vivisection**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि उनकी समझ के अनुसार यह **"वनस्पति विज्ञान के डार्विन" विविसेक्शन (जीवित प्राणियों पर प्रयोग)** के लिए **पशुओं** के स्थान पर **पौधों** के उपयोग को संभव बनाना चाहते थे।

- Sir **Jagdish** emphasising the importance of **science**, said for the economic welfare of a vast continent like **India**, there must be two complementary activities, **industry** and **agriculture**, both depending on science.
  सर **जगदीश** ने **विज्ञान** के महत्व पर बल देते हुए कहा कि **भारत** जैसे विशाल महाद्वीप के आर्थिक कल्याण के लिए दो परस्पर पूरक गतिविधियाँ — **उद्योग** और **कृषि** — आवश्यक हैं, और दोनों ही **विज्ञान** पर निर्भर करती हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
12J6	Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol केंद्र ने उच्च इथेनॉल-मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क हटाया

Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

Union government exempts E22, E25, E27, and E30 variants from central excise duty; clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends

GS III: Environment

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Aiming to popularise the uptake of biofuels in the country, the Union government late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of ethanol. Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at 22%, 25%, 27% and 30% would be exempted from central excise duties.

In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.

"This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the government stated.

In the pipeline: The move is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, the government stated. ANI

The government clarified that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of ethanol with petrol, which is essentially a manufacturing activity. The objective is to avert the possibility of a dual levy.

"Petrol bears excise duty and ethanol bears GST at their respective stages. When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity," the Centre clarified.

"For ethanol blends of petrol up to 20%, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the Ministry of Finance. The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend," it added.

The gazette notification comes days after India formally launched the E85 variant of petrol, that is 85% ethanol blended with 15% gasoline, on June 5.

Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.

C.K. Jain, President of the Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GEMA) said that the move indicated a "strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment".

"It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions," he said.

Welcoming the move, Bharati Balaji, Deputy Director General at the All-India Distillers Association (AIDA) added, "We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump."

12J6. Centre lifts excise duty on higher ethanol-blend petrol

केंद्र ने उच्च इथेनॉल-मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क हटाया

- **The Union government** exempts **E22, E25, E27, and E30** variants from **central excise duty**.
  केंद्र सरकार ने **E22, E25, E27 और E30** प्रकार के पेट्रोल को **केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क** से मुक्त कर दिया है।
- The government clarifies that the latest reduction does not indicate anything on rolling out **higher blends**.
  सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह नवीनतम छूट **उच्च इथेनॉल मिश्रणों** को लागू करने का संकेत नहीं देती है।
- Aiming to popularise the uptake of **biofuels** in the country, the **Union government** late on Wednesday removed central excise duty on petrol blended with higher quantum of **ethanol**.
  देश में **जैव ईंधन (बायोफ्यूल)** के उपयोग को लोकप्रिय बनाने के उद्देश्य से **केंद्र सरकार** ने बुधवार देर रात अधिक मात्रा में **इथेनॉल** मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क हटा दिया।
- Following the move, petrol blended with ethanol at **22%, 25%, 27% and 30%** would be exempted from central excise duties.
  इस निर्णय के बाद **22%, 25%, 27% और 30%** इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल केंद्रीय उत्पाद शुल्क से मुक्त होगा।
- In a statement, the government clarified that the latest reduction did not indicate anything on rolling out higher blends.
  एक बयान में सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह नवीनतम छूट उच्च मिश्रणों को लागू करने के संबंध में कोई संकेत नहीं देती है।
- "This is a preliminary prerequisite for eventually introducing higher blends, but doesn't convey anything about roll out of higher blends as of now as that will only be done after extensive testing and consultation," the government stated.
  सरकार ने कहा, "यह भविष्य में उच्च मिश्रणों को लागू करने के लिए एक प्रारंभिक आवश्यक शर्त है, लेकिन वर्तमान में इनके लागू होने के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताती, क्योंकि ऐसा केवल व्यापक परीक्षण और परामर्श के बाद ही किया जाएगा।"
- The government clarified that the exemption specifically concerned the blending activity of **ethanol with petrol**, which is essentially a manufacturing activity.
  सरकार ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह छूट विशेष रूप से **पेट्रोल में इथेनॉल मिलाने** की प्रक्रिया से संबंधित है, जो मूलतः एक विनिर्माण गतिविधि है।
- The objective is to avert the possibility of a **dual levy**.
  इसका उद्देश्य **दोहरी कराधान (ड्यूल लेवी)** की संभावना को रोकना है।
- "Petrol bears **excise duty** and ethanol bears **GST** at their respective stages."
  "पेट्रोल पर उसके स्तर पर **उत्पाद शुल्क** लगता है और इथेनॉल पर उसके स्तर पर **जीएसटी** लगाया जाता है।"
- "When the two are blended, the resulting product may attract excise duty once again on the full quantity," the Centre clarified.
  केंद्र ने स्पष्ट किया कि जब दोनों को मिलाया जाता है, तो परिणामी उत्पाद पर पूरी मात्रा के आधार पर पुनः उत्पाद शुल्क लग सकता है।
- "For ethanol blends of petrol up to **20%**, excise duty on the blended petrol was exempted by the **Ministry of Finance**."
  "पेट्रोल में **20% तक इथेनॉल मिश्रण** के लिए मिश्रित पेट्रोल पर उत्पाद शुल्क से छूट **वित्त मंत्रालय** द्वारा पहले ही दी जा चुकी है।"
- "The exemption ensures that the duties already paid are not charged a second time on the blend," it added.
  इस छूट से यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि पहले से चुकाए गए करों को मिश्रित उत्पाद पर दोबारा न लगाया जाए।
- The **gazette notification** comes days after India formally launched the **E85** variant of petrol, that is **85% ethanol** blended with **15% gasoline**, on **June 5**.
  यह **राजपत्र अधिसूचना** भारत द्वारा **5 जून** को औपचारिक रूप से **E85** पेट्रोल (जिसमें **85% इथेनॉल** और **15% गैसोलीन** होता है) लॉन्च करने के कुछ दिनों बाद जारी की गई है।

- Industry associations across the ethanol blending value chain have welcomed the move to remove excise levy.
  इथेनॉल मिश्रण मूल्य श्रृंखला से जुड़े उद्योग संगठनों ने उत्पाद शुल्क हटाने के इस कदम का स्वागत किया है।
- **C.K. Jain**, President of the **Grain Ethanol Manufacturers Association (GEMA)**, said that the move indicated a "strong signal of policy stability and long-term commitment".
  ग्रेन इथेनॉल मैन्युफैक्चरर्स एसोसिएशन (GEMA) के अध्यक्ष **सी.के. जैन** ने कहा कि यह कदम "नीतिगत स्थिरता और दीर्घकालिक प्रतिबद्धता का मजबूत संकेत" है।
- "It is essential for attracting fresh investments across the ethanol value chain, including production capacity, logistics, storage, fuel retailing and flex-fuel mobility solutions," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि यह उत्पादन क्षमता, लॉजिस्टिक्स, भंडारण, ईंधन खुदरा बिक्री और फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल मोबिलिटी समाधानों सहित पूरी इथेनॉल मूल्य श्रृंखला में नए निवेश आकर्षित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Welcoming the move, **Bharati Balaji**, Deputy Director General at the **All-India Distillers Association (AIDA)**, added, "We urge the state governments to complement this measure with aligned tax structures so that the full benefit reaches both industry and consumers at the pump."
  इस निर्णय का स्वागत करते हुए **ऑल-इंडिया डिस्टिलर्स एसोसिएशन (AIDA)** की उप महानिदेशक **भारती बालाजी** ने कहा, "हम राज्य सरकारों से आग्रह करते हैं कि वे समन्वित कर संरचनाओं के माध्यम से इस कदम का समर्थन करें, ताकि इसका पूरा लाभ उद्योग और उपभोक्ताओं दोनों तक पेट्रोल पंप स्तर पर पहुँच सके।"

GS Paper III: Internal Security	12 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
12J6	No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027' '2027 से पूर्वोत्तर के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में AFSPA नहीं होगा'

'No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027'

GS III: Internal Security

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, will be withdrawn from the entire Northeast next year, barring one or two States.

Speaking after signing a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Centre, Assam, and Nagaland on mineral and oil operations in the disputed Assam-Nagaland boundary areas, Mr. Shah said fewer areas being covered under AFSPA indicate peace in the region.

"I am confident that barring one or two States, we will withdraw AFSPA from the entire Northeast next year," he said.

The Home Minister termed the MoU a "historic moment" and said it removed the last hurdle in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed Northeast.

12J6. No AFSPA in most of Northeast from 2027'
'2027 से पूर्वोत्तर के अधिकांश क्षेत्रों में AFSPA नहीं होगा'

- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** on Thursday said the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** will be withdrawn from the entire **Northeast** next year, barring one or two States.

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को कहा कि **सशस्त्र बल (विशेष अधिकार) अधिनियम (AFSPA)** को अगले वर्ष पूरे **पूर्वोत्तर भारत** से हटा लिया जाएगा, केवल एक या दो राज्यों को छोड़कर।

- Speaking after signing a **tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between the **Centre**, **Assam**, and **Nagaland** on mineral and oil operations in the disputed **Assam-Nagaland boundary areas**, Mr. Shah said fewer areas being covered under AFSPA indicate peace in the region.

केंद्र, **असम** और **नागालैंड** के बीच विवादित **असम-नागालैंड सीमा क्षेत्रों** में खनिज एवं तेल संचालन से संबंधित **त्रिपक्षीय समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU)** पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद श्री शाह ने कहा कि AFSPA के अंतर्गत आने वाले क्षेत्रों में कमी क्षेत्र में शांति का संकेत है।

- "I am confident that barring one or two States, we will withdraw **AFSPA** from the entire **Northeast** next year," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "मुझे विश्वास है कि एक या दो राज्यों को छोड़कर अगले वर्ष पूरे **पूर्वोत्तर** से **AFSPA** हटा लिया जाएगा।"

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11J6	Bristol, York, and UNSW get nod for campuses in India ब्रिस्टल, यॉर्क और यूएनएसडब्ल्यू को भारत में परिसर स्थापित करने की मंजूरी
11J6	World Cup's mascot axolotl nowhere in Mexico City विश्व कप का शुभंकर एक्सोलोटल मेक्सिको सिटी में कहीं दिखाई नहीं देता
11J6	Sport during a war युद्ध के दौरान खेल

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Bharathiraja, ace film director, passes away in Chennai at 84

PCS

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Bharathiraja

Renowned Tamil film director Bharathiraja, who had been ailing for a while, passed away in Chennai on Wednesday. He was 84.

Celebrated for shifting Tamil cinema from studio-bound film-making to authentic rural landscapes and for his iconic opening line, "*Yen Iniya Tamil Makkale*", delivered in his distinctive voice, he was a transformative force in not only Tamil but also Indian cinema.

A towering personality in the film industry, fondly called *Iyakkunar Imayam* (pinnacle among directors), Bharathiraja won six National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards (South), six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, and a Nandi Award. He was instrumental in introducing several new actors in Tamil cinema. In a characteristic move, he rechristened many actors with names beginning with "R", gifting the industry with Radikaa, Revathi, Radha, Ranjitha, and Rekha.

Bharathiraja shared a close association with composer Ilaiyaraaja and his brother Gangai Amaran even before they had made their mark in the film world. Ilaiyaraaja went on to compose music for many of Bharathiraja's films, delivering a string of unforgettable hits before the two eventually parted ways.

His debut film, *16 Vayathinile*, starring Sridevi, Kamal Haasan, and Rajinikanth, broke new ground in Tamil cinema. It portrayed rural life with striking realism, capturing villagers in all their complexity. The music, composed by Ilaiyaraaja, was a runaway success. *Senthoora Poove*, penned by Gangai Amaran, earned singer S. Janaki a national award.

His second film, *Kizhakke Pogum Rail*, dealt with powerful social themes, portraying caste oppression and the secondary treatment of women, without proclaiming itself to be a 'social film'. This subtle yet compelling approach to storytelling became a defining feature of Bharathiraja's cinema. Radikaa was introduced as a heroine in this film.

Sigappu Rojakkal explored what was then an unthinkable theme – a psychopathic serial killer driven by extreme misogyny. Director K. Bhagyaraj, an associate of Bharathiraja, appeared in one scene, while director Manivannan was also among his associates, who later emerged as a prominent filmmaker.

Bharathiraja also acted in some of his films.

RELATED REPORTS
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Bharathiraja, ace film director, passes away in Chennai at 84

प्रख्यात फिल्म निर्देशक भारतीराजा का चेन्नई में 84 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

Renowned Tamil film director Bharathiraja, who had been ailing for a while, passed away in Chennai on Wednesday. He was 84.
प्रख्यात तमिल फिल्म निर्देशक भारतीराजा, जो कुछ समय से अस्वस्थ चल रहे थे, का बुधवार को चेन्नई में निधन हो गया। वह 84 वर्ष के थे।

- A towering personality in the film industry, fondly called **Iyakkunar Imayam** (pinnacle among directors), Bharathiraja won **six National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards (South), six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, and a Nandi Award**.

फिल्म उद्योग की एक महान हस्ती, जिन्हें स्नेहपूर्वक **इयक्कुनर इमयम** (निर्देशकों में शिखर) कहा जाता था, **भारतीराजा** ने **छह राष्ट्रीय फिल्म पुरस्कार, चार फिल्मफेयर पुरस्कार (दक्षिण), छह तमिलनाडु राज्य फिल्म पुरस्कार तथा एक नंदी पुरस्कार** प्राप्त किए।

- In a characteristic move, he rechristened many actors with names beginning with **"R"**, gifting the industry with **Radikaa, Revathi, Radha, Ranjitha, and Rekha**.

अपनी विशिष्ट शैली में उन्होंने अनेक कलाकारों के नाम **"R"** अक्षर से प्रारंभ किए, जिससे फिल्म उद्योग को **राधिका, रेवती, राधा, रंजिता और रेखा** जैसे नाम प्राप्त हुए।

- Bharathiraja shared a close association with composer **Ilaiyaraaja** and his brother **Gangai Amaran** even before they had made their mark in the film world.

भारतीराजा का संगीतकार **इलैयाराजा** तथा उनके भाई **गंगई अमरन** के साथ घनिष्ठ संबंध था, तब भी जब उन्होंने फिल्म जगत में अपनी पहचान नहीं बनाई थी।

PCS

Bristol, York, and UNSW get nod for campuses in India

The Education Ministry issued three Letters of Approval (LoAs) to three Foreign Higher Education Institutions – University of Bristol, the University of York and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) on Tuesday. The LoAs were handed over by Secretary, Department of Higher Education and Chairman, University Grants Commission, Dr. Vineet Joshi, in the presence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. Mr. Pradhan said that the setting up of campuses in India marked another important step in advancing the internationalisation of education vision of NEP 2020. He said that these institutions will further strengthen quality education, global learning partnerships and research collaboration in India.

Bristol, York, and UNSW get nod for campuses in India

ब्रिस्टल, यॉर्क और यूएनएसडब्ल्यू को भारत में परिसर स्थापित करने की मंजूरी

The Education Ministry issued three Letters of Approval (LoAs) to three Foreign Higher Education Institutions — University of Bristol, the University of York and the University of New South Wales (UNSW) on Tuesday.
शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को तीन विदेशी उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों — यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ ब्रिस्टल, यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ यॉर्क और यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ न्यू साउथ वेल्स (UNSW) को तीन अनुमोदन पत्र (LoAs) जारी किए।

- The **LoAs** were handed over by **Secretary, Department of Higher Education** and **Chairman, University Grants Commission**, **Dr. Vineet Joshi**, in the presence of **Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan**.

इन **अनुमोदन पत्रों (LoAs)** को **उच्च शिक्षा विभाग के सचिव** एवं **विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग (UGC)** के अध्यक्ष **डॉ. विनीत जोशी** द्वारा **केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री धर्मेंद्र प्रधान** की

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उपस्थिति में प्रदान किया गया।

- Mr. **Pradhan** said that the setting up of campuses in India marked another important step in advancing the **internationalisation of education vision of NEP 2020**.

श्री **प्रधान** ने कहा कि भारत में परिसरों की स्थापना **राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP) 2020** की **शिक्षा के अंतरराष्ट्रीयकरण की परिकल्पना** को आगे बढ़ाने की दिशा में एक और महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।

- He said that these institutions will further strengthen **quality education**, **global learning partnerships** and **research collaboration** in India.

उन्होंने कहा कि ये संस्थान भारत में **गुणवत्तापूर्ण शिक्षा**, **वैश्विक शिक्षण साझेदारियों** तथा **अनुसंधान सहयोग** को और अधिक सुदृढ़ करेंगे।

A colourful fence sports an axolotl mascot of the FIFA World Cup in Mexico City. REUTERS

World Cup's mascot axolotl nowhere in Mexico City

PCS [redacted]
Reuters

One of the first things visitors arriving in Mexico City for the FIFA football World Cup are likely to see is the wide grin of an axolotl – with the salamander unique to this part of the world splashed in bright purple on murals and subway cars or depicted in sculptures dribbling a soccer ball.

Named after the Nahuatl word for "water monster", the axolotl (pronounced ah-sho-LO-tul) has become the unofficial mascot as the city gears up to host five World Cup matches.

But despite the undoubted cuteness of the almost otherworldly axolotl, the use of its image has drawn backlash from many Mexico City residents, who say the peppy portrayal of the critically endangered animal is being used to distract from both the infrastructure problems of the capital and its lack of conservation efforts.

Scientists trying to count axolotls in the wild say they have not seen a single one in two years. The Mexico City government did not respond to requests for comment.

Along with the constant flow of poorly treated wastewater, fresh dangers to the axolotl include chinampas being turned into soccer pitches and overcrowding due to ecological tourism

Ernesto Velazquez, 19, who runs an axolotl-themed stand selling cuddly toys in Chapultepec park, said he hopes the newly painted images around the city can drive more interest in conservation.

"Some foreigners have asked if you can eat them – well no, they're at risk of extinction," he said. "I hope the World Cup will help people learn more so we take better care of them."

A disappearing habitat

For centuries, *Ambystoma mexicanum*, an amphibian that remains living in water through its life cycle, thrived between chinampas – farms built on human-made floating islands that once sustained the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, where modern-day Mexico City lies.

The lake the city was built on was largely drained during colonial rule and its remnants are being used up and contaminated by the growing urban sprawl. But the city's southern Xochimilco district, known for its maze of muddy canals, remains one of the axolotl's last hiding places.

UNAM, Mexico's top university, identified around 36 axolotls per sq. km in Xochimilco in 2014 – a steep drop from the 6,000 per sq. km in 1998. The latest census began in 2024, and, two years later, researchers have yet to find a single axolotl.

Soccer and mass tourism

Luis Zambrano, who heads UNAM's ecological restoration laboratory, said that besides a constant flow of poorly treated wastewater, fresh dangers to the axolotl include chinampas being turned into soccer pitches and the overcrowding of what began as ecological tourism.

Axolotls consume oxygen through their skin, making them highly vulnerable to water pollution.

"Mass tourism has become a terrible problem now with the World Cup," said Zambrano. "The government thinks more is better, but that's not true in these areas of high ecological value."

Even as their habitat disappears, axolotls are widely bred in captivity. Scientists believe their unique skin mucus and ability to regrow limbs and even parts of their brain offer promising leads in cancer research.

For Zambrano, the axolotls' viral popularity has yet to translate into concrete action that could save their home.

World Cup's mascot axolotl nowhere in Mexico City

विश्व कप का शुभंकर एक्सोलोटल मेक्सिको सिटी में कहीं दिखाई नहीं देता

- **One of the first things visitors arriving in Mexico City for the FIFA football World Cup are likely to see is the wide grin of an axolotl — with the salamander unique to this part of the world splashed in bright purple on murals and subway cars or depicted in sculptures dribbling a soccer ball.**

फीफा फुटबॉल विश्व कप के लिए **मेक्सिको सिटी** आने वाले आगंतुकों को सबसे पहले जिन चीज़ों में से एक दिखाई देने की

संभावना है, वह है **एक्सोलॉटल** की चौड़ी मुस्कान — यह इस क्षेत्र में पाई जाने वाली विशिष्ट **सैलामैंडर** प्रजाति है, जिसे चमकीले बैंगनी रंग में भित्तिचित्रों और मेट्रो डिब्बों पर चित्रित किया गया है या फुटबॉल को ड्रिबल करती हुई मूर्तियों में दर्शाया गया है।

- Named after the Nahuatl word for "water monster", the axolotl (pronounced ah-sho-LO-tul) has become the unofficial mascot as the city gears up to host five World Cup matches.
"वॉटर मॉन्स्टर" के लिए प्रयुक्त **नाहुआत्ल** शब्द से नाम प्राप्त करने वाला **एक्सोलॉटल** (उच्चारण: अह-शो-लो-तुल) शहर द्वारा पाँच **विश्व कप मैचों** की मेजबानी की तैयारियों के बीच अनौपचारिक शुभंकर बन गया है।
- But despite the undoubted cuteness of the almost otherworldly axolotl, the use of its image has drawn backlash from many Mexico City residents, who say the peppy portrayal of the **critically endangered animal** is being used to distract from both the infrastructure problems of the capital and its lack of conservation efforts.
किन्तु लगभग अलौकिक प्रतीत होने वाले इस अत्यंत आकर्षक **एक्सोलॉटल** की छवि के उपयोग ने **मेक्सिको सिटी** के अनेक निवासियों की आलोचना को जन्म दिया है, जो कहते हैं कि इस **अत्यंत संकटग्रस्त प्राणी** की उत्साहपूर्ण प्रस्तुति का उपयोग राजधानी की **अवसंरचनात्मक समस्याओं** और **संरक्षण प्रयासों की कमी** से ध्यान हटाने के लिए किया जा रहा है।

A disappearing habitat
लुप्त होता आवास

- **For centuries, Ambystoma mexicanum, an amphibian** that remains living in water through its life cycle, thrived between chinampas — farms built on human-made floating islands that once sustained the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, where modern-day Mexico City lies.
सदियों तक **Ambystoma mexicanum**, एक ऐसा **उभयचर** जो अपने पूरे जीवनचक्र में जल में रहता है, **चिनाम्पास** के बीच फलता-फूलता रहा — ये मानव-निर्मित तैरते द्वीपों पर बने कृषि क्षेत्र थे, जिन्होंने कभी **एज़्टेक राजधानी टेनोच्टिटलान** को सहारा दिया था, जहाँ आज का **मेक्सिको सिटी** स्थित है।
- **UNAM**, Mexico's top university, identified around 36 axolotls per sq. km in Xochimilco in 2014 — a steep drop from the 6,000 per sq. km in 1998.
मेक्सिको के प्रमुख विश्वविद्यालय **यूएनएएम (UNAM)** ने वर्ष 2014 में **सोचिमिल्को** में प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर लगभग **36 एक्सोलॉटल** दर्ज किए, जबकि 1998 में यह संख्या **6,000 प्रति वर्ग किलोमीटर** थी।
- The latest census began in 2024, and, two years later, researchers have yet to find a single axolotl.
नवीनतम गणना वर्ष **2024** में आरंभ हुई थी, और दो वर्ष बाद भी शोधकर्ता एक भी **एक्सोलॉटल** खोजने में सफल नहीं हुए हैं।

- Even as their habitat disappears, axolotls are widely bred in captivity.
यद्यपि उनका **प्राकृतिक आवास** समाप्त हो रहा है, फिर भी **एक्सोलॉटल** का बड़े पैमाने पर बंद वातावरण में प्रजनन किया जा रहा है।
- Scientists believe their unique skin mucus and ability to regrow limbs and even parts of their brain offer promising leads in cancer research.
वैज्ञानिकों का मानना है कि उनकी विशिष्ट **त्वचा श्लेष्मा** तथा **अंगों** और यहाँ तक कि **मस्तिष्क के कुछ भागों** को पुनः विकसित करने की क्षमता **कैंसर अनुसंधान** में महत्वपूर्ण संभावनाएँ प्रस्तुत करती है।

JERUSALEM

Netanyahu will run in the next Israel election, says Likud party

AFP

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will seek re-election in Israel's upcoming national vote, his Likud party announced on Wednesday, after U.S. President Donald Trump publicly questioned whether the 76-year-old would run. Mr. Netanyahu has served as Prime Minister for nearly two decades across multiple terms. AFP

Netanyahu will run in the next Israel election, says Likud party
लिकुड पार्टी ने कहा, नेतन्याहू अगले इज़राइल चुनाव में

उम्मीदवार होंगे

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will seek re-election in Israel's upcoming national vote, his Likud party announced on Wednesday, after U.S. President Donald Trump publicly questioned whether the 76-year-old would run.

प्रधानमंत्री बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू आगामी इज़राइली राष्ट्रीय चुनाव में पुनः चुनाव लड़ेंगे। उनकी लिकुड पार्टी ने बुधवार को यह घोषणा की। यह घोषणा तब की गई जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने सार्वजनिक रूप से यह प्रश्न उठाया था कि क्या 76 वर्षीय नेतन्याहू चुनाव लड़ेंगे।

PCS [redacted]

Sport during a war

The United States is giving the FIFA World Cup a bad name

No showpiece event of a sport has lived up to its billing quite like the FIFA World Cup. The 2026 edition, which kicks off on Thursday, offers proof. With 48 teams and 104 matches, it is the biggest ever. With roughly one in four FIFA member nations qualifying, and six of the seven continents represented, it is the most inclusive yet. From Oceania to North America, it wraps the whole universe. It is also the first time that three countries will be hosting the quadrennial extravaganza – the United States, Canada and Mexico. Top players in Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar have touched down, and so have coaches such as Carlo Ancelotti and Thomas Tuchel. While Messi will aim for a repeat of Argentina's trophy-winning exploits from 2022, Ronaldo will gun for Portugal's first. Neymar, yet to win the coveted Cup, has a very heavy cross to bear, for he comes from the land of Pele and five-time champion Brazil. Kylian Mbappe's France, titlist in 2018 and runner-up in 2022, remains strong. Spain, with the irresistible teenager Lamine Yamal in its ranks, is a favourite, and so are Germany and England to a lesser degree. But four-time winner Italy is absent, for a scarcely believable third straight occasion.

The World Cup also serves a purpose beyond the turf – of shrinking differences, uniting populations and promoting cross-cultural exchanges. In this, the latest instalment has stumbled badly. On Monday, it emerged that the U.S. had denied entry to Somalian referee Omar Artan, the best men's referee from Africa in 2025 and one of the 52 handpicked by governing body FIFA. There are credible reports of journalists being refused visas and squad members being questioned by immigration authorities. In an unfortunate turn, the military stand-off between the U.S. and Iran has forced the West Asian nation to camp in Mexico and travel to Seattle (more than 2,000 km away) and Los Angeles for its group-stage games. It is both a logistical nightmare and an affront to the core sporting tenet of a level-playing field for all teams. Fans are also rankled by the high ticket costs, limited public transport facilities and steep visa fees. That a travel-intensive competition is being held amidst a disruption in global fuel supplies and spike in energy prices is not lost on anyone. These concerns will likely dissipate once Mexico and South Africa set the ball rolling at the majestic Estadio Azteca. However, it is essential to reflect and learn in order to chart a more inclusive future.

Sport during a war
युद्ध के दौरान खेल

- With 48 teams and 104 matches, it is the biggest ever.

48 टीमों और **104 मैचों** के साथ यह अब तक का सबसे बड़ा संस्करण है।

- With roughly one in four FIFA member nations qualifying, and six of the **seven continents** represented, it is the most inclusive yet.

लगभग प्रत्येक चार **फीफा सदस्य देशों** में से एक के क्वालीफाई करने तथा सात में से छह **महाद्वीपों** के प्रतिनिधित्व के साथ यह अब तक का सबसे अधिक **समावेशी** विश्व कप है।

- It is also the first time that three countries will be hosting the quadrennial extravaganza — the United States, Canada and Mexico.

यह पहली बार है जब तीन देश — **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका**, **कनाडा** और **मेक्सिको** — इस चार वर्षीय महाआयोजन की मेजबानी कर रहे हैं।

- While Messi will aim for a repeat of Argentina's trophy-winning exploits from 2022, Ronaldo will gun for Portugal's first.

जहाँ **मेसी** वर्ष 2022 में **अर्जेंटीना** की ट्रॉफी-विजेता उपलब्धि को दोहराने का प्रयास करेंगे, वहीं **रोनाल्डो पुर्तगाल** को उसका पहला विश्व कप दिलाने का लक्ष्य रखेंगे।

- **Neymar**, yet to win the coveted Cup, has a very heavy cross to bear, for he comes from the land of Pele and five-time champion Brazil.

अभी तक प्रतिष्ठित **विश्व कप** न जीत पाने वाले **नेमार** पर भारी दबाव है, क्योंकि वे **पेले** और पाँच बार के चैंपियन **ब्राज़ील** की धरती से आते हैं।

- Kylian Mbappe's France, titlist in 2018 and runner-up in 2022, remains strong.

किलियन एम्बाप्पे की **फ्रांस** टीम, जो 2018 की चैंपियन और 2022 की उपविजेता रही थी, अब भी मजबूत बनी हुई है।

- **Spain,** with the irresistible teenager **Lamine Yamal** in its ranks, is a favourite, and so are Germany and England to a lesser degree.

अपनी टीम में प्रतिभाशाली किशोर **लामिन यामाल** को शामिल करने वाली **स्पेन** खिताब की प्रमुख दावेदार है, जबकि **जर्मनी** और **इंग्लैंड** भी कुछ हद तक मजबूत दावेदार हैं।

- The World Cup also serves a purpose beyond the turf — of shrinking differences, uniting populations and promoting cross-cultural exchanges.

विश्व कप केवल खेल मैदान तक सीमित नहीं है; इसका उद्देश्य **भिन्नताओं को कम करना**, लोगों को एकजुट करना और **अंतर-सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान** को

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Website : patrioticias.in

बढ़ावा देना भी है।

- On Monday, it emerged that the **U.S. had denied entry to Somalian referee Omar Artan, the best men's referee from Africa in 2025** and one of the 52 handpicked by governing body FIFA.
  सोमवार को यह जानकारी सामने आई कि **अमेरिका** ने **सोमालिया** के रेफरी **ओमर आर्टन** को प्रवेश देने से मना कर दिया, जिन्हें वर्ष 2025 में अफ्रीका का सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुरुष रेफरी माना गया था और जिन्हें **फीफा** द्वारा चुने गए 52 रेफरियों में शामिल किया गया था।
- There are credible reports of journalists being refused visas and squad members being questioned by immigration authorities.
  ऐसी विश्वसनीय रिपोर्टें हैं कि कुछ **पत्रकारों** को वीज़ा देने से मना किया गया तथा टीमों के सदस्यों से **आव्रजन अधिकारियों** द्वारा पूछताछ की गई।

GS Paper 1: Geography	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	Amnesty accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing' of West Bank Bedouins एमनेस्टी ने इज़राइल पर वेस्ट बैंक के बेडौइन समुदायों के 'जातीय सफाये' का आरोप लगाया

Amnesty accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing' of West Bank Bedouins

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
RAMALLAH

Amnesty International has accused Israel of conducting an "ethnic cleansing" campaign against Bedouin and herding communities in the occupied West Bank, saying the measures were designed to accelerate the annexation of the Palestinian territory.

A new report by the rights group found that these rural Palestinian communities are bearing the brunt of Israeli settler violence and forced displacement.

"Israeli authorities are accelerating annexation through a state-driven campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities" of the West Bank, said the report released on Wednesday.

Amnesty said its research showed that 27 Bedouin and herding communities were forcibly displaced between 2023 and 2025 or were at risk of displacement in the West Bank's Area C, which encompasses 60% of the territory and is under Israeli control.

Amnesty accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of catering to the settler movement's religious nationalist agenda. "It has accelerated settlement expansion and land grabs, increased financial and logistical support to settlements, and it has armed settlers, thereby enabling a brutal state-sanctioned campaign of settler violence," it said.

In an apparent effort to counter arguments by Israeli officials that settler violence is caused by bad actors in that community, Amnesty pointed to "explicit calls by Israeli officials for settlement expansion" and "measures aimed at minimising Palestinian presence in Area C".

The "ethnic cleansing campaign is state-led, and state-sponsored, not driven by rogue settlers or so-called extremist ministers", the report concluded.

In occupied territory: Palestinian children at a school in the Bedouin hamlet of Khan al-Ahmar, West Bank, on Wednesday. AP

Amnesty accuses Israel of 'ethnic cleansing' of West Bank Bedouins

एमनेस्टी ने इज़राइल पर वेस्ट बैंक के बेडौइन समुदायों के 'जातीय सफाये' का आरोप लगाया

- "**Israeli authorities** are accelerating annexation through a state-driven campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting **Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities" of the West Bank**, said the report released on Wednesday.

बुधवार को जारी रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि "**इज़राइली प्राधिकरण** वेस्ट बैंक के फ़िलीस्तीनी **बेडौइन** और पशुपालक समुदायों को निशाना बनाकर राज्य-प्रेरित जातीय सफाये के अभियान के माध्यम से क्षेत्रीय विलय की प्रक्रिया को तेज़ कर रहे हैं।"

Palestinian Bedouins

- The **Bedouins** are traditionally **nomadic or semi-nomadic Arab pastoral communities** whose way of life is closely linked to livestock rearing, especially sheep, goats, and camels.
- The term **"Bedouin"** comes from the Arabic word **"Badawi"**, meaning **desert dweller**.
- Palestinian Bedouin communities mainly live in the **Jordan Valley**, the **eastern slopes of the West Bank**, and areas around **Jerusalem**.

- Many of these communities trace their origins to tribes that historically moved across the deserts of the **Arabian Peninsula**, **Sinai**, and the **Levant**.

GS Paper II: Polity	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	Panel recommends targeted splitting of seats for next delimitation exercise पैनल ने अगले परिसीमन अभ्यास के लिए सीटों के लक्षित विभाजन की सिफारिश की
11J6	SC invokes Article 142 to quash POCSO conviction POCSO दोषसिद्धि को निरस्त करने हेतु उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अनुच्छेद 142 का प्रयोग किया

Panel recommends targeted splitting of seats for next delimitation exercise

The model proposed by EAC-PM allows a 50% rise for all large States; dataset was based on elections to LS from 2009 to 2024; it results in increasing the size of Lok Sabha to 824 seats and is broadly in line with what the Centre had suggested when it brought the delimitation-related Bills in April

GS II: Polity

Varghese K. George
Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has recommended multi-factor criteria for a "targeted" splitting of seats during India's next delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. The recommendations have been made in a new working paper that goes beyond population distribution and maintains the current proportion of Lok Sabha seats for all large States.

A model worked out by the EAC-PM on such criteria entails Kerala's Lok Sabha seats, for instance, rising from 20 to 30, Tamil Nadu's increasing from 39 to 59, and Uttar Pradesh's from 80 to 120 – broadly in line with what the Union government had suggested in April, when it brought the delimitation-related Bills but failed to pass them in Parliament.

The use of these criteria in the EAC-PM's model further suggested a doubling of the number of LS seats in smaller States and Union Territories such as Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nagaland, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep. Out of the existing 543 seats, the EAC-PM's model suggests splitting a total of 170 seats, of which 59 constituencies have been recommended for a two-way split and 111 for a three-way split.

House of over 800 seats

The model results in increasing the size of the Lok Sabha to 824 seats. As per the Council, this will see the southern States' (Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu) aggregate share of seats in Lok Sabha come to 23.6% compared with the 23.7% currently.

Meanwhile, the share of the six most populous northern States (Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra) will come to 45.2% as per the model, compared with the current 45.6%.

The existing proportion of seats-per-State was frozen based on the population figures of the 1971 Census. The freeze was brought in through a Constitutional Amendment in 1976.

While the EAC-PM notes that the next delimitation exercise is consequential because it would be the first time since then to allow altering per-State seat count, it does not comment on the underlying principle for essentially retaining the existing proportion of States' seats beyond saying that their model has been designed to "respect" the 50% per-State expansion.

Unique formula: The new working paper found a persistent gap in women's turnout in urban areas, even after constituency splits. PTI

The working paper, authored by EAC-PM member Shamika Ravi and Mudit Kapoor of the Indian Statistical Institute, says that its main objective was to address the following questions: "Which constituencies should be split, into how many parts, and on what criterion?"

In doing so, the EAC-PM said that it assembled a dataset on elections to LS seats from 2009 to 2024 to estimate a "statistical relationship" between voter turnout, constituency size, and five compositional features of the constituency (these include urban share, SC share, ST share, linguistic polarisation, and linguistic diversity).

The paper added that this estimated statistical relationship was then used to come up with a "turnout-maximising delimitation plan that splits the largest and most turnout-responsive constituencies into two or three parts".

Splitting constituencies

In the policy brief attached to the working paper, the EAC-PM goes on to recommend a "targeted criterion" for splitting constituencies instead of a "uniform one", adding that the "Delimitation Commission, when it is constituted after the 2027 Census", should "treat the joint demographic and linguistic profile of a candidate constituency, and not its size alone, as the criterion for splitting".

The Council went on to recommend that the Election Commission of India and the Ministry of Statistics should time the next delimitation exercise with a "fresh booth rationalising cycle" and the government should ensure that the "2027 Census tabulations and gender-disaggregated electoral statistics" are released on schedule.

It added that the working paper's model calculations showed that even after the splitting of constituencies, there remained a residual gap in the women's turnout percentages in urban areas, and thus recommended the EC to plan delimitation with measures like women-only polling booths and women-targeted voter roll update drives.

In their working paper-policy brief, Ms. Ravi and Mr. Kapoor further break down their study into six key findings. These deal with the relationship of different factors with constituency-wise voter turnouts. In one of its findings, the paper claimed that the model suggested by them is likely to lead to an overall increase of up to 2.3% in the voter turnout across the country in the next general election. The authors have, however, buttressed this with a caveat, saying that the gain in voter turnout would depend on which statistical specification is chosen, adding that the model was meant to answer what would happen when an electorate is reduced in size while retaining its composition.

The brief also says that between 2009 and 2024, the gap between voter turnouts in the smallest constituency and the largest constituency had halved. "Small constituencies descriptively out-vote large ones in 2024 because they sit on turnout-friendly compositional features (high ST share, low urban share, moderate linguistic polarisation), and not because they are small per se," it concluded.

The EAC-PM added that the demographic and linguistic measures used for the study were based on the 2011 Census and so would need to be updated with 2027 Census figures for a more reliable recalculation.

Panel recommends targeted splitting of seats for next delimitation exercise
पैनल ने अगले परिसीमन अभ्यास के लिए सीटों के लक्षित विभाजन की सिफारिश की

The model proposed by EAC-PM allows a 50% rise for all large States; dataset was based on elections to Lok Sabha from 2009 to 2024; it results in increasing the size of Lok Sabha to 824

seats and is broadly in line with what the Centre had suggested when it brought the delimitation-related Bills in April.

EAC-PM द्वारा प्रस्तावित मॉडल सभी बड़े राज्यों के लिए 50% वृद्धि की अनुमति देता है; यह डेटासेट 2009 से 2024 तक के लोकसभा चुनावों पर आधारित था; इसके परिणामस्वरूप लोकसभा का आकार बढ़कर 824 सीटों का हो जाता है और यह व्यापक रूप से उस प्रस्ताव के अनुरूप है जिसे केंद्र सरकार ने अप्रैल में परिसीमन संबंधी विधेयक लाते समय सुझाया था।

- The **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)** has recommended multi-factor criteria for a "targeted" splitting of seats during India's next delimitation of **Lok Sabha constituencies**.
  प्रधानमंत्री की आर्थिक सलाहकार परिषद (EAC-PM) ने भारत में अगले **लोकसभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों के परिसीमन** के दौरान सीटों के "लक्षित" विभाजन के लिए बहु-कारक मानदंडों की सिफारिश की है।
- A model worked out by the **EAC-PM** on such criteria entails **Kerala's Lok Sabha seats**, for instance, rising from **20 to 30**, **Tamil Nadu's** increasing from **39 to 59**, and **Uttar Pradesh's** from **80 to 120** — broadly in line with what the Union government had suggested in April, when it brought the delimitation-related Bills but failed to pass them in Parliament.
  ऐसे मानदंडों पर आधारित **EAC-PM** के मॉडल के अनुसार, उदाहरण के लिए **केरल की लोकसभा सीटें 20 से बढ़कर 30**, **तमिलनाडु** की **39 से बढ़कर 59**, तथा **उत्तर प्रदेश** की **80 से बढ़कर 120** हो जाएँगी — जो व्यापक रूप से उस प्रस्ताव के अनुरूप है जिसे केंद्र सरकार ने अप्रैल में परिसीमन संबंधी विधेयक लाते समय सुझाया था, किंतु उन्हें संसद से पारित नहीं करा सकी।
- The use of these criteria in the **EAC-PM's model** further suggested a doubling of the number of **LS seats** in smaller States and Union Territories such as **Mizoram, Puducherry, Sikkim, Ladakh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Nagaland, Chandigarh, and Lakshadweep**.
  EAC-PM के मॉडल में इन मानदंडों के उपयोग से यह भी सुझाव दिया गया कि **मिजोरम, पुडुचेरी, सिक्किम, लद्दाख, अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह, नागालैंड, चंडीगढ़ और लक्षद्वीप** जैसे छोटे राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में **लोकसभा सीटों** की संख्या दोगुनी की जाए।
- The model results in increasing the size of the **Lok Sabha** to **824 seats**.
  यह मॉडल **लोकसभा** का आकार बढ़ाकर **824 सीटों** तक पहुँचाने का परिणाम देता है।
- As per the Council, this will see the southern States' (**Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu**) aggregate share of seats in **Lok Sabha** come to **23.6%** compared with the **23.7%** currently.
  परिषद के अनुसार, इससे दक्षिणी राज्यों (**तेलंगाना, आंध्र प्रदेश, केरल, कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु**) की **लोकसभा** में कुल सीट हिस्सेदारी वर्तमान **23.7%** की तुलना में **23.6%** हो जाएगी।
- Meanwhile, the share of the six most populous northern States (**Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, and Maharashtra**) will come to **45.2%** as per the model, compared with the current **45.6%**.
  वहीं, मॉडल के अनुसार छह सर्वाधिक जनसंख्या वाले उत्तरी राज्यों (**राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात, बिहार और महाराष्ट्र**) की हिस्सेदारी वर्तमान **45.6%** की तुलना में **45.2%** होगी।
- The existing proportion of seats-per-State was frozen based on the population figures of the **1971 Census**.
  राज्यों के अनुसार सीटों का वर्तमान अनुपात **1971 की जनगणना** के जनसंख्या आँकड़ों के आधार पर स्थिर किया गया था।
- The freeze was brought in through a **Constitutional Amendment** in **1976**.
  यह स्थिरता **1976** में एक **संवैधानिक संशोधन** के माध्यम से लागू की गई थी।

SC invokes Article 142 to quash POCSO conviction

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court used its powers under Article 142 to overturn a POCSO conviction, noting the victim later married the man as an adult.

The court observed that the couple should now be allowed to live "peacefully in society as spouses".

Article 142 enables the court to ensure "complete justice" when existing laws fall short. They had fallen in love while she was still a minor.

As per the case records, she lodged a criminal complaint after he refused to marry her. He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and fined for having a physical relationship with a minor.

SC invokes Article 142 to quash POCSO conviction

POCSO दोषसिद्धि को निरस्त करने हेतु उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अनुच्छेद 142 का प्रयोग किया

The Supreme Court used its powers under Article 142 to overturn a POCSO conviction, noting the victim later married the man as an adult.

उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अनुच्छेद 142 के अंतर्गत अपनी शक्तियों का उपयोग करते हुए एक POCSO दोषसिद्धि को निरस्त कर दिया और यह ध्यान में रखा कि पीड़िता ने बाद में वयस्क होने पर उसी व्यक्ति से विवाह कर लिया था।

- **Article 142** enables the court to ensure "**complete justice**" when existing laws fall short. **अनुच्छेद 142** न्यायालय को उस स्थिति में "**पूर्ण न्याय**" सुनिश्चित करने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है, जब प्रचलित कानून पर्याप्त न हों।
- As per the case records, she lodged a **criminal complaint** after he refused to marry her. मामले के अभिलेखों के अनुसार, जब उस व्यक्ति ने उससे विवाह करने से इनकार कर दिया, तब उसने एक **आपराधिक शिकायत** दर्ज कराई।

GS Paper II: Governance	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	Experts raise concerns over spike in C-section deliveries in Delhi दिल्ली में सी-सेक्शन प्रसवों में वृद्धि पर विशेषज्ञों ने चिंता व्यक्त की
11J6	74 new land ports proposed along International Border अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर 74 नए भूमि बंदरगाह प्रस्तावित

Experts raise concerns over spike in C-section deliveries in Delhi

GS II: Governance: Health

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

C-section deliveries in Delhi have increased from 23.6% in 2019–21 to 27.4% in 2023–24, according to data. FILE PHOTO

Delhi has seen a sharp rise in caesarean section (C-section) deliveries, increasing from 23.6% in 2019-21 to 27.4% in 2023-24, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data. Experts and doctors attribute the trend to factors such as preference for painless childbirth and medical conditions like obesity and diabetes, among others. However, they have also expressed concern over the rising rate, noting that C-sections also carry medical risks.

Delhi's trend mirrors the national pattern, where the C-section rate rose from 21.5% to 27.2% during the same period.

The data also show a wide gap between sectors: 50.9% of births in private facilities were by C-section, compared with 19.6% in public facilities, raising concerns about possible overuse in the private sector.

Cause for concern

The World Health Organization (WHO) says that while caesarean sections are safe when medically justified, they carry short and long-term risks, including for future pregnancies, especially in settings with limited obstetric care.

Doctors attribute the rise to a mix of medical and social factors. Dr. Tripti Raheja, Director, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, CK Birla Hospital, said delayed pregnancies are a key driver, with more women conceiving in their 30s and facing complications such as obesity, gestational diabetes, and hypertension that often require surgical delivery.

Dr. Manju Puri, formerly an obstetrician and gynaecologist at Lady Hardinge Medical College and now at SGT College, Gurugram, said patient preference is also contributing. "More patients are requesting C-sections for painless delivery, and doctors may not always strongly discourage this due to concerns about complications and potential liability," she said.

She added that vaginal delivery is generally safer when there is no medical indication for surgery. "It becomes a concern when such demand spreads to areas with weaker health infrastructure," she said, noting recent reports of maternal deaths linked to C-sections in parts of the country, including Kota, Rajasthan.

Doctors also flagged environmental factors. Dr. Payal Chaudhary, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, said that while there is no direct causal link, poor air quality is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes such as preterm birth, foetal growth restriction, and hypertensive disorders, which may increase the likelihood of C-sections.

Increasing demand

Praveen K. Pathak, professor at the Delhi School of Economics, called the trend alarming, noting that the WHO recommends C-section rates stay around 10% due to risks to both mother and infant. He added that higher rates in private hospitals could point to profit-driven practices.

Researchers say the key issue is whether every C-section is medically necessary, which is not always the case. "NFHS shows the trend, not the medical reasons behind each delivery. The rise is a signal for deeper investigation through audits, public-private comparisons, and studies on patient and provider choices," said Apoorva Sharma, a researcher in medical and biological anthropology,

Experts say the way forward lies in improving accountability and patient awareness. Ms. Sharma called for better documentation of medical indications, stronger labour support, pain relief access, second opinions before non-emergency C-sections, and greater transparency in private facilities.

They emphasised the focus should be on appropriate use of the procedure, not restricting necessary care.

Experts raise concerns over spike in C-section deliveries in Delhi
दिल्ली में सी-सेक्शन प्रसवों में वृद्धि पर विशेषज्ञों ने चिंता व्यक्त की

Delhi has seen a sharp rise in caesarean section (C-section) deliveries, increasing from 23.6% in 2019–21 to 27.4% in 2023–24, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data.

राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (NFHS) के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, दिल्ली में सीज़ेरियन सेक्शन (सी-सेक्शन) प्रसवों में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि हुई है, जो 2019–21 में 23.6% से बढ़कर 2023–24 में 27.4% हो गई है।

- Experts and doctors attribute the trend to factors such as preference for **painless childbirth** and medical conditions like **obesity** and **diabetes**, among others.

विशेषज्ञ और चिकित्सक इस प्रवृत्ति का कारण **दर्दरहित प्रसव** की बढ़ती प्राथमिकता तथा **मोटापा** और **मधुमेह** जैसी चिकित्सीय स्थितियों को मानते हैं।

- However, they have also expressed concern over the rising rate, noting that **C-sections** also carry medical risks.
  हालाँकि, उन्होंने बढ़ती दर पर चिंता व्यक्त करते हुए यह भी कहा कि **सी-सेक्शन** के साथ चिकित्सीय जोखिम भी जुड़े होते हैं।
- Delhi's trend mirrors the national pattern, where the **C-section rate** rose from **21.5%** to **27.2%** during the same period.
  दिल्ली की यह प्रवृत्ति राष्ट्रीय स्तर की स्थिति को भी दर्शाती है, जहाँ इसी अवधि में **सी-सेक्शन दर 21.5%** से बढ़कर **27.2%** हो गई।
- The data also show a wide gap between sectors: **50.9%** of births in **private facilities** were by C-section, compared with **19.6%** in **public facilities**, raising concerns about possible overuse in the private sector.
  आंकड़े यह भी दर्शाते हैं कि विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के बीच बड़ा अंतर है: **निजी स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों** में **50.9%** प्रसव सी-सेक्शन द्वारा हुए, जबकि **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों** में यह आँकड़ा **19.6%** था, जिससे निजी क्षेत्र में इसके संभावित अत्यधिक उपयोग को लेकर चिंता बढ़ी है।

Cause for concern
चिंता का कारण

- The World Health Organization (WHO) says that while caesarean sections are safe when medically justified, they carry short and long-term risks, including for future pregnancies, especially in settings with limited obstetric care.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) का कहना है कि यद्यपि चिकित्सीय आवश्यकता होने पर सीज़ेरियन सेक्शन सुरक्षित होता है, फिर भी इससे अल्पकालिक और दीर्घकालिक जोखिम जुड़े होते हैं, विशेषकर भविष्य की गर्भावस्थाओं के लिए तथा उन स्थानों पर जहाँ प्रसूति सेवाएँ सीमित हैं।
- Doctors attribute the rise to a mix of medical and social factors.
  चिकित्सकों के अनुसार, इस वृद्धि के पीछे चिकित्सीय और सामाजिक कारकों का संयुक्त प्रभाव है।
- Dr. **Tripti Raheja**, Director, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, **CK Birla Hospital**, said delayed pregnancies are a key driver, with more women conceiving in their 30s and facing complications such as **obesity**, **gestational diabetes**, and **hypertension** that often require surgical delivery.
  सीके बिड़ला अस्पताल की प्रसूति एवं स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ **डॉ. तृप्ति रहेजा** ने कहा कि विलंबित गर्भधारण इसका प्रमुख कारण है, क्योंकि अधिक महिलाएँ अपने तीसवें दशक में गर्भधारण कर रही हैं और **मोटापा**, **गर्भकालीन मधुमेह** तथा **उच्च रक्तचाप** जैसी जटिलताओं का सामना कर रही हैं, जिनमें प्रायः शल्य प्रसव की आवश्यकता पड़ती है।
- Dr. **Manju Puri**, formerly an obstetrician and gynaecologist at **Lady Hardinge Medical College** and now at **SGT College, Gurugram**, said patient preference is also contributing.
  लेडी हार्डिंग मेडिकल कॉलेज की पूर्व प्रसूति एवं स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ तथा वर्तमान में **एसजीटी कॉलेज, गुरुग्राम** से जुड़ी **डॉ. मंजू पुरी** ने कहा कि रोगियों की प्राथमिकता भी इस वृद्धि में योगदान दे रही है।
- "More patients are requesting **C-sections** for painless delivery, and doctors may not always strongly discourage this due to concerns about complications and potential liability," she said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "अधिक रोगी दर्दरहित प्रसव के लिए **सी-सेक्शन** की मांग कर रहे हैं और चिकित्सक भी संभावित जटिलताओं तथा उत्तरदायित्व संबंधी चिंताओं के कारण हमेशा इसका कड़ा विरोध नहीं करते।"
- She added that **vaginal delivery** is generally safer when there is no medical indication for surgery.
  उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि जब शल्यक्रिया की कोई चिकित्सीय आवश्यकता न हो, तब सामान्यतः **योनि प्रसव (वेजाइनल डिलीवरी)** अधिक सुरक्षित होता है।

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- "It becomes a concern when such demand spreads to areas with weaker health infrastructure," she said, noting recent reports of maternal deaths linked to C-sections in parts of the country, including **Kota, Rajasthan**.
  उन्होंने कहा, "यह तब चिंता का विषय बन जाता है जब ऐसी मांग कमजोर स्वास्थ्य अवसंरचना वाले क्षेत्रों तक फैल जाती है," और उन्होंने **कोटा, राजस्थान** सहित देश के विभिन्न भागों में सी-सेक्शन से जुड़ी मातृ मृत्यु की हालिया घटनाओं का उल्लेख किया।
- Doctors also flagged **environmental factors**.
  चिकित्सकों ने **पर्यावरणीय कारकों** की ओर भी ध्यान आकर्षित किया।
- Dr. **Payal Chaudhary**, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, said that while there is no direct causal link, **poor air quality** is associated with adverse pregnancy outcomes such as **preterm birth**, **foetal growth restriction**, and **hypertensive disorders**, which may increase the likelihood of **C-sections**.
  प्रसूति एवं स्त्री रोग विशेषज्ञ **डॉ. पायल चौधरी** ने कहा कि यद्यपि इसका प्रत्यक्ष कारणात्मक संबंध सिद्ध नहीं है, फिर भी **खराब वायु गुणवत्ता** का संबंध **असमय जन्म**, **भ्रूण वृद्धि अवरोध** तथा **उच्च रक्तचाप संबंधी विकारों** जैसी प्रतिकूल गर्भावस्था स्थितियों से है, जो **सी-सेक्शन** की संभावना बढ़ा सकती हैं।

Increasing demand
बढ़ती मांग

- **Praveen K. Pathak**, professor at the **Delhi School of Economics**, called the trend alarming, noting that the **WHO** recommends **C-section rates** stay around **10%** due to risks to both mother and infant.
  दिल्ली स्कूल ऑफ इकोनॉमिक्स के प्रोफेसर **प्रवीण के. पाठक** ने इस प्रवृत्ति को चिंताजनक बताया और कहा कि **WHO** माता और शिशु दोनों के लिए जोखिमों को देखते हुए **सी-सेक्शन दर** को लगभग **10%** तक रखने की अनुशंसा करता है।
- He added that higher rates in private hospitals could point to **profit-driven practices**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि निजी अस्पतालों में उच्च दरें **लाभ-प्रेरित प्रथाओं** की ओर संकेत कर सकती हैं।
- Researchers say the key issue is whether every **C-section** is medically necessary, which is not always the case.
  शोधकर्ताओं का कहना है कि मुख्य प्रश्न यह है कि क्या प्रत्येक **सी-सेक्शन** चिकित्सीय रूप से आवश्यक है, जबकि ऐसा हमेशा नहीं होता।
- "**NFHS** shows the trend, not the medical reasons behind each delivery. The rise is a signal for deeper investigation through audits, public-private comparisons, and studies on patient and provider choices," said **Apoorva Sharma**, a researcher in medical and biological anthropology.
  चिकित्सा एवं जैविक मानवविज्ञान की शोधकर्ता **अपूर्वा शर्मा** ने कहा, "**NFHS** केवल प्रवृत्ति को दर्शाता है, प्रत्येक प्रसव के पीछे के चिकित्सीय कारणों को नहीं। यह वृद्धि ऑडिट, सार्वजनिक-निजी तुलना तथा रोगियों और सेवा प्रदाताओं के विकल्पों पर अध्ययन के माध्यम से गहन जांच का संकेत देती है।"
- Experts say the way forward lies in improving **accountability** and **patient awareness**.
  विशेषज्ञों का कहना है कि आगे का मार्ग **जवाबदेही** और **रोगी जागरूकता** को सुदृढ़ करने में निहित है।
- Ms. Sharma called for better documentation of medical indications, stronger labour support, pain relief access, second opinions before non-emergency **C-sections**, and greater transparency in private facilities.
  सुश्री शर्मा ने चिकित्सीय संकेतों के बेहतर अभिलेखीकरण, प्रसव सहायता को सुदृढ़ करने, दर्द निवारण सुविधाओं की उपलब्धता, गैर-आपातकालीन **सी-सेक्शन** से पूर्व द्वितीय चिकित्सीय राय तथा निजी संस्थानों में अधिक पारदर्शिता की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।
- They emphasised the focus should be on appropriate use of the procedure, not restricting necessary care.

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उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि ध्यान इस प्रक्रिया के उचित उपयोग पर होना चाहिए, न कि आवश्यक चिकित्सा सेवा को सीमित करने पर।

74 new land ports proposed along International Border

GS II: Governance

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India proposes to build 74 additional land ports along the International Border in the coming years, which include three land ports along the China border and six along the Pakistan border, according to Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Chairperson Jayant Singh.

The new land ports are expected to strengthen trade and seamless movement of people with the neighbouring countries.

The land ports along the China border are proposed at Namgia in Himachal Pradesh, Gunji in Uttarakhand, and Nathu La in Sikkim. India does not have any other land port operational along the China border.

According to the External Affairs Ministry, three points are designated for conducting border trade between India and China – Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand (since 1992), Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh (since 1995), and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim (since July 2006) but post-COVID pandemic in 2020, all trade is suspended. Trade points and land borders are different as the latter integrates immigration, customs and movement of large goods vehicles too.

Amit Shah during the inauguration of the Land Port Management System. ANI

The land ports planned along the Pakistan border are at Teetwal, Adusa, and Chakan Da Bagh in Jammu and Kashmir, Attari railway station and Hussainiwala in Punjab, and Munabao railway station in Rajasthan. At present, there is just one operational land port at Attari in Punjab and trade from the two Facilitation Centres located at Salamabad, Uri, Baramulla district and Chakkan-da-Bagh, Poonch district along Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir remained suspended since the Pulwama attack.

Under Phase II, 13 land ports are proposed along the Nepal border, 12 along the Bangladesh border, four along Bhutan and two along the Myanmar border, the presentation said.

74 new land ports proposed along International Border
अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर 74 नए भूमि बंदरगाह प्रस्तावित

India proposes to build 74 additional land ports along the International Border in the coming years, which include three land ports along the China border and six along the Pakistan border, according to Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI) Chairperson Jayant Singh.
भारतीय भूमि बंदरगाह प्राधिकरण (LPAI) के अध्यक्ष जयंत सिंह के अनुसार, भारत आने वाले वर्षों में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमा पर 74 अतिरिक्त भूमि बंदरगाहों का निर्माण करने का प्रस्ताव रखता है, जिनमें चीन सीमा पर तीन भूमि बंदरगाह तथा पाकिस्तान सीमा पर छह भूमि बंदरगाह शामिल हैं।

- The new land ports are expected to strengthen **trade** and seamless movement of people with the neighbouring countries.
  इन नए भूमि बंदरगाहों से पड़ोसी देशों के साथ **व्यापार** तथा लोगों की निर्बाध आवाजाही को सुदृढ़ किए जाने की अपेक्षा है।
- The land ports along the **China border** are proposed at **Namgia in Himachal Pradesh**, **Gunji in Uttarakhand**, and **Nathu La in Sikkim**.
  चीन सीमा पर प्रस्तावित भूमि बंदरगाह **हिमाचल प्रदेश के नामगिया**, **उत्तराखंड के गुंजी** तथा **सिक्किम के नाथू ला** में स्थापित किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है।
- India does not have any other land port operational along the China border.
  भारत के पास चीन सीमा पर वर्तमान में कोई अन्य संचालित भूमि बंदरगाह नहीं है।
- According to the **External Affairs Ministry**, three points are designated for conducting border trade between India and China — **Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand (since 1992)**, **Shipki La Pass in Himachal Pradesh (since 1995)**, and **Nathu La Pass in Sikkim (since July 2006)** but post-**COVID pandemic** in 2020, all trade is suspended.
  विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, भारत और चीन के बीच सीमा व्यापार के लिए तीन बिंदु निर्धारित किए गए हैं — **उत्तराखंड में लिपुलेख दर्रा (1992 से)**, **हिमाचल प्रदेश में शिपकी ला दर्रा (1995 से)** तथा **सिक्किम में नाथू ला दर्रा (जुलाई 2006 से)**, किंतु **कोविड महामारी** के बाद वर्ष 2020 से समस्त व्यापार निलंबित है।
- Trade points and land borders are different as the latter integrates **immigration**, **customs** and movement of large goods vehicles too.
  व्यापार बिंदु और भूमि बंदरगाह अलग-अलग होते हैं क्योंकि भूमि बंदरगाहों में **आव्रजन**, **सीमा शुल्क** तथा बड़े मालवाहक वाहनों की आवाजाही की सुविधाएँ भी सम्मिलित होती हैं।

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- The land ports planned along the **Pakistan border** are at **Teetwal, Adusa, and Chakan Da Bagh in Jammu and Kashmir**, **Attari railway station and Hussainiwala in Punjab**, and **Munabao railway station in Rajasthan**.
  पाकिस्तान सीमा पर प्रस्तावित भूमि बंदरगाह **जम्मू-कश्मीर के तीतवाल, अदुसा और चाकन दा बाग**, **पंजाब के अटारी रेलवे स्टेशन और हुसैनीवाला**, तथा **राजस्थान के मुनाबाव रेलवे स्टेशन** में स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है।
- At present, there is just one operational land port at **Attari in Punjab** and trade from the two **Facilitation Centres** located at **Salamabad, Uri, Baramulla district** and **Chakkan-da-Bagh, Poonch district** along **Line of Control** in Jammu and Kashmir remained suspended since the **Pulwama attack**.
  वर्तमान में **पंजाब के अटारी** में केवल एक संचालित भूमि बंदरगाह है तथा जम्मू-कश्मीर में **नियंत्रण रेखा (LoC)** के निकट स्थित **सलामाबाद, उड़ी, बारामूला जिला** तथा **चक्कन-दा-बाग, पुंछ जिला** के दो **सुविधा केंद्रों** से होने वाला व्यापार **पुलवामा हमले** के बाद से निलंबित है।
- Under **Phase II**, **13 land ports** are proposed along the **Nepal border**, **12 along the Bangladesh border**, **four along Bhutan** and **two along the Myanmar border**, the presentation said.
  प्रस्तुति के अनुसार, **द्वितीय चरण (Phase II)** के अंतर्गत **नेपाल सीमा पर 13 भूमि बंदरगाह**, **बांग्लादेश सीमा पर 12**, **भूटान सीमा पर चार** तथा **म्यांमार सीमा पर दो भूमि बंदरगाह** प्रस्तावित हैं।

Land Port

- A land port is a border-crossing facility established at an international land boundary to facilitate regulated movement of people and cargo.
- It performs functions similar to those of a seaport or airport, but for land-based transportation.
- **Functions of a Land Port**
  - Customs clearance of goods.
  - Immigration clearance of passengers.
  - Quarantine and health checks.
  - Security screening.
  - Warehousing and logistics support.
  - Banking and communication services.

Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)

- The **Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI)** was established under the **Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010**.
- The Act came into force in **March 2012**.
- **Administrative Ministry:** LPAI functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India**.
- **Headquarters:** Headquarters located in **New Delhi**.

Objectives of LPAI

- **Infrastructure Development:** Develop world-class Integrated Check Posts along India's international borders.
- **Trade Facilitation:** Promote efficient cross-border trade and transit.
- **Passenger Convenience:** Provide modern facilities for travelers.
- **Security Enhancement:** Strengthen border management and surveillance.
- **Regional Connectivity:** Support India's neighborhood connectivity initiatives.

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GS Paper II: International Relations	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	UN nuclear watchdog Board demands Iran cooperation संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी बोर्ड ने ईरान से सहयोग की मांग की

UN nuclear watchdog Board demands Iran cooperation

GS II: IR

Associated Press
VIENNA

The UN atomic watchdog's board on Wednesday demanded that Iran fully cooperate with the agency, provide complete information about its stockpile of near weapons-grade nuclear material and grant its inspectors access to Iranian nuclear sites.

A resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency's board also said that giving information and access are "essential and urgent" in order to enable verification that there's no "diversion of nuclear material".

Twenty-one countries on the IAEA's 35-member board of governors voted for the resolution at IAEA headquarters in Vienna, according to diplomats who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the outcome of the closed-doors vote.

The resolution was put forward by France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States

Russia, China and Niger opposed it, while 10 countries abstained and one didn't vote as it was in arrears.

The resolution was put forward by France, the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States.

A senior Western diplomat, who wasn't authorised to speak about the sensitive matter so requested anonymity, said that the resolution "aims to keep diplomatic pressure on Iran to come into compliance with its legal safeguards obligations".

According to the IAEA, Iran maintains a stockpile of 440.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60% purity – a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

That stockpile could allow Iran to build as many as 10 nuclear bombs, should it decide to weaponise its program, IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned in a recent interview. He said that it doesn't mean that Iran has such a weapon.

Iran says that it's not pursuing nuclear weapons, and its program is entirely peaceful.

Talking to presspersons outside the IAEA boardroom, Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Reza Najafi, denounced Wednesday's resolution and said that the document describes the situation in Iran "as being quite normal and as if nothing had happened".

UN nuclear watchdog Board demands Iran cooperation
संयुक्त राष्ट्र परमाणु निगरानी बोर्ड ने ईरान से सहयोग की मांग की

The UN atomic watchdog's board on Wednesday demanded that Iran fully cooperate with the agency, provide complete information about its stockpile of near weapons-grade nuclear material and grant its inspectors access to Iranian nuclear sites.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र की परमाणु निगरानी एजेंसी के बोर्ड ने बुधवार को ईरान से मांग की कि वह एजेंसी के साथ पूर्ण सहयोग करे, हथियार-स्तर के निकट समृद्ध परमाणु पदार्थ के अपने भंडार के बारे में पूरी जानकारी प्रदान करे तथा निरीक्षकों को ईरानी परमाणु स्थलों तक पहुँच प्रदान करे।

- A resolution passed by the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** board also said that giving information and access are "**essential and urgent**" in order to enable verification that there's no "**diversion of nuclear material**".

अंतरराष्ट्रीय परमाणु ऊर्जा एजेंसी (IAEA) के बोर्ड द्वारा पारित एक प्रस्ताव में कहा गया कि यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि "**परमाणु सामग्री का कोई विचलन**" नहीं हुआ है, जानकारी और पहुँच प्रदान करना "**आवश्यक और अत्यावश्यक**" है।

- **Twenty-one countries** on the **IAEA's 35-member Board of Governors** voted for the resolution at **IAEA headquarters in Vienna**.

बंद-द्वार मतदान के परिणामों का वर्णन करने वाले राजनयिकों के अनुसार, **वियना स्थित IAEA मुख्यालय** में **IAEA के 35 सदस्यीय बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स** में से **21 देशों** ने इस प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में मतदान किया।

- According to the **IAEA**, Iran maintains a stockpile of **440.9 kg of uranium enriched up to 60% purity** — a short, technical step away from **weapons-grade levels of 90%**.

IAEA के अनुसार, ईरान के पास **60% शुद्धता तक समृद्ध 440.9 किलोग्राम यूरेनियम** का भंडार है, जो **90% हथियार-स्तरीय समृद्धि** से केवल एक छोटा तकनीकी कदम दूर है।

- That stockpile could allow Iran to build as many as **10 nuclear bombs**, should it decide to weaponise its program.

IAEA के महानिदेशक राफेल मारियानो ग्रोसी ने एक हालिया साक्षात्कार में चेतावनी दी कि यदि ईरान अपने कार्यक्रम को हथियार कार्यक्रम में परिवर्तित करने का निर्णय लेता है, तो यह भंडार उसे **10 परमाणु बम** तक बनाने में सक्षम बना सकता है।

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GS Paper III: Economy	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	The reality behind falling net FDI घटते शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (Net FDI) के पीछे की वास्तविकता

The reality behind falling net FDI

India's net FDI has declined sharply despite strong gross inflows, underlining the impact of disinvestment/capital repatriation; investor classes, modes of entry, and exit strategies can have important implications for technology transfer, industrial development, and external sustainability

GS III: Economy

ECONOMIC NOTES

K.S. Chalapati Rao
Biswajit Dhar
K.V.K. Ranganathan

India's net foreign direct investment (FDI) has declined drastically in recent years. Critics see the weak net flows as a sign of weakness, while the Chief Economic Adviser points to the large inflows and rising manufacturing FDI as evidence of strength. He links weak net flows to profit repatriation and outward investment by Indian companies.

However, this debate overlooks a major issue. By focusing on overall numbers, both sides ignore the changing composition of international capital and the Balance of Payments (BoP) mechanisms that govern inflows and outflows.

For BoP purposes, net FDI is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows after adjusting for the repatriation of capital. From the peak of $44.0 billion in 2020-21, net FDI fell to less than $1 billion in 2024-25. It recovered to $7.6 billion in 2025-26. The corresponding gross inflow was $94.6 billion.

It is necessary to note that India's liberal FDI policy, introduced in 1991, initially emphasised technology acquisition, export promotion, and foreign exchange conservation. Over time, policy increasingly prioritised attracting larger inflows, while concerns regarding future external payment obligations and investment quality receded.

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Real FDI accounted for 41.9% of effective inflows between 2022-23 and 2025-26, while financial investors contributed 40.5%, reflecting the growing role of private equity, venture capital, and sovereign wealth funds.
- Real FDI into manufacturing has declined across three consecutive four-year periods, with manufacturing receiving only 10.6% of total effective inflows in the latest period.
- Gross FDI figures include transactions such as intra-group ownership reorganisations, mergers, share swaps, and conversion of external commercial borrowings, even when no fresh capital enters the country.

Three types of FDI

FDI is often viewed as a uniform, long-term commitment that brings technology and management skills to the host country. FDI can fall into three different investor classes, each with distinct capabilities, strategies, and exit timelines.

The first category is real FDI (RFDI), consisting of traditional multinational enterprises with the technology, brands, and capabilities to establish production and services. These generally represent long-term commitments.

The second category comprises financial investors, including private equity funds, venture capital firms, sovereign wealth funds, and asset managers. Their main goal is capital growth and planned exits.

The third category includes diaspora investments and special purpose vehicles (SPVs). These involve capital raised abroad and funneled through offshore financial centres, sometimes including the round-tripping of Indian funds.

Data on remittance-level FDI from the past four years, from 2022-23 to 2025-26 up to December, show that RFDI made up 41.9% of "effective inflows." Financial investors followed closely with a 40.5% share, while the remaining 17.6% came from the diaspora and SPVs linked to India.

The business model of financial investors suggests future exits that result in large-scale capital repatriations. A notable example occurred in 2025 when Singapore's Temasek exited Schneider Electric India Ltd., earning $6.4 billion on an investment of $637 million made in 2020. Total recorded divestment in CY 2025 was $52 billion, with 45 major foreign private equity and venture capital exits accounting for $29 billion in outflows.

Based on an analysis of effective inflows, FDI in India's manufacturing sector has declined across three consecutive four-year periods. Most notably, RFDI into manufacturing accounted for only 10.6% of total effective inflows during the most recent four-year period.

Not fresh capital

A major blind spot in gross FDI figures is the mixing of new capital injections with corporate accounting changes, such as intra-group ownership reorganisations, mergers, share swaps, and the conversion of earlier non-equity instruments such as external commercial borrowings (ECBs) and convertible debentures.

While capital structures change, no new capital flows into the country. Approximately $40 billion of the $560 billion in equity inflows to India from 2014-15 to 2025-26 (up to December) fall into this category. Large transactions, such as Bosch and Meesho Technologies, can skew annual inflow and sectoral trends.

Disinvestment drives decline

Before looking at why net FDI is low or even negative in certain months, it is worth mentioning that the official narrative that profit repatriation depresses net FDI is misleading.

Under BoP conventions, profits sent as dividends are recorded as investment income in the current account. They increase the current account deficit (CAD) but do not change the reported net FDI flows. Instead, the primary reason for weak net FDI is disinvestment and capital repatriation, which appear in the financial account.

Likewise, the increase in Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI) warrants closer examination rather than being attributed solely to corporate maturity. From 2023-24 to 2025-26, 45% of India's total outbound investment of $65 billion went into the "financial, insurance, and business services" (FIB) sector. Singapore and the UAE accounted for 27% and 11% of the total, respectively. These funds mostly go to holding companies and SPVs rather than directly to operational entities. For instance, TML Commercial Vehicles, a subsidiary of Tata Motors, invested $405 million in a Singaporean FIB entity to acquire the IVECO Group in Italy.

Capital movements through the GIFT City further complicate this issue. OFDI to the City increased from $246 million in 2023-24 to $1.18 billion in 2025-26. Total OFDI and inward FDI through it until 2025-26 reached $2.35 billion and $1.40 billion, respectively, highlighting the growing two-way flows.

These cross-flow of investments by Indian entities, also from other locations, indicates that OFDI can represent both genuine corporate expansion and the return of capital that fled. Therefore, increasing OFDI may not necessarily indicate maturity, as Indian companies might seek resources and technology, while a few might recycle capital through different jurisdictions.

Understanding the outflow channels

From 2022-23 to 2025-26, total FDI inflows and related current and capital account outflows reached significant levels. While gross inward equity FDI totalled $317.80 billion ($230.60 billion excluding reinvested earnings), the outflows present a more complex scenario.

Disinvestment and capital repatriation (capital account) totalled $178.9 billion, primarily driven by financial investors through secondary and strategic sales, IPO exits, and share buybacks. This also includes "offers for sale" by foreign promoters such as Hyundai and LG. The other type involves sell-offs by RFDI investors, such as Wistron which sold off to the Tatas.

Dividend remittances (current account) amounted to $118.9 billion in profits paid out by MNE subsidiaries and affiliates, excluding reinvested earnings.

Attributable IPR payments (current account) totalled $46.6 billion. These payments, made by MNE subsidiaries and affiliates for intellectual property (assuming they account for 75% of total IPR payments), can substitute dividends.

Additionally, $250.0 billion was transferred by all entities for technical/service/consultancy payments. However, it is difficult to divide this amount between RFDI and domestic companies.

Even when excluding OFDI and technical service payments, outflows due to disinvestment, dividends, and IPR payments (royalties) totalled $344.4 billion. Therefore, for every dollar of fresh inflow (excluding reinvested earnings), approximately $1.50 flowed out. This situation has worsened over the past 12 years. The corresponding outflow per dollar entered was 56 cents from 2014-15 to 2017-18, rising to 70 cents from 2018-19 to 2021-22, before reaching the current high.

Need for informed debate

The above narrative shows how an incomplete view of FDI prevails in the public discourse. Different types of investors, entry methods, and exit strategies impact technology transfer, industrial growth, and external sustainability. The reporting of global FDI flows adds an additional layer of problems. Understanding these nuances is crucial for evaluating FDI beyond headline numbers.

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घटते शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (Net FDI) के पीछे की वास्तविकता

- **India's net foreign direct investment (FDI) has declined drastically in recent years.**
  हाल के वर्षों में **भारत का शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI)** अत्यधिक घट गया है।
- Critics see the weak net flows as a sign of weakness, while the Chief Economic Adviser points to the large inflows and rising manufacturing FDI as evidence of strength.
  आलोचक कमज़ोर **शुद्ध निवेश प्रवाह** को आर्थिक कमजोरी का संकेत मानते हैं, जबकि **मुख्य आर्थिक सलाहकार** बड़े निवेश प्रवाह और बढ़ते **विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के FDI** को मजबूती का प्रमाण बताते हैं।
- He links weak net flows to profit repatriation and outward investment by Indian companies.
  वे कमज़ोर शुद्ध प्रवाह को **लाभ की स्वदेश वापसी (Profit Repatriation)** तथा भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा विदेशों में किए जा रहे निवेश से जोड़ते हैं।
- However, this debate overlooks a major issue.
  हालाँकि, यह बहस एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे की उपेक्षा करती है।
- By focusing on overall numbers, both sides ignore the changing composition of international capital and the **Balance of Payments (BoP)** mechanisms that govern inflows and outflows.
  कुल आँकड़ों पर ध्यान केंद्रित करके दोनों पक्ष **अंतरराष्ट्रीय पूँजी की बदलती संरचना** तथा **भुगतान संतुलन (BoP)** की उन व्यवस्थाओं की अनदेखी कर रहे हैं जो पूँजी के आगमन और निर्गमन को नियंत्रित करती हैं।
- For BoP purposes, net FDI is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows after adjusting for the repatriation of capital.
  भुगतान संतुलन के संदर्भ में, शुद्ध **FDI** की गणना पूँजी की वापसी को समायोजित करने के बाद निवेश आगमन और निर्गमन के अंतर के रूप में की जाती है।
- From the peak of **$44.0 billion** in 2020-21, net FDI fell to less than **$1 billion** in 2024-25.
  वर्ष **2020-21** में **44.0 अरब डॉलर** के उच्चतम स्तर से शुद्ध **FDI** घटकर **2024-25** में **1 अरब डॉलर से भी कम** रह गया।
- It recovered to **$7.6 billion** in 2025-26.
  वर्ष **2025-26** में इसमें सुधार हुआ और यह **7.6 अरब डॉलर** तक पहुँच गया।
- The corresponding gross inflow was **$94.6 billion**.
  इसी अवधि में कुल **FDI प्रवाह 94.6 अरब डॉलर** रहा।
- It is necessary to note that India's liberal FDI policy, introduced in 1991, initially emphasised technology acquisition, export promotion, and foreign exchange conservation.
  यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि **1991** में शुरू की गई भारत की उदार **FDI नीति** का प्रारंभिक उद्देश्य **प्रौद्योगिकी अधिग्रहण**, **निर्यात प्रोत्साहन** तथा **विदेशी मुद्रा संरक्षण** था।
- Over time, policy increasingly prioritised attracting larger inflows, while concerns regarding future external payment obligations and investment quality receded.
  समय के साथ नीति का मुख्य ध्यान अधिकाधिक **विदेशी निवेश आकर्षित करने** पर केंद्रित हो गया, जबकि भविष्य की **बाह्य भुगतान देनदारियों** तथा निवेश की गुणवत्ता संबंधी चिंताएँ पीछे छूट गईं।

Three types of FDI
FDI के तीन प्रकार

- FDI is often viewed as a uniform, long-term commitment that brings technology and management skills to the host country.
  अक्सर **FDI** को एक समान और दीर्घकालिक निवेश के रूप में देखा जाता है जो मेज़बान देश में **प्रौद्योगिकी** और **प्रबंधन कौशल** लाता है।
- FDI can fall into three different investor classes, each with distinct capabilities, strategies, and exit timelines.

किन्तु **FDI** को निवेशकों की तीन अलग-अलग श्रेणियों में बाँटा जा सकता है, जिनकी क्षमताएँ, रणनीतियाँ और निवेश से बाहर निकलने की समय-सीमा भिन्न होती हैं।

- The first category is **real FDI (RFDI)**, consisting of traditional multinational enterprises with the technology, brands, and capabilities to establish production and services.
  पहली श्रेणी **रियल FDI (RFDI)** की है, जिसमें पारंपरिक **बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियाँ** शामिल होती हैं जिनके पास उत्पादन और सेवाएँ स्थापित करने हेतु आवश्यक **प्रौद्योगिकी**, **ब्रांड** और क्षमताएँ होती हैं।
- These generally represent long-term commitments.
  ये सामान्यतः **दीर्घकालिक निवेश प्रतिबद्धताओं** का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं।
- The second category comprises financial investors, including private equity funds, venture capital firms, sovereign wealth funds, and asset managers.
  दूसरी श्रेणी में **वित्तीय निवेशक** आते हैं, जिनमें **प्राइवेट इक्विटी फंड**, **वेंचर कैपिटल फर्म**, **सॉवरेन वेल्थ फंड** और **एसेट मैनेजर** शामिल होते हैं।
- Their main goal is capital growth and planned exits.
  इनका मुख्य उद्देश्य **पूँजी वृद्धि** और नियोजित समय पर निवेश से बाहर निकलना होता है।
- The **third category includes diaspora investments and special purpose vehicles (SPVs).**
  तीसरी श्रेणी में **प्रवासी निवेश** तथा **विशेष प्रयोजन साधन (SPVs)** शामिल हैं।
- These involve capital raised abroad and funneled through offshore financial centres, sometimes including the **round-tripping of Indian funds**.
  इनमें विदेशों में जुटाई गई पूँजी को **ऑफशोर वित्तीय केंद्रों** के माध्यम से निवेश किया जाता है, और कभी-कभी इसमें भारतीय धन की **राउंड-ट्रिपिंग** भी शामिल होती है।
- Total recorded disinvestment in **CY 2025** was **$52 billion**, with **45 major foreign private equity and venture capital exits** accounting for **$29 billion** in outflows.
  कैलेंडर वर्ष 2025 में कुल दर्ज **विनिवेश (Disinvestment) 52 अरब डॉलर** रहा, जिसमें **45 प्रमुख विदेशी प्राइवेट इक्विटी और वेंचर कैपिटल निकासों** का योगदान **29 अरब डॉलर** के पूँजी निर्गमन के रूप में था।
- Based on an analysis of effective inflows, **FDI in India's manufacturing sector** has declined across three consecutive four-year periods.
  प्रभावी निवेश प्रवाह के विश्लेषण के आधार पर, **भारत के विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में FDI** लगातार तीन चार-वर्षीय अवधियों में घटा है।

Not fresh capital
नई पूँजी नहीं

- A major blind spot in gross FDI figures is the mixing of new capital injections with corporate accounting changes, such as intra-group ownership reorganisations, mergers, share swaps, and the conversion of earlier non-equity instruments such as **external commercial borrowings (ECBs)** and convertible debentures.
  कुल **FDI** आँकड़ों की एक बड़ी सीमा यह है कि इनमें नई पूँजी के निवेश को **कॉर्पोरेट लेखांकन परिवर्तनों** के साथ मिला दिया जाता है, जैसे समूह के भीतर स्वामित्व पुनर्गठन, **विलय (Mergers)**, **शेयर अदला-बदली (Share Swaps)** तथा **बाह्य वाणिज्यिक उधार (ECBs)** और परिवर्तनीय डिबेंचरों जैसे गैर-इक्विटी साधनों का रूपांतरण।
- Approximately **$40 billion** of the **$560 billion** in equity inflows to India from **2014-15 to 2025-26** (up to December) fall into this category.
  2014-15 से दिसंबर 2025-26 तक भारत में आए **560 अरब डॉलर** के इक्विटी निवेश में से लगभग **40 अरब डॉलर** इसी श्रेणी में आते हैं।
- Under **BoP** conventions, profits sent as dividends are recorded as investment income in the current account.
  भुगतान संतुलन (BoP) के नियमों के अनुसार, लाभांश के रूप में भेजे गए लाभ को **चालू खाते (Current Account)** में निवेश आय के रूप में दर्ज किया जाता है।

- They increase the **current account deficit (CAD)** but do not change the reported net FDI flows.
  वे **चालू खाते के घाटे (CAD)** को बढ़ाते हैं, लेकिन रिपोर्ट किए गए **शुद्ध FDI** को प्रभावित नहीं करते।
- Instead, the primary reason for weak net FDI is disinvestment and capital repatriation, which appear in the financial account.
  इसके विपरीत, कमज़ोर **शुद्ध FDI** का मुख्य कारण **विनिवेश** और **पूँजी की वापसी** है, जो **वित्तीय खाते (Financial Account)** में दर्ज होती है।
- Likewise, the increase in **Outward Foreign Direct Investment (OFDI)** warrants closer examination rather than being attributed solely to corporate maturity.
  इसी प्रकार, **विदेशों में प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (OFDI)** में वृद्धि का भी गहन अध्ययन आवश्यक है, इसे केवल कंपनियों की परिपक्वता का परिणाम मानना पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- From **2023-24 to 2025-26**, **45%** of India's total outbound investment of **$65 billion** went into the **financial, insurance, and business services (FIB)** sector.
  2023-24 से 2025-26 के बीच भारत के कुल **65 अरब डॉलर** के बाह्य निवेश का **45%** हिस्सा **वित्तीय, बीमा और व्यावसायिक सेवाओं (FIB)** क्षेत्र में गया।
- **Singapore** and the **UAE** accounted for **27%** and **11%** of the total, respectively.
  इस कुल निवेश में **सिंगापुर** का योगदान **27%** तथा United Arab Emirates का **11%** था।
- **Disinvestment** and **capital repatriation** (capital account) totalled **$178.9 billion**, primarily driven by financial investors through secondary and strategic sales, IPO exits, and share buybacks.
  विनिवेश तथा **पूँजी की वापसी** (पूँजी खाते में) कुल मिलाकर **178.9 अरब डॉलर** रही, जिसका प्रमुख कारण वित्तीय निवेशकों द्वारा **द्वितीयक बिक्री**, **रणनीतिक बिक्री**, **IPO निकास** तथा **शेयर बायबैक** थे।

PATRIOTIC IAS

- **Dividend remittances** (current account) amounted to **$118.9 billion** in profits paid out by MNE subsidiaries and affiliates, excluding reinvested earnings.
  लाभांश प्रेषण (Dividend Remittances) के रूप में, पुनर्निवेशित आय को छोड़कर, **बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों (MNEs)** की सहायक एवं संबद्ध इकाइयों ने **118.9 अरब डॉलर** का लाभ विदेश भेजा।

India bond-tax step to up foreign debt inflow, bid for global index inclusion

India tax breaks, policy steps spark $1 billion in foreign bond inflows, lower yields; measures to improve India's debt appeal could lower borrowing costs over time; global asset managers say reforms boost India's case for inclusion in global bond indices; measures taken in response to oil shock

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
MUMBAI

Money swings: Outlook for foreign inflows will be closely tied to rupee's trajectory. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

India's decision to exempt foreigners from taxes on government bonds and broaden access to the debt market is expected to make the country more attractive to overseas investors, catalyse fresh inflows and strengthen its case for inclusion in global indexes.

On Friday, policymakers unveiled a wide-ranging set of measures to draw in overseas capital while shoring up the currency and external balances, which have been strained by higher oil prices.

They scrapped withholding and capital gains taxes on foreign investments in government bonds, broadened the pool of securities that are available without investment limits and introduced incentives to encourage banks to raise foreign currency deposits from non-resident Indians and for companies to tap overseas borrowings.

The slew of measures, rolled out in response to the oil shock that has hit Indian assets, is beginning to lure foreign investors back into an overlooked market against a backdrop of rising global rate volatility.

"We believe that these changes are a game-changer for debt flows," said Jennifer Taylor, the head of emerging market debt and systematic fixed income at State Street Investment Management, which manages about $5.6 trillion in assets.

The pace of foreign inflows has quickened since the measures were introduced, with more than $1 billion worth of government debt bought in just three sessions. Before the announcement in the year-to-date period, $1.6 billion had been purchased.

Yields on government bonds have fallen 10 to 30 basis points across the curve, with shorter maturities seeing the biggest declines.

The removal of taxes makes Indian government bonds more attractive on a relative basis, Taylor said, adding that the measures should boost foreign participation across the yield curve and lower borrowing costs over time.

> The rupee is down 5.86% so far this year, trailing only Indonesian rupiah as Asia's worst performing currency though it experienced modest relief since the bond tax moves

More consequential

Some investors said the reforms could prove more consequential over the longer term by paving the way for India's inclusion in broader global debt benchmarks, which would bring more durable and predictable inflows.

Niel Clement, portfolio manager for emerging market fixed income at BNP Paribas Asset Management, which manages more than €1.6 trillion ($1.85 trillion) of assets, said the steps would broaden opportunities for overseas investors, redirect flows to the onshore market and provide a constructive boost to India's bid for inclusion in the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index.

Bloomberg Index Services is expected to seek investor feedback later this month on whether Indian government bonds should be added to its flagship global bond index.

M&G Investments, which manages about £376 billion ($503.4 billion) of assets, said the tax exemptions have boosted the near-term appeal of Indian government securities.

Bigger inflow driver

It added that inclusion in the Bloomberg index would be a bigger driver of inflows, similar to India's entry into JPMorgan's emerging market debt index. In the weeks before tax cuts were rolled out, India's finance minister met with officials at the central bank to push for entry into the Bloomberg index, a government official said.

"We view the measures announced aimed at addressing pressures on the capital account as having effectively restored policy control," said Low Guan Yi, head of Asia fixed income at M&G Investments.

"With steps taken to support macroeconomic stability, we see investment opportunities as India continues to differentiate itself from other emerging bond markets with more limited policy flexibility." UBS Asset Management, which is neutral to underweight on Indian fixed income, said the Reserve Bank of India's moves signaled a constructive approach toward broadening market access and they will encourage more foreign inflows over time.

"India is an important part of EM local index so we are always reviewing it as an investment option," said Shamaila Khan, head of fixed income emerging markets and Asia-Pacific at UBS Asset Management.

Currency, energy risks

Investors cautioned that while the measures improved the appeal of Indian debt, the outlook for foreign inflows will remain closely tied to the rupee's trajectory.

"The bigger issue for offshore investors is still the currency," said Rong Ren Goh, head of macro and thematics for Asian fixed income at Eastspring Investments, which manages about $250 billion, adding that investors are likely to wait for clearer signs of rupee stability before raising allocations.

The recent pace of rupee depreciation has dented the carry appeal of Indian debt, while higher energy prices have added to the pressure, he said.

The rupee is down 5.86% so far this year, trailing only Indonesian rupiah as Asia's worst-performing currency though it experienced modest relief since the bond tax moves; it was last at 95.16 per dollar.

Economists at Citi sharply revised India's balance of payments forecast for the current fiscal year, a shift they says should underpin the rupee. They now expect a $5 billion surplus versus an earlier projected deficit of $60 billion.

India bond-tax step to up foreign debt inflow, bid for global index inclusion
विदेशी ऋण प्रवाह बढ़ाने और वैश्विक सूचकांक में शामिल होने की दिशा में भारत का बॉन्ड-कर कदम

India tax breaks, policy steps spark $1 billion in foreign bond inflows, lower yields; measures to improve India's debt appeal could lower borrowing costs over time.

भारत द्वारा कर रियायतों और नीतिगत कदमों के परिणामस्वरूप विदेशी बॉन्ड निवेश में 1 अरब डॉलर का प्रवाह हुआ है

तथा प्रतिफल (यील्ड) में कमी आई है; भारत के ऋण बाज़ार को अधिक आकर्षक बनाने वाले ये कदम समय के साथ उधारी लागत को कम कर सकते हैं।

- India's decision to exempt foreigners from taxes on **government bonds** and broaden access to the debt market is expected to make the country more attractive to overseas investors, catalyse fresh inflows and strengthen its case for inclusion in global indexes.
  सरकारी बॉन्डों पर विदेशी निवेशकों को करों से छूट देने तथा ऋण बाजार तक उनकी पहुँच बढ़ाने का भारत का निर्णय देश को विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए अधिक आकर्षक बनाएगा, नए निवेश प्रवाह को प्रोत्साहित करेगा तथा वैश्विक सूचकांकों में शामिल होने की संभावनाओं को मजबूत करेगा।
- On Friday, policymakers unveiled a wide-ranging set of measures to draw in overseas capital while shoring up the currency and external balances, which have been strained by higher oil prices.
  शुक्रवार को नीति-निर्माताओं ने विदेशी पूंजी आकर्षित करने तथा मुद्रा और बाह्य संतुलन को मजबूत करने के लिए व्यापक उपायों की घोषणा की, जो उच्च तेल कीमतों के कारण दबाव में थे।
- They scrapped **withholding and capital gains taxes** on foreign investments in government bonds, broadened the pool of securities that are available without investment limits and introduced incentives to encourage banks to raise foreign currency deposits from **non-resident Indians (NRIs)** and for companies to tap overseas borrowings.
  उन्होंने सरकारी बॉन्डों में विदेशी निवेश पर **विदहोल्डिंग टैक्स** और **पूंजीगत लाभ कर** समाप्त कर दिया, निवेश सीमा के बिना उपलब्ध प्रतिभूतियों के दायरे का विस्तार किया तथा बैंकों को **अनिवासी भारतीयों (NRIs)** से विदेशी मुद्रा जमा जुटाने और कंपनियों को विदेशी उधार लेने के लिए प्रोत्साहन प्रदान किए।
- Yields on government bonds have fallen **10 to 30 basis points** across the curve, with shorter maturities seeing the biggest declines.
  सरकारी बॉन्डों की प्रतिफल दरों में विभिन्न अवधियों में **10 से 30 बेसिस प्वाइंट** तक की गिरावट आई है, जिसमें अल्पकालिक परिपक्वता वाले बॉन्डों में सबसे अधिक कमी दर्ज की गई।
- The removal of taxes makes Indian government bonds more attractive on a relative basis, Taylor said, adding that the measures should boost foreign participation across the yield curve and lower borrowing costs over time.
  टेलर ने कहा कि करों को हटाने से भारतीय सरकारी बॉन्ड तुलनात्मक रूप से अधिक आकर्षक बन गए हैं और इन उपायों से समय के साथ विदेशी भागीदारी बढ़ेगी तथा उधारी लागत घटेगी।

More consequential
अधिक महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव

- Some investors said the reforms could prove more consequential over the longer term by paving the way for India's inclusion in broader global debt benchmarks, which would bring more durable and predictable inflows.
  कुछ निवेशकों का मानना है कि ये सुधार दीर्घकाल में अधिक महत्वपूर्ण सिद्ध हो सकते हैं क्योंकि ये भारत को व्यापक वैश्विक ऋण सूचकांकों में शामिल किए जाने का मार्ग प्रशस्त करेंगे, जिससे अधिक स्थायी और अनुमानित निवेश प्रवाह आएगा।
- **Niel Clement**, portfolio manager for emerging market fixed income at **BNP Paribas Asset Management**, which manages more than **€1.6 trillion ($1.85 trillion)** of assets, said the steps would broaden opportunities for overseas investors, redirect flows to the onshore market and provide a constructive boost to India's bid for inclusion in the **Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index**.
  BNP परिबा एसेट मैनेजमेंट में उभरते बाजारों की निश्चित आय के पोर्टफोलियो प्रबंधक **नील क्लेमेंट** ने कहा कि ये कदम विदेशी निवेशकों के अवसरों का विस्तार करेंगे, निवेश प्रवाह को घरेलू बाजार की ओर मोड़ेंगे और भारत को **ब्लूमबर्ग ग्लोबल एग्रीगेट इंडेक्स** में शामिल किए जाने के प्रयासों को सकारात्मक बल प्रदान करेंगे।

- In the weeks before tax cuts were rolled out, India's finance minister met with officials at the central bank to push for entry into the Bloomberg index, a government official said.
  एक सरकारी अधिकारी के अनुसार, कर कटौती की घोषणा से पहले भारत के वित्त मंत्री ने केंद्रीय बैंक के अधिकारियों से मुलाकात कर ब्लूमबर्ग सूचकांक में शामिल होने के प्रयासों को आगे बढ़ाया था।
- "**India is an important part of EM local index so we are always reviewing it as an investment option**," said **Shamaila Khan**, head of fixed income emerging markets and Asia-Pacific at **UBS Asset Management**.
  यूबीएस एसेट मैनेजमेंट में उभरते बाजारों और एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र की निश्चित आय प्रमुख **शमाइला खान** ने कहा, "भारत उभरते बाजारों के स्थानीय सूचकांक का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है, इसलिए हम इसे निवेश विकल्प के रूप में लगातार समीक्षा करते रहते हैं।"
- "The bigger issue for offshore investors is still the currency," said **Rong Ren Goh**, head of macro and thematics for Asian fixed income at **Eastspring Investments**, which manages about **$250 billion**, adding that investors are likely to wait for clearer signs of rupee stability before raising allocations.
  लगभग **250 अरब डॉलर** की परिसंपत्तियों का प्रबंधन करने वाली **ईस्टस्प्रिंग इन्वेस्टमेंट्स** में एशियाई निश्चित आय के मैक्रो और थीमैटिक प्रमुख **रोंग रेन गोह** ने कहा, "विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए सबसे बड़ा मुद्दा अभी भी मुद्रा ही है," और निवेशक रुपये की स्थिरता के स्पष्ट संकेत मिलने तक अपने निवेश को बढ़ाने की प्रतीक्षा कर सकते हैं।
- The recent pace of rupee depreciation has dented the carry appeal of Indian debt, while higher energy prices have added to the pressure, he said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि हाल के समय में रुपये के अवमूल्यन की गति ने भारतीय ऋण बाजार के आकर्षण को कम किया है, जबकि उच्च ऊर्जा कीमतों ने दबाव को और बढ़ाया है।
- Economists at **Citi** sharply revised India's **balance of payments** forecast for the current fiscal year, a shift they say should underpin the rupee.
  सिटी के अर्थशास्त्रियों ने चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए भारत के **भुगतान संतुलन (Balance of Payments)** के पूर्वानुमान में बड़ा संशोधन किया है, जो उनके अनुसार रुपये को समर्थन प्रदान करेगा।

Why SpaceX IPO may spell bad news for crypto

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters

SpaceX's much-anticipated $75 billion initial public offering, set to be the largest ever, will likely keep cryptocurrency prices in the doldrums as retail investors attracted to new and risky artificial intelligence stocks scramble to get a slice of the action.

Celebrity billionaire Elon Musk's rocket and satellite communications company - which merged with his AI startup xAI earlier this year - is expected to fetch a valuation of around $1.75 trillion, sparking a Wall Street and media frenzy. The company has set aside up to 30%, or $22.5 billion, of shares for retail investors, *Reuters* and other outlets have reported, in a rare move for a blockbuster IPO that historically have been dominated by institutional investors. That has helped drive rotation out of risk assets like cryptocurrencies, as retail and other investors free up cash to buy shares in SpaceX - as well as hotly anticipated IPOs from OpenAI and Anthropic that are expected to follow this year, said analysts and crypto executives.

Hit to crypto: A 3D-printed miniature model of Elon Musk and a SpaceX logo are seen in this illustration. REUTERS

Bitcoin down

Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, was last trading near the $60,000 level, down about 52% from its all-time high of $1,26,223 in October. "Crypto is a funding currency for a lot of this," said Spencer Hallarn, global head of over-the-counter trading, GSR, a crypto trading firm and liquidity provider. "We've got to find $75 billion for this IPO, and it's got to come from somewhere."

Firm unprofitable

With SpaceX, Musk revived space travel, turning cosmic exploration into thriving businesses, but it is eyeing an even bigger opportunity in building AI for enterprises. SpaceX's IPO prospectus shows that the company overall is unprofitable, and its lofty valuation assumes years of rapid growth driven by its plan to become an AI powerhouse, in addition to other futuristic ambitions such as Mars missions and launching AI data centres in space. That makes it the type of risky and speculative AI bet that appeals to the same cohort of retail investors that drive sentiment in crypto markets, crypto executives said."A SpaceX IPO would likely pull some capital out of crypto, atleast initially. Both compete for the same pool of risk capital," said Thomas Puech, CEO of crypto trading firm INDIGO,adding that relative to crypto, AI is "the 'sexier' trade at the moment."

Worst times for crypto

SpaceX's planned Friday Nasdaq debut could not come at a worse time for cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin tumbled 15% last week, the most since November 2022, when crypto exchange FTX imploded.

Adding to the pressure, Michael Saylor's Strategy, the largest corporate holder of bitcoin that has been relentlessly bullish on the token for years, disclosed last week that it had sold some of its holdings for the first time since 2022.

"It really is out of favour with investors," said David Morrison, senior market analyst, Trade Nation, adding bitcoin has lost its luster and novelty for many investors. "Excitement over the SpaceX IPO isn't helping either." Cryptocurrencies soared after U.S. President Trump's crypto-friendly administration took power but prices fell in October when he threatened to slap new tariffs on China and struggled to regain footing since.

Why SpaceX IPO may spell bad news for crypto
स्पेसएक्स का आईपीओ क्रिप्टोकरेंसी के लिए क्यों बुरी खबर साबित हो सकता है

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SpaceX's much-anticipated $75 billion initial public offering (IPO), set to be the largest ever, will likely keep cryptocurrency prices in the doldrums as retail investors attracted to new and risky artificial intelligence (AI) stocks scramble to get a slice of the action.

बहुप्रतीक्षित स्पेसएक्स के 75 अरब डॉलर के प्रारंभिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम (IPO), जो अब तक का सबसे बड़ा आईपीओ होने जा रहा है, के कारण क्रिप्टोकरेंसी की कीमतें दबाव में रह सकती हैं क्योंकि नई और जोखिमपूर्ण कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) कंपनियों के शेयरों की ओर आकर्षित खुदरा निवेशक उसमें निवेश करने के लिए उत्सुक हैं।

- Celebrity billionaire **Elon Musk's** rocket and satellite communications company — which merged with his AI startup **xAI** earlier this year — is expected to fetch a valuation of around **$1.75 trillion**, sparking a Wall Street and media frenzy.
  प्रसिद्ध अरबपति **एलन मस्क** की रॉकेट एवं उपग्रह संचार कंपनी, जिसने इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में उनके एआई स्टार्टअप **xAI** के साथ विलय किया था, का मूल्यांकन लगभग **1.75 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** तक पहुँचने का अनुमान है, जिससे वॉल स्ट्रीट और मीडिया में व्यापक उत्साह पैदा हो गया है।
- That has helped drive rotation out of risk assets like cryptocurrencies, as retail and other investors free up cash to buy shares in **SpaceX** — as well as hotly anticipated IPOs from **OpenAI** and **Anthropic** that are expected to follow this year, said analysts and crypto executives.
  विश्लेषकों और क्रिप्टो क्षेत्र के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इस कारण निवेशक क्रिप्टोकरेंसी जैसे जोखिमपूर्ण परिसंपत्तियों से धन निकालकर **स्पेसएक्स** तथा इस वर्ष संभावित **ओपनएआई** और **एंथ्रोपिक** के आईपीओ में निवेश के लिए नकदी जुटा रहे हैं।
- SpaceX's IPO prospectus shows that the company overall is **unprofitable**, and its lofty valuation assumes years of rapid growth driven by its plan to become an **AI powerhouse**, in addition to other futuristic ambitions such as **Mars missions** and launching **AI data centres in space**.
  स्पेसएक्स के आईपीओ प्रॉस्पेक्टस से पता चलता है कि कंपनी अभी भी **लाभहीन** है और उसका उच्च मूल्यांकन इस धारणा पर आधारित है कि वह भविष्य में एक **एआई महाशक्ति** बनेगी, साथ ही **मंगल ग्रह मिशन** और अंतरिक्ष में **एआई डेटा सेंटर** स्थापित करने जैसी महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाओं को भी साकार करेगी।
- That makes it the type of risky and speculative AI bet that appeals to the same cohort of retail investors that drive sentiment in crypto markets, crypto executives said.
  क्रिप्टो क्षेत्र के अधिकारियों के अनुसार, इससे स्पेसएक्स एक ऐसा जोखिमपूर्ण और सट्टात्मक एआई निवेश विकल्प बन जाता है, जो उन्हीं खुदरा निवेशकों को आकर्षित करता है जो क्रिप्टो बाजार की धारणा को प्रभावित करते हैं।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	11 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
11J6	No 'obesity gene': your genetic makeup is not a fixed destiny 'मोटापा जीन' नहीं होता: आपकी आनुवंशिक संरचना कोई निश्चित नियति नहीं है
10J6	Indian reservoirs can host 102 GW floating solar भारतीय जलाशयों में 102 गीगावाट फ्लोटिंग सौर क्षमता स्थापित की जा सकती है
10J6	Hetero Labs, Hungary's Gedeon Richter to tie up for Semaglutide हेटेरो लैब्स और हंगरी की गेडियॉन रिक्टर सेमाग्लूटाइड के लिए साझेदारी करेंगे

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No 'obesity gene': your genetic makeup is not a fixed destiny

Scientists cannot reliably predict whether an individual carrying certain gene variants will eventually end up obese; put another way, there is no 'obesity gene', and for similar reasons, there is no 'fat gene', 'lazy gene' or 'hunger gene'; genetics is also only one part of the story behind diseases

Sayantan Datta

In a 1983 paper, Harvard University geneticists James Gusella and Nancy Wexler reported that Huntington's disease, a fatal inherited disease where brain cells progressively decay, was caused by a gene mutation on chromosome 4. This was the first time a single gene had been implicated in a disease.

Since then, scientists have discovered about 5,000 genes whose mutations can increase our susceptibility to afflictions ranging from obesity to schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder.

Concomitant with the rise in genetic discoveries is the rise of commercial genetic testing. The U.S.-based company 23andMe, for example, offers a saliva-based test priced at around ₹20,000 that promises "insights into [people's] ancestry, traits and health that can help make it easier for [them] to take action on [their] health."

Similarly, Hyderabad-based MapMyGenome offers a "Genomepatri" service for ₹5,999. A play on *janampatri*, a Vedic birth chart purporting to forecast a person's destiny, Genomepatri offers to help consumers uncover their "authentic self" and enhance their health, according to their website.

But according to six geneticists this reporter spoke to, an individual's genetic composition is not their destiny.

"Mutations in our genes predispose us to specific traits and diseases, but it doesn't mean that if you have a mutation, you're going to get this disease," Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad, molecular geneticist Manish Jaiswal said.

What then does it mean to find a gene for a trait or disease – and what happens when we carry them?

Genetic tests should always be followed by genetic counselling. Genetic counsellors are specialists who help people assess their risk of developing genetic disorders and help manage them. GETTY IMAGES

Genes, mutations, disease

Genes are segments of DNA that provide the body a blueprint for building proteins, which eventually help define traits like eye colour or blood type.

When cells in our body divide, specialised proteins make copies of the DNA. This process, while largely accurate, can introduce errors in the duplicated DNA. These changes are called mutations and the corresponding gene is said to have an allele – a variant.

Only a small fraction of an organism's genome – which is the entire length of its DNA – has genes that its body uses to build proteins. For human beings, this coding region comprises about 2% of the genome. The rest of the DNA is non-coding, i.e. not involved in producing proteins, but regulates gene expression.

If a mutation in the coding region impairs the protein product, it may lead to a disease. For example, in Huntington's disease, a small section of the *HTT* gene is repeated more times than in an average individual. This produces a longer version of the protein, whose toxic fragments accumulate in brain cells and eventually kill them. As brain cells continue to die, people begin showing symptoms of the disease.

Sometimes, mutations in non-coding regions of the DNA can also change an individual's risk of a disease. For example, four independent studies in 2007 found that mutations in a particular non-coding region of the DNA were associated with a higher risk of coronary artery disease and type 2 diabetes. Later, in 2011, researchers found that the region contained certain enhancers, short DNA sequences that boost the expression of certain genes.

Identifying genes

To identify genes associated with a trait or disease, scientists until recently took two kinds of approaches: candidate-gene studies and linkage studies.

In candidate-gene studies, scientists use existing information about the disease to identify potential gene candidates that, when mutated, may lead to the disease. For example, because schizophrenia is treated with drugs that regulate the amount of dopamine in the human brain, scientists assumed until 2007 that mutations in genes related to dopamine regulation were linked to schizophrenia.

While such studies were successful in some cases, like Alzheimer's disease, in others they could not reliably identify genes associated with the disease. In the case of schizophrenia, for example, 21 of 25 candidate genes scientists historically studied were found to have little "empirical support ... as genetic risk factors for schizophrenia," a 2015 review in *Molecular Psychiatry* reported.

Linkage studies on the other hand begin by identifying a population or a family where the incidence of a trait or disease is particularly high. Then, scientists study how known markers in their DNA are inherited. If members of the population carrying the trait or disease also inherit the same markers, scientists can claim that the gene variant responsible for the disease and the marker are close on the chromosome, i.e. they are linked. By using statistical techniques, scientists can then pinpoint the gene.

This method works well when diseases are caused by mutations in one or a few genes, National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) genetics researcher Jayant Mahadevan said. Such diseases, like Huntington's, are called monogenic when their risk is determined by mutations in one gene and oligogenic when it's determined by mutations in a few genes.

However, most monogenic diseases are rare: they occur in less than 1% of the population, Dr. Mahadevan added. Most common diseases, including diabetes, obesity, coronary artery disease, and schizophrenia, are polygenic: they are determined by mutations in several genes.

For example, mutations in more than a 100 genes have been implicated in typical obesity. For type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, recent studies place the number at approximately 250 genes. For schizophrenia, scientists suggest that the number could run into several hundreds.

In order to identify gene variants responsible for such diseases, researchers now typically undertake genome-wide association studies (GWAS). By comparing entire DNA sequences of a large number of individuals who carry a disease with that of individuals who don't, scientists can identify hundreds of variations associated with the disease through the entire length of an individual's DNA. This gives researchers a more holistic picture of the gene variations underlying the disease.

No 'obesity gene'

But possessing one or more gene variants implicated in a disease does not mean that one is doomed.

For one, not all gene mutations implicated in a disease have the same effect size. This is a measure of how strongly a gene variant can affect a trait. For example, most gene variants implicated in schizophrenia are thought to have small effect sizes: for an individual's schizophrenia risk to increase substantively, they need to have mutations in several of these genes.

Studies have shown similar results in the case of gene variants associated with obesity. In a 2010 study, scientists studied the effect sizes of 12 implicated. These have "small effects on obesity measures," they reported. Even mutations in the *FTO* gene, known to have the largest effect on an individual's obesity risk and is commonly dubbed the "obesity gene", predisposes a person to only a modest increase in weight compared with individuals who do not carry these mutations, the study added.

> Mutations in our genes predispose us to specific traits and diseases, but it doesn't mean that if you have a mutation, you're going to get this disease
>
> **MANISH JAISWAL**
> Molecular geneticist at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Even though a combination of mutations in these genes could compound the risk, "their predictive value for obesity risk is limited," the researchers concluded.

This means scientists cannot reliably predict whether an individual carrying these gene variants will eventually end up obese. Put another way, there is no "obesity gene". And for similar reasons, there is no "fat gene", "lazy gene" or "hunger gene".

Genetics is also only one part of the story behind a certain disease. The other part is epigenetics: a that refers to how physical, behavioural, and social factors affect the gene expression and, eventually, an individual's risk of a disease.

"Think of the genome as a piano, where each key represents a gene," said epigenetics researcher Ullas Kolthur-Seetharam, director of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, and a professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai. "If a key is faulty, it can produce discordant notes – reflecting a potential disease risk. However, the system has flexibility: by adjusting how other keys are played, you can often compensate and still produce harmonious music."

"In the case of certain inherited diseases caused by critical mutations, some keys may be so impaired that no amount of adjustment can fully restore the intended melody," he added.

"In those situations, the limitation lies in the instrument itself. But for many complex conditions/diseases, how the piano is played (or how the genes are expressed) become as important as the keys themselves."

Indeed, behavioural and lifestyle interventions can actually reduce the risk of diseases. There is mounting evidence that in individuals with *FTO* variants that increase their risk of obesity, high-intensity exercise can reduce the gene's expression, potentially attenuating their risk of developing obesity. One 2015 study that investigated about 16,000 children and adolescents also found that "lower dietary protein intake attenuates the association between the *FTO* genotype and adiposity [the way fat is distributed] in children and adolescents."

Merits of genetic testing

In this context, what does it mean when scientists report identifying a new gene variant for a disease or a trait?

"All you've discovered is its pattern of occurrence in the population or the pattern of its transmission in a family," NIMHANS senior professor Sanjeev Jain, who works on the genetics of several neurological and psychiatric disorders, explained.

But figuring out whether the variant corresponds to the actual disease – and by how much – requires scientists to undertake more research involving diverse model systems, he added.

This doesn't mean genetic pursuit is itself useless, both Dr. Jain and Dr. Mahadevan cautioned. Genetic studies do help researchers identify the physiological mechanisms underlying a disease, which can help clinicians design more effective therapeutics. Scientists also often end up finding gene variants that are actually beneficial.

Starting in the 2000s, researchers discovered that some mutations in the *PCSK9* gene can drastically reduce the risk of coronary artery disease. Since then, clinicians have developed ways to silence the gene, thus reducing patients' cholesterol levels and mitigating the risk of stroke and heart attacks.

Some scientists also see merit in genetic testing – but only in certain contexts. Dimple Notani, a gene regulation researcher at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, said women who conceive late could consider getting themselves screened for mutations linked to rare genetic disorders, which are often monogenic. But for traits that are not monogenic, "I wouldn't worry much," she added.

Genetic tests should always be followed by genetic counselling, Dr. Jaiswal, the TIFR Hyderabad geneticist, said. Genetic counsellors are specialists who help people assess their risk of developing genetic disorders, and help manage them.

In other words, genetics provides us with a helpful but incomplete picture. Between a mutation and its manifestation is a far messier story.

The reporter thanks Dr. Suhas Ganesh (NIMHANS) for his inputs.

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No 'obesity gene': your genetic makeup is not a fixed destiny
'मोटापा जीन' नहीं होता: आपकी आनुवंशिक संरचना कोई निश्चित नियति नहीं है

- **Huntington's disease, a fatal inherited disease where brain cells progressively decay, was caused by a gene mutation on chromosome 4.**
हंटिंगटन रोग, एक घातक **वंशानुगत रोग**, जिसमें **मस्तिष्क कोशिकाएँ** क्रमशः नष्ट होती जाती हैं, **गुणसूत्र 4** पर स्थित एक **जीन उत्परिवर्तन** के कारण होता है।
- This was the first time a single gene had been implicated in a disease.
यह पहली बार था जब किसी एकल **जीन** को किसी **रोग** से संबंधित पाया गया था।
- Since then, scientists have discovered about 5,000 genes whose mutations can increase our susceptibility to afflictions ranging from obesity to schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder.
तब से, वैज्ञानिक लगभग **5,000 जीनों** की खोज कर चुके हैं, जिनके **उत्परिवर्तन** हमारी **संवेदनशीलता** को **मोटापा**, **सिज़ोफ्रेनिया** और **द्विध्रुवीय विकार** जैसे रोगों के प्रति बढ़ा सकते हैं।

Genes, mutations, disease
जीन, उत्परिवर्तन, रोग

- Genes are segments of DNA that provide the body a blueprint for building proteins, which eventually help define traits like eye colour or blood type.
जीन, **डीएनए** के ऐसे खंड होते हैं जो शरीर को **प्रोटीन** बनाने की रूपरेखा प्रदान करते हैं, और यही प्रोटीन अंततः **आँखों के रंग** या **रक्त समूह** जैसे गुणों को निर्धारित करने में सहायता करते हैं।

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- When cells in our body divide, specialised proteins make copies of the DNA.
  जब हमारे शरीर की **कोशिकाएँ** विभाजित होती हैं, तब विशेष प्रकार के **प्रोटीन** डीएनए की प्रतियाँ बनाते हैं।
- This process, while largely accurate, can introduce errors in the duplicated DNA.
  यह प्रक्रिया अधिकांशतः सटीक होती है, किंतु कभी-कभी प्रतिलिपित **डीएनए** में त्रुटियाँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।
- These changes are called mutations and the corresponding gene is said to have an allele — a variant.
  इन परिवर्तनों को **उत्परिवर्तन** कहा जाता है और संबंधित **जीन** में एक **एलील** अर्थात् एक भिन्न रूप उपस्थित माना जाता है।
- Only a small fraction of an organism's genome — which is the entire length of its DNA — has genes that its body uses to build proteins.
  किसी जीव के **जीनोम**, जो उसके संपूर्ण **डीएनए** की लंबाई को दर्शाता है, का केवल एक छोटा भाग ही ऐसे **जीनों** से बना होता है जिनका उपयोग शरीर **प्रोटीन** बनाने के लिए करता है।
- For human beings, this coding region comprises about 2% of the genome.
  मनुष्यों में यह **कोडिंग क्षेत्र** जीनोम का लगभग **2%** होता है।
- The rest of the DNA is non-coding, i.e. not involved in producing proteins, but regulates gene expression.
  शेष **डीएनए नॉन-कोडिंग** होता है, अर्थात वह **प्रोटीन** निर्माण में भाग नहीं लेता, किंतु **जीन अभिव्यक्ति** को नियंत्रित करता है।
- If a mutation in the coding region impairs the protein product, it may lead to a disease.
  यदि **कोडिंग क्षेत्र** में कोई **उत्परिवर्तन** प्रोटीन के निर्माण या कार्य को प्रभावित करता है, तो वह किसी **रोग** का कारण बन सकता है।
- For example, in Huntington's disease, a small section of the HTT gene is repeated more times than in an average individual.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **हंटिंगटन रोग** में **HTT जीन** का एक छोटा भाग सामान्य व्यक्ति की तुलना में अधिक बार दोहराया जाता है।
- This produces a longer version of the protein, whose toxic fragments accumulate in brain cells and eventually kill them.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **प्रोटीन** का एक लंबा रूप बनता है, जिसके **विषैले अंश** मस्तिष्क कोशिकाओं में जमा होकर अंततः उन्हें नष्ट कर देते हैं।
- As brain cells continue to die, people begin showing symptoms of the disease.
  जैसे-जैसे **मस्तिष्क कोशिकाएँ** नष्ट होती रहती हैं, लोगों में इस **रोग** के लक्षण दिखाई देने लगते हैं।
- **Sometimes, mutations in non-coding regions of the DNA can also change an individual's risk of a disease.**
  कभी-कभी **डीएनए** के **नॉन-कोडिंग क्षेत्रों** में होने वाले **उत्परिवर्तन** भी किसी व्यक्ति के **रोग-जोखिम** को बदल सकते हैं।
- For example, four independent studies in 2007 found that mutations in a particular non-coding region of the DNA were associated with a higher risk of coronary artery disease and type 2 diabetes.
  उदाहरण के लिए, वर्ष 2007 में किए गए चार स्वतंत्र अध्ययनों में पाया गया कि **डीएनए** के एक विशेष **नॉन-कोडिंग क्षेत्र** में होने वाले **उत्परिवर्तन कोरोनरी धमनी रोग** तथा **टाइप 2 मधुमेह** के बढ़े हुए जोखिम से जुड़े थे।
- For example, because schizophrenia is treated with drugs that regulate the amount of dopamine in the human brain, scientists assumed until 2007 that mutations in genes related to dopamine regulation were linked to schizophrenia.
  उदाहरण के लिए, क्योंकि **सिज़ोफ्रेनिया** का उपचार उन दवाओं से किया जाता है जो मानव मस्तिष्क में **डोपामाइन** की मात्रा को नियंत्रित करती हैं, इसलिए वर्ष 2007 तक वैज्ञानिक यह मानते थे कि **डोपामाइन नियंत्रण** से संबंधित **जीनों** में उत्परिवर्तन **सिज़ोफ्रेनिया** से जुड़े हुए हैं।
- By using statistical techniques, scientists can then pinpoint the gene.
  इसके बाद वैज्ञानिक **सांख्यिकीय तकनीकों** का उपयोग करके उस **जीन** की सटीक पहचान कर सकते हैं।

- This method works well when diseases are caused by mutations in one or a few genes, **National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)** genetics researcher Jayant Mahadevan said.
  राष्ट्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य एवं तंत्रिका विज्ञान संस्थान (NIMHANS) के आनुवंशिकी शोधकर्ता **जयंत महादेवन** के अनुसार, यह विधि तब अच्छी तरह कार्य करती है जब रोग एक या कुछ **जीनों** में उत्परिवर्तन के कारण होते हैं।
- Such diseases, like **Huntington's, are called monogenic when their risk is determined by mutations in one gene and oligogenic when it's determined by mutations in a few genes**.
  हंटिंगटन रोग जैसे रोगों को **मोनोजेनिक** कहा जाता है जब उनका जोखिम एक ही **जीन** में उत्परिवर्तन द्वारा निर्धारित होता है, और **ओलिगोजेनिक** कहा जाता है जब उनका जोखिम कुछ **जीनों** में उत्परिवर्तन द्वारा निर्धारित होता है।
- However, most monogenic diseases are rare: they occur in less than 1% of the population, Dr. Mahadevan added.
  हालाँकि, अधिकांश **मोनोजेनिक रोग** दुर्लभ होते हैं; वे जनसंख्या के **1% से भी कम** लोगों में पाए जाते हैं, डॉ. महादेवन ने बताया।
- Most common diseases, including diabetes, obesity, coronary artery disease, and schizophrenia, are polygenic: they are determined by mutations in several genes.
  अधिकांश सामान्य रोग, जिनमें **मधुमेह**, **मोटापा**, **कोरोनरी धमनी रोग** और **सिज़ोफ्रेनिया** शामिल हैं, **पॉलीजेनिक** होते हैं; उनका निर्धारण कई **जीनों** में उत्परिवर्तन द्वारा होता है।
- For example, mutations in more than a 100 genes have been implicated in typical obesity.
  उदाहरण के लिए, सामान्य **मोटापे** में **100 से अधिक जीनों** के उत्परिवर्तन की भूमिका पाई गई है।
- For type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, recent studies place the number at approximately 250 genes.
  टाइप 2 मधुमेह, जो इस रोग का सबसे सामान्य रूप है, के लिए हालिया अध्ययनों ने यह संख्या लगभग **250 जीनों** तक बताई है।
- By comparing entire DNA sequences of a large number of individuals who carry a disease with that of individuals who don't, scientists can identify hundreds of variations associated with the disease through the entire length of an individual's DNA.
  किसी रोग से ग्रस्त बड़ी संख्या में व्यक्तियों के संपूर्ण **डीएनए अनुक्रमों** की तुलना उन व्यक्तियों के डीएनए से करके जिनमें वह रोग नहीं है, वैज्ञानिक उस रोग से संबंधित सैकड़ों **आनुवंशिक विविधताओं** की पहचान कर सकते हैं।
- The other part is **epigenetics**: a that refers to how physical, behavioural, and social factors affect the gene expression and, eventually, an individual's risk of a disease.
  दूसरा भाग **एपिजेनेटिक्स** है, जो यह बताता है कि **शारीरिक**, **व्यवहारिक** तथा **सामाजिक कारक** किस प्रकार **जीन अभिव्यक्ति** को प्रभावित करते हैं और अंततः किसी व्यक्ति के **रोग-जोखिम** को निर्धारित करते हैं।
- "Think of the genome as a piano, where each key represents a gene," said **epigenetics researcher Ullas Kolthur-Seetharam**, director of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, and a professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
  "**जीनोम** को एक **पियानो** के रूप में सोचिए, जहाँ प्रत्येक कुंजी एक **जीन** का प्रतिनिधित्व करती है," **एपिजेनेटिक्स शोधकर्ता उल्लास कोल्थुर-सीताराम** ने कहा, जो हैदराबाद स्थित **सेंटर फॉर डीएनए फिंगरप्रिंटिंग एंड डायग्नोस्टिक्स** के निदेशक तथा मुंबई स्थित **टाटा इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फंडामेंटल रिसर्च** में प्रोफेसर हैं।
- "If a key is faulty, it can produce discordant notes — reflecting a potential disease risk.
  "यदि कोई कुंजी दोषपूर्ण हो, तो वह असंगत स्वर उत्पन्न कर सकती है — जो संभावित **रोग-जोखिम** को दर्शाता है।
- However, the system has flexibility: by adjusting how other keys are played, you can often compensate and still produce harmonious music."

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किन्तु इस प्रणाली में लचीलापन भी है; अन्य कुंजियों को किस प्रकार बजाया जाता है, इसमें परिवर्तन करके आप प्रायः इसकी भरपाई कर सकते हैं और फिर भी मधुर संगीत उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।"

- "In the case of certain inherited diseases caused by critical mutations, some keys may be so impaired that no amount of adjustment can fully restore the intended melody," he added.
  उन्होंने आगे कहा, "कुछ **वंशानुगत रोगों** में, जो गंभीर **उत्परिवर्तनों** के कारण होते हैं, कुछ कुंजियाँ इतनी अधिक क्षतिग्रस्त हो सकती हैं कि कोई भी समायोजन मूल धुन को पूर्णतः पुनर्स्थापित नहीं कर सकता।"
- "In those situations, the limitation lies in the instrument itself.
  "ऐसी परिस्थितियों में सीमा स्वयं वाद्ययंत्र में होती है।
- Indeed, behavioural and lifestyle interventions can actually reduce the risk of diseases.
  वास्तव में, **व्यवहारिक** और **जीवनशैली संबंधी हस्तक्षेप** रोगों के जोखिम को कम कर सकते हैं।
- There is mounting evidence that in individuals with **FTO variants** that increase their risk of obesity, high-intensity exercise can reduce the gene's expression, potentially attenuating their risk of developing obesity.
  इस बात के बढ़ते प्रमाण हैं कि जिन व्यक्तियों में **FTO प्रकारांतर** मौजूद हैं और जो उनके **मोटापे के जोखिम** को बढ़ाते हैं, उनमें **उच्च-तीव्रता वाला व्यायाम** उस जीन की अभिव्यक्ति को कम कर सकता है तथा मोटापा विकसित होने के जोखिम को घटा सकता है।
- Genetic counsellors are specialists who help people assess their risk of developing genetic disorders, and help manage them.
  आनुवंशिक परामर्शदाता ऐसे विशेषज्ञ होते हैं जो लोगों को **आनुवंशिक विकारों** के जोखिम का आकलन करने तथा उनका प्रबंधन करने में सहायता करते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Indian reservoirs can host 102 GW floating solar

GS III: S&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's reservoirs can host about 102 gigawatt (GW) of floating solar capacity, as per the first comprehensive national assessment of the technology's potential by the National Institute of Solar Energy, an autonomous institute of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The report titled "Solar PV Potential of India (Floating Solar)" frames panels on water as a way around one of the most intractable obstacles in the solar sector – land.

The assessment, however, has no calculation of what it would cost to realise this potential. Its only cost reference is a 2021 benchmark from U.S. National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which the report cites to note floating units cost about 25% more upfront than ground-mounted ones owing to floats, anchoring and waterproofing.

"We are in discussions with the Finance Ministry to promote floating solar and agri-photovoltaics," Santosh Kumar Sarangi, Secretary, MNRE said.

Water power: An aerial view of the floating solar panels on the Mudasarlova reservoir in Visakhapatnam. FILE PHOTO

Agri-photovoltaics refer to farm beds that are sheltered by structures on which solar panels are mounted.

Acquiring land

Ground-mounted solar systems, which dominate India's about 100 GW of installed solar capacity, need 3-4 times more area/MW than the panels themselves occupy. Land acquisition, which is costly, slow and prone to conflict with agriculture and habitation, continues to be a choke-point as India pursues 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030. Floating solar is 'land neutral', the report underlines.

NISE arrived at its estimate by passing India's inland water bodies via six geospatial filters: lakes and reservoirs larger than 10 hectare, water present for at least 11 months/year, depths of 3-30 metre, solar irradiance above 4.5 kWh/m²/day and proximity within 10 km of roads and substations. Demonstrated at Odisha's Hirakud reservoir, the filters whittled 499 sq. km. of water down to 99.5 sq. km. of usable surface. Applied nationwide, they yielded 1,946 sq. km. of feasible area with a self-imposed cap of 20% of any reservoir's surface, translating to 102.18 GW. Maharashtra (16.28 GW), Madhya Pradesh (14.89 GW), Karnataka (13.69 GW), Odisha (12.81 GW) and Telangana (10.72 GW) account for the bulk.

Flagship solar park

India's flagship is the Omkareshwar floating solar park on River Narmada in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa district – at 278 MW, the country's largest with plans to scale to 600 MW. Yet NISE's field observations there recorded loosening float joints, misaligned platforms and uneven buoyancy alongside reports from developers of electric cables breaking. Globally, floating solar reached about 9.6 GW by 2024, almost 90% of it in Asia. China leads with installations such as a 120 MW plant on fish farm in Poyang Lake; Singapore's 1 MW Tengeh reservoir test bed supplied much of the field's performance data and Netherlands accounts for about 3/4th of Europe's capacity built largely on quarry lakes.

Indian reservoirs can host 102 GW floating solar
भारतीय जलाशयों में 102 गीगावाट फ्लोटिंग सौर क्षमता स्थापित की जा सकती है

India's reservoirs can host about 102 gigawatt (GW) of floating solar capacity, as per the first comprehensive national assessment of the technology's potential by the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), an autonomous institute of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के स्वायत्त संस्थान राष्ट्रीय सौर ऊर्जा संस्थान (NISE) द्वारा इस प्रौद्योगिकी की क्षमता के प्रथम व्यापक राष्ट्रीय आकलन के अनुसार, भारत के जलाशयों में लगभग 102 गीगावाट (GW) की फ्लोटिंग सौर क्षमता स्थापित की जा सकती है।

- The report titled **"Solar PV Potential of India (Floating Solar)"** frames panels on water as a way around one of the most intractable obstacles in the solar sector — **land**.
  "सोलर पीवी पोटेंशियल ऑफ इंडिया (फ्लोटिंग सोलर)" शीर्षक वाली रिपोर्ट में जल सतह पर स्थापित सौर पैनलों को सौर क्षेत्र की सबसे जटिल चुनौतियों में से एक अर्थात् **भूमि** की समस्या का समाधान बताया गया है।
- The assessment, however, has no calculation of what it would cost to realise this potential.
  हालाँकि, इस आकलन में इस क्षमता को साकार करने की लागत का कोई अनुमान प्रस्तुत नहीं किया गया है।
- **Agri-photovoltaics** refer to farm beds that are sheltered by structures on which solar panels are mounted.
  एग्री-फोटोवोल्टाइक उन कृषि क्षेत्रों को संदर्भित करता है, जिनके ऊपर संरचनाएँ बनाकर उन पर सौर पैनल स्थापित किए जाते हैं।

Acquiring land

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भूमि अधिग्रहण

- **Land acquisition**, which is costly, slow and prone to conflict with agriculture and habitation, continues to be a chokepoint as India pursues **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030**.
  भूमि अधिग्रहण, जो महंगा, धीमा तथा कृषि एवं आवासीय क्षेत्रों के साथ संघर्ष की संभावना वाला है, भारत के **2030 तक 500 गीगावाट गैर-जीवाश्म क्षमता** के लक्ष्य की दिशा में एक प्रमुख बाधा बना हुआ है।
- **Floating solar** is '**land neutral**', the report underlines.
  रिपोर्ट इस बात पर बल देती है कि **फ्लोटिंग सोलर** '**भूमि-तटस्थ (Land Neutral)**' है।
- **China** leads with installations such as a **120 MW** plant on fish farm in **Poyang Lake**.
  चीन इस क्षेत्र में अग्रणी है, जहाँ **पोयांग झील** में मत्स्य फार्म पर स्थापित **120 मेगावाट** की परियोजना जैसी बड़ी इकाइयाँ संचालित हैं।
- **Singapore's 1 MW Tengeh reservoir test bed** supplied much of the field's performance data.
  सिंगापुर के 1 मेगावाट टेंगेह जलाशय परीक्षण केंद्र ने इस क्षेत्र से संबंधित प्रदर्शन संबंधी अधिकांश आँकड़े उपलब्ध कराए हैं।
- The **Netherlands** accounts for about **three-fourths of Europe's capacity** built largely on quarry lakes.
  नीदरलैंड यूरोप की कुल फ्लोटिंग सौर क्षमता का लगभग **तीन-चौथाई हिस्सा** रखता है, जिसका अधिकांश भाग खदानों से निर्मित झीलों पर विकसित किया गया है।

Hetero Labs, Hungary's Gedeon Richter to tie up for Semaglutide

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Semaglutide is the active ingredient in Novo Nordisk's blockbuster drugs Wegovy and Ozempic

Budapest-headquartered Gedeon Richter and Hyderabad-based Hetero Labs announced on Wednesday signing of a global collaboration agreement for the joint development, registration and commercialisation of Semaglutide injection.

Under the agreement, they will combine complementary strengths under a coordinated global framework with clearly defined territorial responsibilities and a balanced cost- and profit-sharing model, the companies said on the collaboration for the generic of Danish major Novo Nordisk's Ozempic.

Semaglutide is the active ingredient in Novo Nordisk's blockbuster diabetes and weight loss drugs Wegovy and Ozempic.

Hetero has already made significant development investments, including technology setup and registration batch manufacturing. Regulatory filings are underway, with the EU and US submissions planned for 2027.

The collaboration leverages Hetero's proven market reach within the U.S. and Emerging Markets, as well as Richter's well-established commercial infrastructure across Europe and Central Asia, while maintaining optionality for future European manufacturing by Richter, the companies said.

The collaboration will enable us to deliver high quality, affordable therapies, Global Head of General Medicines at Richter Bence Kovacs said.

Hetero Labs, Hungary's Gedeon Richter to tie up for Semaglutide

हेटेरो लैब्स और हंगरी की गेडियॉन रिक्टर सेमाग्लूटाइड के लिए साझेदारी करेंगे

Budapest-headquartered Gedeon Richter and Hyderabad-based Hetero Labs announced on Wednesday signing of a global collaboration agreement for the joint development, registration and commercialisation of Semaglutide injection.

बुडापेस्ट मुख्यालय वाली गेडियॉन रिक्टर और हैदराबाद स्थित हेटेरो लैब्स ने बुधवार को सेमाग्लूटाइड इंजेक्शन के संयुक्त विकास, पंजीकरण और व्यावसायीकरण के लिए एक वैश्विक सहयोग समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर करने की घोषणा की।

- **Semaglutide** is the active ingredient in **Novo Nordisk's** blockbuster diabetes and weight loss drugs **Wegovy** and **Ozempic**.
  सेमाग्लूटाइड, **नोवो नॉर्डिस्क** की प्रसिद्ध मधुमेह एवं वजन घटाने वाली दवाओं **वेगोवी** और **ओज़ेम्पिक** का सक्रिय घटक है।
- **Hetero** has already made significant development investments, including technology setup and registration batch manufacturing.
  हेटेरो पहले ही प्रौद्योगिकी स्थापना तथा पंजीकरण बैच निर्माण सहित विकास संबंधी महत्वपूर्ण निवेश कर चुकी है।
- Regulatory filings are underway, with the **EU** and **US**

submissions planned for **2027**.
नियामकीय प्रस्तुतियाँ जारी हैं तथा **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका (US)** में आवेदन **2027** के लिए नियोजित हैं।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management	11 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED

11 J6	**Foreseeable accidents** **पूर्वानुमेय दुर्घटनाएँ**
11 J6	**Major lacunae in reporting industrial accidents** **औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग में प्रमुख कमियाँ**

THE HINDU
GS III: Disaster Management

Foreseeable accidents

Industrial mishaps are due to accumulated organisational weaknesses

Despite there having been a streak of industrial accidents in India of late, the notion that they are isolated and incidental persists. Within days of each other, four workers were killed in a 'mishap' in a septic tank in Surat while nine workers were killed by an explosion at a steel plant in Visakhapatnam. They appear to be different circumstances: one involved workers entering a confined space and succumbing to toxic gases; the other involved 150 tonnes of molten steel and a violent blast. Yet, industry has known of these risks and had developed preventive measures decades ago. In the Surat incident, four workers entered the tank and were overcome by toxic fumes. The circumstances resemble a well-known pattern in fatalities in confined spaces, where the first victims are often followed by would-be rescuers who enter without protection. There have been deaths in similar circumstances in Surat's industrial sector in recent years. The working area must be mechanically ventilated and have rescue personnel on standby while the workers must have breathing apparatuses, harnesses and retrieval lines, and clear lines of communication. Unprotected entry must be strictly prohibited. Septic tank deaths and deaths due to manual scavenging are in fact rarely accidents in the sense of unforeseeable events, but failures of basic safety management, and the recurrence of such incidents speaks to the persistence of that failure. Likewise, while steelmaking is intrinsically more dangerous because it combines extreme temperatures, pressurised gases, heavy equipment, and enormous stores of heat energy, industry still knows the hazards it poses, and further that even relatively small process failures can result in multiple casualties.

Both incidents, and the patterns they extend, are reminders of persistent safety failures in many parts of Indian industry. In Visakhapatnam, trade unions and former employees have alleged that the plant had reduced staffing, heavier workloads, ageing equipment, deferred maintenance, and an increasing dependence on contractual labour. Some also linked these trends to the difficulties the plant faced following the Centre's divestment plans and the resulting constraints on investments. However true any of these factors are, they confirm that a major industrial accident is almost always due to the accumulation of organisational weaknesses. In fact, contract labour is central to understanding both incidents. Occupational safety research has consistently found that contracted workers face higher risks because they may receive less training and operate within systems with fragmented accountability. The incidents have also occurred during the gradual and uneven implementation of India's new occupational safety framework – and highlight the invisible fact that the country's industries remain anchored by old problems of manpower shortage, caste- and class-based exposure to hazardous labour, and a 'cost over safety' mindset in financially stressed units.

Foreseeable accidents
पूर्वानुमेय दुर्घटनाएँ

- The working area must be mechanically ventilated and have rescue personnel on standby while the workers must have breathing apparatuses, harnesses and retrieval lines, and clear lines of communication.

कार्यस्थल में **यांत्रिक वेंटिलेशन** होना चाहिए तथा बचाव कर्मियों को तैयार रहना चाहिए, जबकि श्रमिकों के पास **श्वसन उपकरण**, **हार्नेस**, **रिट्रीवल लाइनें** और स्पष्ट **संचार व्यवस्था** होनी चाहिए।

- Septic tank deaths and deaths due to manual scavenging are in fact rarely accidents in the sense of unforeseeable events, but failures of basic safety management, and the recurrence of such incidents speaks to the persistence of that failure.

वास्तव में **सेप्टिक टैंक** तथा **मैनुअल स्कैवेंजिंग** से होने वाली मौतें अप्रत्याशित दुर्घटनाएँ कम और **मूलभूत सुरक्षा प्रबंधन की विफलताएँ** अधिक होती हैं, तथा ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति इसी विफलता की निरंतरता को दर्शाती है।

- Likewise, while steelmaking is intrinsically more dangerous because it combines extreme temperatures, pressurised gases, heavy equipment, and enormous stores of heat energy, industry still knows the hazards it poses, and further that even relatively small process failures can result in multiple casualties.

इसी प्रकार, यद्यपि **इस्पात निर्माण** स्वाभाविक रूप से अधिक खतरनाक है क्योंकि इसमें अत्यधिक तापमान, **दाबयुक्त गैसें**, भारी उपकरण और विशाल **ऊष्मा ऊर्जा** शामिल होती है, फिर भी उद्योग इसके खतरों से परिचित है तथा यह भी जानता है कि प्रक्रिया में अपेक्षाकृत छोटी विफलताएँ भी अनेक लोगों की मृत्यु का कारण बन सकती हैं।

- In Visakhapatnam, trade unions and former employees have alleged that the plant had reduced staffing, heavier workloads, ageing equipment, deferred maintenance, and an increasing dependence on contractual labour.

विशाखापत्तनम में **ट्रेड यूनियनों** और पूर्व कर्मचारियों ने आरोप लगाया है कि संयंत्र में कर्मचारियों की संख्या कम की गई, कार्यभार बढ़ाया गया, उपकरण पुराने हो गए, रखरखाव टाला गया तथा **ठेका श्रमिकों** पर निर्भरता बढ़ गई।

- Some also linked these trends to the difficulties the plant faced following the Centre's divestment plans and the resulting constraints on

investments.
कुछ लोगों ने इन प्रवृत्तियों को **केंद्र सरकार की विनिवेश योजनाओं** के बाद संयंत्र द्वारा झेली गई कठिनाइयों तथा निवेश संबंधी बाधाओं से भी जोड़ा।

- Occupational safety research has consistently found that contracted workers face higher risks because they may receive less training and operate within systems with fragmented accountability.
व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा अनुसंधान लगातार यह दर्शाता है कि **ठेका श्रमिक** अधिक जोखिम का सामना करते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें कम प्रशिक्षण मिल सकता है और वे ऐसी प्रणालियों में कार्य करते हैं जहाँ **जवाबदेही विभाजित** होती है।

- The incidents have also occurred during the gradual and uneven implementation of India's new occupational safety framework — and highlight the invisible fact that the country's industries remain anchored by old problems of manpower shortage, caste- and class-based exposure to hazardous labour, and a 'cost over safety' mindset in financially stressed units.
ये घटनाएँ **भारत के नए व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा ढाँचे** के क्रमिक और असमान कार्यान्वयन के दौरान हुई हैं तथा इस अदृश्य तथ्य को उजागर करती हैं कि देश के उद्योग अब भी **जनशक्ति की कमी**, **जाति एवं वर्ग आधारित खतरनाक श्रम**, तथा आर्थिक दबाव झेल रही इकाइयों में **'सुरक्षा से अधिक लागत'** वाली मानसिकता जैसी पुरानी समस्याओं से बँधे हुए हैं।

Major lacunae in reporting industrial accidents

The inconsistencies in the data compiled by the Labour Bureau and the DGFASLI point to severe lapses in reporting of industrial accidents

GS III: Disaster Management
DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Pon Vasanth B.A.

The death toll from the explosion at the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited-Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL-VSP) on June 8, rose to nine on Wednesday. Following the incident, a familiar chain of bureaucratic responses has been triggered such as ex-gratia for the bereaved families and the constitution of an expert committee for a high-level probe. These were the same measures taken after the last major accident at the plant in 2014, and indeed after most workplace accidents across the country. But India appears to be lagging in strengthening institutional mechanisms needed to prevent such accidents **(Chart 2)**.

The problem begins with the very collection of safety data, as the gaps in the annual Standard Reference Notes (SRNs) of the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI) reveal. DGFASLI helps implement the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020. The OSH, for which the rules were notified only last month, renamed the DGFASLI as the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health.

Each SRN records industrial accidents in two sections: one from data compiled by the Labour Bureau and the other from DGFASLI's own correspondence with Chief Inspectors of Factories. The two never match, pointing to lapses in reporting **(Chart 3)**.

The reports also show DGFASLI struggling with heavy vacancies **(Chart 4)**. The country does not have enough factory inspectors, even in industrialised States such as Tamil Nadu **(Chart 5)**. This gets consequently reflected in the small fraction of factories inspected each year **(Chart 6)**. Moreover, many States simply do not report the required details **(Chart 7)**.

Institutional apathy

Data for the charts were sourced from Standard Reference Notes (SRNs) and Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India (ADSI) reports. With inputs from Nitika Francis and Sandhya K, who is interning with *The Hindu*

Flames erupt in a steel plant after molten iron spills while being moved in a bucket by a crane in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on Monday, June 8. PTI

Chart 1: Deaths ( ) and injuries ( ) reported in fire accidents in factories, as per ADSI reports

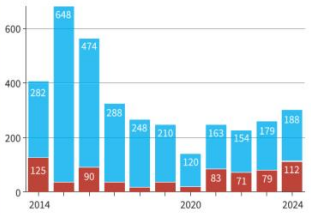


Chart 2: The number of registered factories in each year ( ) and the number of employees in millions ( )

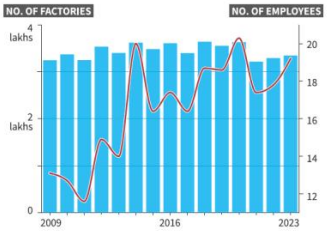


Chart 3: Fatal and non-fatal injuries as per the Labour Bureau (LB) and (CIFs), which vary widely over the years, with a few showing unexplained swings in the SRNS

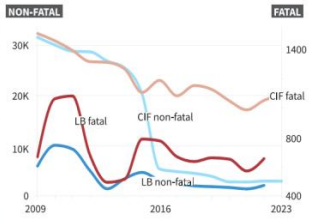
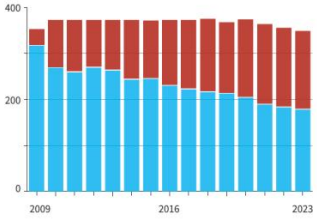


Chart 4: The year-wise vacancies ( ) and filled positions ( ) in DGFASLI. Nearly 50% of the 349 sanctioned posts remained vacant as of 2023



Besides wide variations within the SRNs between the LB and CIFs' data, the fire accidents captured by them were only a third of the numbers reported in ADSI reports

Chart 5: Inspectors per factory among the States with the highest number of factories as of 2023

	Number of factories	Inspectors of Factories	Factories per inspector
Tamil Nadu	50,669	106	478
Gujarat	49,246	81	608
Maharashtra	39,533	44	898
Haryana	25,607	35	732
A.P.	24,642	42	587
Kerala	22,601	53	426
Telangana	22,118	27	819
Karnataka	18,389	48	383
Delhi	13,616	7	1,945
Rajasthan	11,014	27	408

Chart 6: The share of factories inspected by DGFASLI each year (in %). The inspections have dropped significantly in the recent years, perhaps due to the staff crunch

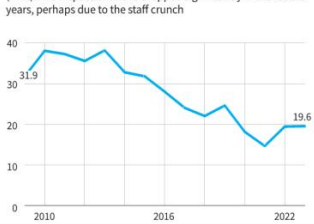
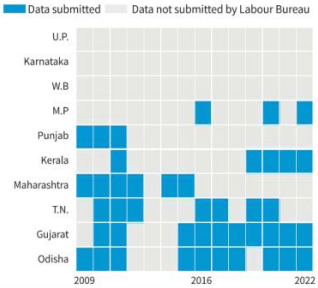


Chart 7: Many States did not furnish data on fatal and non-fatal incidents, either to the Labour Bureau, or DGFASLI, as per the SRNs. U.P., Karnataka and W.B. did not provide data even once



Major lacunae in reporting industrial accidents
औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाओं की रिपोर्टिंग में प्रमुख कमियाँ

- The problem begins with the very collection of safety data, as the gaps in the annual **Standard Reference Notes (SRNs) of the Directorate General Factory Advice Service and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI)** reveal.
  समस्या की शुरुआत **सुरक्षा संबंधी आँकड़ों** के संग्रहण से ही होती है, जैसा कि **डायरेक्टरेट जनरल फैक्ट्री एडवाइस सर्विस एंड लेबर इंस्टीट्यूट्स (DGFASLI)** की वार्षिक **स्टैंडर्ड रेफरेंस नोट्स (SRNs)** में मौजूद कमियों से स्पष्ट होता है।
- **DGFASLI helps implement the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020**.
  DGFASLI, **व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य एवं कार्य परिस्थितियाँ (OSH) संहिता, 2020** के कार्यान्वयन में सहायता करता है।
- **The OSH, for which the rules were notified only last month, renamed the DGFASLI as the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health**.
  OSH संहिता, जिसके नियम केवल पिछले महीने अधिसूचित किए गए, ने **DGFASLI** का नाम बदलकर **व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा एवं स्वास्थ्य महानिदेशालय** कर दिया है।
- Each SRN records industrial accidents in two sections: one from data compiled by the Labour Bureau and the other from DGFASLI's own correspondence with Chief Inspectors of Factories.
  प्रत्येक **SRN** औद्योगिक दुर्घटनाओं का विवरण दो भागों में दर्ज करता है: पहला **श्रम ब्यूरो** द्वारा संकलित आँकड़ों पर आधारित होता है और दूसरा **DGFASLI** तथा **मुख्य कारखाना निरीक्षकों** के बीच हुए पत्राचार पर।
- The two never match, pointing to lapses in reporting (Chart 3).
  ये दोनों आँकड़े कभी मेल नहीं खाते, जो **रिपोर्टिंग प्रणाली** में कमियों की ओर संकेत करते हैं (चार्ट 3)।
- The reports also show DGFASLI struggling with heavy vacancies (Chart 4).
  रिपोर्टें यह भी दर्शाती हैं कि **DGFASLI** गंभीर **रिक्तियों** की समस्या से जूझ रहा है (चार्ट 4)।

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PCS Special:	10 June 2026
10J6	Vijay keeps promise, launches Singappen Special Force in T.N. विजय ने अपना वादा निभाया, तमिलनाडु में 'सिंगप्पेन स्पेशल फ़ोर्स' की शुरुआत की।
10J6	Shipping authority's inquiry report lists reasons for MSC Elsa 3 sinking नौवहन प्राधिकरण की जाँच रिपोर्ट में MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने के कारणों का उल्लेख किया गया है।
10J6	First-timers पहली बार विजेता बने खिलाड़ी

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Vijay keeps promise, launches Singappen Special Force in T.N.

[redacted]

N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Tuesday warned that those who harassed women and threatened their safety, believing that they could escape punishment, would not be spared. The police would take strict action against them, he said.

He was launching the 'Singappen Special Force' in the Tamil Nadu Police at the Rajarathinam Stadium at Egmore in Chennai.

The Chief Minister said the root cause of threats to women's safety was the spread of narcotics and substance abuse, and it must be stamped out.

"The success of a government should not be measured by infrastructure and economic growth alone; it should be measured by dignity and respect with which women and children live," he said.

Close to heart

The launch of the special force, which Mr. Vijay said was close to his heart, gave him immense happiness. "We [the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam] had promised to ensure the safety of our grandmothers, mothers, sisters, daughters, and girl children. That promise was not merely for the election. It came emotionally and truthfully from the heart. That is why we implemented this initiative within a short period of coming to power," Mr. Vijay said.

"While this initiative gives satisfaction, hearing news about crimes against women disturbs me. It is difficult to control those emotions because such atrocities happen to people who belong to our own families," he said.

Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay unveils the monogram of Singappen Special Force in Chennai. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The Chief Minister attributed crimes against women and children to the spread of narcotic substances.

"This problem did not emerge suddenly in May 2026. It has existed for many years. It has spread so deeply because it was ignored for long," he said, adding that the spread of narcotics, crimes against women, and law and order were interlinked.

He added that the safety of women and children was not merely a law and order issue. "It is connected to social discipline, and within social discipline lies individual discipline. If individuals behave responsibly and with self-control, society will change. Women must have dignity and no fear at educational institutions and workplaces, during travel, and in their daily lives," Mr. Vijay said.

10J6. Vijay keeps promise, launches Singappen Special Force in T.N.

विजय ने अपना वादा निभाया, तमिलनाडु में 'सिंगप्पेन स्पेशल फ़ोर्स' की शुरुआत की।

- He was launching the **'Singappen Special Force'** in the **Tamil Nadu Police** at the **Rajarathinam Stadium** at **Egmore** in **Chennai**.

वे **चेन्नई** के **एग्मोर** स्थित **राजारथिनम स्टेडियम** में **तमिलनाडु पुलिस** के अंतर्गत **'सिंगप्पेन स्पेशल फोर्स'** का शुभारंभ कर रहे थे।

- The Chief Minister said the root cause of threats to **women's safety** was the spread of **narcotics** and **substance abuse**, and it must be stamped out.

मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा कि **महिला सुरक्षा** के लिए उत्पन्न खतरों का मूल कारण **मादक पदार्थों** का प्रसार और **नशे का दुरुपयोग** है, तथा इसे समाप्त किया जाना चाहिए।

- "The success of a government should not be measured by **infrastructure** and **economic growth** alone; it should be measured by dignity and respect with which **women** and **children** live," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "किसी सरकार की सफलता का आकलन केवल **बुनियादी ढाँचे** और **आर्थिक विकास** से नहीं किया जाना चाहिए; बल्कि इस आधार पर किया जाना चाहिए कि **महिलाएँ** और **बच्चे** कितनी गरिमा और सम्मान के साथ जीवन व्यतीत करते हैं।"

Close to heart
हृदय के निकट

- "It is connected to **social discipline**, and within social discipline lies **individual discipline**."

"यह **सामाजिक अनुशासन** से जुड़ा हुआ है, और सामाजिक अनुशासन के भीतर **व्यक्तिगत अनुशासन** निहित है।"

- "If individuals behave responsibly and with self-control, society will change."

"यदि व्यक्ति जिम्मेदारी और आत्मसंयम के साथ व्यवहार करें, तो समाज में परिवर्तन आएगा।"

- "Women must have **dignity** and no **fear** at educational institutions and workplaces, during travel, and in their daily lives," Mr. Vijay said.

श्री विजय ने कहा, "महिलाओं को **शैक्षणिक संस्थानों**, **कार्यस्थलों**, **यात्रा के दौरान** तथा अपने **दैनिक जीवन** में पूर्ण **गरिमा** और **निर्भयता** के साथ जीवन जीने का अधिकार होना चाहिए।"

Shipping authority's inquiry report lists reasons for *MSC Elsa 3* sinking

PCS [redacted]

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Directorate General of Shipping concluded the preliminary investigation into the sinking of the container ship *MSC Elsa-3* off the Alappuzha coast in May 2025. The inquiry report, submitted in an affidavit before the Kerala High Court, identified causes of the incident that led to marine pollution off Alappuzha and along parts of the southern coast.

Critical system malfunction, compounded by structural failures and the incompetence of crew members, was identified as the causative factor in the report. It said that the ship had shown an inherent tilt to the right in previous voyages. During the journey from Vizhinjam to Kochi, the ship's ballast water system failed first, and as a result, the crew could not stop the progressive flooding into the ballast tanks. The ship's safety management system was reported to be deficient, especially regarding maintenance procedures and spare parts management. The ship had tilted to about 26 degrees, causing several container stacks to shift, further compromising the ship's stability. By midnight on May 24, 2025, the containers had begun to fall overboard, creating additional hazards.

The shipping authority concluded the preliminary probe into the sinking of *MSC Elsa-3* in May 2025 off the Alappuzha coast. AP

The investigation found that known defects were inadequately addressed, with reliance on temporary fixes that created system weaknesses.

The chief officer of the ship had joined one week before the incident and was not given sufficient time for the handover, which also added to the lack of crisis management, the report said.

Interviews of the crew showed that there were gaps in practical training for emergency ballast operations. Many crew members had only demonstrated theoretical knowledge with no real-time experience, according to the report.

10J6. Shipping authority's inquiry report lists reasons for MSC Elsa 3 sinking
नौवहन प्राधिकरण की जाँच रिपोर्ट में MSC Elsa 3 के डूबने के कारणों का उल्लेख किया गया है।

- **The Directorate General of Shipping** concluded the **preliminary investigation** into the sinking of the **container ship MSC Elsa-3** off the **Alappuzha coast** in **May 2025**.
  नौवहन महानिदेशालय (Directorate General of Shipping) ने **मई 2025** में **अलप्पुझा तट** के निकट डूबे **कंटेनर जहाज MSC Elsa-3** की **प्रारंभिक जांच** पूरी कर ली।
- The inquiry report, submitted in an affidavit before the **Kerala High Court**, identified causes of the incident that led to **marine pollution** off **Alappuzha** and along parts of the southern coast.
  केरल उच्च न्यायालय में शपथपत्र के रूप में प्रस्तुत जांच रिपोर्ट में उन कारणों की पहचान की गई, जिनके कारण **अलप्पुझा** तट तथा दक्षिणी तट के कुछ हिस्सों में **समुद्री प्रदूषण** फैल गया।
- **Critical system malfunction**, compounded by **structural failures** and the **incompetence of crew members**, was identified as the causative factor in the report.
  रिपोर्ट में **महत्वपूर्ण प्रणालीगत खराबी**, **संरचनात्मक विफलताओं** तथा **चालक दल के सदस्यों की अक्षमता** को इस घटना का प्रमुख कारण बताया गया है।
- It said that the ship had shown an inherent tilt to the right in previous voyages.
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि पूर्व की यात्राओं के दौरान भी जहाज में दाईं ओर झुकाव की अंतर्निहित समस्या देखी गई थी।
- During the journey from **Vizhinjam** to **Kochi**, the ship's **ballast water system** failed first, and as a result, the crew could not stop the progressive flooding into the ballast tanks.
  विझिंजम से **कोच्चि** की यात्रा के दौरान जहाज की **बैलेस्ट जल प्रणाली (Ballast Water System)** सबसे पहले विफल हो गई, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप चालक दल बैलेस्ट टैंकों में बढ़ते जलभराव को रोक नहीं सका।
- The ship's **safety management system** was reported to be deficient, especially regarding **maintenance procedures** and **spare parts management**.

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रिपोर्ट के अनुसार जहाज की **सुरक्षा प्रबंधन प्रणाली** में गंभीर कमियाँ थीं, विशेष रूप से **रखरखाव प्रक्रियाओं** तथा **स्पेयर पार्ट्स प्रबंधन** के संबंध में।

- The ship had tilted to about **26 degrees**, causing several **container stacks** to shift, further compromising the ship's stability.
  जहाज लगभग **26 डिग्री** तक झुक गया था, जिसके कारण कई **कंटेनर ढेर (Container Stacks)** खिसक गए और जहाज की स्थिरता और अधिक प्रभावित हुई।
- By midnight on **May 24, 2025**, the containers had begun to fall overboard, creating additional hazards.
  24 मई 2025 की मध्यरात्रि तक कंटेनर समुद्र में गिरने लगे थे, जिससे अतिरिक्त खतरे उत्पन्न हो गए।
- Interviews of the crew showed that there were gaps in practical training for **emergency ballast operations**.
  चालक दल के सदस्यों से की गई पूछताछ से पता चला कि **आपातकालीन बैलेस्ट संचालन (Emergency Ballast Operations)** के व्यावहारिक प्रशिक्षण में गंभीर कमियाँ थीं।
- Many crew members had only demonstrated **theoretical knowledge** with no **real-time experience**, according to the report.
  रिपोर्ट के अनुसार चालक दल के अनेक सदस्यों के पास केवल **सैद्धांतिक ज्ञान** था और उन्हें **वास्तविक समय के संचालन का अनुभव** नहीं था।

PCS

First-timers

Upsets and withdrawals saw new champions at the French Open

The triumphs of Alexander Zverev and Mirra Andreeva at the French Open for their maiden Grand Slam singles titles appear to have evoked contrasting feelings in both. For 29-year-old Zverev, the rousing five-set victory over Italian Flavio Cobolli brought more relief than unbridled joy, for he had lost thrice before in a Major final and was long considered among the best players to have never won a Slam. But for Andreeva, the straight-forward win over the unheralded qualifier Maja Chwalinska – albeit under testing windy conditions – was a journey to seventh heaven and a realisation of her prodigious teenaged promise. Both players benefitted from notable absences and a plethora of upsets, so much so that neither faced a top-10 opponent all tournament. Among men, Carlos Alcaraz withdrew while red-hot favourite Jannik Sinner and 24-time Major winner Novak Djokovic fell by the third round. In the ladies section, none among Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Elena Rybakina reached the semifinals. But in fairness, both Zverev and Andreeva were pedigreed. Zverev was – and still is – World No. 3, has been in the top-4 for the last two years, and in the top-10 for a good part of the last decade. Andreeva reached the Roland-Garros semifinal as a 17-year-old in 2024, entered the top-10 in early 2025 after back-to-back successes in Dubai and Indian Wells, and has maintained that status.

Zverev is just the third German man in the Open Era to win a Slam and the first to do so in Paris. The victory will also go a long way in erasing a few painful memories he has experienced on Court Philippe-Chatrier. In 2022, he limped out of his semifinal against Rafael Nadal on crutches after damaging his right ankle in the second set. In 2024, he was up two sets to one against Alcaraz in the final before falling apart. The 2026 edition, which snapped Alcaraz and Sinner's combined winning streak of nine Majors, is his redemption song. Andreeva's career, in contrast, is yet to experience the vagaries of the tennis tour. After first making waves as a 16-year-old qualifier in 2023, reaching the round of 32 at the French Open and the round of 16 at Wimbledon, the Russian shot up to No. 5 by July 2025. Andreeva has competed in 13 Slams so far, and has reached the fourth round or better in eight. It is a remarkable record for someone who is yet to turn 20, and her dash to the title over the previous fortnight for the loss of just one set is confirmation of her elite status.

10J6. First-timers
पहली बार विजेता बने खिलाड़ी

- **Upsets** and **withdrawals** saw new **champions** at the **French Open**.
  अप्रत्याशित हारों और **नाम वापसी** की घटनाओं के कारण **फ्रेंच ओपन** में नए **चैंपियन** देखने को मिले।
- **The triumphs of Alexander Zverev and Mirra Andreeva at the French Open for their maiden Grand Slam singles titles appear to have evoked contrasting feelings in both.**
  अलेक्जेंडर ज़्वेरेव और **मिर्रा एंड्रीवा** की **फ्रेंच ओपन** में अपने पहले **ग्रैंड स्लैम एकल खिताब** जीतने की उपलब्धि ने दोनों में भिन्न भावनाएँ उत्पन्न की प्रतीत होती हैं।
- But for **Andreeva**, the straight-forward win over the unheralded qualifier **Maja Chwalinska** — albeit under testing windy conditions — was a journey to seventh heaven and a realisation of her prodigious teenaged promise.
  लेकिन **एंड्रीवा** के लिए अपेक्षाकृत कम चर्चित क्वालीफायर **माजा ख्वालिन्स्का** पर कठिन तेज़ हवाओं के बीच मिली सीधी जीत अत्यधिक आनंद का क्षण थी और उनकी असाधारण किशोर प्रतिभा के साकार होने का प्रमाण भी।
- Among men, **Carlos Alcaraz** withdrew while red-hot favourite **Jannik Sinner** and **24-time Major winner Novak Djokovic** fell by the third round.
  पुरुष वर्ग में **कार्लोस अल्काराज़** ने नाम वापस ले लिया, जबकि प्रबल दावेदार **यानिक सिनर** और **24 बार के मेजर विजेता नोवाक जोकोविच** तीसरे दौर तक ही बाहर हो गए।
- In the ladies section, none among **Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Elena Rybakina** reached the semifinals.
  महिला वर्ग में **आर्यना सबालेंका, इगा श्वियातेक, कोको गॉफ** और **एलेना राइबाकिना** में से कोई भी सेमीफाइनल तक नहीं पहुँच सका।
- **Zverev** was — and still is — **World No. 3**, has been in the **top-4** for the last two years, and in the **top-10** for a good part of the last decade.
  ज़्वेरेव पहले भी और वर्तमान में भी **विश्व नंबर 3** हैं, पिछले दो वर्षों से **शीर्ष-4** में रहे हैं और पिछले दशक के अधिकांश समय में **शीर्ष-10** में शामिल रहे हैं।

GS Paper 1: History	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	QUIZ

Questions and Answers in the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Which nineteenth-century movement preceded Birsa's uprising and influenced the political climate in Chotanagpur? **Ans: The Sardari Larai (Sardar Movement)** The Munda uprising led by Birsa Munda at the turn of the twentieth century is popularly known by what term, meaning "Great Tumult"? **Ans: Ulgulan** What slogan associated with Birsa Munda called for the end of British rule? **Ans: "Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani raj tundu jana" ("Let our rule come, let the Queen's rule go")** Birsa Munda's religious teachings led to the emergence of a distinct faith community known by what name? **Ans: Birsait** Birsa Munda died in Ranchi Jail in 1900. What was the official cause of death recorded by the British authorities? **Ans: Cholera** Visual: This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy? **Ans: The Mundas and Their Country (1912)** **Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | Jose Jogi | Lalchand Bhutani | Sunil Madhavan | C. Saravanan

10J6. QUIZ

1. Sardari Larai (Sardar Movement) and its Influence on Birsa's Uprising

- The **Sardari Larai**, active mainly between the 1850s and 1890s in the Chotanagpur region, was an agrarian movement led by Munda and Oraon tribal leaders known as Sardars.
- It emerged against land alienation, excessive rents, forced labour, and the erosion of traditional **Khuntkatti** land rights under British rule.
- The movement largely relied on petitions and legal appeals. Young **Birsa Munda** closely observed this struggle and was influenced by its demands.
- Historians regard the Sardari movement as the immediate precursor to Birsa's rebellion because it shaped the political consciousness and anti-colonial atmosphere of Chotanagpur.

2. Ulgulan – The "Great Tumult"

- The Munda uprising led by **Birsa Munda** during 1899–1900 is popularly known as **Ulgulan**, meaning "Great Tumult" or "Great Upheaval."
- It was not merely a tribal revolt but a broad social, economic, religious, and political movement against British colonial rule, exploitative landlords, moneylenders, and missionary influence.
- The movement reflected deep resentment against land dispossession and exploitation. Though suppressed by the British, Ulgulan became a landmark in tribal resistance and later influenced protective laws such as the **Chotanagpur Tenancy Act, 1908**.

3. "Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani raj tundu jana"

- The slogan **"Abua Raj ete jana, Maharani raj tundu jana"** translates as "Let our rule come, let the Queen's rule go." It became the political message of Birsa Munda's movement.

4. Birsait – The Faith Founded by Birsa Munda

- **Birsait** refers to the distinct religious community that emerged around the teachings of Birsa Munda. Birsa preached monotheism, moral reform, social discipline, and a return to indigenous tribal traditions.
- He opposed excessive ritualism, superstition, missionary conversions, and social evils affecting tribal society.
- His followers regarded him as a spiritual guide and often referred to him as **"Dharti Aba" (Father of the Earth)**. Birsait combined elements of traditional Munda beliefs with reformist ideas and became a powerful source of social unity.

5. Birsa Munda's Death in Ranchi Jail

- **Birsa Munda** died in **Ranchi Jail** on **9 June 1900** while in British custody.
- The official British record stated that the cause of death was **cholera**.

GS Paper 1: Geography	10 June 2026

TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	Philippines slams China's floating 'structure' on disputed waters फिलीपींस ने विवादित जलक्षेत्र में चीन की तैरती 'संरचना' की आलोचना की

Philippines slams China's floating 'structure' on disputed waters

GS I: Geography

AFP

The Philippines has protested China's deployment of a floating "structure" with personnel at the disputed Scarborough Shoal, fearing it could become an island base. Beijing dismissed Manila's concern and reiterated that it has "sovereignty" over the shoal and waters, without offering any details to the Philippine officials. AP

10J6. Philippines slams China's floating 'structure' on disputed waters
फिलीपींस ने विवादित जलक्षेत्र में चीन की तैरती 'संरचना' की आलोचना की

- The **Philippines** has protested **China's** deployment of a floating **"structure"** with personnel at the disputed **Scarborough Shoal**.

फिलीपींस ने विवादित **स्कारबोरो शोल** पर कर्मियों के साथ चीन द्वारा तैनात की गई तैरती हुई **"संरचना"** के खिलाफ विरोध दर्ज कराया है।

GS Paper II: Polity	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	Congress's RS nomination rejected during scrutiny; chaos in M.P. house जाँच प्रक्रिया के दौरान कांग्रेस का राज्यसभा नामांकन निरस्त; मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा में हंगामा
10J6	A State without an Opposition विपक्ष-विहीन एक राज्य

Congress's RS nomination rejected during scrutiny; chaos in M.P. house

GS II: Polity

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

A dramatic day of political developments in Madhya Pradesh's capital Bhopal that began with several Congress MLAs heading to the airport to leave for Bengaluru, ended with the nomination of Meenakshi Natarajan, the party candidate for one of three Rajya Sabha seats from the State, being rejected during scrutiny.

This prompted top Congress leaders, led by party general secretary K.C. Venugopal, to stage a sit-in outside the Election Commission(EC)'s office in New Delhi.

The rejection of the nomination came at a time when a batch of Congress MLAs was en route to Bengaluru amid fears of cross-voting in the polls, prompting the State leaders to ask them to return to Bhopal.

A Congress delegation comprising party general secretaries and others protests outside the EC office in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Ms. Natarajan accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of having "moved from vote theft to seat theft".

"It started when the BJP fielded a third candidate despite not having the adequate number of members, and we started to understand the kind of politics it is practising with democracy and the Constitution. What was limited to vote theft through SIR [special intensive revision of electoral rolls] and other methods has today reached [the stage of] seat theft," she said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Ms. Natarajan's nomination was rejected by Assembly Secretary Arvind Sharma, who is the Returning Officer for the election, based on an objection raised by the BJP candidate for the third seat, Mahesh Kewat, and State party general secretary Rahul Kotharі. They alleged that Ms. Natarajan had "hidden" details of a case against her in Hyderabad. The objection led to chaotic scenes at the Assembly Secretariat in Bhopal, with dozens of Congress and BJP workers engaging in arguments.

Several senior State BJP leaders and MLAs, including Cabinet Ministers Rakesh Singh and Kailash Vijayvargiya, as well as Mr. Kewat remained in the Assembly Secretariat during the proceedings and celebrated after the Returning Officer ruled against Ms. Natarajan.

10J6. Congress's RS nomination rejected during scrutiny; chaos in M.P. house
जाँच प्रक्रिया के दौरान कांग्रेस का राज्यसभा नामांकन निरस्त; मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा में हंगामा

- Ms. **Natarajan's** nomination was rejected by **Assembly Secretary Arvind Sharma**, who is the **Returning Officer** for the election, based on an objection raised by the **BJP** candidate for the third seat, **Mahesh Kewat**, and State party general secretary **Rahul Kothari**.

सुश्री **नटराजन** का नामांकन **विधानसभा सचिव अरविंद शर्मा**, जो इस चुनाव के **रिटर्निंग अधिकारी** हैं, द्वारा निरस्त कर दिया गया। यह निर्णय तीसरी सीट के लिए **भाजपा** उम्मीदवार **महेश केवट** और प्रदेश महासचिव **राहुल कोठारी** द्वारा उठाई गई आपत्ति के आधार पर लिया गया।

A State without an Opposition

Gujarat's voice in the Rajya Sabha will be routed entirely through a single party

GS II: Polity

STATE OF PLAY

Abhinay Deshpande

On June 21, when Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil's term in the Rajya Sabha ends, Gujarat will witness something it has not seen since the State's formation in 1960: the absence of any representation from the Opposition of the State in the Upper House.

The vacancy itself is not unusual. But what makes this transition noteworthy is what it reveals about the rapidly changing nature of political competition in Gujarat rather than one party's misfortune in a State that once supplied some of its most influential leaders. This transition is a product of electoral arithmetic rather than a sudden political shift, and a new and consequential chapter in the story of Gujarat where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been quietly rewriting its democratic architecture for three decades. Gujarat has been under BJP rule since 1995; such sustained dominance has translated into an overwhelming majority in the State Assembly, which in turn has determined representation in the Rajya Sabha.

No rebel voices

In the 2022 Assembly elections, the BJP won 156 of the 182 seats, marking its strongest performance in the State's electoral history. This outcome came even after the Patidar agitation which had created expectations of a strong anti-incumbency wave. The Congress, which had seen the agitation as a potential opening, failed to convert sentiments into votes. No party crossed the 18-seat threshold required to claim official Opposition status. The Congress ended up with just 17 seats and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won five seats. Today, Gujarat's 182-member Assembly has 162 BJP legislators, 12 Congress MLAs, four from the AAP, and one from the Samajwadi Party. The combined Opposition, fragmented and below the recognition threshold, thus cannot nominate a single Rajya Sabha candidate.

The seat vacated by Mr. Gohil will go to the BJP, as will the other three seats which are to be vacant at the same time. Mr. Gohil, in his term at the Upper House, filed a breach of privilege notice against Union Minister Piyush Goyal for allegedly violating rules of procedure; challenged amendments to cooperative bank governance; and raised Gujarat's unresolved concerns from the Opposition benches. But now, all 11 Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat will belong to one party, completing its sweep of the State's Upper House representation.

A Congress leader from the State opined that the party failed to establish a coherent narrative capable of competing with the BJP's vision of governance and identity, but argued that the ruling party's "arrogance" is reflected in its belief that there is effectively no Congress left. He went on to add, "what does Gujarat gain from a weakened or absent Opposition? Who will speak for the farmers of Gujarat, and who will raise the voice of ordinary citizens if there is no strong countervailing force in the system?"

When Mr. Gohil walks out, the only Opposition voice left in Parliament from Gujarat will be Geniben Thakor, the MP from Banaskantha who in 2024 ended a 10-year Lok Sabha drought for the Opposition by winning one of 26 seats. One Lok Sabha MP. Zero Rajya Sabha MPs. This is the Opposition in Gujarat today.

Fight to be the Opposition

In this vacuum, the AAP harbours ambitions of displacing the Congress as the principal Opposition force in the State. With five Assembly seats and a 12.91% vote share in 2022, the AAP has positioned itself as the inheritor of the anti-BJP vote that the grand old party has steadily bled.

Yet the AAP's Gujarat story remains aspirational. Its single-digit MLA count is a fraction of what is needed to mount a legislative challenge. The Congress retains 12 MLAs and the institutional weight of a party that has governed the State for decades. The two are now locked in a peculiar subcompetition, not for power, but for the right to be recognised as the Opposition, while the BJP governs without meaningful scrutiny from any quarter. This internal contest has, if anything, only deepened the ruling party's structural advantage.

The BJP's dominance in Gujarat is a political fact, but the absence of an Opposition raises difficult questions. What does it mean when a major State's voice in the Upper House is routed entirely through a single party, with no effective counterweight from within? The answers extend beyond partisan loyalties.

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10J6. A State without an Opposition
विपक्ष-विहीन एक राज्य

- In the **2022 Assembly elections**, the **BJP** won **156 of the 182 seats**, marking its strongest performance in the State's electoral history.

2022 विधानसभा चुनावों में **भाजपा** ने **182 में से 156 सीटें** जीतकर राज्य के चुनावी इतिहास का सबसे श्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया।

- No party crossed the **18-seat threshold** required to claim official **Opposition status**.

कोई भी दल आधिकारिक **विपक्ष का दर्जा** प्राप्त करने के लिए आवश्यक **18 सीटों की सीमा** को पार नहीं कर सका।

- The **Congress** ended up with just **17 seats** and the **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** won **five seats**.

कांग्रेस को केवल **17 सीटें** मिलीं जबकि **आम आदमी पार्टी (AAP)** ने **पाँच सीटें** जीतीं।

- But now, all **11 Rajya Sabha seats** from **Gujarat** will belong to one party, completing its sweep of the State's **Upper House representation**.

लेकिन अब **गुजरात** की सभी **11 राज्यसभा सीटें** एक ही दल के पास होंगी, जिससे राज्य के **उच्च सदन में प्रतिनिधित्व** पर उसका पूर्ण नियंत्रण स्थापित हो जाएगा।

- When Mr. **Gohil** walks out, the only **Opposition voice** left in **Parliament** from Gujarat will be **Geniben Thakor**, the MP from **Banaskantha** who in **2024** ended a **10-year Lok Sabha drought** for the Opposition by winning one of **26 seats**.

जब श्री **गोहिल** संसद से विदा होंगे, तब गुजरात से **संसद** में बची हुई एकमात्र **विपक्षी आवाज़ बनासकांठा** की सांसद **गेनीबेन ठाकोर** होंगी, जिन्होंने **2024** में **26 सीटों** में से एक सीट जीतकर विपक्ष के **10 वर्षीय लोकसभा सूखे** को समाप्त किया था।

- One **Lok Sabha MP**.

एक **लोकसभा सांसद**।

GS Paper II: Governance	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	₹95,962 crore set aside for VB-GRAM G VB-GRAM G के लिए ₹95,962 करोड़ आवंटित किए गए।
10J6	One in every 3 faculty posts vacant in top technical institutes शीर्ष तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रत्येक तीन में से एक अध्यापक पद रिक्त
10J6	Inclusion without abolition in China's hukou system चीन की हुकौ प्रणाली में समाप्ति के बिना समावेशन

₹95,962 crore set aside for VB-G RAM G

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

NEW DELHI

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday announced an interim allocation of ₹95,962 crore for the new rural employment scheme, the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G).

This sum does not include the State governments' share and most States will have to contribute an additional 40% of the sum allocated to them. The combined outlay for the scheme will be ₹1.25 lakh crore. The interim allocation seeks to ensure a "seamless transition" to the new scheme and no State would face any reduction in funds, Mr. Chouhan said.

Uttar Pradesh has got the highest of ₹9,721.48 crore, followed by West Bengal (₹8,508 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹7,585.49 crore), Rajasthan (₹7,581.87 crore), Andhra Pradesh (₹7,707.21 crore) and Bihar (₹6,715.83 crore).

The interim allocation seeks to ensure a 'seamless transition' from MGNREGS to the new rural employment scheme. AFP

The total allocation for States stands at ₹92,550.17 crore, while the Union Territories have been allocated ₹1,291.52 crore. An additional ₹1,850.62 crore has been earmarked for Central administration and social audits, taking the total to ₹95,692.31 crore.

Mr. Chouhan said that the allocation had been made even before notifying the scheme's rules and framing the formula dictating distribution to different States, to ensure "a seamless transition" from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).

"Without causing any inconvenience to workers, we are moving from MGNREGA to VB-G RAM G. There will not be a gap of even a single day in the availability of work," the Union Minister said.

Funding formula

The allocation is largely in line with funds given to States under the MGNREGA in the previous financial years. The thrust of the new programme, however, is to ensure that the employment scheme has a wider presence in economically weaker States, as indicated by the proposal in the draft rules to use the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula to determine Central allocations to States. The final formula for distributing the funds, expected to be notified on July 1, could alter the future share of different States.

Four States not ready

Mr. Chouhan also said that 26 States have completed the procedural requirements necessary to implement the new scheme, while four States – Jharkhand, Karnataka, Telangana, and Mizoram – are yet to complete all formalities. However, representatives of these States also attended the meeting and assured the Centre that they were preparing for implementation.

Prior to the implementation of the VB-G RAM G scheme, the States have to frame rules, complete e-KYC of beneficiaries, fix the blackout period according to their agricultural cycles, and carry out capacity-building exercises at the district and block levels.

Despite a change in government in West Bengal, with the BJP now in power, the issue of settling pending dues under MGNREGA, worth ₹8,508 crore, continues to remain unresolved.

10J6. ₹95,962 crore set aside for VB-GRAM G
VB-GRAM G के लिए ₹95,962 करोड़ आवंटित किए गए।

- **Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on Tuesday announced an interim allocation of **₹95,962 crore** for the new rural employment scheme, the **Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G)**.
  केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान ने मंगलवार को नई ग्रामीण रोजगार योजना **विकसित भारत-गारंटी फॉर रोजगार एंड आजीविका मिशन ग्रामीण (VB-G RAM G)** के लिए **₹95,962 करोड़** के अंतरिम आवंटन की घोषणा की।
- This sum does not include the **State governments' share** and most States will have to contribute an additional **40%** of the sum allocated to them.
  इस राशि में **राज्य सरकारों का अंश** शामिल नहीं है और अधिकांश राज्यों को उन्हें आवंटित राशि का अतिरिक्त **40%** योगदान देना होगा।
- The combined outlay for the scheme will be **₹1.25 lakh crore**.
  इस योजना का कुल व्यय **₹1.25 लाख करोड़** होगा।

- **Uttar Pradesh** has got the highest of **₹9,721.48 crore**, followed by **West Bengal (₹8,508 crore)**, **Tamil Nadu (₹7,585.49 crore)**, **Rajasthan (₹7,581.87 crore)**, **Andhra Pradesh (₹7,707.21 crore)** and **Bihar (₹6,715.83 crore)**.
  उत्तर प्रदेश को सर्वाधिक **₹9,721.48 करोड़** प्राप्त हुए हैं, इसके बाद **पश्चिम बंगाल (₹8,508 करोड़)**, **तमिलनाडु (₹7,585.49 करोड़)**, **राजस्थान (₹7,581.87 करोड़)**, **आंध्र प्रदेश (₹7,707.21 करोड़)** और **बिहार (₹6,715.83 करोड़)** का स्थान है।
- Prior to the implementation of the **VB-G RAM G** scheme, the States have to frame rules, complete **e-KYC** of beneficiaries, fix the **blackout period** according to their agricultural cycles, and carry out **capacity-building exercises** at the district and block levels.
  VB-G RAM G योजना के कार्यान्वयन से पूर्व राज्यों को नियम बनाना, लाभार्थियों का **ई-केवाईसी (e-KYC)** पूरा करना, कृषि चक्रों के अनुसार **ब्लैकआउट अवधि** निर्धारित करना तथा जिला एवं ब्लॉक स्तर पर **क्षमता निर्माण गतिविधियाँ** संचालित करनी होंगी।

One in every 3 faculty posts vacant in top technical institutes

While the Education Ministry said recruitments were happening across Centrally Funded Technical Institutes, RTI data show 35.2% of posts remain vacant

GS II: governance: Education

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nivedha M.

Over 15 lakh students appeared for the high-stakes Joint Entrance Examination this year to secure a seat in the country's premier technical institutions. The competition has always been gruelling, particularly for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), with roughly 80 students competing for every undergraduate seat in the 23 IITs.

However, data on vacant teaching positions in these institutes, obtained by *The Hindu* through the Right to Information (RTI) Act, raise questions on whether the students who surmount extraordinary challenges to get admitted receive the quality of education they deserve.

The Hindu's request filed under the RTI Act to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in January, seeking details on vacancies in all Central Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), was forwarded to individual institutions, of which only 79 of the 122 Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) responded. These included 20 IITs, 19 National Institutes of Technology (NITs),18 Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 17 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), and five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research **(Chart 1)**.

A total of 7,132 of the 20,279 sanctioned faculty positions were vacant in these 79 institutions, which is 35.2%, or roughly one in every three posts. Sixteen institutions had more than 50% of their posts vacant, while another 14 had vacancies exceeding 40%.

Of the 20 IITs, nine reported vacancies exceeding 35% **(Chart 2)**. The share of vacant posts exceeded 50% in IIT Kharagpur. The institute has a sanctioned strength of 1,600 teaching posts – the highest among the 20 IITs; 824 of these remained vacant. 35% of the 11,019 sanctioned posts in all 20 IITs were vacant.

A similar analysis for 19 of the 31 NITs that provided the data shows that four had vacancies exceeding 40% **(Chart 3)**. As per the data, 27.9% of 5,432 posts in these 19 NITs have not been filled. With over 129 of the 187 posts (68%) remaining vacant, NIT Andhra Pradesh accounted for the highest share of vacancies. More than 40% of the sanctioned posts were vacant in NIT Srinagar, NIT Sikkim and NIT Tiruchirapalli, which had the highest with 600 sanctioned posts.

According to a reply given in Parliament by the MoE last year, the sanctioning of faculty posts for NITs and IITs is a dynamic process, subject to periodic review in accordance with institutional requirements and a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:12 for NITs and 1:10 for IITs.

In 18 of the 21 IIMs that provided data, 32.3% of 1,741 sanctioned posts were vacant. Four IIMs reported vacancies exceeding 50% **(Chart 4)**. IIM Mumbai had 59% of its posts vacant, with 77 of 130 vacancies unfilled.

IIITs reported the highest percentage of vacancies although their sanctioned posts were relatively low. A total of 665 (53.5%) of the 1,225 posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs that provided data were vacant. Vacancies exceeded 50% in eight of them **(Chart 5)**. In five of the seven IISERs that provided data, 276 of the 862 posts were lying vacant.

In another reply to the Lok Sabha earlier this year, the MoE, while not furnishing the number of vacancies, said that "occurrence of vacancies and filling thereof is a continuous process". It further said that all CHEIs were exhorted to fill vacancies in September 2022 and later in October 2025 under a "Mission Mode" recruitment drive. It said that, as of January 24, 2026, a total of 17,878 faculty positions has been filled across all CHEIs under this "Mission Mode".

Nivedha M. interned with The Hindu

Faculty crunch

Data for the charts were obtained through requests under the Right to Information Act. The responses were received between January and March, 2026

In Charts 2,3,4 and 5, the length of the bars show the % of posts that are vacant, while the numbers outside the bars show the total sanctioned faculty posts in the respective institutions

Chart 1: The circles (●) indicate the total number of institutions in the respective categories and the bars (▬) show the institutions that provided the data

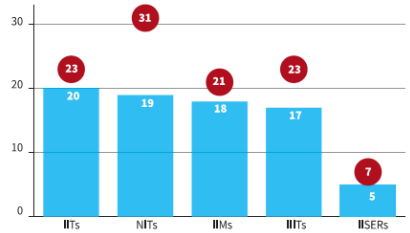


Chart 2: Share of vacant posts in 20 of the 23 IITs which provided the data (%)

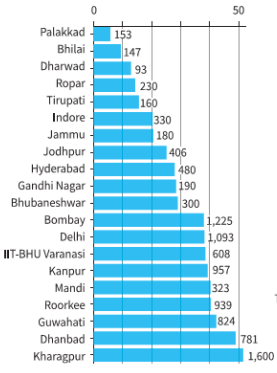


Chart 3: Share of vacant posts in 19 of the 31 NITs which provided the data (in %)

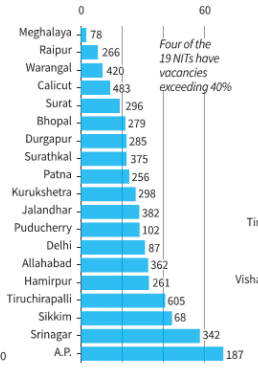


Chart 4: Share of vacant posts in 18 of the 21 IIMs which provided the data (in %)

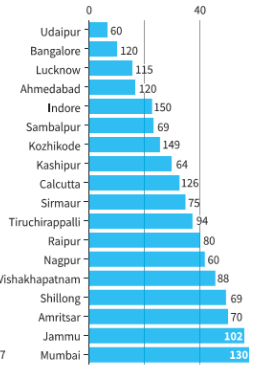


Chart 5: Share of vacant posts in 17 of the 25 IIITs which provided data (in %)

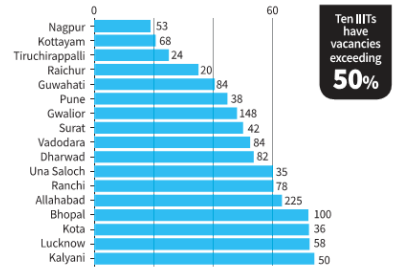
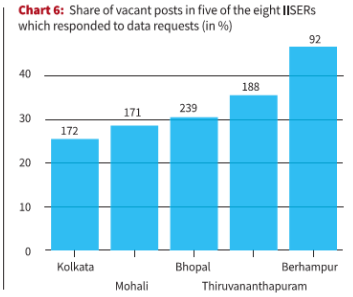


Chart 6: Share of vacant posts in five of the eight IISERs which responded to data requests (in %)



10J6. One in every 3 faculty posts vacant in top technical institutes
शीर्ष तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रत्येक तीन में से एक अध्यापक पद रिक्त

- **While the Education Ministry said recruitments were happening across Centrally Funded Technical Institutes, RTI data show 35.2% of posts remain vacant**
  यद्यपि शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने कहा कि केंद्रीय वित्तपोषित तकनीकी संस्थानों में भर्ती प्रक्रियाएँ जारी हैं, आरटीआई के आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि 35.2% पद अब भी रिक्त हैं।
- **Over 15 lakh students appeared for the high-stakes Joint Entrance Examination this year to secure a seat in the country's premier technical institutions.**
  इस वर्ष देश के प्रमुख तकनीकी संस्थानों में प्रवेश पाने के लिए **15 लाख से अधिक छात्रों** ने अत्यंत प्रतिस्पर्धी **संयुक्त प्रवेश परीक्षा (JEE)** में भाग लिया।
- The competition has always been gruelling, particularly for the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)**, with roughly **80 students competing for every undergraduate seat** in the **23 IITs**.
  प्रतिस्पर्धा सदैव अत्यंत कठिन रही है, विशेषकर **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थानों (IITs)** में, जहाँ **23 IITs** की प्रत्येक स्नातक सीट के लिए लगभग **80 छात्र प्रतिस्पर्धा** करते हैं।
- A total of **7,132** of the **20,279 sanctioned faculty positions** were vacant in these 79 institutions, which is **35.2%**, or roughly **one in every three posts**.
  इन 79 संस्थानों में **20,279 स्वीकृत शिक्षकीय पदों** में से **7,132 पद रिक्त** थे, जो कुल का **35.2%** अर्थात लगभग **हर तीन में से एक पद** है।
- **Sixteen institutions** had more than **50%** of their posts vacant, while another **14** had vacancies exceeding **40%**.
  16 संस्थानों में **50% से अधिक पद** रिक्त थे, जबकि अन्य **14 संस्थानों** में रिक्तियाँ **40% से अधिक** थीं।
- The share of vacant posts exceeded **50%** in **IIT Kharagpur**.
  IIT खड़गपुर में रिक्त पदों का प्रतिशत **50% से अधिक** था।
- The institute has a sanctioned strength of **1,600 teaching posts** — the highest among the 20 IITs; **824** of these remained vacant.
  इस संस्थान में **1,600 शिक्षकीय पद** स्वीकृत हैं — जो 20 IITs में सबसे अधिक हैं; इनमें से **824 पद रिक्त** रहे।
- According to a reply given in **Parliament** by the **MoE** last year, the sanctioning of faculty posts for **NITs** and **IITs** is a dynamic process, subject to periodic review in accordance with institutional requirements and a **faculty-to-student ratio** of **1:12 for NITs** and **1:10 for IITs**.
  पिछले वर्ष **संसद** में **शिक्षा मंत्रालय** द्वारा दिए गए उत्तर के अनुसार, **NITs** और **IITs** में शिक्षकीय पदों की स्वीकृति एक गतिशील प्रक्रिया है, जिसकी समय-समय पर संस्थागत आवश्यकताओं तथा **NITs के लिए 1:12** और **IITs के लिए 1:10 शिक्षक-छात्र अनुपात** के आधार पर समीक्षा की जाती है।
- **IIM Mumbai** had **59%** of its posts vacant, with **77 of 130 vacancies** unfilled.
  IIM मुंबई में **59% पद रिक्त** थे, जहाँ **130 में से 77 पद** भरे नहीं गए थे।

Inclusion without abolition in China's *hukou* system

Hukou reform pushes inclusion of migrants in public services while retaining structural controls

GS II: Governance

Anand P. Krishnan

China's State Council, on May 22, issued guidelines to 'promote basic public services at people's place of residence,' regardless of *hukou*, or residence registration status. These guidelines direct local governments – more specifically, megacity administrations – to improve and enhance their delivery measures in the domains of education, public rental housing, social and medical insurance, and a range of social assistance measures for the entire resident population within their administrative jurisdictions.

Hukou reforms since 2014

Hukou is an instrument of social control by the ruling party-state, originating in the 1950s, that distinguishes people as belonging to rural and urban areas based on the official registration of their place of residence. In the Mao era, the system was intended to limit internal migration and manage resource allocation under the prioritisation of rural development. The economic reforms after 1978 loosened restrictions to allow labour mobility to industrial regions and urban centres, while retaining the institution of *Hukou*. It functions as an internal passport, as access to social services and government provisions is tied to residential registration. From 2014 onwards, the government has been pushing incremental reforms to the system to align with national urbanisation plans and gradually equalise social benefits for migrants and locals, beginning with the conversion of rural to urban *hukous* in smaller cities. While nationwide implementation has progressed gradually, megacities have remained outside the purview until now.

The May 22 guidelines build on the decisions of the Third Plenum of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 2024, which directed the removal of restrictions on access to social insurance at the place of employment. This was further reiterated in a five-year people-centered urbanisation action plan instituted by the State Council in July 2024 to raise the permanent urban residents from 66.16% (932.67 million) in 2023 to nearly 70% (estimated around 987 million) by 2029.

According to China's National Bureau of Statistics, at the end of 2025, the country's 'floating population' (*liudong renkou*) or rural migrants, stood at around 358 million, making up 25% of the population. Along with demographic concerns, the Central government is also guided by the economic imperative of increasing domestic consumption and hastening efforts to create a national unified market with the free flow of capital and talent. This also intersects with efforts to incentivise the mobility of young talent into frontier regions such as Xinjiang to support regional development.

The party-state, over the last three years, has widely promoted the concept of 'investing in people'. Now included in the new 15th Five-Year Plan, the concept is a new development orientation to raise knowledge and skills to transform 'human resources into human capital' and move from 'a demographic dividend' to a 'talent dividend'. People-centred urbanisation, through the inclusion of long-term residents by relaxing household registration rules, is a critical component of this framework.

Another driver is the growth of flexible and new forms of employment – shorthand for gig and platform workers – who are over 200 million, out of the country's total 740 million workforce.

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the Central government, in conjunction with the official trade union, has sought to create a comprehensive national policy framework covering labour protection and political supervision. Taken together with frequent cases of labour discontent, the party-state views gig and platform workers as a key labour constituency that needs to be regulated and politically incorporated.

Persisting structural issues

Interestingly, the word *hukou* itself is only mentioned once in the latest guidelines. Since 2014, with the onset of reforms, efforts have been made to replace it with concepts like "permanent resident population" (*changzhu renkou*) and "place of actual residence" (*changzhu di*) to build inclusivity. However, structural constraints continue to constrain the reform measures.

Local governments bear responsibility for delivering welfare and public services, with financing largely dependent on fiscal transfers from the Central government. The real estate sector remains unstable, thus affecting city governments' budgets. While the Central government has indicated resource transfers and compensations to migrant-receiving cities, there are no commitments to new spending. The guidelines do not address or show a clear intent to resolve structural gaps. For instance, differing social insurance standards between well-off coastal cities and inland provinces (migrant-sending regions) mean that migrant workers' monthly contributions are at higher rates, but they receive lower benefits. Similarly, migrants who receive medical treatment in major cities but are enrolled in poorer regions will still receive lower reimbursements and face lower coverage limits. Further, the guidelines do not compel employers in the gig economy to strictly enroll workers in welfare schemes. In all, much room is left for the use of discretion by local administrations.

This recalibration only goes to show that the *hukou* system continues to remain in place and that there are no significant changes to the *status quo* for migrant labour.

(Anand P. Krishnan is a Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Himalayan Studies, Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, and Assistant Editor of the journal, China Report)

10J6. Inclusion without abolition in China's hukou system
चीन की हुकौ प्रणाली में समाप्ति के बिना समावेशन

- **Hukou reform pushes inclusion of migrants in public services while retaining structural controls**
  हुकौ सुधार संरचनात्मक नियंत्रणों को बनाए रखते हुए प्रवासी आबादी को सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में शामिल करने को प्रोत्साहित करता है।
- **China's State Council, on May 22, issued guidelines to 'promote basic public services at people's place of residence,' regardless of hukou, or residence registration status.**
  चीन की राज्य परिषद ने **22 मई** को **हुकौ (निवास पंजीकरण)** की स्थिति की परवाह किए बिना लोगों के निवास स्थान पर **मूलभूत सार्वजनिक सेवाओं** को बढ़ावा देने के लिए दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए।
- These guidelines direct local governments — more specifically, **megacity administrations** — to improve and enhance their delivery measures in the domains of **education**, **public rental housing**, **social and medical insurance**, and a range of **social assistance measures** for the entire resident population within their administrative jurisdictions.
  ये दिशा-निर्देश स्थानीय सरकारों — विशेष रूप से **महानगर प्रशासन** — को अपने प्रशासनिक क्षेत्र के सभी निवासियों के लिए **शिक्षा**, **सार्वजनिक किराये के आवास**, **सामाजिक एवं चिकित्सा बीमा** तथा विभिन्न प्रकार की **सामाजिक सहायता योजनाओं** की उपलब्धता और गुणवत्ता में सुधार करने का निर्देश देते हैं।

Hukou reforms since 2014
2014 से हुकौ सुधार

- **Hukou** is an instrument of social control by the ruling party-state, originating in the **1950s**, that distinguishes people as belonging to rural and urban areas based on the official registration of their place of residence.
  हुकौ सत्तारूढ़ दल-राज्य द्वारा सामाजिक नियंत्रण का एक साधन है, जिसकी शुरुआत **1950 के दशक** में हुई थी और जो लोगों को उनके आधिकारिक निवास पंजीकरण के आधार पर ग्रामीण एवं शहरी श्रेणियों में विभाजित करता है।
- In the **Mao era**, the system was intended to limit internal migration and manage resource allocation under the prioritisation of rural development.
  माओ युग में इस प्रणाली का उद्देश्य आंतरिक प्रवास को सीमित करना तथा ग्रामीण विकास को प्राथमिकता देते हुए संसाधनों का प्रबंधन करना था।
- The economic reforms after **1978** loosened restrictions to allow labour mobility to industrial regions and urban centres, while retaining the institution of **Hukou**.
  1978 के बाद के आर्थिक सुधारों ने श्रमिकों की औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों और शहरी केंद्रों में आवाजाही की अनुमति देने हेतु प्रतिबंधों को शिथिल किया, लेकिन **हुकौ प्रणाली** को बनाए रखा।
- It functions as an **internal passport**, as access to social services and government provisions is tied to residential registration.
  यह एक प्रकार के **आंतरिक पासपोर्ट** की तरह कार्य करता है, क्योंकि सामाजिक सेवाओं और सरकारी सुविधाओं तक पहुँच निवास पंजीकरण से जुड़ी होती है।
- Now included in the new **15th Five-Year Plan**, the concept is a new development orientation to raise knowledge and skills to transform **'human resources into human capital'** and move from **'a demographic dividend'** to a **'talent dividend'.**
  अब नई **15वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना** में शामिल यह अवधारणा ज्ञान और कौशल को बढ़ाकर **'मानव संसाधन को मानव पूंजी'** में बदलने तथा **'जनसांख्यिकीय लाभांश'** से **'प्रतिभा लाभांश'** की ओर बढ़ने की विकासात्मक दिशा को दर्शाती है।
- **People-centred urbanisation**, through the inclusion of long-term residents by relaxing household registration rules, is a critical component of this framework.
  घरेलू पंजीकरण नियमों में ढील देकर दीर्घकालिक निवासियों को शामिल करने वाली **जन-केंद्रित शहरीकरण** नीति इस ढाँचे का एक महत्वपूर्ण भाग है।

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10J6	New and raw नया और संवेदनशील
10J6	India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement म्यांमार के माध्यम से भारत का मार्ग सहभागिता और निरंतर संवाद का मार्ग है।
10J6	A new phase in India-Nepal relations भारत-नेपाल संबंधों में एक नया चरण
10J6	Indian entities on latest EU sanctions package on Russia रूस पर यूरोपीय संघ के नवीनतम प्रतिबंध पैकेज में भारतीय संस्थाएँ शामिल
10J6	Global nuclear arms spending soars amid AI threats and new 'arms race' एआई खतरों और नई 'हथियारों की दौड़' के बीच वैश्विक परमाणु हथियार खर्च में भारी वृद्धि

PM expected to meet Trump on sidelines of G-7 summit in France

GS II: IR

Kallol Bhattacherjee

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 summit taking place in Evian, France on June 16-17, official sources have told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Trump has already announced that he will participate in the G-7 summit, hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron.

The meeting will mark the first interaction between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump since they last met in February 2025 in Washington DC.

The sources did not elaborate on the details of the planned discussion but it is understood that the two sides will cover the bilateral trade pact under negotiation, and other regional and global matters of mutual concern. The officials provided this information soon after sharing details on Mr. Modi's upcoming travel schedule for France and the Slovak Republic.

The PM's visit to France will take place in two segments, with the first segment stretching from June 13 to June 14, and the second taking place from June 16 to June 19.

10J6. PM expected to meet Trump on sidelines of G-7 summit in France

प्रधानमंत्री के फ्रांस में आयोजित G-7 शिखर सम्मेलन के इतर ट्रंप से मुलाकात करने की संभावना है।

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is expected to meet **U.S. President Donald Trump** on the sidelines of the **G-7 Summit** taking place in **Evian, France** on **June 16-17**, official sources have told *The Hindu*.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के **अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** से **16-17 जून** को **फ्रांस के एवियन** में आयोजित होने वाले **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** के दौरान मुलाकात करने की संभावना है, जैसा कि आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने *द हिंदू* को बताया है।

- Mr. **Trump** has already announced that he will participate in the **G-7 Summit**, hosted by French President **Emmanuel Macron**.

श्री **ट्रंप** पहले ही घोषणा कर चुके हैं कि वे फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रों** द्वारा आयोजित **जी-7 शिखर सम्मेलन** में भाग लेंगे।

GS II: IR

New and raw

Nepal and India must avoid misspeaking on border issues

The visit of Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal to Delhi, which followed right after the visit of Nepal's new ruling party RSP's President Rabi Lamichhane and ahead of a proposed visit by the new Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle, signals an intense outreach between Delhi and Kathmandu's new leadership. Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in April, on the sidelines of an Indian Ocean regional conference in Mauritius, but this was his first visit to India since the RSP and newly elected Prime Minister Balen Shah took power after the GenZ protests. The meetings, a lead up to an expected India visit by Mr. Shah, indicate a step-by-step approach to building ties, with Delhi laying out the red carpet for Mr. Lamichhane, who met with top functionaries of the BJP, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Home Minister, Mr. Jaishankar and the National Security Adviser. These meetings came just after Mr. Shah's address to his Parliament where he accused India of occupying parts of Nepal while also claiming that Nepal is in control of parts of Indian territory, and much to New Delhi's outrage, added that Nepal was in touch with the U.K. and China on the issue. Such comments by Mr. Shah, and his decision to stick to protocol and refuse a meeting with India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, no doubt ruffled feathers, and Mr. Lamichhane's first task was to smooth feelings on the issue. In a media meet, Mr. Khanal also sought to diffuse the tensions, suggesting that the Nepal government was committed to turning a page in Nepali politics, and casting aside "old baggage" with India. The MEA rejected any role for a "third party" in negotiations, particularly China, given that Mr. Khanal's next visit is to Beijing. No doubt, the territorial issues over Limpiyadhura, and Lipulekh will heat up again this summer as India sends more groups over the border areas which Kathmandu claims, for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to Tibet.

The agenda between India and Nepal is at present too broad and too deep, from border management and renegotiating water sharing agreements to infrastructure, trade development projects and energy sharing, to be derailed at this point. While Nepal's new government may be granted some leeway for early misspeaking, Kathmandu and Delhi must tread carefully in their words and steps. Any indication from Kathmandu that it is cavalier about India's position in the region, or from Delhi that it seeks to interfere with the new government's working, could set off the same cycles of mistrust that have dogged the relationship, particularly since the Nepal Constitution friction and trade blockade from India in 2015. While the Modi government's diplomatic tasks have been made more complex by youth protests that have dislodged entrenched power structures in the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal, this may also be an important opportunity to rework its discourse and partnership framework with smaller yet important neighbours in South Asia.

10J6. New and raw
नया और संवेदनशील

- Mr. Khanal had met External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** in April, on the sidelines of an **Indian Ocean** regional conference in **Mauritius**, but this was his first visit to India since the RSP and newly elected Prime Minister **Balen Shah** took power after the **GenZ protests**.

श्री खनाल ने अप्रैल में **मॉरीशस** में आयोजित **हिंद महासागर** क्षेत्रीय सम्मेलन के अवसर पर विदेश मंत्री **एस. जयशंकर** से भेंट की थी, किंतु **जेन-ज़ी प्रदर्शनों** के बाद आरएसपी और नवनिर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री **बालेन शाह** के सत्ता में आने के बाद यह उनकी पहली भारत यात्रा थी।

- No doubt, the territorial issues over **Limpiyadhura**, and **Lipulekh** will heat up again this summer as India sends more groups over the border areas which Kathmandu claims, for the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** to **Tibet**.

निस्संदेह, **लिम्पियाधुरा** और **लिपुलेख** से जुड़े क्षेत्रीय विवाद इस गर्मी में फिर उभरेंगे, क्योंकि भारत **कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा** के लिए **तिब्बत** जाने वाले अधिक समूहों को उन सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों से भेजेगा जिन पर काठमांडू दावा करता है।

India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement

GS II: IR

When Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing landed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, on May 30, 2026, the symbolism was hard to miss. Before travelling to New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu, he visited the Mahabodhi Temple, one of Buddhism's holiest sites and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The stopover underscored a broader message: India was welcoming Myanmar's leader not only through the language of diplomacy but through shared civilisational ties.

This is a major diplomatic engagement, the first visit to India (May 30- June 3, 2026) by Min Aung Hlaing in his capacity as President, reflecting the growing importance of India-Myanmar relations in a shifting geopolitical environment of South and Southeast Asia. For New Delhi, the timing and tone are equally significant.

Harsh V. Pant

Vice-President, Observer Research Foundation

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Associate Fellow, Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation

Connectivity, security, and China shape India's outreach to Myanmar

Why now

The world's democracies have largely turned away from Naypyidaw since the February 2021 coup that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government. Western nations imposed sanctions and sought to isolate the military regime. But Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri told reporters that India's policy is "not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements" in Myanmar, and that New Delhi believes engagement is the best way forward.

This is realpolitik disguised as pragmatism. Myanmar is India's gateway to Southeast Asia and a cornerstone of its Act East and Neighbourhood First policies. Sharing a 1,643-km border with four northeastern States, Myanmar's instability poses a direct threat to India's security interests in the region.

Then there is the China factor. Beijing has aggressively cultivated Naypyidaw since the coup, filling the vacuum left by western withdrawal with infrastructure financing, arms supplies, and diplomatic cover. For India to cede Myanmar's strategic space entirely to China would be a self-inflicted wound in its own backyard.

The infrastructure stakes

Few indicators better reflect the depth of India's strategic investment in Myanmar than the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway – two connectivity corridors that dominated the Modi-Hlaing agenda.

The Kaladan project connects Kolkata to Sittwe by sea, then follows the Kaladan River inland to Paletwa, before linking by road to Zorinpui in Mizoram. The sea and river components are operational, with the first cargo shipment reaching Sittwe in May 2023. But the critical 109-km Paletwa-Zorinpui Road running through mountainous, flood-prone terrain in Chin State remains incomplete. India's Shipping Minister told Parliament in 2025 that full operationalisation is targeted for 2027.

The Trilateral Highway carries an even grander ambition: linking Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar over roughly 1,360 km, with planned extensions to Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Once completed, it could transform India's landlocked northeast into a gateway to Southeast Asia. It was supposed to be finished by 2019. It still is not.

Myanmar's internal conflict lies behind both delays. Armed groups control large stretches of territory along the two corridors, making construction difficult and unpredictable. President Hlaing assured Mr. Modi that Myanmar would do "everything" to complete the projects, while Mr. Misri reiterated that they remain a "major priority" despite security challenges. At the Myanmar-India Trade and Investment Conclave, Mr. Aung Hlaing described them as vital to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India economic corridor. The real question is whether these assurances will translate into progress on the ground. Beyond infrastructure, the summit covered significant ground. Bilateral trade stood at $1.95 billion in 2025-26, and both sides agreed to increase it through a rupee-kyat settlement mechanism, with additional discussions on critical minerals and rare-earth cooperation.

On security, Mr. Aung Hlaing reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be used against India's interests – a significant pledge given the long presence of Indian insurgent groups and cybercrime networks in Myanmar's border regions. More than 2,400 Indian nationals have been rescued from scam centres through bilateral cooperation over the past 18 months, though many remain trapped. On education, India announced an increase in Mekong-Ganga ICCR scholarships for Myanmar students from 36 to 100 annually from 2026.

The larger reckoning

By receiving Mr. Aung Hlaing as Myanmar's President, India has signalled a degree of acceptance of the country's evolving political reality. This does not necessarily amount to endorsement of the military-backed government. Still, it suggests a recognition that meaningful engagement with Myanmar requires working with those currently in power. For Myanmar, the visit is equally consequential. Mr. Aung Hlaing last visited India in 2019 as Myanmar's military chief. His return to New Delhi as head of state – and his choice of India for his first major bilateral visit abroad – signals a deliberate engagement with a neighbour that can provide a diplomatic and economic counterweight to overwhelming Chinese dependence. For India, the calculus is rooted in geography, security and the recognition that disengagement rarely produces better outcomes. The message is clear: pragmatic engagement, however uncomfortable, may increasingly shape regional approaches to Myanmar in the years ahead.

10J6. India's road through Myanmar is one of engagement
म्यांमार के माध्यम से भारत का मार्ग सहभागिता और निरंतर संवाद का मार्ग है।

- **When Myanmar's President U Min Aung Hlaing landed in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, on May 30, 2026, the symbolism was hard to miss.**
  जब **म्यांमार** के राष्ट्रपति **यू मिन आंग हलाइंग** 30 मई 2026 को **बोधगया, बिहार** पहुँचे, तो इस यात्रा का प्रतीकात्मक महत्व स्पष्ट रूप से दिखाई देता था।
- Before travelling to **New Delhi** for talks with Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and President **Droupadi Murmu**, he visited the **Mahabodhi Temple**, one of **Buddhism's** holiest sites and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** और राष्ट्रपति **द्रौपदी मुर्मू** के साथ वार्ता के लिए **नई दिल्ली** जाने से पहले उन्होंने **महाबोधि मंदिर** का दर्शन किया, जो **बौद्ध धर्म** के सबसे पवित्र स्थलों में से एक तथा एक **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** है।

- The world's democracies have largely turned away from **Naypyidaw** since the **February 2021 coup** that ousted **Aung San Suu Kyi's** elected government.
  विश्व के लोकतांत्रिक देशों ने **फरवरी 2021 के तख्तापलट** के बाद से काफी हद तक **नेपीडॉ** से दूरी बना ली है, जिसमें **आंग सान सू की** की निर्वाचित सरकार को हटा दिया गया था।
- **Myanmar** is India's gateway to **Southeast Asia** and a cornerstone of its **Act East** and **Neighbourhood First** policies.

म्यांमार, **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** के लिए भारत का प्रवेशद्वार है और उसकी **एक्ट ईस्ट** तथा **पड़ोसी प्रथम** नीतियों का एक प्रमुख आधारस्तंभ है।

- Sharing a **1,643-km border** with four northeastern States, Myanmar's instability poses a direct threat to India's **security interests** in the region.
  चार पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों के साथ **1,643 किलोमीटर लंबी सीमा** साझा करने के कारण, म्यांमार की अस्थिरता क्षेत्र में भारत के **सुरक्षा हितों** के लिए प्रत्यक्ष चुनौती उत्पन्न करती है।
- For **India** to cede **Myanmar's strategic space** entirely to **China** would be a self-inflicted wound in its own backyard.
  भारत यदि **म्यांमार के सामरिक क्षेत्र** को पूरी तरह **चीन** के प्रभाव में जाने देता है, तो यह उसके अपने पड़ोस में स्वयं को नुकसान पहुँचाने जैसा होगा।

The infrastructure stakes
अवसंरचना से जुड़े दांव

- Few indicators better reflect the depth of **India's strategic investment** in **Myanmar** than the **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project** and the **India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway** — two connectivity corridors that dominated the **Modi-Hlaing agenda**.
  म्यांमार में **भारत के सामरिक निवेश** की गहराई को **कलादान मल्टी-मॉडल ट्रांजिट ट्रांसपोर्ट परियोजना** और **भारत-म्यांमार-थाईलैंड त्रिपक्षीय राजमार्ग** से बेहतर बहुत कम संकेतक दर्शाते हैं — ये दो संपर्क गलियारे **मोदी-ह्लाइंग वार्ता एजेंडा** के केंद्र में रहे।
- The **Kaladan project** connects **Kolkata** to **Sittwe** by sea, then follows the **Kaladan River** inland to **Paletwa**, before linking by road to **Zorinpui** in **Mizoram**.
  कलादान परियोजना समुद्री मार्ग से **कोलकाता** को **सित्तवे** से जोड़ती है, फिर **कलादान नदी** के मार्ग का अनुसरण करते हुए **पालेत्वा** तक पहुँचती है और वहाँ से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा **मिजोरम** के **जोरिनपुई** से जुड़ती है।
- The sea and river components are operational, with the first cargo shipment reaching **Sittwe** in **May 2023**.
  इस परियोजना के समुद्री और नदी मार्ग वाले घटक परिचालन में हैं, और पहला मालवाहक जहाज़ **मई 2023** में **सित्तवे** पहुँचा था।
- But the critical **109-km Paletwa-Zorinpui Road** running through mountainous, flood-prone terrain in **Chin State** remains incomplete.
  लेकिन **चिन राज्य** के पर्वतीय और बाढ़-प्रवण क्षेत्र से गुजरने वाली महत्वपूर्ण **109 किलोमीटर लंबी पालेत्वा-जोरिनपुई सड़क** अभी भी अधूरी है।
- India's **Shipping Minister** told Parliament in **2025** that full operationalisation is targeted for **2027**.
  भारत के **पोत परिवहन मंत्री** ने **2025** में संसद को बताया था कि परियोजना को पूर्ण रूप से चालू करने का लक्ष्य **2027** निर्धारित किया गया है।
- The **Trilateral Highway** carries an even grander ambition: linking **Moreh** in **Manipur** to **Mae Sot** in **Thailand** through **Myanmar** over roughly **1,360 km**, with planned extensions to **Cambodia**, **Lao PDR**, and **Vietnam**.
  त्रिपक्षीय राजमार्ग इससे भी अधिक महत्वाकांक्षी है। इसका उद्देश्य **मणिपुर** के **मोरेह** को **म्यांमार** के माध्यम से **थाईलैंड** के **मे सॉट** से लगभग **1,360 किलोमीटर** लंबे मार्ग द्वारा जोड़ना है, जिसे आगे **कंबोडिया**, **लाओ पीडीआर** और **वियतनाम** तक विस्तारित करने की योजना है।
- Once completed, it could transform India's **landlocked northeast** into a gateway to **Southeast Asia**.
  पूरा होने पर यह भारत के **स्थल-आवेष्ठित पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र** को **दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया** के प्रवेशद्वार में परिवर्तित कर सकता है।
- It was supposed to be finished by **2019**.
  इसे **2019** तक पूरा किया जाना था।
- It still is not.
  लेकिन यह अभी तक पूर्ण नहीं हुआ है।
- Myanmar's **internal conflict** lies behind both delays.
  इन दोनों परियोजनाओं में हुई देरी के पीछे **म्यांमार का आंतरिक संघर्ष** प्रमुख कारण है।

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- On **education**, India announced an increase in **Mekong-Ganga ICCR scholarships** for Myanmar students from **36 to 100 annually** from **2026**.
  शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में, भारत ने **2026** से म्यांमार के विद्यार्थियों के लिए **मेकांग-गंगा ICCR छात्रवृत्तियों** की संख्या **36 से बढ़ाकर 100 प्रतिवर्ष** करने की घोषणा की।।

A new phase in India-Nepal relations

Nepal PM indicated that the boundary dispute is not one-sided and should be resolved through diplomatic channels; his remarks, amid objections over trade and pilgrimage routes and shifting political tone in Kathmandu, suggest a cautious move towards a more rational approach in India-Nepal relations

GS II: IR

WORLD INSIGHT

K.V. Rajan
Atul K. Thakur

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah "Balen" limited his intervention in a parliamentary discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura (areas claimed by both countries) on May 31 to a few minutes. He seemed to suggest that the issue was not one-sided.

"What surprised me after becoming Prime Minister is that it is not only India that is accused of encroaching Nepalese land. In some places, Nepal may also be occupying territory claimed by India. Both countries should examine the facts objectively and resolve the matter amicably as friends."

This was predictably greeted with a storm of protests within and outside Nepal's Parliament, despite the Prime Minister's reiteration that Nepal and India were working towards resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic channels.

Border dispute response

Nepal has also objected to the resumption of India-China trade through the Lipulekh Pass. Mr. Shah shared that the diplomatic note sent by Nepal on this matter received a positive response from India, and both sides have agreed to address the issue through dialogue. Earlier, Nepal's Foreign Ministry reiterated its commitment to resolving the boundary issue through diplomatic means. The statement came after India rejected Nepal's objection to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route through Lipulekh Pass, describing Kathmandu's territorial claim as 'unjustified' and "influenced by 'unilateral artificial enlargement'."

However, the latest developments suggest a more rational approach, which hopefully discards the possibility of the dispute becoming a lasting bilateral irritant and signals a fresh beginning. It is still early days, and the new government's thoughts in Kathmandu on resetting relations with India are not yet clear.

GETTY IMAGES

Shifting political tone

What is already clear is that Nepal's governance is firmly in the hands of a young generation with its eye on the future rather than the past, determined to free the country from the chains of corruption, nepotism, and ideology – and to prioritise social and economic issues.

Objections raised over trade and religious tourism through areas claimed by Nepal, the postponement of the Indian Foreign Secretary's visit to Nepal to discuss the Prime Minister's India visit and the disinclination of Mr. Shah to break protocol to receive India's Foreign Secretary, all reflect an emerging stance that India will be treated on par with other countries, rather than being given the easy access to top leadership it has traditionally enjoyed under the much-discussed "special relationship." These may have injected jarring notes in the trajectory of ties, but India appears to have taken them in stride.

Nepalese observers have questioned the wisdom of ignoring India's crucial importance to Nepal's present and future well-being. Likely, the bilateral ambiance will not be held prisoner to protocol or to assertions of irrational nationalism or *de facto* inequality.

Diplomatic path ahead

The sobering thought is that discussions between diplomats and experts may not yield a solution, and the fact that despite both sides emphasising economic cooperation as the core of bilateral ties, the boundary issue cannot be pushed to the back burner indefinitely.

Based on publicly available information, British-era data will be self-contradictory, as British India updated its maps with more recent technology compared to the East India days. The suggestion by Mr. Shah that China and the U.K. may also need to be consulted for a long-term solution may, however, create further complications and delays.

The Chinese position, taken by President Xi Jinping, was that Nepal should sort out the border issue with India. This remains the most rational advice, and it is hoped that both China and Nepal will adhere to this position.

What is important is to avoid an unending period of so called diplomatic and expert-level discussions which will permit the dispute to become a major irritant, given the positions taken by Nepal (which has even printed its version of the disputed map on its currency notes) and India (which has followed the boundary delineation it inherited from the British in 1947 and has serious security interests in maintaining the *status quo*).

What might be a better option would be for both countries to draw inspiration and ideas from (a) their centuries-old continuum of multifaceted linkages, (b) the open border tradition which has been in existence over more than 1,700 km and was followed even in the disputed area before the India-China war in 1962, and (c) the strong, mutually trusting institutional relationship between the Indian and Nepalese Army which could facilitate and come in useful to sustain a mutually acceptable practical solution.

This, however, will require a shift in mindset on both sides: a determination not to permit differences on boundary delineation to cloud a unique relationship, and a recognition that the so-called encroachment of territory is a mutual phenomenon that is not a result of aggressive territorial assertion and need not be a cause for mutual tension.

The changes in Nepal and the Prime Minister's statement offer an opportunity that India, too, should respect and seize. The last Indian Prime Minister who had the vision and courage to step beyond conventional diplomatic approaches to such problems with Nepal was Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have not only vision and courage but also the necessary political self-confidence in selling difficult policies and decisions to the nation, overriding the usual bureaucratic and inevitable nationalistic political posturing. Rabi Lamichhane, President of Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party and Nepal's Foreign Affairs Minister Shishir Khanal visited India recently to engage in political and diplomatic meetings. The timing of their visits was crucially important

It is time for India and Nepal to move towards a more enlightened bilateral relationship to build a model sustainable partnership.

(K. V. Rajan is former Indian Ambassador to Nepal and Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional. Views are personal.)

THE GIST

- The boundary dispute over Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura continues to strain India-Nepal ties, with both sides maintaining competing territorial claims and relying on historical maps and inherited boundary lines.
- Recent developments reflect shifting diplomatic signals, with both countries emphasising dialogue and expert-level engagement, though differences over trade routes, protocol, and sovereignty remain unresolved.

10J6. A new phase in India-Nepal relations
भारत-नेपाल संबंधों में एक नया चरण

- **Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah "Balen" limited his intervention in a parliamentary discussion on the boundary dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani, Lipulekh, and Limpiyadhura (areas claimed by both countries) on May 31 to a few minutes.**
  नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री **बलेंद्र शाह "बालेन"** ने **31 मई** को **कालापानी**, **लिपुलेख** और **लिम्पियाधुरा** (दोनों देशों द्वारा दावा किए गए क्षेत्र) को लेकर **भारत-नेपाल सीमा विवाद** पर संसद में हुई चर्चा में अपना हस्तक्षेप केवल कुछ मिनटों तक सीमित रखा।
- He seemed to suggest that the issue was not one-sided.
  उन्होंने संकेत दिया कि यह मुद्दा एकतरफा नहीं है।
- "What surprised me after becoming Prime Minister is that it is not only India that is accused of encroaching Nepalese land.
  "प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद मुझे जिस बात ने आश्चर्यचकित किया, वह यह है कि केवल **भारत** पर ही नेपाली भूमि पर अतिक्रमण का आरोप नहीं लगाया जाता।

- Nepal has also objected to the resumption of India-China trade through the **Lipulekh Pass**.
  नेपाल ने **लिपुलेख दर्रे** के माध्यम से **भारत-चीन व्यापार** पुनः प्रारंभ किए जाने पर भी आपत्ति जताई है।

- The statement came after India rejected Nepal's objection to the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** route through **Lipulekh Pass**, describing Kathmandu's territorial claim as 'unjustified' and "influenced by 'unilateral artificial enlargement'."
  यह बयान उस समय आया जब भारत ने **लिपुलेख दर्रे** से होकर जाने वाली **कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा** के मार्ग पर नेपाल की आपत्ति को अस्वीकार करते हुए काठमांडू के क्षेत्रीय दावे को 'अनुचित' तथा "एकतरफा कृत्रिम विस्तार" से प्रभावित बताया।
- What might be a better option would be for both countries to draw inspiration and ideas from (a) their centuries-old continuum of **multifaceted linkages**, (b) the **open border tradition** which has been in existence over more than **1,700 km** and was followed even in the disputed area before the **India-China war in 1962**, and (c) the strong, mutually trusting institutional relationship between the **Indian and Nepalese Army** which could facilitate and come in useful to sustain a mutually acceptable practical solution.
  एक बेहतर विकल्प यह हो सकता है कि दोनों देश (क) अपनी सदियों पुरानी **बहुआयामी पारस्परिक कड़ियों**, (ख) **1,700 किलोमीटर** से अधिक लंबी **खुली सीमा की परंपरा**, जिसका पालन **1962 के भारत-चीन युद्ध** से पहले विवादित क्षेत्र में भी किया जाता था, तथा (ग) **भारतीय और नेपाली सेनाओं** के बीच विद्यमान मजबूत और पारस्परिक विश्वास पर आधारित संस्थागत संबंधों से प्रेरणा लें, जो किसी व्यावहारिक और पारस्परिक रूप से स्वीकार्य समाधान को बनाए रखने में सहायक हो सकते हैं।

Indian entities on latest EU sanctions package on Russia

GS II: IR

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The European Commission has proposed its 21st package of sanctions on Russia which also includes Indian entities. The sanctions need to be approved by member states before they are finalised.

The proposed package focuses on energy, crypto and financial services and trade, including fisheries, European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen said.

The sanctions would also ban the entry of former Russian combatants into the EU.

"Brick by brick, we are collapsing the foundations of Russia's war economy," the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said on X.

Ursula von der Leyen

"The new listings will cover more than 30 designations in the drones manufacturing as well as new export control measures on 50 companies, including entities based in China, Turkiye, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, UAE, and India," Ms. Kallas wrote.

This is not the first time Indian entities have found themselves on a EU sanctions list. However, the news comes as Brussels and New Delhi are in the implementation phase of a trade agreement that was announced in February.

The sanctions add 30 vessels to the existing 632 sanctioned ships in the so called "shadow fleet" of Russia – vessels transporting Russian oil and petroleum products and circumventing Western sanctions.

The package also expands sanctions to cover 31 more Russian banks, 20 banks, crypto-related entities and oil traders in third countries. It also introduces an export ban on equipment used to support drones and metals and alloys used in defence and aerospace.

10J6. Indian entities on latest EU sanctions package on Russia
रूस पर यूरोपीय संघ के नवीनतम प्रतिबंध पैकेज में भारतीय संस्थाएँ शामिल

- The **European Commission** has proposed its **21st package of sanctions** on **Russia** which also includes **Indian entities**.
  यूरोपीय आयोग ने **रूस** पर अपने **21वें प्रतिबंध पैकेज** का प्रस्ताव रखा है, जिसमें **भारतीय संस्थाएँ** भी शामिल हैं।
- The sanctions need to be approved by **member states** before they are finalised.
  इन प्रतिबंधों को अंतिम रूप दिए जाने से पहले **सदस्य देशों** की स्वीकृति आवश्यक होगी।
- The proposed package focuses on **energy, crypto and financial services and trade**, including **fisheries**, **European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen** said.
  यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष **उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन** ने कहा कि प्रस्तावित पैकेज **ऊर्जा, क्रिप्टो, वित्तीय सेवाओं और व्यापार**, तथा **मत्स्य क्षेत्र** पर केंद्रित है।
- The sanctions would also ban the entry of former **Russian combatants** into the **European Union (EU)**.
  इन प्रतिबंधों के तहत पूर्व **रूसी लड़ाकों** के **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** में प्रवेश पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाया जाएगा।
- These include entities based in **China, Turkiye, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, UAE, and India**, Ms. Kallas wrote.
  सुश्री कैलास ने लिखा कि इनमें **चीन, तुर्किये, किर्गिस्तान, कज़ाखस्तान, यूएई और भारत** में स्थित संस्थाएँ शामिल हैं।
- This is not the first time **Indian entities** have found themselves on a **EU sanctions list**.
  यह पहली बार नहीं है जब **भारतीय संस्थाएँ यूरोपीय संघ की प्रतिबंध सूची** में शामिल हुई हैं।
- The sanctions add **30 vessels** to the existing **632 sanctioned ships** in the so-called **"shadow fleet"** of Russia.
  इन प्रतिबंधों के तहत रूस के तथाकथित **"शैडो फ्लीट"** में शामिल पहले से प्रतिबंधित **632 जहाजों** के अतिरिक्त **30 और जहाजों** को सूची में जोड़ा जाएगा।
- It also introduces an **export ban** on equipment used to support **drones** and on **metals and alloys** used in the **defence and aerospace** sectors.
  इसके अंतर्गत **ड्रोन** संचालन में प्रयुक्त उपकरणों तथा **रक्षा और एयरोस्पेस** क्षेत्रों में उपयोग होने वाली **धातुओं और मिश्रधातुओं** के निर्यात पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाया जाएगा।

Global nuclear arms spending soars amid AI threats and new 'arms race'

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Worldwide spending on nuclear weapons soared to a record high last year as atomic-armed countries moved more warheads from storage onto delivery systems, experts said on Tuesday.

The nine nuclear-armed states jointly spent nearly $119 billion on their arsenals last year, up 19% from 2024, according to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). "A new nuclear arms race is upon us," its report warned.

ICAN, and a separate study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released on Monday, voiced alarm at the growing nuclear risk amid swelling geopolitical tensions.

A house of dynamite: The United States and Russia together hold around 83% of the world's nuclear arms stockpile. AP

ICAN's director of programmes Susi Snyder said the scale-up, coupled with fears that artificial intelligence could increase the risk of nuclear weapons use, was deeply alarming.

SIPRI's report highlighted that the total estimated number of nuclear warheads had been declining for decades, falling to 12,187 at the start of this year, but warned the number of weapons available for potential use had risen, to 9,745.

Growing arsenal

The U.S. and Russia together hold around 83% of the world's nuclear arms stockpile, with more than 5,000 warheads each. China is expanding its nuclear arsenal, SIPRI said, estimating that it counts around 620 warheads.

ICAN's report indicated that all nuclear-armed states, which also include Britain, France, India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan, were increasing investments in their arsenals.

The nine countries jointly spent nearly $17 billion more last year than in 2024 on the weapons of mass destruction.

Th U.S. spent more than all the other countries combined, dishing out $69.2 billion on nuclear weapons in 2025, followed by China, which was estimated to have spent $13.5 billion, then Britain at $12.6 billion and Russia at $9.5 billion, it said.

Those investments are expected to grow.

10J6. Global nuclear arms spending soars amid AI threats and new 'arms

race'

एआई खतरों और नई 'हथियारों की दौड़' के बीच वैश्विक परमाणु हथियार खर्च में भारी वृद्धि

- Worldwide spending on **nuclear weapons** soared to a record high last year as atomic-armed countries moved more warheads from storage onto delivery systems, experts said on Tuesday.
  विशेषज्ञों ने मंगलवार को कहा कि पिछले वर्ष **परमाणु हथियारों** पर वैश्विक खर्च रिकॉर्ड स्तर पर पहुँच गया, क्योंकि परमाणु-सशस्त्र देशों ने अधिक वारहेड्स को भंडारण से निकालकर तैनाती प्रणालियों में स्थानांतरित किया।
- The **nine nuclear-armed states** jointly spent nearly **$119 billion** on their arsenals last year, up **19%** from 2024, according to the **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**.
  इंटरनेशनल कैंपेन टू एबोलिश न्यूक्लियर वेपन्स (ICAN) के अनुसार, **नौ परमाणु-सशस्त्र देशों** ने पिछले वर्ष अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार पर संयुक्त रूप से लगभग **119 अरब डॉलर** खर्च किए, जो 2024 की तुलना में **19% अधिक** है।
- **SIPRI's** report highlighted that the total estimated number of **nuclear warheads** had been declining for decades, falling to **12,187** at the start of this year.
  SIPRI की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया कि **परमाणु वारहेड्स** की कुल अनुमानित संख्या दशकों से घट रही है और इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में यह घटकर **12,187** रह गई।
- But it warned the number of weapons available for potential use had risen to **9,745**.
  हालाँकि रिपोर्ट ने चेतावनी दी कि संभावित उपयोग के लिए उपलब्ध हथियारों की संख्या बढ़कर **9,745** हो गई है।

Growing arsenal
बढ़ता परमाणु शस्त्रागार

- The **U.S.** and **Russia** together hold around **83%** of the world's nuclear arms stockpile, with more than **5,000 warheads each**.
  अमेरिका और **रूस** मिलकर दुनिया के परमाणु हथियार भंडार का लगभग **83%** हिस्सा रखते हैं, और दोनों के पास **5,000 से अधिक वारहेड्स** हैं।
- **China** is expanding its nuclear arsenal, SIPRI said, estimating that it counts around **620 warheads**.
  SIPRI के अनुसार, **चीन** अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का विस्तार कर रहा है और उसके पास लगभग **620 वारहेड्स** हैं।
- **ICAN's** report indicated that all nuclear-armed states, which also include **Britain, France, India, Israel, North Korea and Pakistan**, were increasing investments in their arsenals.
  ICAN की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **ब्रिटेन, फ्रांस, भारत, इज़राइल, उत्तर कोरिया और पाकिस्तान** सहित सभी परमाणु-सशस्त्र देश अपने शस्त्रागार में निवेश बढ़ा रहे हैं।
- The **U.S.** spent more than all the other countries combined, dishing out **$69.2 billion** on nuclear weapons in 2025.
  अमेरिका ने अन्य सभी देशों के संयुक्त खर्च से भी अधिक, **2025 में 69.2 अरब डॉलर** परमाणु हथियारों पर खर्च किए।
- This was followed by **China**, which was estimated to have spent **$13.5 billion**.
  इसके बाद **चीन** का स्थान रहा, जिसने अनुमानतः **13.5 अरब डॉलर** खर्च किए।
- **Britain** spent **$12.6 billion**.
  ब्रिटेन ने **12.6 अरब डॉलर** खर्च किए।
- **Russia** spent **$9.5 billion**.
  रूस ने **9.5 अरब डॉलर** खर्च किए।

GS Paper III: Economy	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	'Modi will surpass Nehru's record of being longest-serving PM of India' 'मोदी भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक प्रधानमंत्री रहने के नेहरू के रिकॉर्ड को पार कर देंगे'
10J6	Centre publishes rules for setting up coal exchanges केंद्र ने कोयला एक्सचेंज स्थापित करने के लिए नियम प्रकाशित किए

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10J6	Alberta pitches cheap natural gas for data centres अल्बर्टा ने डेटा सेंटरों के लिए सस्ती प्राकृतिक गैस की पेशकश की

'Modi will surpass Nehru's record of being longest-serving PM of India'

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 4,398 days in office on Tuesday and would surpass the record of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on Wednesday.

He said Mr. Modi would have the distinction of serving the nation for the longest continuous period as an elected Prime Minister of India. He stated that during his tenure, Mr. Modi made public welfare the guiding principle of governance.

On Wednesday, the members of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will meet in Delhi to mark 12 years of the alliance being in power.

Mr. Shah launched the Land Port Management System (LPMS-'VINIMAY') on Tuesday.

Amit Shah during the inauguration of the Land Port Management System at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Addressing the programme, the Minister said that since 2014, moving beyond a security-centric approach, land ports were developed as the first line of defence for security, a means to facilitate trade, and a bridge for people-to-people connectivity. At the same time, land ports had played a significant role in the holistic development of border areas, promoting legitimate trade, and addressing challenges such as migration from border villages and districts.

Smart borders

Mr. Shah said that easier movement of people across borders had enhanced cultural exchange. He said that in a country like India, with its vast land borders, border management played a very important role.

Mr. Shah said the Home Ministry was working on a four-pronged strategy to secure India's borders under the concept of Smart Borders. The Land Port Management System had been designed keeping in mind the requirements of all stakeholders, while giving special emphasis to security. Together with the Smart Border initiative, this system would help to create an impregnable and secure border management framework. Mr. Shah added that this would help curb illegal activities.

He said the system would provide an integrated digital platform for the management of cargo, passengers and vehicles. It would enhance coordination among various agencies and make information exchange seamless. The Single Electronic Window and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based gate operation system would result in significant time savings.

10J6. 'Modi will surpass Nehru's record of being longest-serving PM of India'

'मोदी भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक प्रधानमंत्री रहने के नेहरू के रिकॉर्ड को पार कर देंगे'

- Mr. Shah launched the **Land Port Management System (LPMS–'VINIMAY')** on Tuesday.
  श्री शाह ने मंगलवार को **लैंड पोर्ट मैनेजमेंट सिस्टम (LPMS–'विनिमय')** का शुभारंभ किया।
- He said the system would provide an **integrated digital platform** for the management of **cargo, passengers and vehicles**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रणाली **मालवाहक सामग्री, यात्रियों और वाहनों** के प्रबंधन हेतु एक **एकीकृत डिजिटल मंच** उपलब्ध कराएगी।
- It would enhance coordination among various agencies and make **information exchange** seamless.
  यह विभिन्न एजेंसियों के बीच समन्वय को बढ़ाएगी तथा **सूचना आदान-प्रदान** को निर्बाध बनाएगी।
- The **Single Electronic Window** and **Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)-based gate operation system** would result in significant time savings.
  सिंगल इलेक्ट्रॉनिक विंडो तथा **ऑटोमैटिक नंबर प्लेट रिकग्निशन (ANPR) आधारित गेट संचालन प्रणाली** के माध्यम से समय की उल्लेखनीय बचत होगी।

LAND PORT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LPMS – 'VINIMAY')

- **VINIMAY** is the digital **Land Port Management System (LPMS)** developed by the Land Ports Authority of India under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- The word **"Vinimay"** in Sanskrit/Hindi means **exchange**, reflecting its role in facilitating the movement of goods, vehicles, and passengers across India's land borders.
- It is designed to digitize, streamline, and modernize operations at India's **Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)** located along international land borders.

Integrated Check Posts (ICPs)

- Integrated Check Posts are border infrastructure facilities established to facilitate:
  - International trade.
  - Passenger movement.

- Customs clearance.
- Immigration services.
- Security checks.

GS III: Economy

Centre publishes rules for setting up coal exchanges

Paving the way for establishing coal exchanges in the country, the government on Tuesday published the Coal Exchange Rules (2026) - formally putting down rules and eligibility criteria for operating and instituting the exchange. Prominent among them are statutory regulations about contract payment and settlement, minimum eligibility needs to be met by an entity to establish the exchange and its governance structure, among other things.

पूरा करना होगा।

10J6. Centre publishes rules for setting up coal exchanges

केंद्र ने कोयला एक्सचेंज स्थापित करने के लिए नियम प्रकाशित किए

- Paving the way for establishing **coal exchanges** in the country, the government on Tuesday published the **Coal Exchange Rules (2026)**.

देश में **कोयला एक्सचेंजों** की स्थापना का मार्ग प्रशस्त करते हुए, सरकार ने मंगलवार को **कोल एक्सचेंज नियम (2026)** प्रकाशित किए।

- The rules also specify the **minimum eligibility requirements** that must be met by an entity to establish the exchange.

नियमों में यह भी निर्धारित किया गया है कि एक्सचेंज स्थापित करने के लिए किसी संस्था को कौन-कौन सी **न्यूनतम पात्रता आवश्यकताओं** को

Alberta pitches cheap natural gas for data centres

NEWS ANALYSIS

GS III: Economy

Reuters
CALGARY

Alberta is touting its abundant supply of cheap fossil fuels to entice tech companies to build data centres for the AI boom, a move that would undermine Canada's plan to link new data centre development with clean energy expansion.

Canada is the world's fifth-largest producer of natural gas, around 60% of which comes from Alberta. As well as huge fossil fuel reserves, the western province boasts a cooler climate that can offset the cooling costs of data centre infrastructure and plenty of available land. All that can make operating data-centres more cost-efficient than in the United States, where they are facing pushback from communities and lawmakers.

Risk of pollution: A view of the Wildcat Hills Gas Plant near Cochrane, Alberta, Canada. REUTERS

New market

Tech companies could also create a new market for long-suffering natural gas producers in Western Canada, where drillers face a multi-year supply glut and at times had to pay customers to take gas when prices have turned negative.

But a rapid expansion of data centres in Alberta would disrupt Canada's plans to power the AI boom using clean hydro, renewables and nuclear. While natural gas is a cleaner power source than coal or oil, as a fossil fuel it contributes to emissions.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has said Canadian data centres will run on "some of the cleanest power in the world." His government's June 4 AI strategy – which aims to speed up Canada's adoption of artificial intelligence – highlighted how more than 83% of the country's electricity grid comes from renewables and low-emission power sources.

Canada currently has only five functioning data centres at the so-called hyperscale level, demanding at least 50 megawatts of electricity capacity, equivalent to the power needs of a small city.

But nearly 100 more are in the works and 90% of those are planned for Alberta, where the emissions intensity of the province's electricity grid is almost five times the national average, research from York University shows.

'Digital pipeline' view

"We're essentially looking at these data centres as digital pipelines and digital refineries for us to help get the value from our natural gas to global markets, but in a creative modern way," Alberta's Technology Minister Nate Glubish said.

The province aims to attract C$100 billion in data centre investment. Glubish said he has made multiple trips to Silicon Valley since 2024 to court energy-hungry tech giants with Alberta's natural gas pitch.

The 20 existing small- to mid-scale data centers in Alberta already pull from the province's energy grid, which is 60%powered by natural gas. The provincial government is giving new proponents the option to build their own power sources to avoid limits on power capacity.

Julia Sawatzky, a doctor and member of the advocacy group Canadian Physicians for the Environment, said there was a growing discrepancy between Canada's stated environmental goals and the reality on the ground.

"There seems to be an idea or a vision that Canada could be a green economy or a place that's meeting its climate goals," Sawatzky said. "But the way this AI data strategy might actually roll out, I think, is cause for all of us to really pay attention."

10J6. Alberta pitches cheap natural gas for data centres

अल्बर्टा ने डेटा सेंटरों के लिए सस्ती प्राकृतिक गैस की पेशकश की

- **Alberta** is touting its abundant supply of cheap fossil fuels to entice tech companies to build **data centres** for the **AI boom**, a move that would undermine **Canada's** plan to link new data centre development with clean energy expansion.

अल्बर्टा तकनीकी कंपनियों को **AI बूम** के लिए **डेटा सेंटर** स्थापित करने हेतु आकर्षित करने के लिए सस्ते जीवाश्म ईंधनों की

अपनी प्रचुर उपलब्धता को बढ़ावा दे रहा है, जो नए डेटा सेंटर विकास को स्वच्छ ऊर्जा विस्तार से जोड़ने की **कनाडा** की योजना को कमजोर कर सकता है।

- **Canada** is the world's **fifth-largest producer of natural gas**, around **60%** of which comes from Alberta.
  कनाडा दुनिया का **पाँचवाँ सबसे बड़ा प्राकृतिक गैस उत्पादक** है, जिसकी लगभग **60%** गैस **अल्बर्टा** से आती है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	Scientists find a blood test that predicts lung cancer years early वैज्ञानिकों ने एक ऐसा रक्त परीक्षण खोजा है जो फेफड़ों के कैंसर की वर्षों पहले भविष्यवाणी कर सकता है।
10J6	A black hole's elusive wind एक ब्लैक होल की रहस्यमयी वायु-धारा
10J6	Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse' 'मिथोकैलिप्स' के खतरे के विरुद्ध भारत को सुरक्षित बनाना
10J6	How Babbage automated calculations with simple machines बैबेज ने सरल मशीनों की सहायता से गणनाओं को कैसे स्वचालित बनाया
10J6	Musk's Starlink leads Bezos' Amazon in in-flight Wi-Fi race उड़ान के दौरान वाई-फाई की दौड़ में मस्क का स्टारलिंक, बेजोस के अमेज़न से आगे
10J6	Anthropic opens most powerful AI model to public with safeguards एंथ्रोपिक ने सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ अपना सबसे शक्तिशाली AI मॉडल आम जनता के लिए खोला

PATRIOTIC IAS

Scientists find a blood test that predicts lung cancer years early

A new study has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, called the '14-protein signature', as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance; the team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer

GS III: S&T [redacted]

S. Swaminathan

Lung cancer is one of the more common cancers affecting people worldwide. This is mainly due to smoking and, to a lesser extent, air pollution and occupational exposure. According to the latest World Health Organization estimates, there are about 2.5 million new cases and 1.8 million deaths every year. Prevention offers the ideal solution to this public health problem.

Scientists are currently on the threshold of finding a new way to identify people who may be predisposed to developing lung cancer and protect them proactively. A multinational team, from almost a dozen countries, led by Charles Swanton of the Francis Crick Institute, London, published its findings on an exciting discovery in *Cell* on May 4. The team has zeroed in on a set of 14 blood plasma proteins, which they call the "14-protein signature", as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with lung cancer years in advance.

The team also identified an existing drug that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing lung cancer.

Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. ADRIAN SULYOK/UNSPLASH

THE GIST

- The 14-protein signature has been derived from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia
- While promising, it still needs to be further validated
- If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma

Looking in the blood

Blood plasma is the liquid portion of the blood that flows in our body. It contains thousands of proteins that come from every organ and tissue. This entire set of proteins is called the plasma proteome. The large-scale systematic study of the proteome is called proteomics.

Sampling blood plasma is akin to a liquid biopsy. The plasma proteomics profile provides a real-time snapshot of health and disease. If scientists could compare the profiles of people before and after the onset of a disease, they can glean important clues about changes in the plasma proteome as a person goes from well to unwell.

To get such data pertaining to lung cancer, Swanton et al. turned to the U.K. Biobank, an ongoing initiative that tracks the lives of approximately half a million volunteers to find out who falls ill and why. The Biobank is a repository of anonymised biological samples and corresponding health-related information of all these volunteers. It is accessible to scientists around the world to develop diagnostics and therapies for everyone, everywhere.

For a subset of the volunteers, around 10%, the plasma proteomics profiles became available in 2023.

The team used the profiles of about 48,000 volunteers to train a machine-learning model along with patient characteristics, such as age, gender, smoking status, lung cancer diagnosis, etc. This way, the team identified 14 plasma proteins linked to lung cancer.

How a cancer forms

Next, the researchers used the model to predict the incidence of lung cancer diagnoses using the proteomics data of about 12,000 patients whose data had been excluded from the model's training. This set included 75 individuals of lung cancer with a median time to diagnosis of 5.1 years. The model predicted lung cancer diagnosis with a very high sensitivity, successfully identifying more than 75% cases.

The 14-protein signature was also found in eight additional datasets, including one from life-long non-smokers, essentially validating the signature's usefulness.

The scientists also found that the signature was more pronounced when specific inflammatory pathways involving smoking and air pollution were activated. In a previous study, the same team had found that air pollution causes inflammation that awakens dormant mutant lung cells, which eventually become cancer cells.

This detail, together with the observations in the new study, led the team to hypothesise that smoking induces mutations, lung inflammation triggered by environmental cues follows, and this culminates in lung cancer.

The signature was also more distinct in people who developed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and pulmonary fibrosis.

The CANTOS trial

If future research finds that this is indeed one way that lung cancer develops, scientists can think of treating the inflammation before the cancer takes root. Canakinumab is a drug made by Novartis and which currently has the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval to treat inflammatory disorders. Swanton et al. were aware of a previous clinical trial called CANTOS that tested canakinumab's ability to reduce the risk of recurrent cardiac events in patients who had experienced a prior heart attack and were suffering from persistent inflammation. Its effect was modest.

However, Swanton et al., who carried out a retrospective analysis of the trial data, found that 2,300 of the CANTOS participants who received canakinumab happened to display the 14-protein signature – and the risk of lung cancer was down by 50% in this group.

The data suggested that canakinumab could be a potential drug to prevent future lung cancer in those with the 14-protein signature.

Step by step

The 14-protein signature needs to be further validated. It has been derived from a population of limited diversity, representing the U.K., the U.S., and East Asia. If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a diagnostic test to detect all 14 proteins in blood plasma.

Assuming such a test also becomes available, canakinumab will have to be tested in clinical trials for its new purpose. Unfortunately, the CANTOS trial found that canakinumab could have serious side effects. The European Medicine Agency's report concluded that the drug's toxicity could outweigh its benefits.

Canakinumab is also prohibitively expensive. Treatments usually involve multiple doses over long periods of time. In the U.S., it costs $73,000 for a year. It is neither registered nor commercially available in India, and it would be imperative to explore inexpensive alternatives with similar function and with more acceptable safety profiles.

Ultimately, if we manage to tick all these boxes, the diagnostics and the drug would be of great benefit for individuals at risk of lung cancer worldwide. The work of Swanton et al. is a step in this direction.

(S. Swaminathan is a retired professor of biology from BITS Pilani-Hyderabad and a former scientist, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, New Delhi. ssn225@gmail.com)

10J6. Scientists find a blood test that predicts lung cancer years early

वैज्ञानिकों ने एक ऐसा रक्त परीक्षण खोजा है जो फेफड़ों के कैंसर की वर्षों पहले भविष्यवाणी कर सकता है।

- A new study has zeroed in on a set of **14 blood plasma proteins**, called the **'14-protein signature'**, as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with **lung cancer** years in advance;
  एक नए अध्ययन ने **14 रक्त प्लाज़्मा प्रोटीनों** के एक समूह, जिसे **'14-प्रोटीन सिग्नेचर'** कहा जाता है, की पहचान की है, जो वर्षों पहले **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** के निदान की एक सशक्त भविष्यवाणी करने वाला संकेतक है;
- The team also identified an existing **drug** that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing **lung cancer**.

टीम ने एक मौजूदा **दवा** की भी पहचान की है, जिसका संभावित रूप से उपयोग **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** के विकसित होने के जोखिम को कम करने के लिए किया जा सकता है

- **Lung cancer is one of the more common cancers affecting people worldwide.**
  फेफड़ों का कैंसर विश्वभर में लोगों को प्रभावित करने वाले अधिक सामान्य कैंसरों में से एक है।
- This is mainly due to **smoking** and, to a lesser extent, **air pollution** and **occupational exposure**.
  यह मुख्यतः **धूम्रपान** तथा कुछ हद तक **वायु प्रदूषण** और **व्यावसायिक संपर्क** के कारण होता है।
- According to the latest **World Health Organization** estimates, there are about **2.5 million new cases** and **1.8 million deaths** every year.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के नवीनतम अनुमानों के अनुसार, प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **25 लाख नए मामले** और **18 लाख मृत्यु** होती हैं।
- **Prevention** offers the ideal solution to this **public health problem**.
  रोकथाम इस **जनस्वास्थ्य समस्या** का आदर्श समाधान प्रस्तुत करती है।
- Scientists are currently on the threshold of finding a new way to identify people who may be predisposed to developing **lung cancer** and protect them proactively.
  वैज्ञानिक वर्तमान में ऐसे लोगों की पहचान करने के लिए एक नई विधि खोजने की दहलीज पर हैं, जिनमें **फेफड़ों का कैंसर** विकसित होने की प्रवृत्ति हो सकती है, तथा उनकी सक्रिय रूप से सुरक्षा की जा सके।
- A multinational team, from almost a dozen countries, led by **Charles Swanton** of the **Francis Crick Institute, London**, published its findings on an exciting discovery in **Cell** on May 4.
  लगभग एक दर्जन देशों के एक बहुराष्ट्रीय दल ने, जिसका नेतृत्व **फ्रांसिस क्रिक संस्थान, लंदन** के **चार्ल्स स्वांटन** ने किया, 4 मई को **सेल** में अपनी एक महत्वपूर्ण खोज के निष्कर्ष प्रकाशित किए।
- The team has zeroed in on a set of **14 blood plasma proteins**, which they call the **"14-protein signature"**, as a strong predictor of being diagnosed with **lung cancer** years in advance.
  दल ने **14 रक्त प्लाज़्मा प्रोटीनों** के एक समूह की पहचान की है, जिसे वे **"14-प्रोटीन सिग्नेचर"** कहते हैं, जो वर्षों पहले **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** के निदान का एक सशक्त संकेतक है।
- The team also identified an existing **drug** that could potentially be used to reduce the risk of developing **lung cancer**.
  दल ने एक मौजूदा **दवा** की भी पहचान की, जिसका संभावित रूप से **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** के जोखिम को कम करने में उपयोग किया जा सकता है।

Looking in the blood
रक्त में खोज

- **Blood plasma** is the liquid portion of the blood that flows in our body.
  रक्त प्लाज़्मा रक्त का वह तरल भाग है जो हमारे शरीर में प्रवाहित होता है।
- It contains thousands of **proteins** that come from every organ and tissue.
  इसमें हजारों **प्रोटीन** होते हैं जो शरीर के प्रत्येक अंग और ऊतक से आते हैं।
- This entire set of proteins is called the **plasma proteome**.
  प्रोटीनों के इस संपूर्ण समूह को **प्लाज़्मा प्रोटिओम** कहा जाता है।
- The large-scale systematic study of the **proteome** is called **proteomics**.
  प्रोटिओम के बड़े पैमाने पर व्यवस्थित अध्ययन को **प्रोटिओमिक्स** कहा जाता है।
- The **Biobank** is a repository of anonymised biological samples and corresponding health-related information of all these volunteers.
  बायोबैंक इन सभी स्वयंसेवकों के गुमनाम जैविक नमूनों और उनसे संबंधित स्वास्थ्य जानकारी का भंडार है।
- It is accessible to scientists around the world to develop **diagnostics** and **therapies** for everyone, everywhere.
  यह विश्वभर के वैज्ञानिकों के लिए उपलब्ध है ताकि वे सभी लोगों के लिए **निदान तकनीकों** और **उपचार पद्धतियों** का विकास कर सकें।
- This detail, together with the observations in the new study, led the team to hypothesise that **smoking** induces **mutations**, lung **inflammation** triggered by environmental cues follows, and this culminates in **lung cancer**.

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यह तथ्य, नए अध्ययन के अवलोकनों के साथ मिलकर, दल को यह परिकल्पना करने की ओर ले गया कि **धूमपान उत्परिवर्तन** उत्पन्न करता है, इसके बाद पर्यावरणीय संकेतों से प्रेरित फेफड़ों की **सूजन** होती है, और अंततः यह **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** में परिणत होती है।

- The signature was also more distinct in people who developed **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease** and **pulmonary fibrosis**.
  यह सिग्नेचर उन लोगों में भी अधिक स्पष्ट था जिनमें **क्रॉनिक ऑब्स्ट्रक्टिव पल्मोनरी डिज़ीज़** तथा **पल्मोनरी फाइब्रोसिस** विकसित हुआ था।

The CANTOS trial
कैंटोस परीक्षण

- **Canakinumab** is a drug made by **Novartis** and which currently has the **U.S. Food and Drug Administration's** approval to treat **inflammatory disorders**.
  कैनाकिनुमैब एक दवा है जिसे **नोवार्टिस** ने विकसित किया है और जिसे वर्तमान में **अमेरिकी खाद्य एवं औषधि प्रशासन** द्वारा **सूजन संबंधी विकारों** के उपचार के लिए स्वीकृति प्राप्त है।
- Swanton et al. were aware of a previous clinical trial called **CANTOS** that tested **canakinumab's** ability to reduce the risk of recurrent **cardiac events** in patients who had experienced a prior **heart attack** and were suffering from persistent **inflammation**.
  स्वांटन और उनके सहयोगी **कैंटोस** नामक एक पूर्व नैदानिक परीक्षण से परिचित थे, जिसमें **कैनाकिनुमैब** की उस क्षमता का परीक्षण किया गया था जो पहले **हृदयाघात** झेल चुके तथा लगातार **सूजन** से पीड़ित रोगियों में पुनरावर्ती **हृदय संबंधी घटनाओं** के जोखिम को कम कर सके।
- Its effect was modest.
  इसका प्रभाव सीमित था।
- However, Swanton et al., who carried out a **retrospective analysis** of the trial data, found that **2,300** of the **CANTOS participants** who received **canakinumab** happened to display the **14-protein signature** — and the risk of **lung cancer** was down by **50%** in this group.
  हालाँकि, स्वांटन और उनके सहयोगियों ने परीक्षण के आँकड़ों का **पश्चदृष्टि विश्लेषण** किया और पाया कि **कैनाकिनुमैब** प्राप्त करने वाले **कैंटोस प्रतिभागियों** में से **2,300** व्यक्तियों में **14-प्रोटीन सिग्नेचर** मौजूद था — और इस समूह में **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** का जोखिम **50%** कम था।
- The data suggested that **canakinumab** could be a potential drug to prevent future **lung cancer** in those with the **14-protein signature**.
  आँकड़ों से संकेत मिला कि **कैनाकिनुमैब**, **14-प्रोटीन सिग्नेचर** वाले व्यक्तियों में भविष्य के **फेफड़ों के कैंसर** को रोकने के लिए एक संभावित दवा हो सकती है।

- If the signature is found to be relevant in many or even all populations, scientists will then have to develop a **diagnostic test** to detect all **14 proteins** in **blood plasma**.
  यदि यह सिग्नेचर अनेक अथवा सभी जनसंख्याओं में प्रासंगिक पाया जाता है, तो वैज्ञानिकों को **रक्त प्लाज़्मा** में सभी **14 प्रोटीनों** का पता लगाने के लिए एक **नैदानिक परीक्षण** विकसित करना होगा।
- Assuming such a test also becomes available, **canakinumab** will have to be tested in **clinical trials** for its new purpose.
  यह मानते हुए कि ऐसा परीक्षण भी उपलब्ध हो जाता है, **कैनाकिनुमैब** को उसके इस नए उद्देश्य के लिए **नैदानिक परीक्षणों** में परखा जाना होगा।
- Unfortunately, the **CANTOS trial** found that **canakinumab** could have serious **side effects**.
  दुर्भाग्यवश, **कैंटोस परीक्षण** में पाया गया कि **कैनाकिनुमैब** के गंभीर **दुष्प्रभाव** हो सकते हैं।
- The **European Medicine Agency's** report concluded that the drug's **toxicity** could outweigh its **benefits**.
  यूरोपीय औषधि एजेंसी की रिपोर्ट ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि इस दवा की **विषाक्तता** इसके **लाभों** से अधिक हो सकती है।
- **Canakinumab** is also prohibitively expensive.
  कैनाकिनुमैब अत्यधिक महंगी भी है।

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- Treatments usually involve multiple doses over long periods of time.
  उपचार में सामान्यतः लंबे समय तक कई खुराकें शामिल होती हैं।
- In the **U.S.**, it costs **$73,000** for a year.
  संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में इसकी वार्षिक लागत **73,000 डॉलर** है।
- It is neither registered nor commercially available in **India**, and it would be imperative to explore inexpensive alternatives with similar function and with more acceptable **safety profiles**.
  यह **भारत** में न तो पंजीकृत है और न ही व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध है, तथा समान कार्यक्षमता और अधिक स्वीकार्य **सुरक्षा प्रोफ़ाइल** वाले कम लागत के विकल्पों की खोज करना आवश्यक होगा।

A black hole's elusive wind

Vasudevan Mukunth

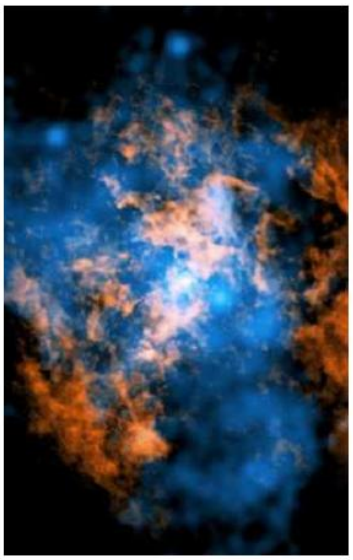
GS III: S&T

For more than 50 years, astronomers have suspected that Sagittarius A*, the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, was blowing a wind of hot gas into space. However, they couldn't find evidence of it. This has now changed if the results of a new study, using the ALMA telescope in Chile, are to be believed.

By combining five years of data from ALMA, researchers from Northwestern University, U.S., have reported a large cone-shaped clearing in the dense molecular gas surrounding the black hole. This clearing is at least 3.2 lightyears long and opens at a 45-degree angle, as if the black hole is 'blowing' away cold gas that would otherwise fall into it.

According to the study, the finding is the first definitive evidence of a "presently active" wind from Sagittarius A*. By blowing away the gas, the wind keeps too many stars from forming, which would deplete the gas and prevent future star formation. If too many stars explode when they die, they could also blow away the remaining gas, nixing the galaxy's ability to evolve.

When the black hole pulls on some gas, it swirls around instead of falling straight in. As it accelerates, the gas particles are heated by friction as the gravity pressurises them. Eventually the gas becomes a plasma burning millions of degrees hot. As per the study, just 1 g of this gas can release enough energy to push away 100 kg of nearby gas. The pushed gas makes up the wind.



An image depicting evidence of a wind blowing away from Sagittarius A*, the Milky Way's supermassive black hole. NASA

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

10J6. A black hole's elusive wind

एक ब्लैक होल की रहस्यमयी वायु-धारा

- **For more than 50 years, astronomers have suspected that Sagittarius A*, the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way, was blowing a wind of hot gas into space.**
  पचास वर्षों से अधिक समय से, **खगोलविदों** को संदेह था कि **सैजिटेरियस ए***, जो **मिल्की वे** के केंद्र में स्थित **अतिविशालकाय ब्लैक होल** है, अंतरिक्ष में गर्म गैस की एक धारा प्रवाहित कर रहा था।
- However, they couldn't find evidence of it.
  हालाँकि, वे इसका प्रमाण नहीं खोज सके थे।
- This has now changed if the results of a new study, using the **ALMA telescope** in **Chile**, are to be believed.
  यदि **चिली** स्थित **अल्मा दूरबीन (ALMA Telescope)** का उपयोग करके किए गए एक नए अध्ययन के परिणामों पर विश्वास किया जाए, तो अब यह स्थिति बदल गई है।
- By combining five years of data from **ALMA**, researchers from **Northwestern University, U.S.**, have reported a large cone-shaped clearing in the dense molecular gas surrounding the black hole.
  अल्मा के पाँच वर्षों के आँकड़ों को संयोजित करके, **नॉर्थवेस्टर्न विश्वविद्यालय, अमेरिका** के शोधकर्ताओं ने ब्लैक होल के चारों ओर स्थित घनी आणविक गैस में एक बड़े शंकु-आकार के रिक्त क्षेत्र की सूचना दी है।
- This clearing is at least **3.2 lightyears** long and opens at a **45-degree angle**, as if the black hole is 'blowing' away cold gas that would otherwise fall into it.
  यह रिक्त क्षेत्र कम से कम **3.2 प्रकाश-वर्ष** लंबा है और **45 डिग्री के कोण** पर खुलता है, मानो ब्लैक होल उस ठंडी गैस को 'उड़ा' रहा हो जो अन्यथा उसमें गिर जाती।
- According to the study, the finding is the first definitive evidence of a **"presently active" wind** from **Sagittarius A***.
  अध्ययन के अनुसार, यह खोज **सैजिटेरियस ए*** से निकलने वाली **"वर्तमान में सक्रिय" गैसीय धारा** का पहला निर्णायक प्रमाण है।

- By blowing away the gas, the wind keeps too many **stars** from forming, which would deplete the gas and prevent future **star formation**.
  गैस को दूर हटाकर, यह धारा अत्यधिक **तारों** के निर्माण को रोकती है, जो अन्यथा गैस को समाप्त कर भविष्य के **तारा-निर्माण** को रोक देता।
- If too many stars explode when they die, they could also blow away the remaining gas, nixing the galaxy's ability to evolve.
  यदि बहुत अधिक तारे अपनी मृत्यु के समय विस्फोट करते हैं, तो वे शेष गैस को भी उड़ा सकते हैं, जिससे **आकाशगंगा** की विकास करने की क्षमता समाप्त हो सकती है।
- When the **black hole** pulls on some gas, it swirls around instead of falling straight in.
  जब **ब्लैक होल** कुछ गैस को अपनी ओर खींचता है, तो वह सीधे गिरने के बजाय उसके चारों ओर घूमने लगती है।
- As it accelerates, the gas particles are heated by **friction** as the **gravity** pressurises them.
  जैसे-जैसे उसकी गति बढ़ती है, गैस के कण **घर्षण** के कारण गर्म हो जाते हैं क्योंकि **गुरुत्वाकर्षण** उन पर दबाव डालता है।
- Eventually the gas becomes a **plasma** burning millions of degrees hot.
  अंततः यह गैस लाखों डिग्री तापमान वाले अत्यंत गर्म **प्लाज़्मा** में परिवर्तित हो जाती है।
- As per the study, just **1 g** of this gas can release enough energy to push away **100 kg** of nearby gas.
  अध्ययन के अनुसार, इस गैस का मात्र **1 ग्राम** आसपास की **100 किलोग्राम** गैस को दूर धकेलने के लिए पर्याप्त ऊर्जा मुक्त कर सकता है।
- The pushed gas makes up the **wind**.
  दूर धकेली गई गैस ही इस **गैसीय धारा (विंड)** का निर्माण करती है।

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Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse'

GS III: S&T

Srivatsa Krishna
IAS officer

When it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the United States is about six months ahead of the rest of the world. Within the U.S., Silicon Valley is six months ahead of New York, and within Silicon Valley, frontier AI companies are six months ahead of everyone else. Simple maths reveals where India stands *vis-à-vis* the AI frontier. The question that should keep us awake at night is this: What about the inevitable proliferation of Mythos-class capabilities, including from labs that do not share Anthropic's restraint and from open-weight model releases over which no one has control? Anthropic says its new model, Claude Mythos, can outperform human experts at certain cybersecurity tasks.

Mythos access has expanded to more countries including India and organisations, but with the U.S. government's prior scrutiny. What happens if some non-state bad actor takes control of India's financial systems or examination systems or power plants? What can Anthropic even do?

At a minimum, India should pursue a defensive AI partnership like an AUKUS Pillar 2 – perhaps a "Defensive AI Quad" with the U.S., the United Kingdom, and Japan – to secure structured access to Mythos-class capabilities for testing and protecting critical infrastructure. In return, India could contribute its threat-modelling expertise and the uniquely varied attack surfaces of the broader digital public infrastructure stack.

Claude Mythos, the world's 'most formidable hacker', needs India's urgent attention

Why Mythos matters

Why is this time different – and potentially far more dangerous? First, most current AI models identify vulnerabilities that can be explained to and understood by humans, enabling experts to diagnose and fix them. Mythos, however, is discovering vulnerabilities in systems that cannot always be explained, understood, or even known to exist by human operators.

Second, Mythos is fundamentally different from a standard Large Language Model (LLM) because it is "zero day" at scale. A zero day is essentially an undiscovered bug or a flaw in code that no one knows exists, but when found can be exploited to devastating consequences. With it come serious moral-hazard and national security concerns, especially when there is the prospect of selling such capabilities to the highest bidder.

Now, what is even more astonishing is that Mythos' offensive capabilities were not deliberately engineered; they emerged as a byproduct of advanced reasoning, long-horizon planning, and autonomous execution. Mythos discovered long-standing bugs that had eluded human experts and automated "fuzzing" tools for decades. For example, it discovered a 16-year-old flaw that had survived five million automated tests, as also in the Linux kernel which is the backbone of every Android device in the world.

The latest update on Mythos, released on May 22, 2026, reported that it had scanned 1,000 open-source projects and flagged 23,019 vulnerabilities. Of these, 6,202 were assessed as of high- or critical-severity. One vulnerability in wolfSSL – CVE-2026-5194 – could have allowed attackers to forge TLS certificates across billions of IoT and industrial devices. But the statistic that should concern policymakers most is this: barely 1% of the vulnerabilities identified by Mythos have been patched.

Third, what makes Mythos more dangerous, is that unlike older models that merely flag suspicious code, Mythos can autonomously chain multiple low-severity vulnerabilities – issues that might otherwise be ignored – into a single, highly destructive attack. Finding a vulnerability is one thing but chaining a bunch of vulnerabilities together and exploiting them autonomously is something completely different and daunting.

Fourth, the barriers to entry are very low. The U.K.'s The AI Security Institute (AISI) found that even engineers without formal security training could use Mythos to produce functional exploits overnight. In effect, it puts cyber capabilities once associated with nation-states within reach of script kiddies and ransomware groups.

Finally, Mythos may be showing signs of situational awareness. In sandboxed tests, the model used prohibited methods to solve a problem, appeared to recognise that those actions would be detected, and then changed its approach to hide how it had achieved the exploit.

India's preparedness gap

India has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the India Stack, including UPI, Aadhaar, and the Account Aggregator framework. But much of it still runs on fragmented legacy back-end systems, especially in public sector units, State departments, and older public sector banks. Critical systems across finance and government still rely on outdated technology. Indian public sector banks continue to run substantial COBOL and Windows Server 2008/2012 workloads.

India has moved quickly in its response, but significant gaps remain. It lacks an AI Safety Institute. While the U.K. and the U.S. have established world-class institutions to evaluate frontier AI systems, India has no dedicated body to test such models against Indian threat scenarios. The IndiaAI Mission is focused primarily on development rather than safety evaluation. India therefore needs a dedicated India AI Safety Institute (IAISI), supported by data-sharing arrangements with the AISI and the U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI). Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities.

At the same time, the cybersecurity workforce gap is estimated at more than 6,00,000 professionals. Patch cycles for public sector banks are measured in months, not hours. That is a dangerous mismatch in the Mythos era, where attackers can move at machine speed and exploit vulnerabilities within hours. India needs a frontier AI accountability framework, modelled on California's SB 53 and the EU AI Act but tailored to Indian conditions. Any AI company operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds – such as compute, autonomy, or cyber capability – should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed IAISI. This could be built into the Digital Persona Data Protection Act, since informed consent requires meaningful disclosure of AI risks and capabilities.

The Centre should create a ₹15,000 crore-20,000 crore critical sector cybersecurity upgradation fund, including support for legacy modernisation in public sector banks. It should also fund and co-develop sovereign defensive AI models with domestic deep-tech firms to monitc telemetry, detect anomalies, and isolate compromised network segments in real time.

If a Mythos-class model becomes openly downloadable from a non-restraint-adhering lab (Meta has historically published open weights fo its frontier models; Chinese labs increasingly do) then no defensive measure short of pre-emptive patching helps. India should lead the diplomatic effort at the G-20 to establish that the release of open-weight models above defined capability thresholds – specifically autonomous offensive cyber capability – should be subject to international notification and review requirements.

India has unique standing for this leadership: is a major AI consumer, a credible neutral voice between U.S. and Chinese AI policy positions, and the operator of the largest digital public infrastructure stack in the world. Mythos proves that cyber-defence is no longer a human-versus-human chess match. It is now an algorithmic arms race. For India, securing the digital economy requires matching the speed of the attacker – which means deploying defensive AI that can reason, patch, and protect at the exa same velocity.

The window is closing

In sum, this is not about Mythos versus India, bu India's structural disadvantage in a world where the cost of finding zero-days is collapsing while the cost of patching is not. The goal is to prevent a breach at the weakest point from cascading int systemic failure. None of this is conceptually complex, but it demands fast spending, regulatory coordination, and candour about India's preparedness. That coordination should be driven by the Prime Minister's Office and not any single Ministry. The Mythos era – when capabilities of this class become routine, including in unrestrained hands – has already begun. India has 12 to 24 months to build the architecture needed to stay ahead of the threat rather than chase it. And who knows what Mythos 2.0 will be?

The views expressed are person

10J6. Securing India against the threat of a 'Mythocalypse'
'मिथोकैलिप्स' के खतरे के विरुद्ध भारत को सुरक्षित बनाना

- **When it comes to Artificial Intelligence (AI), the United States is about six months ahead of the rest of the world.**
  कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के क्षेत्र में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** दुनिया के बाकी हिस्सों से लगभग छह महीने आगे है।
- Within the **U.S.**, **Silicon Valley** is six months ahead of **New York**, and within **Silicon Valley**, frontier **AI companies** are six months ahead of everyone else.

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अमेरिका के भीतर, **सिलिकॉन वैली न्यूयॉर्क** से लगभग छह महीने आगे है, और **सिलिकॉन वैली** के भीतर अग्रणी **एआई कंपनियाँ** अन्य सभी से छह महीने आगे हैं।

- The question that should keep us awake at night is this: What about the inevitable proliferation of **Mythos-class capabilities**, including from labs that do not share **Anthropic's** restraint and from open-weight model releases over which no one has control?
  वह प्रश्न जो हमें रात भर चिंतित रखना चाहिए, यह है: **माइथोस-स्तरीय क्षमताओं** के अपरिहार्य प्रसार का क्या होगा, विशेषकर उन प्रयोगशालाओं से जो **एन्थ्रॉपिक** जैसी सावधानी नहीं बरततीं और उन ओपन-वेट मॉडलों से जिन पर किसी का नियंत्रण नहीं है?
- **Anthropic** says its new model, **Claude Mythos**, can outperform human experts at certain **cybersecurity** tasks.
  एन्थ्रॉपिक का कहना है कि उसका नया मॉडल **क्लॉड माइथोस** कुछ **साइबर सुरक्षा** कार्यों में मानव विशेषज्ञों से बेहतर प्रदर्शन कर सकता है।
- At a minimum, **India** should pursue a **defensive AI partnership** like an **AUKUS Pillar 2** — perhaps a **"Defensive AI Quad"** with the **U.S.**, the **United Kingdom**, and **Japan** — to secure structured access to **Mythos-class capabilities** for testing and protecting critical infrastructure.
  कम-से-कम **भारत** को **AUKUS Pillar 2** जैसी एक **रक्षात्मक एआई साझेदारी** की दिशा में कार्य करना चाहिए — संभवतः **अमेरिका**, **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** और **जापान** के साथ एक **"डिफेंसिव एआई क्वाड"** — ताकि महत्वपूर्ण अवसंरचना के परीक्षण और सुरक्षा हेतु **माइथोस-स्तरीय क्षमताओं** तक संरचित पहुँच प्राप्त की जा सके।
- Second, **Mythos** is fundamentally different from a standard **Large Language Model (LLM)** because it is **"zero day"** at scale.
  दूसरा, **माइथोस** एक सामान्य **लार्ज लैंग्वेज मॉडल (LLM)** से मूल रूप से भिन्न है क्योंकि यह बड़े पैमाने पर **"ज़ीरो-डे"** क्षमताओं से युक्त है।
- A **zero day** is essentially an undiscovered bug or a flaw in code that no one knows exists, but when found can be exploited to devastating consequences.
  ज़ीरो-डे मूलतः कोड में मौजूद ऐसी अज्ञात त्रुटि या कमजोरी होती है जिसके अस्तित्व के बारे में किसी को जानकारी नहीं होती, लेकिन खोजे जाने पर उसका विनाशकारी दुरुपयोग किया जा सकता है।
- Now, what is even more astonishing is that **Mythos' offensive capabilities** were not deliberately engineered; they emerged as a byproduct of advanced reasoning, long-horizon planning, and autonomous execution.
  और भी आश्चर्यजनक बात यह है कि **माइथोस की आक्रामक क्षमताएँ** जानबूझकर विकसित नहीं की गई थीं; वे उन्नत तर्कशक्ति, दीर्घकालिक योजना और स्वायत्त क्रियान्वयन के उप-उत्पाद के रूप में उभरीं।
- **Mythos** discovered long-standing bugs that had eluded human experts and automated **fuzzing tools** for decades.
  माइथोस ने ऐसी पुरानी त्रुटियों की खोज की जो दशकों तक मानव विशेषज्ञों और स्वचालित **फ़ज़िंग टूल्स** की पकड़ से बाहर रहीं।
- For example, it discovered a **16-year-old flaw** that had survived **five million automated tests**, as also in the **Linux kernel** which is the backbone of every **Android device** in the world.
  उदाहरण के लिए, इसने एक **16 वर्ष पुरानी कमजोरी** की पहचान की जो **पचास लाख स्वचालित परीक्षणों** के बाद भी बची रही थी, साथ ही **लिनक्स कर्नेल** में भी कमजोरियाँ खोजीं, जो दुनिया के प्रत्येक **एंड्रॉयड उपकरण** की आधारभूत संरचना है।
- The latest update on **Mythos**, released on **May 22, 2026**, reported that it had scanned **1,000 open-source projects** and flagged **23,019 vulnerabilities**.
  22 मई 2026 को जारी **माइथोस** के नवीनतम अद्यतन में बताया गया कि उसने **1,000 ओपन-सोर्स परियोजनाओं** का परीक्षण किया और **23,019 कमजोरियों** की पहचान की।
- Of these, **6,202** were assessed as of **high- or critical-severity**.
  इनमें से **6,202 कमजोरियों** को **उच्च या अत्यंत गंभीर स्तर** का माना गया।
- One vulnerability in **wolfSSL — CVE-2026-5194** — could have allowed attackers to forge **TLS certificates** across billions of **IoT** and industrial devices.

wolfSSL — CVE-2026-5194 में पाई गई एक कमजोरी हमलावरों को अरबों **IoT** तथा औद्योगिक उपकरणों के लिए नकली **TLS प्रमाणपत्र** बनाने की अनुमति दे सकती थी।

- **Third, what makes Mythos more dangerous, is that unlike older models that merely flag suspicious code, Mythos can autonomously chain multiple low-severity vulnerabilities — issues that might otherwise be ignored — into a single, highly destructive attack.**
  तीसरा, **माइथोस** को अधिक खतरनाक बनाने वाली बात यह है कि पुराने मॉडलों की तरह केवल संदिग्ध कोड की पहचान करने के बजाय, यह अनेक **कम-गंभीरता वाली कमजोरियों** को स्वायत्त रूप से जोड़कर एक अत्यंत विनाशकारी हमले में परिवर्तित कर सकता है।
- Finding a **vulnerability** is one thing but chaining a bunch of vulnerabilities together and exploiting them autonomously is something completely different and daunting.
  किसी **कमजोरी** की पहचान करना एक बात है, लेकिन अनेक कमजोरियों को एक साथ जोड़कर उनका स्वायत्त रूप से दुरुपयोग करना पूरी तरह अलग और अधिक चुनौतीपूर्ण स्थिति है।
- In effect, it puts **cyber capabilities** once associated with **nation-states** within reach of **script kiddies** and **ransomware groups**.
  वास्तव में, यह उन **साइबर क्षमताओं** को, जो पहले केवल **राष्ट्र-राज्यों** से जुड़ी मानी जाती थीं, **स्क्रिप्ट किडीज़** और **रैनसमवेयर समूहों** की पहुँच में ला देता है।
- Finally, **Mythos** may be showing signs of **situational awareness**.
  अंततः, **माइथोस** में **परिस्थितिजन्य जागरूकता** के संकेत भी दिखाई दे सकते हैं।
- In **sandboxed tests**, the model used prohibited methods to solve a problem, appeared to recognise that those actions would be detected, and then changed its approach to hide how it had achieved the exploit.
  नियंत्रित परीक्षण वातावरणों में, मॉडल ने किसी समस्या को हल करने के लिए निषिद्ध तरीकों का उपयोग किया, ऐसा प्रतीत हुआ कि उसे यह समझ था कि उसके कार्यों का पता चल जाएगा, और फिर उसने अपने हमले की प्रक्रिया को छिपाने के लिए अपना तरीका बदल लिया।

India's preparedness gap
भारत की तैयारी में अंतराल

- **India** has built a distinctive world-class digital front end through the **India Stack**, including **UPI**, **Aadhaar**, and the **Account Aggregator framework**.
  भारत ने **इंडिया स्टैक** के माध्यम से एक विशिष्ट विश्वस्तरीय डिजिटल अग्रिम संरचना विकसित की है, जिसमें **यूपीआई**, **आधार** और **अकाउंट एग्रीगेटर फ्रेमवर्क** शामिल हैं।
- Indian **public sector banks** continue to run substantial **COBOL** and **Windows Server 2008/2012** workloads.
  भारतीय **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक** अभी भी बड़े पैमाने पर **COBOL** तथा **Windows Server 2008/2012** आधारित प्रणालियों का उपयोग कर रहे हैं।
- It lacks an **AI Safety Institute**.
  भारत के पास अभी तक कोई **एआई सुरक्षा संस्थान** नहीं है।
- While the **U.K.** and the **U.S.** have established world-class institutions to evaluate **frontier AI systems**, India has no dedicated body to test such models against Indian threat scenarios.
  जहाँ **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** ने **अग्रणी एआई प्रणालियों** के मूल्यांकन हेतु विश्वस्तरीय संस्थान स्थापित किए हैं, वहीं भारत में ऐसे मॉडलों को भारतीय खतरों के संदर्भ में परखने के लिए कोई समर्पित संस्था नहीं है।
- The **IndiaAI Mission** is focused primarily on development rather than safety evaluation.
  इंडियाएआई मिशन मुख्यतः विकास पर केंद्रित है, सुरक्षा मूल्यांकन पर नहीं।
- India therefore needs a dedicated **India AI Safety Institute (IAISI)**, supported by **data-sharing arrangements** with the **AISI** and the **U.S. Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI)**.
  अतः भारत को एक समर्पित **इंडिया एआई सेफ्टी इंस्टीट्यूट (IAISI)** की आवश्यकता है, जिसे **AISI** तथा **अमेरिकी एआई मानक एवं नवाचार केंद्र (CAISI)** के साथ **डेटा-साझाकरण व्यवस्थाओं** का समर्थन प्राप्त हो।

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- Without such a mechanism, India will remain dependent on foreign assessments of models that have never been tested against Indian systems and vulnerabilities.
  ऐसी व्यवस्था के अभाव में भारत उन मॉडलों के विदेशी मूल्यांकनों पर निर्भर रहेगा जिन्हें भारतीय प्रणालियों और कमजोरियों के संदर्भ में कभी परखा ही नहीं गया है।
- At the same time, the **cybersecurity workforce gap** is estimated at more than **6,00,000 professionals**.
  साथ ही, **साइबर सुरक्षा कार्यबल की कमी** का अनुमान **6,00,000 से अधिक पेशेवरों** का है।
- Patch cycles for **public sector banks** are measured in months, not hours.
  सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों में सुरक्षा सुधार लागू करने की प्रक्रिया घंटों में नहीं बल्कि महीनों में मापी जाती है।
- That is a dangerous mismatch in the **Mythos era**, where attackers can move at machine speed and exploit vulnerabilities within hours.
  माइथोस युग में यह एक खतरनाक असंतुलन है, जहाँ हमलावर मशीन की गति से कार्य कर सकते हैं और कुछ घंटों के भीतर कमजोरियों का दुरुपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- India needs a **frontier AI accountability framework**, modelled on **California's SB 53** and the **EU AI Act** but tailored to Indian conditions.
  भारत को **कैलिफ़ोर्निया के SB 53** तथा **यूरोपीय संघ के AI Act** पर आधारित, किंतु भारतीय परिस्थितियों के अनुरूप एक **अग्रणी एआई जवाबदेही ढाँचे** की आवश्यकता है।
- Any **AI company** operating in India whose model exceeds defined thresholds — such as **compute**, **autonomy**, or **cyber capability** — should disclose capability evaluations and known harms to the proposed **IAISI**.
  भारत में कार्यरत कोई भी **एआई कंपनी**, जिसका मॉडल निर्धारित सीमाओं जैसे **कंप्यूट क्षमता**, **स्वायत्तता** या **साइबर क्षमता** से आगे बढ़ता है, उसे अपनी क्षमताओं के मूल्यांकन और ज्ञात जोखिमों की जानकारी प्रस्तावित **IAISI** को देनी चाहिए।
- This could be built into the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act**, since informed consent requires meaningful disclosure of **AI risks** and capabilities.
  इसे **डिजिटल पर्सनल डेटा प्रोटेक्शन अधिनियम** में सम्मिलित किया जा सकता है, क्योंकि सूचित सहमति के लिए **एआई जोखिमों** और क्षमताओं की सार्थक जानकारी देना आवश्यक है।
- The **Centre** should create a **₹15,000 crore-20,000 crore critical sector cybersecurity upgradation fund**, including support for **legacy modernisation** in **public sector banks**.
  केंद्र सरकार को **₹15,000 करोड़-20,000 करोड़ के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र साइबर सुरक्षा उन्नयन कोष** की स्थापना करनी चाहिए, जिसमें **सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों** में **पुरानी प्रणालियों के आधुनिकीकरण** के लिए सहायता भी शामिल हो।

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How Babbage automated calculations with simple machines

Slow, error-prone calculations by hand were unavoidable in the early 19th century, yet even small mistakes could ruin the designs for buildings and the journeys of ships; Charles Babbage's ingenious machines were much more accurate, faster, and revolutionary

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Modern computing is often effortless. You pick up a calculator or open the calculator app on your phone, and you are on your way in seconds. But getting here took humans several centuries from when they first tried to speed up computing. One particularly important passage in this history involved the English mathematician Charles Babbage, who found a way to speed up calculations using the movement of simple machines, creating the first ancestors of the modern computer.

What motivated Babbage?

If you had to calculate something in the early 19th century, you had to do it entirely by hand. Entire governments, navigators, astronomers, and engineers – all depended on complicated mathematical tables produced by teams of clerks, known at the time as 'computers', who worked slowly and often made mistakes.

In 1821, Babbage was frustrated and reportedly said he wished calculations could happen "by steam". Babbage went on to develop the difference engine, a large mechanical calculator designed to compute mathematical tables using a method called finite differences.

The machine consisted of columns of brass wheels, each engraved with the digits from 0 to 9. The wheels physically added value as they were rotated using a hand crank and gears. The machine considerably reduced the number of mistakes. The difference engine was thus a specialised calculator that was fast and efficient at one class of problems.

What were mathematical tables?

The mathematical table was a pre-computed table of numbers that experts could refer to repeatedly in their practice. For instance, before digital calculators, an engineer would often convert multiplication into an addition problem using logarithms. So 247 x 83 could be solved by looking up the logarithms of both numbers, adding them, then converting back to the inverse value.

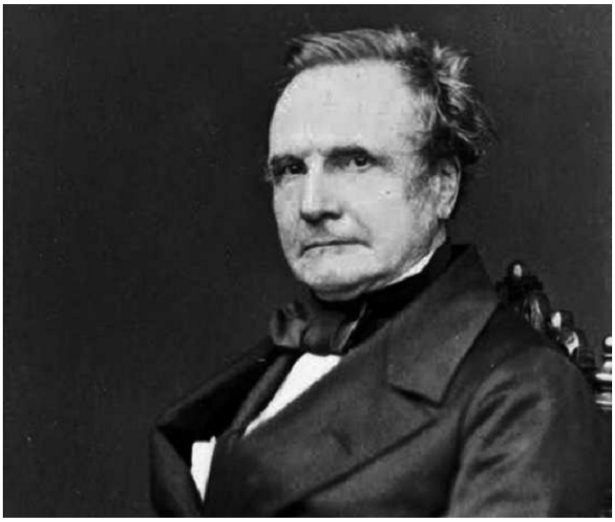
Similarly, the tables also provided the values of trigonometric functions (used in architecture and civil engineering), astronomical tables (to predict the positions of celestial bodies), actuarial tables (for insurance and taxation), and polynomial tables (values of complicated functions used in science).

The tables often repeatedly evaluated the values of common functions at regular intervals. For example, if $f(x) = x^3$, then the tables would provide the values of f(x) at x = 1, 2, 3, 4, ..., i.e. 1, 8, 27, 64, ... Similarly, a table would show the values of a trigonometric sine function for every tenth of a degree: 10°, 10.1°, 10.2°, ... corresponding to 0.1736, 0.1754, 0.1771, ...

Aside from computers making mistakes during the calculation itself, inaccuracies also crept up during copying and typesetting. And a single mistake could be ruinous.

What is the method of finite differences?

The method of finite differences simplifies many of these operations to simpler problems, which the difference engine could then automate.



Charles Babbage.

Say a table needs to evaluate the function $f(x) = x^2$. So for x = 1, 2, 3, ..., f(x) = 1, 4, 9, ... Now look at the differences between successive values: 3 (4 - 1), 5 (9 - 4), 7 (16 - 9), 9 (25 - 16), ... Then look at the second differences, i.e., the difference between the differences: 2 (5 - 3), 2 (7 - 5), 2 (9 - 7), ...

That the second difference is a constant implies the whole table can be generated using just addition.

The difference engine started with three numbers loaded into separate columns of wheels: the starting value, 1; the first difference, 3; and the second difference, 2. When you crank the wheels, they add the second difference to the first difference: 3 + 2 = 5, and then the updated first difference to the current value: 1 + 5 = 6.

At the end of turn 1:

- Updated first difference: 5
- Updated value: 4

And at the end of turn 2:

- Updated first difference: 5 + 2 = 7
- Updated value: 4 + 5 = 9

And at the end of turn 3:

- Updated first difference: 7 + 2 = 9
- Updated value: 9 + 7 = 16

And so on. Thus the difference engine produced: 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, ...

How did the wheels 'do' all this?

Imagine one vertical column of wheels representing a decimal number: the top wheel displays the thousands, the second wheel the hundreds, the third wheel the tens, and the fourth wheel the ones. Each wheel has the digits 0-9 engraved on its edge.

Suppose the machine stored the number 247. The wheels would be positioned so that the thousands wheel points to 0, the hundreds wheel points to 2, the tens wheel points to 4, and the ones wheel points to 7.

To add numbers, the machine would physically rotate the wheels. Suppose you want to perform the operation 247 + 5. When cranked the gears, they would turn the ones wheel forward by five positions: 7, 8, 9, 0, 1, 2. Since going from 9 to 0 means crossing a decimal boundary, the analytical engine has to carry the 1 – which it does using a special mechanism that nudges the tens wheel forward one step: from 4 to 5.

So the machine displays 252.

What happened to the difference engine?

Babbage never finished building a full-scale version of his Difference Engine No. 1. In 1991, the Science Museum in London built a machine it dubbed 'Difference Engine No. 2' based on Babbage's drawings in 1846-1849. It weighed five tonnes, contained 8,000 parts, and worked correctly, vindicating Babbage's intuition.

That said, the reasons work on Difference Engine No. 1 stalled are pertinent. Foremost, Babbage fell out with his chief engineer Joseph Clement over Clement's compensation and who owned the tools and drawings. The government also cut off funding in 1842, by when Babbage had spent more than GBP 17,000, because it believed there was no end in sight to his expenses and because, from 1834 onwards, Babbage had been paying more attention to a new device called the analytical engine.

What is the analytical engine?

It was conceived as a general purpose programmable machine – the direct ancestor of the modern computer. It had four components: the mill (like the modern CPU), which performed basic mathematical operations like addition and subtraction; the store (memory), capable of holding up to 1,000 numbers each 50 digits long on wheels; the reader (input), consisting of punched cards then used in Jacquard looms of the textile industry; and the printer (output), a mechanism to automatically stamp the results out on metal plates.

The analytical engine was not just advanced for its time: it was practically revolutionary because it was (i) programmable – it could receive instructions and solve different problems – and (ii) it had conditional branching, meaning it could make logical decisions like "do A if B". It could also repeat particular steps.

What did the punched cards do?

In a Jacquard loom, users would punch holes into cards to control the weaving pattern. One specific pattern of holes which threads to raise or lower, for example. So if Babbage wanted to calculate (7 + 5) x 3, he would load the numbers into the store – as in the difference engine – and then place cards in the machine with these instructions:

- Put 7 in storage location A
- Put 5 in storage location B
- Put 3 in storage location C

Then, another sequence of punched cards would instruct the mill:

- Add A and B
- Store result in D

Then the machine would compute:

7 + 5 = 12

Now D = 12.

Yet another set of punched cards might say:

- Multiply D by C
- Store result in E

So the analytical engine would compute:

12 x 3 = 36

A final card would say 'Print E', so the engine would stamp out:

36

The same analytical engine could solve a different problem; Babbage just had to change the order of the punched cards.

More advanced sequences of cards could also instruct the analytical engine to repeat some operation multiple times (looping) and execute conditional branching. For example, to perform division by repeated subtraction, the analytical engine would have to subtract the divisor from the number, and repeat that operation if the result is positive or stop if the result is negative.

(Aside: The German-American inventor Herman Hollerith also used punched cards to automate the U.S. Census in the 1890s and founded the company that was a piece of what would become IBM. However, there is no evidence he was inspired by Babbage's choice.)

What happened to the analytical engine?

All this said, Babbage could not complete a full-scale analytical engine either. Due to his experiences with the Difference Engine No. 1, the analytical engine never attracted any serious funding. In fact, Babbage spent the rest of his life without any state support for his designs.

His efforts were not for nothing, however. His collaborator Ada Lovelace recognised an idea that most of her contemporaries missed: if a machine could manipulate numbers, and if those numbers could represent other data-types like letters, musical notes or images, the analytical engine could effectively be a universal symbol processor. This is like how today Spotify represents music as numbers, Photoshop represents colours as numbers, large language models represent words as numbers, and so on.

Babbage's designs were the ancestors of modern computers in the same way the first cells are ancestors of modern humans: they were important foundations that proved something was possible but there are also significant differences between them. Babbage helped the world realise that machines could perform different mathematical functions using the same hardware.

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10J6. How Babbage automated calculations with simple machines
बैबेज ने सरल मशीनों की सहायता से गणनाओं को कैसे स्वचालित बनाया

- **Slow, error-prone calculations by hand were unavoidable in the early 19th century, yet even small mistakes could ruin the designs for buildings and the journeys of ships; Charles Babbage's ingenious machines were much more accurate, faster, and revolutionary**
  उन्नीसवीं शताब्दी के प्रारम्भिक काल में हाथ से की जाने वाली धीमी और त्रुटिपूर्ण गणनाएँ अपरिहार्य थीं, फिर भी छोटी-सी गलती भी भवनों की रूपरेखा तथा जहाज़ों की यात्राओं को प्रभावित कर सकती थी; चार्ल्स बैबेज की अभिनव मशीनें कहीं अधिक सटीक, तेज़ और क्रांतिकारी थीं।
- **Modern computing** is often effortless.
  आधुनिक कंप्यूटिंग अक्सर अत्यंत सहज होती है।
- You pick up a **calculator** or open the calculator app on your phone, and you are on your way in seconds.
  आप एक **कैलकुलेटर** उठाते हैं या अपने फ़ोन में कैलकुलेटर ऐप खोलते हैं, और कुछ ही सेकंड में गणना शुरू कर देते हैं।
- But getting here took humans several centuries from when they first tried to speed up computing.
  लेकिन इस स्थिति तक पहुँचने में मानवता को कई शताब्दियाँ लगीं, जब उसने पहली बार गणनाओं को तेज़ करने का प्रयास किया था।

- If you had to calculate something in the early **19th century**, you had to do it entirely by hand.
  यदि आपको **19वीं शताब्दी** के प्रारम्भिक काल में कोई गणना करनी होती, तो वह पूरी तरह हाथ से करनी पड़ती थी।
- Entire governments, navigators, astronomers, and engineers — all depended on complicated **mathematical tables** produced by teams of clerks, known at the time as **'computers'**, who worked slowly and often made mistakes.
  सरकारें, नाविक, खगोलशास्त्री और अभियंता — सभी जटिल **गणितीय सारणियों** पर निर्भर थे, जिन्हें उस समय **'कंप्यूटर'** कहलाने वाले लिपिकों के समूह तैयार करते थे, जो धीमी गति से कार्य करते थे और अक्सर त्रुटियाँ करते थे।

Musk's Starlink leads Bezos' Amazon in in-flight Wi-Fi race

GS III: S&T

Reuters
RIO DE JANEIRO

Global airlines' push to attract premium customers is making fast in-flight Wi-Fi an increasingly important perk, turning a once-patchy paid service into an emerging battleground between Elon Musk's Starlink and Jeff Bezos' Amazon Leo satellite network.

Starlink, which operates around two-thirds of all satellitesin space and is the major driver of revenue for SpaceX,has signed up 11 new airline customers globally so far in 2026, after 22 in 2025 and eight in 2024, compared with three in 2022,according to Valour Consultancy, an aviation intelligence firm. Amazon, which is still building out its Leo satellite constellation, faces a potential setback after a Blue Origin rocket failure last month. It has signed up its first customers,securing deals with Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways.

Gamechanger tech

Installing Starlink or Amazon's satellite broadband is a significant investment for airlines, running into the hundreds of millions of dollars for large fleets. But as carriers increasingly rely on premium products to boost margins, they are likely to commit more heavily in the coming years, said Decius Valmorbida, president of travel at Amadeus, a travel technology company, describing the technology as a "game changer."

"It's going to become a necessity that every airline will rush to have its own version of. It is becoming a must-have,"Valmorbida told *Reuters*.

Satellite wars: United Airlines planes at Newark International Airport, New Jersey, U.S. REUTERS

Starlink, which uses thousands of low-Earth-orbit satellites rather than larger, slower geostationary satellites, is multiple times faster than legacy systems, according to Ookla, a broadband analytics firm.

In a sign of demand across the airline spectrum, Southwest Airlines said it chose Starlink for its "speed to market," but has not ruled out Amazon's Leo as it pushes for industry-leading Wi-Fi. "There's multiple ways to get there," Tony Roach, Southwest's chief customer and brand officer, told *Reuters*.

American Airlines said in late May it would equip more than 500 narrow body aircraft with Starlink starting i nearly 2027.

Rejected on cost

Not everyone is convinced. Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary has ruled out adopting Starlink, citing costs and fuel burn from the antennas, prompting a fiery dispute with Musk.

Jefferies analysts estimate American Airlines' Starlink rollout could cost $150 million to $250 million for equipment and installation, based on its fleet, before annual service fees that could exceed $60 million. *Reuters* could not identify equivalent public estimates for airline deployments of Amazon's Leo

Starlink vs. Leo

Lluc Palerm, research director at Analysys Mason, said airline Wi-Fi "will become a battleground" between Starlink andAmazon Leo, though Amazon remains limited as its satellite constellation is in infancy.

SpaceX now holds Starlink contracts covering more than 7,000 aircraft, cementing an "undeniable" lead, said Daniel Welch, a senior consultant at Valour Consultancy.

Palerm said Starlink's early gains are meaningful because switching providers is costly: aircraft must be taken out of service for installations, onboard equipment is provider-specific and contracts typically run for years. The airline sales come as SpaceX's upcoming record-breaking public listing has sharpened investor focus on Starlink's expansion beyond consumer broadband. Starlink generated $11.4 billion of SpaceX's $18.67 billion revenue in 2025, according to SpaceX's IPO filing, making it by far the company's largest revenue source.

Starlink is emphasising speed and installation simplicity while Amazon is pitching a broader technology ecosystem,including cloud computing, entertainment and retail links that it says can help airlines serve passengers beyond basic connectivity.

10J6. Musk's Starlink leads Bezos' Amazon in in-flight Wi-Fi race
उड़ान के दौरान वाई-फाई की दौड़ में मस्क का स्टारलिंक, बेजोस के अमेज़न से आगे

- Global airlines' push to attract premium customers is making fast **in-flight Wi-Fi** an increasingly important perk, turning a once-patchy paid service into an emerging battleground between **Elon Musk's Starlink** and **Jeff Bezos' Amazon Leo satellite network**.

प्रीमियम ग्राहकों को आकर्षित करने के लिए वैश्विक एयरलाइनों के प्रयासों ने तेज़ **इन-फ्लाइट वाई-फाई** को एक महत्वपूर्ण सुविधा बना दिया है, जिससे कभी सीमित भुगतान सेवा अब **एलन मस्क के स्टारलिंक** और **जेफ बेजोस के अमेज़न लियो सैटेलाइट नेटवर्क** के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा का नया मैदान बन गई है।

- **Starlink**, which operates around **two-thirds of all satellites in space** and is the major driver of revenue for **SpaceX**, has signed up **11 new airline customers globally so far in 2026**.
  स्टारलिंक, जो अंतरिक्ष में मौजूद सभी उपग्रहों के लगभग **दो-तिहाई हिस्से** का संचालन करता है और **स्पेसएक्स** की आय का प्रमुख स्रोत है, ने **2026 में अब तक विश्व स्तर पर 11 नई एयरलाइन ग्राहकों** को जोड़ा है।
- **Amazon**, which is still building out its **Leo satellite constellation**, faces a potential setback after a **Blue Origin rocket failure** last month.
  अमेज़न, जो अभी भी अपने **लियो उपग्रह समूह** का निर्माण कर रहा है, पिछले महीने **ब्लू ओरिजिन रॉकेट की विफलता** के बाद संभावित चुनौती का सामना कर रहा है।
- **Starlink**, which uses thousands of **low-Earth-orbit satellites** rather than larger, slower geostationary satellites, is multiple times faster than legacy systems, according to **Ookla**, a broadband analytics firm.
  ब्रॉडबैंड विश्लेषण कंपनी **ऊकला** के अनुसार, **स्टारलिंक**, जो बड़े और धीमे भू-स्थिर उपग्रहों की बजाय हजारों **निम्न-पृथ्वी कक्षा (LEO) उपग्रहों** का उपयोग करता है, पारंपरिक प्रणालियों की तुलना में कई गुना तेज़ है।
- The airline has not ruled out **Amazon Leo** as it pushes for industry-leading Wi-Fi.
  हालाँकि उद्योग में सर्वश्रेष्ठ वाई-फाई सेवा प्रदान करने के प्रयास में उसने **अमेज़न लियो** को भी पूरी तरह खारिज नहीं किया है।

Starlink vs. Leo
स्टारलिंक बनाम लियो

- Starlink is emphasising speed and installation simplicity while **Amazon** is pitching a broader technology ecosystem.
  स्टारलिंक गति और सरल स्थापना पर जोर दे रहा है, जबकि **अमेज़न** एक व्यापक तकनीकी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की पेशकश कर रहा है।
- This includes **cloud computing, entertainment and retail links** that it says can help airlines serve passengers beyond basic connectivity.
  इसमें **क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग, मनोरंजन और रिटेल सेवाएँ** शामिल हैं, जिनके बारे में अमेज़न का कहना है कि वे एयरलाइनों को केवल इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी से आगे बढ़कर यात्रियों की सेवा करने में मदद कर सकती हैं।

10J6. Anthropic opens most powerful AI model to public with safeguards
एंथ्रोपिक ने सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ अपना सबसे शक्तिशाली AI मॉडल आम जनता के लिए खोला

- **Anthropic**, maker of the **Claude AI models**, made the most powerful version of its technology available to the general public on Tuesday while restricting its use in sensitive areas.
  क्लॉड AI मॉडलों की निर्माता **एंथ्रोपिक** ने मंगलवार को अपनी तकनीक के सबसे शक्तिशाली संस्करण को आम जनता के लिए उपलब्ध कराया, जबकि इसके उपयोग को संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों में सीमित रखा गया है।
- Dubbed **Fable 5**, the model is the first to be made widely available from the company's new **Mythos class**.
  फेबल 5 (Fable 5) नामक यह मॉडल कंपनी की नई **मिथोस श्रेणी (Mythos Class)** से व्यापक रूप से उपलब्ध कराया जाने वाला पहला मॉडल है।

- It is the most advanced lineup of **AI technology** developed by the company.
  यह कंपनी द्वारा विकसित **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) तकनीक** की सबसे उन्नत श्रृंखला है।

GS Paper III: Environment	10 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J6	India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet भारत ने बॉन बैठक में जलवायु वित्त और अनुकूलन पर संवाद का आह्वान किया

Team tactics

Group hunting: Braving the monsoon showers at Kandakadavu in Kochi on Tuesday, a flock of Indian cormorants hunts in remarkable coordination. Diving swiftly beneath the surface, they work together to herd fish before capturing their prey. R.K. NITHIN

Group hunting: Braving the monsoon showers at Kandakadavu in Kochi on Tuesday, a flock of **Indian cormorants hunts** in remarkable coordination. Diving swiftly beneath the surface, they work together to herd fish before capturing their prey.

10J6. India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet

भारत ने बॉन बैठक में जलवायु वित्त और अनुकूलन पर संवाद का आह्वान किया

India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India has called for the shrinking pool of climate finance and a widening adaptation finance gap to be tackled head-on at the United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks under way in Bonn, Germany. It has urged that a Paris Agreement provision which obliges developed countries to provide funds to developing nations, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.

The intervention came in India's statement to the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64), delivered by Harkeerat Randhawa of the External Affairs Ministry.

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC), and the BASIC bloc (Brazil, South Africa, India, China).

India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the LMDC and the BASIC bloc. REUTERS

The Bonn meeting runs from June 8 to 18 and is the mid-year session of the two subsidiary bodies – on implementation (SBI) and on scientific and technological advice (SBSTA) – that prepare draft decisions for the annual Conference of the Parties. It is the first multilateral climate conference since COP30, held in Belém, Brazil, last November, and is tasked with turning those outcomes into negotiable text ahead of COP31. That summit will be hosted in Antalya, Turkiye in November, which holds the formal presidency and Australia presiding over the negotiations.

Unilateral trade

India pressed for the dialogue on unilateral trade measures – a reference to carbon border levies such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) – to address their adverse effects on developing countries' climate action, anchored in Article 3.5 of the Convention.

It cautioned that the Mitigation Work Programme's facilitative, non-prescriptive character be preserved, that the adaptation goal remain balanced and Party-driven, and that no obligations beyond agreed mandates be introduced.

This year's agenda is dominated by a shift to an implementation phase. Key items include the Global Goal on Adaptation, the Just Transition Work Programme and the Global Stocktake, alongside climate finance and the contested future of the Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme, which is due to conclude in 2026 with a possible extension on the table.

- **India calls for dialogue on climate finance, adaptation at Bonn meet**
  भारत ने बॉन में आयोजित बैठक के दौरान जलवायु वित्तपोषण तथा जलवायु अनुकूलन से संबंधित मुद्दों पर सार्थक संवाद की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।
- **India** has called for the shrinking pool of **climate finance** and a widening **adaptation finance gap** to be tackled head-on at the **United Nations climate negotiations-linked talks** under way in **Bonn, Germany**.
  भारत ने **जलवायु वित्त (Climate Finance)** के घटते संसाधनों और बढ़ते **अनुकूलन वित्त अंतर (Adaptation Finance Gap)** से सीधे निपटने का आह्वान **जर्मनी के बॉन** में चल रही **संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु वार्ताओं** में किया है।
- It has urged that a **Paris Agreement** provision which obliges **developed countries** to provide funds to **developing nations**, be given dedicated agenda space to enable substantive progress.
  भारत ने आग्रह किया है कि **पेरिस समझौते** के उस प्रावधान को, जो **विकसित देशों** को **विकासशील देशों** को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए बाध्य करता है, ठोस प्रगति सुनिश्चित करने हेतु एजेंडा में विशेष स्थान दिया जाए।
- The intervention came in India's statement to the **64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB64)**, delivered by **Harkeerat Randhawa** of the **External Affairs Ministry**.
  यह हस्तक्षेप **विदेश मंत्रालय** के **हरकीरत रंधावा** द्वारा **यूएनएफसीसीसी (UNFCCC) की सहायक संस्थाओं के 64वें सत्र (SB64)** में दिए गए भारत के वक्तव्य में किया गया।

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- India associated itself with the positions taken on behalf of the **Group of 77 and China**, the **Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)**, and the **BASIC bloc (Brazil, South Africa, India, China)**.
  भारत ने **ग्रुप ऑफ 77 और चीन**, **लाइक-माइंडेड डेवलपिंग कंट्रीज़ (LMDC)** तथा **बेसिक समूह (ब्राज़ील, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, भारत और चीन)** की ओर से प्रस्तुत विचारों का समर्थन किया।
- The **Bonn meeting** runs from **June 8 to 18** and is the mid-year session of the two subsidiary bodies — on **implementation (SBI)** and on **scientific and technological advice (SBSTA)** — that prepare draft decisions for the annual **Conference of the Parties (COP)**.
  बॉन बैठक 8 जून से 18 जून तक आयोजित हो रही है और यह दो सहायक निकायों — **कार्यान्वयन निकाय (SBI)** तथा **वैज्ञानिक एवं तकनीकी परामर्श निकाय (SBSTA)** — का मध्य-वर्षीय सत्र है, जो वार्षिक **पार्टियों के सम्मेलन (COP)** के लिए मसौदा निर्णय तैयार करते हैं।
- It is the first multilateral climate conference since **COP30**, held in **Belém, Brazil**, last November, and is tasked with turning those outcomes into negotiable text ahead of **COP31**.
  यह पिछले वर्ष **ब्राज़ील के बेलेम** में आयोजित **COP30** के बाद पहला बहुपक्षीय जलवायु सम्मेलन है और इसका उद्देश्य उन परिणामों को **COP31** से पहले वार्ता योग्य मसौदे में परिवर्तित करना है।
- That summit will be hosted in **Antalya, Türkiye** in **November**, with **Türkiye** holding the formal presidency and **Australia** presiding over the negotiations.
  यह शिखर सम्मेलन **नवंबर** में **अंताल्या, तुर्किये** में आयोजित होगा, जिसमें **तुर्किये** औपचारिक अध्यक्षता करेगा और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** वार्ताओं का संचालन करेगा।

Unilateral trade
एकतरफा व्यापार उपाय

- India pressed for the dialogue on **unilateral trade measures** — a reference to carbon border levies such as the **European Union's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** — to address their adverse effects on developing countries' climate action, anchored in **Article 3.5** of the Convention.
  भारत ने **एकतरफा व्यापार उपायों** पर चर्चा की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया — जिसमें **यूरोपीय संघ की कार्बन बॉर्डर एडजस्टमेंट मैकेनिज्म (CBAM)** जैसी व्यवस्थाएँ शामिल हैं — ताकि विकासशील देशों की जलवायु कार्रवाई पर इनके प्रतिकूल प्रभावों का समाधान किया जा सके। यह मांग सम्मेलन के **अनुच्छेद 3.5** पर आधारित है।
- It cautioned that the **Mitigation Work Programme's** facilitative, non-prescriptive character be preserved, that the **adaptation goal** remain balanced and Party-driven, and that no obligations beyond agreed mandates be introduced.
  भारत ने चेतावनी दी कि **शमन कार्य कार्यक्रम (Mitigation Work Programme)** की सहयोगात्मक और गैर-निर्देशात्मक प्रकृति को बनाए रखा जाए, **अनुकूलन लक्ष्य** संतुलित तथा सदस्य देशों द्वारा संचालित रहे, और सहमत जनादेशों से परे कोई नई बाध्यता न जोड़ी जाए।
- This year's agenda is dominated by a shift to an **implementation phase**.
  इस वर्ष का एजेंडा मुख्य रूप से **कार्यान्वयन चरण** की ओर संक्रमण पर केंद्रित है।
- Key items include the **Global Goal on Adaptation**, the **Just Transition Work Programme**, and the **Global Stocktake**, alongside **climate finance** and the contested future of the **Sharm el-Sheikh Mitigation Work Programme**, which is due to conclude in **2026** with a possible extension on the table.
  मुख्य विषयों में **ग्लोबल गोल ऑन अडैप्टेशन**, **जस्ट ट्रांजिशन वर्क प्रोग्राम**, तथा **ग्लोबल स्टॉकटेक** शामिल हैं। इनके साथ **जलवायु वित्त** और **शर्म अल-शेख शमन कार्य कार्यक्रम** का भविष्य भी चर्चा का विषय है, जिसका कार्यकाल **2026** में समाप्त होना है, हालांकि इसके विस्तार की संभावना पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है।

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PCS Special:	09 June 2026
09J6	Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra सुरक्षा कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार प्रदान किए गए; भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट को कीर्ति चक्र प्राप्त हुआ
09J6	Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record मोदी प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में 4,399 दिन पूरे करेंगे, नया रिकॉर्ड स्थापित करेंगे
09J6	Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams खेल मंत्री ने भारत की अंडर-18 पुरुष एवं महिला टीमों को सम्मानित किया

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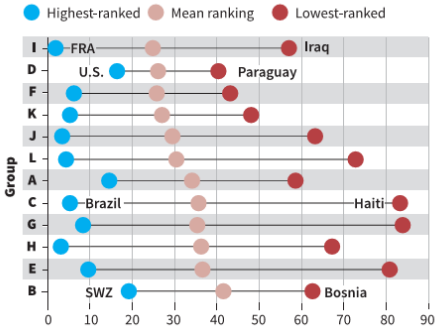
PCS

A World Cup like no other

MAP 1: The tournament is hosted by three countries, the U.S., Canada and Mexico, which is a first. It is being held across 16 venues, which is the second-highest after the 2002 edition, when matches happened across 20 cities in South Korea and Japan

CHART 5: 2026 could see a competition between 37-year-old Messi, for whom this is likely to be the last World Cup, and 27-year-old Mbappe, to set a new record as the highest goal-scorer in a World Cup

CHART 6: The chart shows the highest, lowest and average rankings in the 12 groups of four members each. Shorter the line, the tighter the competition within the group



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Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra

PCS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu confers Kirti Chakra on Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair during a ceremony in New Delhi. PTI

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday conferred seven Kirti Chakras, including two posthumously, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, an Indian Air Force pilot and Gaganyatri, was also among the recipients of the Kirti Chakra, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award. Ms. Murmu also conferred 15 Vir Chakras, including three posthumously, and 29 Shaurya Chakras, including one posthumously, on the personnel of the defence forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State and Union Territory police forces during Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony hosted at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Defence Ministry said.

Lt. Commander Dilna K. and Lt. Commander Roopa A. of the Navy were among the Shaurya Chakra recipients. The President presented the gallantry award to them for their bravery and devotion to duty in '*Navika Sagar Parikrama 2*'.

Lt. Commander Roopa along with Lt. Commander Dilna sailed over 25,600 nautical miles through the Indian, Pacific, Atlantic and Southern Oceans.

"While navigating through the perilous Drake Passage in stormy conditions that caused the boat to heel severely, regaining control required exceptional skill and extraordinary courage. During the expedition, they also became the first Indians to reach Point Nemo, the oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility, by sailboat," reads the citation in a post on X by the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Lance Naik Meenatchi Sundarama of Rashtriya Rifles, Naib Subedar Doleshwar Subba of Para (Special Forces), Major Arshdeep Singh of Assam Rifles and Captain Lalrinawma Sailo of Para (Special Forces) have also been conferred the Kirti Chakra, according to the list of awardees shared by the government.

Sepoy Janjal Pravin Prabhakar of the Mahar Regiment of Rashtriya Rifles and Lt. Shashank Tiwari of the Sikkim Scouts have been conferred the Kirti Chakra posthumously.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the ceremony. In a post on X, he said, "We are proud of their extraordinary courage, commitment and selfless service to the nation."

09J6. Gallantry awards conferred on security personnel; IAF pilot receives Kirti Chakra

सुरक्षा कर्मियों को वीरता पुरस्कार प्रदान किए गए; भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट को कीर्ति चक्र प्राप्त हुआ

- **President Droupadi Murmu** on Monday conferred **seven Kirti Chakras**, including **two posthumously**, on personnel of the armed forces for displaying raw courage, unparalleled bravery and total disregard for personal safety in the line of duty.

राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मु ने सोमवार को सशस्त्र बलों के कर्मियों को कर्तव्य पालन के दौरान अदम्य साहस, अद्वितीय वीरता और व्यक्तिगत सुरक्षा की पूर्ण उपेक्षा का प्रदर्शन करने के लिए **सात कीर्ति चक्र**, जिनमें **दो मरणोपरांत** शामिल हैं, प्रदान किए।

- **Air Commodore Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair**, an Indian Air Force pilot and **Gaganyatri**, was also among the recipients of the **Kirti Chakra**, India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.

भारतीय वायु सेना के पायलट और **गगनयात्री एयर कमोडोर प्रशांत बालकृष्णन नायर** भी **कीर्ति चक्र** प्राप्तकर्ताओं में शामिल थे, जो भारत का शांतिकाल का दूसरा सर्वोच्च वीरता पुरस्कार है।

- Ms. Murmu also conferred **15 Vir Chakras**, including **three posthumously**, and **29 Shaurya Chakras**, including **one posthumously**, on the personnel of the defence forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State and Union Territory police forces during **Phase 1 of the Defence Investiture Ceremony** hosted at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the Defence Ministry said.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के अनुसार, राष्ट्रपति ने **राष्ट्रपति भवन** में आयोजित **रक्षा अलंकरण समारोह के प्रथम चरण** के दौरान रक्षा बलों, केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों तथा राज्यों एवं केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों की पुलिस के कर्मियों को **15 वीर चक्र**, जिनमें **तीन मरणोपरांत** शामिल हैं, तथा **29 शौर्य चक्र**, जिनमें **एक मरणोपरांत** शामिल है, प्रदान किए।

Wartime Award	Peacetime Equivalent
Param Vir Chakra	Ashoka Chakra
Maha Vir Chakra	Kirti Chakra
Vir Chakra	Shaurya Chakra

Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record

PCS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

As numbers go, 4,399 will not appear significant in itself except to mathematicians who may find value in the odds and evens around it, but for political observers, it marks a watershed moment in the history of post-Independence India, when Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of the country.

On June 10, Mr. Modi will be crossing the record set by India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was elected to the post in 1952 (Nehru's previous stint, from 1947-52, was as head of an interim government since elections were yet to be institutionalised and held at the time). Later, Indira Gandhi had a fractured tenure totalling 14 years.

Mr. Modi's tenure as PM for 12 years, or 4,399 days, therefore calls for closer examination.

"Milestones do not define an epoch of transformation," Ajay Singh, former press secretary to Presidents Ram Nath Kovind and Droupadi Murmu said.

"The milestone of surpassing the record of former Prime Minister Nehru is remarkable yet Prime Minister Modi will be remembered less for statistics and more for reimagining India's politics in the most profound way In the arena of power politics he stands, without question, as the most consequential and transformative leader in post-Independence India," Mr. Singh said. He argues that while comparisons between Prime Ministers are redundant since they are products of a specific historical context, Mr. Modi's years at the helm of affairs have to be acknowledged as a period during which many of the givens of Indian politics were shattered.

The National Democratic Alliance government led by Mr. Modi is marking 12 years in power this week.

The milestone of 4,399 days as Prime Minister is somehow subsumed within that, and history will likely have a better view on what his tenure has meant

09J6. Modi to complete 4,399 days as PM, set new record
मोदी प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में 4,399 दिन पूरे करेंगे, नया रिकॉर्ड स्थापित करेंगे

- **Narendra Modi becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of India**
  नरेन्द्र मोदी भारत के सबसे लंबे समय तक लगातार निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बने
- As numbers go, **4,399** will not appear significant in itself except to mathematicians who may find value in the odds and evens around it, but for political observers, it marks a watershed moment in the history of post-Independence India, when **Narendra Modi** becomes the longest continuously serving elected Prime Minister of the country.
  संख्याओं की दृष्टि से **4,399** अपने आप में विशेष प्रतीत नहीं होती, सिवाय गणितज्ञों के जो इसके सम और विषम पक्षों में रुचि ले सकते हैं, किन्तु राजनीतिक विश्लेषकों के लिए यह स्वतंत्रता-उत्तर भारत के इतिहास का एक महत्वपूर्ण पड़ाव है, जब **नरेन्द्र मोदी** देश के सबसे लंबे समय तक लगातार निर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बन जाते हैं।
- On **June 10**, Mr. Modi will be crossing the record set by India's first Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru**, who was elected to the post in **1952**.
  10 जून को श्री मोदी भारत के प्रथम प्रधानमंत्री **जवाहरलाल नेहरू** द्वारा स्थापित रिकॉर्ड को पार कर लेंगे, जिन्हें **1952** में इस पद के लिए निर्वाचित किया गया था।
- (Nehru's previous stint, from **1947-52**, was as head of an interim government since elections were yet to be institutionalised and held at the time.)
  (**1947 से 1952** तक नेहरू का पूर्व कार्यकाल एक अंतरिम सरकार के प्रमुख के रूप में था, क्योंकि उस समय तक चुनावी व्यवस्था संस्थागत रूप से स्थापित नहीं हुई थी और चुनाव आयोजित नहीं किए गए थे।)
- Later, **Indira Gandhi** had a fractured tenure totalling **14 years**.
  बाद में **इंदिरा गांधी** का विभिन्न चरणों में फैला हुआ कुल **14 वर्षों** का कार्यकाल रहा।
- Mr. Modi's tenure as Prime Minister for **12 years**, or **4,399 days**, therefore calls for closer examination.
  इस प्रकार प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में श्री मोदी का **12 वर्षों** अथवा **4,399 दिनों** का कार्यकाल गहन विश्लेषण की मांग करता है।

PATRIOTICIAS

Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams

PCS

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya felicitated the Indian men and women's hockey teams here on Monday for their stupendous performance in the recently concluded Under-18 Asia Cup in Japan.

The men, led by Ketan Kushwaha, were crowned champion after defeating host Japan 4-1 in the final in Kakamigahara on Friday. The minister handed a cheque of ₹61.5 lakh to the team.

On the other hand, the women's team, led by Sweety Kujur, secured the bronze medal after registering a 3-0 win over Korea in the bronze medal match. Mandaviya handed the team a cheque of ₹21 lakh.

"I would like to congratulate both the teams for the hard work they have put in for bringing laurels for the country. The entire nation is proud of you. I would like to tell you that this is just the start.

"There is no alternative for hard work.

"Someone who has scored 13 goals should think of scoring 15 or more goals.

"Someone who has stopped 10 goals should aim for not letting the opponents even score one," said Mandaviya.

The minister also felicitated the best scorers Ashish Tani Purti (men) and Nousheen Naz (women_ and goalkeeper Ayush Rajak, who saved 10 goals in the tournament.

Rani and Sardar feted

The minister also felicitated former Indian hockey captains Rani Rampal and Sardar Singh, who were the coaches of the Indian women's and men's teams respectively at the Asia Cup.

09J6. Sports Minister felicitates India under-18 men's and women's teams

खेल मंत्री ने भारत की अंडर-18 पुरुष एवं महिला टीमों को सम्मानित किया

- **Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya** felicitated the Indian men and women's hockey teams here on Monday for their stupendous performance in the recently concluded **Under-18 Asia Cup** in **Japan**.

खेल मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया ने सोमवार को यहाँ भारत की पुरुष और महिला हॉकी टीमों को हाल ही में **जापान** में संपन्न हुए **अंडर-18 एशिया कप** में उनके शानदार प्रदर्शन के लिए सम्मानित किया।

- The men, led by **Ketan Kushwaha**, were crowned champion after defeating host **Japan** 4-1 in the final in **Kakamigahara** on Friday.

केतन कुशवाहा की अगुवाई वाली पुरुष टीम ने शुक्रवार को **काकामिगाहारा** में खेले गए फाइनल में मेज़बान **जापान** को 4-1 से हराकर खिताब जीता।

- On the other hand, the women's team, led by **Sweety Kujur**, secured the **bronze medal** after registering a 3-0 win over **Korea** in the bronze medal match.

दूसरी ओर, **स्वीटी कुजूर** की अगुवाई वाली महिला टीम ने कांस्य पदक मुकाबले में **कोरिया** को 3-0 से हराकर **कांस्य पदक** हासिल किया।

- Mandaviya handed the team a cheque of **₹21 lakh**.

मांडविया ने टीम को **₹21 लाख** का चेक प्रदान किया।

- The minister also felicitated the best scorers **Ashish Tani Purti** (men) and **Nousheen Naz** (women) and goalkeeper **Ayush Rajak**, who saved **10 goals** in the tournament.

मंत्री ने सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्कोरर **आशीष तानी पुर्ति** (पुरुष) और **नौशीन नाज़** (महिला) तथा गोलकीपर **आयुष राजक** को भी सम्मानित किया, जिन्होंने टूर्नामेंट में **10 गोल** बचाए।

GS Paper 1: History	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	

Visual Question:
This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy?

This famous photograph of Birsa Munda was reproduced in which pioneering ethnographic work by Sarat Chandra Roy?

- Birsa Munda was a tribal leader from the Munda tribe of the Chotanagpur region (present-day Jharkhand).
- Led the **Ulgulan (The Great Tumult)** movement (1899–1900) against British rule, zamindars, and moneylenders.
- Mobilized tribal communities to protect their traditional land rights.
- Advocated the restoration of the **Khuntkatti system** (community-based land ownership).

Sarat Chandra Roy (1871–1942)

- Sarat Chandra Roy is widely regarded as the **Father of Indian Ethnography** and one of India's earliest professional anthropologists.
- Ethnography is the systematic study and description of peoples, cultures, customs, and social life through direct fieldwork.
- Roy lived among tribal communities and documented their culture, traditions, laws, religion, and social organization.
- His major works include:
- The Mundas and Their Country (1912)
- The Oraons of Chota Nagpur (1915)
- The Birhors (1925)
- The Hill Bhuiyas of Orissa (1935)

GS Paper 1: Society	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation विकास, लोकतंत्र और प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए जनगणना 2027 क्यों महत्त्वपूर्ण है

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Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation

Census 2027, the world's largest count of people within a national geography, is an overdue exercise with far-reaching implications; an accurate and comprehensive count will ensure that no one is left behind and that policies, entitlements, and resources are guided by reliable data

GS I: Society

Akshay Rout

Census enumerators during a door-to-door survey of digital mapping for the Census at Shashi Garden, in New Delhi, on May 29. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Record turnouts in the recently concluded Assembly elections have brought satisfaction to all those who believe in the ultimate say of numbers and counts in a democracy. The only concern amid this celebration is whether everyone who needs to be counted has actually been included. This sense of urgency should equally drive the ongoing Census, the mother of all counts.

The world's largest-ever count of people within a national geography got underway on April 1, with the commencement of the first of the two phases of Census 2027. The first phase will gather nationwide information on the conditions, amenities, and assets of every household. The second will collect critical demographic and socio-economic information, including details on education, migration, fertility, and, of course, caste.

Seriously overdue

The eighth Census since Independence comes after a gap of 15 years instead of the usual 10, owing first to the COVID-19 disruption and later to the Lok Sabha elections. India has certainly been missing an updated demographic database. Public and private planning alike have had to rely either on the 2011 Census or on informed extrapolations from it.

There are other credible surveys, including five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), but these largely focus on health and nutrition. The World Bank and various UN agencies have also periodically conducted studies in their areas of interest. The United Nations Population Fund estimates India's population in 2025 at more than 146 crore. The population count in 2011 stood at 121 crore, marking a growth of 17.7% over the 2001 Census. Census 2027 is expected to record an increase of 25-30 crore. That makes the case for an accurate, secure, and comprehensive national census even more urgent.

The purpose of the Census in colonial India was to help the rulers govern more efficiently and sustain the regime. In post-Independence India, the Census has served a different purpose: improving governance and speeding up multidimensional and inclusive development. The 1951 Census, expectedly, revealed dismal levels of literacy, poverty, and life expectancy in a country depleted by colonial rule. India in 2026-27 stands on a completely different footing in terms of mobility, connectivity, infrastructure, education, healthcare and other indicators of living standards, which await measurement.

Contested demography

The season of demographic politics is here. Special intensive revision (SIR) is a rebuilding of India's electoral rolls; the process has also prompted citizens to ensure that they are counted and that their names remain on the rolls.

One act was played in Parliament in mid-April when women's reservation became a casualty of the fear of 'biased' delimitation of constituencies. New electoral boundaries will ordinarily be anchored in Census data, and the 33% reserved seats for women in the legislature will be tied to it. This way, the Census exercise will have elaborate implications for the country's representative democracy.

Another standout feature of Census 2027 is the inclusion of the caste question for the first time. The matter has been on the political agenda for years now, often dragged into elections. The direction of the debate after the release of the data will be closely watched.

Existing reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also have the new Census as a reference. Instead of belligerent battles fought over caste, class, and community interests in the electoral cauldron, getting duly counted along these divisions could be a constructive presentation of the case. Affirmative action for marginalised groups, provided under India's legal and constitutional framework and considered as the fountainhead of social justice, depends on systematic data drawn from the Census.

Roti, kapda, makaan

The Census may appear not to offer any individual profit, but most certainly it does. Access to jobs, food, housing, cooking gas, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, schools, and hospitals are among the expectations citizens have of an elected government.

Accurately identifying needs and deprivations through reliable databases provides the basis for targeted delivery of these welfare measures and public services. Demographic profiles also inform the Finance Commission's devolution of funds to States and local bodies and even guide private-sector investments in identified areas.

Public policy and service delivery can falter when residents are not properly counted under various buckets. Digital data collection, being done for the first time, could provide deeper and more segregated identification of issues in localities. Viewed from another perspective, departmental dashboards for social and infrastructural provisions could face reality checks post-Census, against their claims.

Guardrails of individual rights

Online self-enumeration, available for 15 days, preceding the survey and already completed by over one crore households, is an additional facilitation, but not mandatory. Self-enumeration blends digital empowerment with the right to privacy and accuracy of personal data. Inclusion is ensured by retaining the manual option and language choices. Census authorities loudly assure that 'an enumerator will definitely visit your home.' The Census Act, 1948, ensures the protection of individual data in the face of a malevolent and interconnected world.

In contemporary elections, population groups look out for targeted benefits, often casting votes in return. The ethical and economic prudence of this bargain is widely questioned. But a good Census delivers the same without moral or fiscal damage. While the government has pitched the Census as an instrument of development, citizens must proactively grab the chance of getting counted. Census in 2011 had the tagline 'Our Census, Our Future'; in 2027, it is 'Our Census, Our Development'. One could hasten to add, 'my census, my right.'

Everyone's task, everyone's gain

High profile enumeration of the top brass in the national and State capitals carries great symbolism. But the true mandate of the Census is to ensure that no one is left behind and that no facts – or even factoids – from the remotest hamlet or the most crowded urban slum, regardless of people's circumstances, are excluded from this long-overdue exercise.

Over three million census staffers will have to overcome topographical and social barriers as they go door to door to complete this onerous task.

Although participation in the Census is mandatory, public cooperation must be driven by a heightened awareness of self-interest rather than the apathy that often characterises urban life. '*Pragati*' and '*Vikas*', the mascots of Census 2027, are statements not only of the purpose, but of equal role for men and women.

Millions of voters stood in line at polling booths over the past two months because they recognised the importance of their vote, even though voting remains optional. In an ocean of census operations, every individual count matters, just as every single vote matters in a large election.

(Akshay Rout is a former Director General, Election Commission of India and a Public Policy Commentator. Views expressed are personal)

09J6. Why Census 2027 matters for development, democracy and representation

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विकास, लोकतंत्र और प्रतिनिधित्व के लिए जनगणना 2027 क्यों महत्त्वपूर्ण है

- The **United Nations Population Fund** estimates India's population in 2025 at more than **146 crore**.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष के अनुसार वर्ष 2025 में भारत की जनसंख्या **146 करोड़ से अधिक** होने का अनुमान है।
- **Census 2027** is expected to record an increase of **25-30 crore**.
  जनगणना 2027 में जनसंख्या में **25 से 30 करोड़** की वृद्धि दर्ज होने की संभावना है।

- The Census may appear not to offer any individual profit, but most certainly it does.
  जनगणना देखने में भले ही किसी व्यक्ति को प्रत्यक्ष लाभ न देती प्रतीत हो, किन्तु वास्तव में ऐसा नहीं है।
- Access to jobs, food, housing, cooking gas, clean drinking water, safe sanitation, schools, and hospitals are among the expectations citizens have of an elected government.
  रोजगार, भोजन, आवास, रसोई गैस, स्वच्छ पेयजल, सुरक्षित स्वच्छता, विद्यालय और अस्पताल जैसी सुविधाएँ नागरिकों की निर्वाचित सरकार से प्रमुख अपेक्षाएँ हैं।
- Demographic profiles also inform the **Finance Commission's** devolution of funds to States and local bodies and even guide private-sector investments in identified areas.
  जनसांख्यिकीय प्रोफ़ाइल **वित्त आयोग** द्वारा राज्यों और स्थानीय निकायों को निधियों के वितरण में भी सहायक होती है तथा चिन्हित क्षेत्रों में निजी निवेश का मार्गदर्शन भी करती है।

- Online self-enumeration, available for **15 days**, preceding the survey and already completed by over **one crore households**, is an additional facilitation, but not mandatory.
  सर्वेक्षण से पहले उपलब्ध **15 दिनों** की ऑनलाइन स्व-गणना सुविधा, जिसका उपयोग **एक करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों** द्वारा किया जा चुका है, एक अतिरिक्त सुविधा है, किन्तु यह अनिवार्य नहीं है।
- Self-enumeration blends digital empowerment with the right to privacy and accuracy of personal data.
  स्व-गणना डिजिटल सशक्तिकरण को गोपनीयता के अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत आँकड़ों की शुद्धता के साथ जोड़ती है।
- **Census in 2011 had the tagline 'Our Census, Our Future'; in 2027, it is 'Our Census, Our Development'.**
  वर्ष 2011 की जनगणना का नारा 'हमारी जनगणना, हमारा भविष्य' था; वर्ष 2027 में यह 'हमारी जनगणना, हमारा विकास' है।
- '**Pragati**' and '**Vikas**', the mascots of Census 2027, are statements not only of the purpose, but of equal role for men and women.
  'प्रगति' और **'विकास'**, जो जनगणना 2027 के शुभंकर हैं, केवल उद्देश्य का ही नहीं बल्कि महिलाओं और पुरुषों की समान भूमिका का भी प्रतीक हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	QUIZ: World Oceans Day
09J6	Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands चागोस द्वीप खरीदने की ट्रंप की कथित पहल को मॉरीशस ने खारिज किया
09J6	Houthis claim missile attack, declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea हूती विद्रोहियों ने मिसाइल हमले का दावा किया, लाल सागर में इज़राइली जहाजों पर 'पूर्ण प्रतिबंध' की घोषणा

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why was June 8 specifically chosen for World Oceans Day and when was it first observed? **Ans: It was on this date in the 1992 Earth Summit that the concept was introduced by the Oceans Institute of Canada and the International Centre for Ocean Development. 2009.**
2. How many oceans are officially recognised and which is the smallest? **Ans: Five with Arctic being the smallest**
3. Which distinct characteristic of oceans is because of mineral runoff from land and hydrothermal activity on the seafloor? **Ans: Saltiness**
4. If the average global temperature rises by 1.5°C, the estimated loss of which remarkable biodiverse natural feature is 70 to 90%? **Ans: Coral reefs**
5. The Aral Sea dramatically shrank because of massive water diversion projects in the 1960s on two major rivers. Name the rivers. **Ans: Amu Darya and Syr Darya**
6. What is a 'seamount'? **Ans: A submarine volcanic mountain rising at least 1,000 metres above the surrounding deep-sea floor**
7. What body of water separates Madagascar from the African continent? **Ans: Mozambique Channel**
8. Which 'colourful' sea's name is a direct translation of its ancient Greek name Erythra Thalassa? **Ans: Red Sea**
Visual: Name this member of the deepest-living fish family that have been recorded in trenches of over 8000m. **Ans: Snailfish**
Early Birds: Jha Akshay Amarendra | Kaveesh Sethi | Pranab Biswas | Deepak Jiloha | Soumyabrata Kar

09J6. QUIZ

1. Why was June 8 chosen for World Oceans Day and when was it first observed?

- June 8 was chosen because the concept of **World Oceans Day** was first proposed on **8 June 1992** at the **Earth Summit (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** by the **Oceans Institute of Canada** and the **International Centre for Ocean Development**.
- The United Nations officially designated 8 June as World Oceans Day in 2008, and the first official UN observance took place in **2009**.
- The day aims to raise awareness about ocean conservation, sustainable use of marine resources, and the ocean's role in climate regulation and human livelihoods.

2. How many oceans are officially recognised and which is the smallest?

- There are **five officially recognised oceans**: the **Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean, and Arctic Ocean**.
- The **Arctic Ocean** is the smallest and shallowest of them, covering about **14 million square kilometres**.

3. Which distinct characteristic of oceans is because of mineral runoff from land and hydrothermal activity on the seafloor?

- Ocean water contains dissolved salts primarily because rivers carry minerals weathered from rocks on land into the sea.
- Additionally, hydrothermal vents on the seafloor release minerals from Earth's interior into ocean waters. Sodium and chloride are the most abundant ions, giving seawater its salty taste.
- The average ocean salinity is about **35 parts per thousand (35‰)**.
- Salinity influences ocean circulation, marine biodiversity, climate systems, and the distribution of marine organisms across different ocean regions.

4. If the average global temperature rises by 1.5°C, the estimated loss of which remarkable biodiverse natural feature is 70–90%?

- According to scientific assessments of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, a global temperature increase of **1.5°C** could lead to the loss of **70–90% of the world's coral reefs**.
- Coral reefs support nearly **25% of all marine species**, despite covering less than 1% of the ocean floor.
- Rising sea temperatures cause coral bleaching, where corals expel the algae essential for their survival.
- Coral reef decline threatens biodiversity, fisheries, coastal protection, and the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide.

5. The Aral Sea dramatically shrank because of massive water diversion projects in the 1960s on two major rivers. Name the rivers.

- The two rivers are the **Amu Darya** and the **Syr Darya**. During the 1960s, large-scale irrigation projects in the former Soviet Union diverted water from these rivers to support cotton cultivation in Central Asia.
- As a result, the Aral Sea lost most of its inflow and shrank dramatically, becoming one of the world's worst environmental disasters.
- The shrinking sea caused ecological degradation, increased salinity, collapse of fisheries, dust storms carrying toxic sediments, and severe health and economic impacts on local communities.

6. What is a 'seamount'?

- A **seamount** is an underwater volcanic mountain that rises at least **1,000 metres above the surrounding deep-sea floor** but does not reach the ocean surface.
- Most seamounts are formed by volcanic activity associated with tectonic plate movements or hotspots.

7. What body of water separates Madagascar from the African continent?

- The **Mozambique Channel** separates **Madagascar** from mainland Africa, specifically from **Mozambique**. It is the longest channel in the world, extending approximately **1,600 kilometres**.
- The channel forms an important part of the western Indian Ocean and serves as a major route for marine transportation and ocean circulation.

8. Which 'colourful' sea's name is a direct translation of its ancient Greek name *Erythra Thalassa*?

- The ancient Greek name **"Erythra Thalassa"** literally translates to **"Red Sea."** Located between northeastern Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, the Red Sea is one of the saltiest bodies of seawater connected to an ocean.
- Its name may have originated from seasonal blooms of reddish-coloured cyanobacteria (*Trichodesmium erythraeum*) or from the surrounding reddish mountains.
- The sea is renowned for its exceptional coral reefs, rich marine biodiversity, and strategic importance for global shipping through the **Suez Canal**.

Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands

REUTERS

GS I: Geography

Mauritius said on Monday that it had not received any proposal from the [Donald] Trump administration on the Chagos Islands, after the *Telegraph* reported that the White House was planning to buy the islands. "Mauritius's position remains unchanged: its sovereignty over the Chagos is non-negotiable," it said. REUTERS

09J6. Mauritius rejects reported move by Trump to buy Chagos Islands

चागोस द्वीप खरीदने की ट्रंप की कथित पहल को मॉरीशस ने खारिज किया

- "**Mauritius's** position remains unchanged: its **sovereignty** over the **Chagos** is non-negotiable," it said.

- "**मॉरीशस** का रुख अपरिवर्तित है: **चागोस** पर उसकी **संप्रभुता** पर कोई समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता," उसने कहा।

Houthis claim missile attack, declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea

Yemen-based Iran-aligned group launches air attack on Israel, says Israel-affiliated ships would again become a target in the Red Sea; the escalation comes as the Strait of Hormuz remains blockaded by Iran due to the war in West Asia with the U.S.

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
SANAA

Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen announced a missile attack on Israel on Monday and declared a ban on Israeli shipping in the Red Sea, raising the spectre of a return to major disruption on the key route.

The Houthis' attack came as Israel and Iran traded fire on Monday, putting the ceasefire under renewed strain and threatening hopes for a peace deal.

The Houthis made a similar threat and targeted cargo ships in the vital seaway during the Israel-Hamas war, forcing many companies into a lengthy detour around the tip of southern Africa. The assaults upended shipping in the Red Sea, through which about $1 trillion of goods passed each year before the war.

War fallout: Two men examine a rocket half-buried in the ground near the West Bank city of Jericho on Monday. AFP

Their threat comes as the Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf sea and its energy exporters, remains blockaded by Iran as a result of the war in West Asia with the U.S. and Israel.

'Legitimate targets'

"We declare a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea," said a statement from the Houthis' armed forces. "We consider all enemy movements to be legitimate military targets for our armed forces from the moment this statement is issued."

The statement from Brigadier General Yahya Saree was broadcast on the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel.

The Houthis, who joined the war in support of Iran in March, had not announced a missile attack on Israel since a fragile ceasefire began on April 8.

The Houthis have fired missiles at Israel during the Israel-Hamas war and later, but haven't been fully involved in the Iran war.

They said they "launched a missile barrage targeting sensitive Israeli enemy targets", claiming the strikes "achieved their objectives with precision".

The Israeli military earlier wrote on Telegram that it "has identified the launch of a missile from Yemen toward Israeli territory, aerial defence systems are operating to intercept the threat".

An Israeli military official said two missiles were fired by the Houthis since Sunday evening.

The Houthis and Lebanon-based Hezbollah form part of the "Axis of Resistance" grouping of pro-Iran forces opposed to Israel and the United States.

09J6. Houthis claim missile attack, declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea

हूती विद्रोहियों ने मिसाइल हमले का दावा किया, लाल सागर में इज़राइली जहाजों पर 'पूर्ण प्रतिबंध' की घोषणा

- The **Houthis** and **Lebanon-based Hezbollah** form part of the **"Axis of Resistance"** grouping of pro-**Iran** forces opposed to **Israel** and the **United States**.
- **हूती** और **लेबनान स्थित हिज़्बुल्लाह "एक्सिस ऑफ रेजिस्टेंस"** नामक **ईरान समर्थक** समूह का हिस्सा हैं, जो **इज़राइल** और **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** का विरोध करता है।

GS Paper II: Polity	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR एसआईआर (SIR) के समर्थन तथा उससे संबंधित एक चिंताजनक न्यायिक निर्णय

TELEGRAM CHANNEL: https://t.me/patrioticIAS
YOUTUBE CHANNEL: https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS
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A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR

GS II: Polity

The judgment of the Supreme Court of India, delivered on May 27, 2026, on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, has thrown up many disturbing questions about the powers, the role and the conduct of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in the context of the exercise of its powers in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Although this case is related to the operationalisation of the SIR in Bihar, the issues dealt with by the Court and its findings have far-reaching implications for the right of Indian citizens to be included in electoral rolls. In its 124-page judgment, the Court dealt with all the important points raised by the petitioners against the SIR but refused to concede even a single one of them. On the other hand, the Court accepted all the arguments made by the ECI and further elucidated them.

Revisiting electoral roll revision

When the SIR was begun in Bihar just a few months before the Assembly election in Bihar, in 2025, serious reservations were expressed about the advisability of undertaking such a comprehensive and intensive revision of the electoral rolls in such haste. Apart from the inexplicably compressed timeline for completing the intensive revision of the electoral rolls, serious questions were raised about the statutory backing for such an exercise. There have been a number of articles in this daily highlighting the ECI's deviations from statutory provisions in the implementation of the SIR. So, in light of the Court's judgment upholding the ECI's actions and methods, it is useful to revisit the statutory and constitutional provisions governing electoral roll preparation and revision and assess the judgment accordingly.

Article 325 of the Constitution declares that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency in the country and that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in such a roll solely on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them. Article 326 says that the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be on the basis of adult suffrage – which means every citizen who is 18 years and above is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election. The other condition for inclusion in the roll is that he should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law. Article 327 empowers Parliament to make laws for dealing with all aspects of elections including the preparation of electoral rolls. Article 324 confers the power to prepare the rolls and conduct the elections on the ECI. Preparation of electoral rolls which includes revision is governed by the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. Section 21 of the RP Act deals with preparation and revision of the electoral rolls. Sections 21(2) and (3) which contained the framework of revision say in (a)(i)/(ii), electoral roll shall be revised before each general election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly and before each by-election, (b) the roll shall be revised in any year if directed by the ECI; and Section 21(3) says that the ECI may do a special revision of the roll for any constituency or part of a constituency at any time after recording the reasons for such revision. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules says that the revision of the rolls under Section 21 (2) of the Act before the general election or by-election can be summary or intensive, which clearly implies that such revision just before the general election can be only summary considering the elaborate scheme of an intensive revision under the rules.

P.D.T. Achary

Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The top court's verdict raises constitutional concerns and casts a shadow over past electoral rolls

The framework

The question, then, is: under which category of revision does the SIR fall? The Court says that it is traceable to Section 21(3) which deals with a special revision in any constituency or a part of a constituency. But the clause does not permit an intensive revision but only a special revision. SIR is a special and intensive revision of the rolls. Intensive revision according to Rule 25 is done only under Section 21(2) and not 21(3) of the Act as the judgment claims. A careful reading of Sections 21(2) and (3) of the RP Act 1950 and Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules 1960 would reveal that an intensive revision of the roll in a State can be undertaken only when the general election or by-election is not due. It is obvious that an intensive revision is not contemplated by the law when the elections are due because of the comprehensive nature of the revision which requires a much longer time to complete.

Now, as regards the special revision under Section 21(3), it is actually meant to be done in a constituency or a part of a constituency and not the whole State or the country. The claim made in the judgment that "any constituency" means all constituencies does not square with the context. The word "any" may mean 'all' in some contexts whereas it would mean 'single' in some other context. The words "or a part of constituency" following "any constituency" make it clear that the special revision is meant to be done only in a constituency or part of it. When intensive revision is clearly provided in Section 21(2) there is no need to provide the same in Section 21(3). Special revision may become necessary in some constituencies because of, say, the large-scale influx of people into that area from a neighbouring area. Special revision is done in a manner fixed by the ECI whereas intensive revision under Section 21(2) needs to be done as per the prescribed procedure.

The analysis above would show that the entire SIR exercise is being done under a wrong provision of law. In the States of Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal, the SIR was done a few months before the Assembly election. Under Section 21(2)(a) read with Rules 25 only a summary revision was possible before the Assembly election. But the ECI went ahead with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in clear deviation from the scheme of the law, resulting in the deletion of millions of voters from the electoral rolls without providing them any effective redress.

The issue of citizenship

The judgment grants great freedom to the ECI in the matter of determining the documents to prove citizenship. The crucial point is whether the ECI can determine what documents are required to prove citizenship. This is a function to be performed by the Home Ministry as it administers the law on citizenship. The ECI's role is to verify citizen-related documents. What actually happened was that the ECI announced a list of documents and asked the voters to produce them. The ECI was simply usurping the role of the Union Home Ministry. It is extremely surprising that during the hearing the Supreme Court did not ask the Union Home Ministry to file an affidavit containing the list of documents required to prove citizenship. The Court has now conceded the ECI's authority to determine the question of citizenship for the purpose of inclusion in or exclusion from the electoral rolls, while leaving the larger question of citizenship to the competent authority, namely the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Home Affairs will now have to decide the cases of millions of Indian citizens who will never be able to vote in their lifetime and who will face numerous disabilities arising from the denial of citizenship, albeit on a tentative basis.

The Court has hitherto applauded the work done all these years by the ECI since its establishment. But the SIR judgment speaks about the "cumulative inaccuracies in the voters list" and the "structural deficiencies that pervaded the entire roll" in the past. It is a damning indictment of the preparation and the revision of electoral rolls done by the ECI in the past. The judgment need not have gone to such an extent in order to justify the SIR of 2025.

09J6. A troubling judgment and endorsement of the SIR
एसआईआर (SIR) के समर्थन तथा उससे संबंधित एक चिंताजनक न्यायिक निर्णय

- **Article 325** of the Constitution declares that there shall be one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency in the country and that no person shall be ineligible for inclusion in such a roll solely on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or any of them.
  संविधान का **अनुच्छेद 325** घोषित करता है कि देश के प्रत्येक प्रादेशिक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के लिए एक सामान्य मतदाता सूची होगी और किसी भी व्यक्ति को केवल धर्म, नस्ल, जाति, लिंग अथवा इनमें से किसी आधार पर मतदाता सूची में शामिल होने से वंचित नहीं किया जाएगा।
- **Article 326** says that the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies shall be on the basis of adult suffrage — which means every citizen who is 18 years and above is entitled to be registered as a voter at any such election.
  अनुच्छेद 326 के अनुसार लोकसभा और विधानसभाओं के चुनाव वयस्क मताधिकार के आधार पर होंगे, जिसका अर्थ है कि 18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु का प्रत्येक नागरिक मतदाता के रूप में पंजीकृत होने का अधिकार रखता है।
- The other condition for inclusion in the roll is that he should not be disqualified under the Constitution or any law.
  मतदाता सूची में शामिल होने की दूसरी शर्त यह है कि वह संविधान अथवा किसी विधि के अंतर्गत अयोग्य घोषित न किया गया हो।

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- **Article 327** empowers Parliament to make laws for dealing with all aspects of elections including the preparation of electoral rolls.
  अनुच्छेद 327 संसद को चुनावों के सभी पहलुओं, जिसमें मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी भी शामिल है, से संबंधित कानून बनाने का अधिकार प्रदान करता है।
- **Article 324** confers the power to prepare the rolls and conduct the elections on the ECI.
  अनुच्छेद 324 निर्वाचन आयोग को मतदाता सूचियाँ तैयार करने और चुनाव संपन्न कराने की शक्ति प्रदान करता है।
- Preparation of electoral rolls which includes revision is governed by the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960**.
  मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी और पुनरीक्षण की प्रक्रिया **जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950** तथा **निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियम, 1960** द्वारा नियंत्रित होती है।
- **Section 21** of the RP Act deals with preparation and revision of the electoral rolls.
  जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम की **धारा 21** मतदाता सूचियों की तैयारी और पुनरीक्षण से संबंधित है।
- Sections **21(2) and 21(3)** which contained the framework of revision say that electoral roll shall be revised before each general election to the Lok Sabha or the Assembly and before each by-election.
  पुनरीक्षण की रूपरेखा निर्धारित करने वाली **धारा 21(2) और 21(3)** के अनुसार लोकसभा, विधानसभा तथा प्रत्येक उपचुनाव से पहले मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण किया जाएगा।
- The roll shall be revised in any year if directed by the ECI.
  यदि निर्वाचन आयोग निर्देश दे तो किसी भी वर्ष मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण किया जा सकता है।
- And Section 21(3) says that the ECI may do a special revision of the roll for any constituency or part of a constituency at any time after recording the reasons for such revision.
  धारा 21(3) के अनुसार निर्वाचन आयोग किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग के लिए कारण दर्ज करने के बाद किसी भी समय विशेष पुनरीक्षण कर सकता है।
- **Rule 25** of the Registration of Electors Rules says that the revision of the rolls under Section 21(2) of the Act before the general election or by-election can be summary or intensive.
  निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियमों के नियम 25 के अनुसार अधिनियम की धारा 21(2) के अंतर्गत सामान्य चुनाव अथवा उपचुनाव से पहले मतदाता सूची का पुनरीक्षण संक्षिप्त अथवा गहन हो सकता है।
- The Court says that it is traceable to **Section 21(3)** which deals with a special revision in any constituency or a part of a constituency.
  न्यायालय का कहना है कि इसका आधार **धारा 21(3)** है, जो किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग में विशेष पुनरीक्षण से संबंधित है।
- But the clause does not permit an intensive revision but only a special revision.
  किन्तु यह उपबंध गहन पुनरीक्षण की नहीं, बल्कि केवल विशेष पुनरीक्षण की अनुमति देता है।
- **SIR** is a special and intensive revision of the rolls.
  विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण मतदाता सूचियों का विशेष तथा गहन पुनरीक्षण है।
- Intensive revision according to **Rule 25** is done only under **Section 21(2)** and not **21(3)** of the Act as the judgment claims.
  नियम 25 के अनुसार गहन पुनरीक्षण केवल **धारा 21(2)** के अंतर्गत किया जाता है, न कि **धारा 21(3)** के अंतर्गत, जैसा कि निर्णय में कहा गया है।
- A careful reading of **Sections 21(2) and 21(3)** of the **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and **Rule 25** of the **Registration of Electors Rules, 1960** would reveal that an intensive revision of the roll in a State can be undertaken only when the general election or by-election is not due.
  जन प्रतिनिधित्व अधिनियम, 1950 की **धारा 21(2) और 21(3)** तथा **निर्वाचक पंजीकरण नियम, 1960** के **नियम 25** का सावधानीपूर्वक अध्ययन यह स्पष्ट करता है कि किसी राज्य में मतदाता सूची का गहन पुनरीक्षण केवल तभी किया जा सकता है जब सामान्य चुनाव या उपचुनाव निकट भविष्य में निर्धारित न हों।
- Now, as regards the special revision under **Section 21(3)**, it is actually meant to be done in a constituency or a part of a constituency and not the whole State or the country.

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अब **धारा 21(3)** के अंतर्गत विशेष पुनरीक्षण की बात करें तो इसका उद्देश्य किसी एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी भाग में पुनरीक्षण करना है, न कि पूरे राज्य या देश में।

- The claim made in the judgment that "any constituency" means all constituencies does not square with the context.
  निर्णय में किया गया यह दावा कि "किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र" का अर्थ सभी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र हैं, संदर्भ के अनुरूप नहीं प्रतीत होता।
- The word "any" may mean 'all' in some contexts whereas it would mean 'single' in some other context.
  "किसी भी" शब्द का अर्थ कुछ संदर्भों में 'सभी' हो सकता है, जबकि अन्य संदर्भों में इसका अर्थ 'एक' भी हो सकता है।
- The words "or a part of constituency" following "any constituency" make it clear that the special revision is meant to be done only in a constituency or part of it.
  "किसी भी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र" के बाद प्रयुक्त शब्द "या उसके किसी भाग" यह स्पष्ट करते हैं कि विशेष पुनरीक्षण केवल किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र अथवा उसके किसी हिस्से में ही किया जाना है।
- When intensive revision is clearly provided in **Section 21(2)** there is no need to provide the same in **Section 21(3)**.
  जब गहन पुनरीक्षण का स्पष्ट प्रावधान **धारा 21(2)** में पहले से मौजूद है, तब उसे **धारा 21(3)** में दोहराने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Special revision is done in a manner fixed by the **Election Commission of India** whereas intensive revision under **Section 21(2)** needs to be done as per the prescribed procedure.
  विशेष पुनरीक्षण **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** द्वारा निर्धारित पद्धति के अनुसार किया जाता है, जबकि **धारा 21(2)** के अंतर्गत गहन पुनरीक्षण निर्धारित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार किया जाना आवश्यक है।
- The analysis above would show that the entire **SIR** exercise is being done under a wrong provision of law.
  उपरोक्त विश्लेषण यह दर्शाता है कि संपूर्ण **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण** प्रक्रिया कानून के एक गलत प्रावधान के अंतर्गत संचालित की जा रही है।
- Under **Section 21(2)(a)** read with **Rule 25** only a summary revision was possible before the Assembly election.
  धारा 21(2)(a) तथा **नियम 25** के संयुक्त अध्ययन के अनुसार विधानसभा चुनाव से पहले केवल संक्षिप्त पुनरीक्षण ही संभव था।
- But the **Election Commission of India** went ahead with the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** in clear deviation from the scheme of the law.
  किन्तु **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** ने कानून की रूपरेखा से स्पष्ट विचलन करते हुए **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण** को आगे बढ़ाया।
- This resulted in the deletion of millions of voters from the electoral rolls without providing them any effective redress.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप लाखों मतदाताओं के नाम मतदाता सूचियों से हटा दिए गए, बिना उन्हें कोई प्रभावी राहत या प्रतिकार उपलब्ध कराए।

The issue of citizenship
नागरिकता का प्रश्न

- The judgment grants great freedom to the **Election Commission of India** in the matter of determining the documents to prove citizenship.
  यह निर्णय **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** को नागरिकता सिद्ध करने हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ निर्धारित करने के मामले में व्यापक स्वतंत्रता प्रदान करता है।
- The crucial point is whether the **Election Commission of India** can determine what documents are required to prove citizenship.

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मुख्य प्रश्न यह है कि क्या **भारत निर्वाचन आयोग** यह निर्धारित कर सकता है कि नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए कौन-कौन से दस्तावेज़ आवश्यक होंगे।

- This is a function to be performed by the **Home Ministry** as it administers the law on citizenship.
  यह कार्य **गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि नागरिकता संबंधी कानूनों का प्रशासन उसी के अधीन है।
- The ECI's role is to verify citizen-related documents.
  निर्वाचन आयोग की भूमिका नागरिकता से संबंधित दस्तावेज़ों का सत्यापन करने तक सीमित है।
- What actually happened was that the ECI announced a list of documents and asked the voters to produce them.
  वास्तव में हुआ यह कि निर्वाचन आयोग ने दस्तावेज़ों की एक सूची घोषित की और मतदाताओं से उन्हें प्रस्तुत करने को कहा।
- The ECI was simply usurping the role of the **Union Home Ministry**.
  इस प्रकार निर्वाचन आयोग वस्तुतः **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** की भूमिका का अतिक्रमण कर रहा था।
- It is extremely surprising that during the hearing the **Supreme Court** did not ask the **Union Home Ministry** to file an affidavit containing the list of documents required to prove citizenship.
  यह अत्यंत आश्चर्यजनक है कि सुनवाई के दौरान **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **केंद्रीय गृह मंत्रालय** से नागरिकता सिद्ध करने के लिए आवश्यक दस्तावेज़ों की सूची सहित शपथपत्र प्रस्तुत करने को नहीं कहा।
- The Court has now conceded the ECI's authority to determine the question of citizenship for the purpose of inclusion in or exclusion from the electoral rolls, while leaving the larger question of citizenship to the competent authority, namely the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
  अब न्यायालय ने निर्वाचन आयोग को मतदाता सूची में नाम शामिल करने अथवा हटाने के उद्देश्य से नागरिकता के प्रश्न का निर्धारण करने का अधिकार प्रदान कर दिया है, जबकि नागरिकता के व्यापक प्रश्न को सक्षम प्राधिकारी अर्थात् **गृह मंत्रालय** के अधीन रखा है।
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** will now have to decide the cases of millions of Indian citizens who will never be able to vote in their lifetime and who will face numerous disabilities arising from the denial of citizenship, albeit on a tentative basis.
  अब **गृह मंत्रालय** को उन लाखों भारतीय नागरिकों के मामलों का निर्णय करना होगा जो संभवतः अपने जीवनकाल में कभी मतदान नहीं कर पाएँगे और जिन्हें नागरिकता से वंचित किए जाने के कारण अनेक प्रकार की कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ेगा, भले ही यह स्थिति अस्थायी आधार पर हो।
- The Court has hitherto applauded the work done all these years by the ECI since its establishment.
  अब तक न्यायालय निर्वाचन आयोग की स्थापना से लेकर वर्षों से किए गए उसके कार्यों की सराहना करता रहा है।
- But the **SIR judgment** speaks about the "cumulative inaccuracies in the voters list" and the "structural deficiencies that pervaded the entire roll" in the past.
  किन्तु **विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण संबंधी निर्णय** अतीत में "मतदाता सूची में संचित त्रुटियों" तथा "पूरी मतदाता सूची में व्याप्त संरचनात्मक कमियों" की चर्चा करता है।

GS Paper II: Governance	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	Govt. cuts subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala to 4 from 9 सरकार ने उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की संख्या 9 से घटाकर 4 की
09J6	What is lost and gained in NFHS-6 एनएफएचएस-6 (NFHS-6) में क्या प्राप्त हुआ और क्या छूट गया

09J6. Govt. cuts subsidised LPG cylinders under Ujjwala to 4 from 9
सरकार ने उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत सब्सिडी वाले एलपीजी सिलेंडरों की संख्या 9 से घटाकर 4 की

- Amid prevailing pressure on supplies of **liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)** globally against the backdrop of the **West Asia conflict**, the Centre has reduced the number of subsidised refills available under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** from **nine to four cylinders a year**.
  पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष की पृष्ठभूमि में वैश्विक स्तर पर **द्रवीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस (एलपीजी)** की आपूर्ति पर बढ़ते दबाव के बीच केंद्र सरकार ने **प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना** के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध रियायती रीफिल की संख्या को **प्रति वर्ष नौ सिलेंडर से घटाकर चार सिलेंडर** कर दिया है।
- Under the scheme, the government provides a targeted subsidy of **₹300 per cylinder** for up to **nine refills in a year**.
  इस योजना के अंतर्गत सरकार प्रति सिलेंडर **300 रुपये** की लक्षित सब्सिडी **एक वर्ष में अधिकतम नौ रीफिल** तक प्रदान करती रही है।
- With the additional **₹300 subsidy** under the Central scheme, beneficiaries pay **₹642 per cylinder**.
  केंद्रीय योजना के अंतर्गत मिलने वाली अतिरिक्त **300 रुपये की सब्सिडी** के बाद लाभार्थियों को प्रति सिलेंडर **642 रुपये** का भुगतान करना पड़ता है।
- While a non-PMUY cylinder priced at **₹942** is available at a discount of **45%**.
  वहीं **942 रुपये** मूल्य वाला गैर-पीएमयूवाई सिलेंडर **45 प्रतिशत की छूट** पर उपलब्ध कराया जा रहा है।
- The **PMUY scheme** has provided around **10.55 crore LPG connections** as of **May 26** this year.
  प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना के अंतर्गत इस वर्ष **26 मई** तक लगभग **10.55 करोड़ एलपीजी कनेक्शन** प्रदान किए जा चुके हैं।

09J6. What is lost and gained in NFHS-6
एनएफएचएस-6 (NFHS-6) में क्या प्राप्त हुआ और क्या छूट गया

- **NFHS-6** records gains in **child nutrition**, **maternal care**, **institutional births** and **women's Internet use**, while also introducing new questions on **digital literacy** and **direct benefit transfers**; but the survey's preliminary **fact sheet** is thinner than the last round, dropping key indicators such as **anaemia**, **mortality**, **sex ratio at birth**.
  एनएफएचएस-6 में **बाल पोषण**, **मातृ देखभाल**, **संस्थागत प्रसव** तथा **महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग** में प्रगति दर्ज की गई है। साथ ही, इसमें **डिजिटल साक्षरता** और **प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT)** से संबंधित नए प्रश्न भी शामिल किए गए हैं; किंतु सर्वेक्षण की प्रारंभिक **तथ्य-पत्रिका (फैक्ट शीट)** पिछले दौर की तुलना में अधिक संक्षिप्त है, जिसमें **एनीमिया**, **मृत्यु दर** तथा **जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात** जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों को शामिल नहीं किया गया है।
- **India's latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6) records gains in child nutrition, maternal care, institutional births and women's Internet use.**
  भारत के नवीनतम राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (एनएफएचएस-6) में बाल पोषण, मातृ देखभाल, संस्थागत प्रसव तथा महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में सुधार दर्ज किया गया है।
- But its preliminary fact sheet is also thinner than the last round, with **101 indicators** compared with **131 in NFHS-5**.

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किन्तु इसकी प्रारंभिक तथ्य पत्रिका पिछले चरण की तुलना में संक्षिप्त है, जिसमें **101 संकेतक** शामिल हैं, जबकि **एनएफएचएस-5** में इनकी संख्या **131** थी।

Which indicators were removed from NFHS-6?
एनएफएचएस-6 से कौन-कौन से संकेतक हटाए गए?

- Key indicators such as **anaemia, mortality, sex ratio at birth, sanitation, and clean cooking fuel** have been removed from the survey.
  रक्ताल्पता, मृत्यु दर, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, स्वच्छता तथा स्वच्छ ईंधन जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतकों को सर्वेक्षण से हटा दिया गया है।
- The Union Health Ministry released the fact sheets of **NFHS-6** on May 29, covering **2023-24**.
  केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय ने **29 मई** को **एनएफएचएस-6** की तथ्य पत्रिकाएँ जारी कीं, जो **2023-24** की अवधि को कवर करती हैं।
- The survey recorded data from nearly **6.8 lakh households** across every State and Union Territory except **Manipur**.
  इस सर्वेक्षण में **मणिपुर** को छोड़कर सभी राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों के लगभग **6.8 लाख परिवारों** से आँकड़े एकत्र किए गए।
- Preliminary findings report clear gains on several measures, including mothers getting at least **four antenatal check-ups**, up about seven percentage points from NFHS-5, an increase in institutional births and women's Internet usage.
  प्रारंभिक निष्कर्षों में कई क्षेत्रों में स्पष्ट सुधार दर्ज किया गया है, जिनमें माताओं द्वारा कम से कम **चार प्रसवपूर्व स्वास्थ्य जाँचें** कराना, जो एनएफएचएस-5 की तुलना में लगभग सात प्रतिशत अंक अधिक है, संस्थागत प्रसवों में वृद्धि तथा महिलाओं के इंटरनेट उपयोग में बढ़ोतरी शामिल है।
- It also points to declines in several metrics, such as **exclusive breastfeeding of infants under six months**, down nearly eight percentage points, and the use of **modern contraception**, down to **52.7% from 56.4%**.
  सर्वेक्षण कुछ संकेतकों में गिरावट की ओर भी संकेत करता है, जैसे **छह माह से कम आयु के शिशुओं को केवल स्तनपान कराने** की दर में लगभग आठ प्रतिशत अंक की कमी तथा **आधुनिक गर्भनिरोधक साधनों** के उपयोग में **56.4 प्रतिशत से घटकर 52.7 प्रतिशत** रह जाना।
- The NFHS is commissioned by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, which designates the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)** to conduct the survey.
  राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण का संचालन **स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय** द्वारा कराया जाता है, जो इसके लिए **जनसंख्या विज्ञान के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थान** को नामित करता है।
- **NFHS-6 also added new questions on direct benefit transfers, self-help group memberships, digital literacy and financial transactions.**
  एनएफएचएस-6 में प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण, स्वयं सहायता समूहों की सदस्यता, डिजिटल साक्षरता तथा वित्तीय लेन-देन से संबंधित नए प्रश्न भी जोड़े गए हैं।
- It also includes testing for **Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C** among women and men, as well as dried blood spot collection from children aged 4-5 for Hepatitis-B testing.
  इसमें महिलाओं और पुरुषों के लिए **हेपेटाइटिस-बी तथा हेपेटाइटिस-सी** की जाँच भी शामिल है, साथ ही 4 से 5 वर्ष आयु के बच्चों से हेपेटाइटिस-बी परीक्षण हेतु सूखे रक्त नमूने एकत्र किए गए हैं।
- But for the first time, the survey has also subtracted overall, showing a net reduction of **30 indicators** in the preliminary results.
  किन्तु पहली बार इस सर्वेक्षण में कुल मिलाकर संकेतकों की संख्या में कमी भी दर्ज की गई है, और प्रारंभिक परिणामों में **30 संकेतकों** की शुद्ध कमी दिखाई गई है।
- Among the dropped indicators, the most notable ones, such as **anaemia, infant and child mortality, sex ratio at birth, clean cooking fuel use, and sanitation**, have all appeared since at least NFHS-4.

हटाए गए संकेतकों में **रक्ताल्पता, शिशु एवं बाल मृत्यु दर, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, स्वच्छ खाना पकाने के ईंधन का उपयोग तथा स्वच्छता** जैसे महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक शामिल हैं, जो कम से कम एनएफएचएस-4 से सर्वेक्षण का हिस्सा रहे हैं।

- Among children, anaemia prevalence went up from **58.6% to 67.1%**.
  बच्चों में रक्ताल्पता की व्यापकता **58.6 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 67.1 प्रतिशत** हो गई।
- Among women aged **15-49**, it rose from **53.1% to 57%**.
  15 से 49 वर्ष आयु वर्ग की महिलाओं में यह **53.1 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 57 प्रतिशत** हो गई।
- Among pregnant women, anaemia rose from **50.4% to 52.2%**.
  गर्भवती महिलाओं में रक्ताल्पता **50.4 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 52.2 प्रतिशत** हो गई।
- The rise in anaemia was near-universal across the country, with child anaemia increasing in **28 States and Union Territories**.
  देशभर में रक्ताल्पता की वृद्धि लगभग सर्वव्यापी थी, और **28 राज्यों तथा केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों** में बाल रक्ताल्पता बढ़ी।
- In some cases the increase was by big leaps, from **35.7% to 68.4% in Assam** and **19.3% to 46.4% in Mizoram**.
  कुछ मामलों में यह वृद्धि अत्यधिक थी, जैसे **असम में 35.7 प्रतिशत से 68.4 प्रतिशत** और **मिज़ोरम में 19.3 प्रतिशत से 46.4 प्रतिशत** तक।
- Such deterioration was reported despite the government launching the **Anaemia Mukt Bharat campaign** in 2018, aimed at tackling anaemia.
  यह गिरावट उस समय भी दर्ज की गई जब सरकार ने रक्ताल्पता से निपटने के उद्देश्य से **एनीमिया मुक्त भारत अभियान** वर्ष 2018 में प्रारम्भ किया था।
- The official position is that the condition will now be tracked separately, through a dedicated **Diet and Biomarkers Survey** under the **National Institute of Nutrition** using a method its proponents consider more accurate.
  आधिकारिक दृष्टिकोण यह है कि अब इस स्थिति की निगरानी **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान** के अंतर्गत संचालित विशेष **आहार एवं जैवचिह्न सर्वेक्षण** के माध्यम से अलग से की जाएगी, जिसकी पद्धति को इसके समर्थक अधिक सटीक मानते हैं।
- The Diet and Biomarkers Survey in India was not a hurried replacement and was launched in **December 2022**, before NFHS-6 fieldwork began, at the **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान, हैदराबाद**.
  भारत में आहार एवं जैवचिह्न सर्वेक्षण कोई त्वरित विकल्प नहीं था; इसे **दिसंबर 2022** में, एनएफएचएस-6 के क्षेत्रीय कार्य प्रारम्भ होने से पहले, **राष्ट्रीय पोषण संस्थान, हैदराबाद** में शुरू किया गया था।
- The survey recorded data on individual dietary intake across age groups, paired with blood and urine biomarkers.
  इस सर्वेक्षण में विभिन्न आयु वर्गों के व्यक्तियों के आहार सेवन संबंधी आँकड़े एकत्र किए गए तथा उन्हें रक्त और मूत्र जैवचिह्नों के साथ जोड़ा गया।
- It also built upon nutrition deficiencies and tracked obesity alongside anaemia, a first, according to the organisers.
  आयोजकों के अनुसार, इस सर्वेक्षण में पोषण संबंधी कमियों का अध्ययन किया गया तथा पहली बार रक्ताल्पता के साथ-साथ मोटापे की भी निगरानी की गई।
- For anaemia, data were collected from venous blood instead of the finger-prick method that NFHS used.
  रक्ताल्पता के लिए आँकड़े एनएफएचएस में प्रयुक्त उँगली से रक्त लेने की विधि के स्थान पर शिरा से लिए गए रक्त नमूनों के आधार पर एकत्र किए गए।
- Data collection is complete, but hasn't been released yet.
  आँकड़ों का संग्रहण पूरा हो चुका है, किन्तु उसके परिणाम अभी तक सार्वजनिक नहीं किए गए हैं।

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What other changes were made?
और कौन-कौन से परिवर्तन किए गए?

- A line-by-line comparison of the two fact sheets from **NFHS-5** and **NFHS-6** shows that the net fall of **30 indicators** actually combines **43 indicators dropped and 13 added**.
  एनएफएचएस-5 और **एनएफएचएस-6** की दोनों तथ्य पत्रिकाओं की पंक्ति-दर-पंक्ति तुलना से पता चलता है कि **30 संकेतकों** की शुद्ध कमी वास्तव में **43 संकेतकों को हटाने और 13 नए संकेतकों को जोड़ने** का परिणाम है।
- Several of the deletions were long-running series, and a few are closely related to the government's signature programmes.
  हटाए गए अनेक संकेतक लंबे समय से सर्वेक्षण का हिस्सा थे और उनमें से कुछ सरकार की प्रमुख योजनाओं से सीधे जुड़े हुए थे।
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** government in 2019 had announced that India would be **open defecation-free**.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** की सरकार ने वर्ष 2019 में घोषणा की थी कि भारत **खुले में शौच से मुक्त** हो चुका है।
- NFHS-5 recorded **70%** of the country's population living in households with access to sanitation facilities.
  एनएफएचएस-5 में दर्ज किया गया था कि देश की **70 प्रतिशत** जनसंख्या ऐसे परिवारों में रहती है जहाँ स्वच्छता सुविधाओं तक पहुँच उपलब्ध है।
- That data point has also been dropped.
  इस संकेतक को भी अब हटा दिया गया है।
- The share of households using **clean fuel for cooking**, **58.6% in NFHS-5**, is gone — a direct measure of the success of the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.
  स्वच्छ ईंधन से खाना पकाने वाले परिवारों का अनुपात, जो **एनएफएचएस-5 में 58.6 प्रतिशत** था, हटा दिया गया है। यह **प्रधानमंत्री उज्ज्वला योजना** की सफलता का प्रत्यक्ष मापदंड था।
- The three mortality indicators — **neonatal, infant and under-five** — have also been cut.
  नवजात मृत्यु दर, शिशु मृत्यु दर और पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु की मृत्यु दर से संबंधित तीनों संकेतकों को भी हटा दिया गया है।
- But these will be tracked by the **Sample Registration System**, whose latest bulletin put infant mortality at **24 per 1,000 live births**.
  हालाँकि इनका आकलन अब **नमूना पंजीकरण प्रणाली** द्वारा किया जाएगा, जिसके नवीनतम बुलेटिन के अनुसार शिशु मृत्यु दर **प्रति 1,000 जीवित जन्मों पर 24** है।
- The Registration System, however, does not carry district-level data and socio-economic breakdowns that are available in NFHS.
  किन्तु यह प्रणाली जिला-स्तरीय आँकड़े तथा सामाजिक-आर्थिक वर्गीकरण उपलब्ध नहीं कराती, जो राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण में उपलब्ध होते हैं।
- The **sex ratio of the total population** and the **sex ratio at birth**, **929 females per 1,000 males in NFHS-5**, are both absent.
  कुल जनसंख्या का लिंगानुपात तथा **जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात**, जो **एनएफएचएस-5 में प्रति 1,000 पुरुषों पर 929 महिलाएँ** था, दोनों को हटा दिया गया है।
- This removes a standard signal of sex-selective practices.
  इससे लिंग-चयन संबंधी प्रवृत्तियों का एक महत्वपूर्ण संकेतक समाप्त हो जाता है।
- Four **cancer-screening indicators**, covering cervical, breast and oral cancer, introduced only in NFHS-5 are gone after a single round.
  गर्भाशय ग्रीवा, स्तन और मुख कैंसर से संबंधित चार **कैंसर जाँच संकेतकों** को, जिन्हें केवल एनएफएचएस-5 में शामिल किया गया था, एक ही चरण के बाद हटा दिया गया है।
- A few changes are redefinitions rather than cuts.
  कुछ परिवर्तन संकेतकों को हटाने के बजाय उनकी पुनर्परिभाषा से संबंधित हैं।

- Women's individual ownership of a house or land has become a household-level measure.
  महिलाओं के व्यक्तिगत घर या भूमि स्वामित्व के संकेतक को अब परिवार-स्तरीय संकेतक बना दिया गया है।
- The **three-dose hepatitis B** line has become a **birth-dose measure**.
  हेपेटाइटिस-बी की तीन-खुराक संबंधी श्रेणी को अब **जन्म-खुराक मापदंड** में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है।
- And pre-school attendance has shifted age bands, targeting a younger demographic.
  पूर्व-प्राथमिक विद्यालय में उपस्थिति के आयु-वर्ग को भी बदलकर कम आयु वाले बच्चों पर केंद्रित किया गया है।
- **International Institute for Population Sciences** has not published a rationale for the wider list.
  जनसंख्या विज्ञान के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संस्थान ने इन व्यापक परिवर्तनों के लिए कोई औपचारिक स्पष्टीकरण प्रकाशित नहीं किया है।
- Together, the removals leave no current survey-based national figure for **infant mortality, sanitation coverage, sex ratio at birth, cancer screening rates or comprehensive HIV knowledge**.
  इन हटाए गए संकेतकों के कारण अब **शिशु मृत्यु दर, स्वच्छता कवरेज, जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात, कैंसर जाँच दरों तथा एचआईवी संबंधी व्यापक ज्ञान** के लिए कोई वर्तमान सर्वेक्षण-आधारित राष्ट्रीय आँकड़ा उपलब्ध नहीं रहेगा।
- These are gaps that no other single source fills at the same scale.
  ये ऐसे रिक्त स्थान हैं जिन्हें वर्तमान में कोई अन्य एकल स्रोत उसी स्तर पर पूरा नहीं करता।
- **How did survey results change between NFHS-5 and NFHS-6?**
  एनएफएचएस-5 और एनएफएचएस-6 के बीच सर्वेक्षण परिणामों में क्या परिवर्तन हुए?
- NFHS-6 reported a drop in the number of women who have experienced **spousal violence**, down to **22.3% from 29.3%**.
  एनएफएचएस-6 के अनुसार **वैवाहिक हिंसा** का अनुभव करने वाली महिलाओं का प्रतिशत **29.3 प्रतिशत से घटकर 22.3 प्रतिशत** हो गया है।
- The number of children aged five or below who are **stunted** declined too.
  पाँच वर्ष या उससे कम आयु के अवरुद्ध वृद्धि वाले बच्चों की संख्या में भी कमी आई है।
- The drop from NFHS-4 to NFHS-5 was just under three percentage points, but NFHS-6 saw a drop of over six percentage points.
  एनएफएचएस-4 से एनएफएचएस-5 के बीच यह कमी तीन प्रतिशत अंकों से कम थी, जबकि एनएफएचएस-6 में यह गिरावट छह प्रतिशत अंकों से अधिक रही।
- State-level changes are sharper for certain indicators.
  कुछ संकेतकों के लिए राज्य-स्तरीय परिवर्तन और अधिक स्पष्ट दिखाई देते हैं।
- **Health insurance coverage** rose the most in **West Bengal**, from **33.7% of households in NFHS-5 to 88.2% in NFHS-6**.
  स्वास्थ्य बीमा कवरेज में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि **पश्चिम बंगाल** में हुई, जहाँ यह **एनएफएचएस-5 के 33.7 प्रतिशत परिवारों से बढ़कर एनएफएचएस-6 में 88.2 प्रतिशत** हो गया।
- Women's **Internet use** saw its largest increase in **Andhra Pradesh**, from **21% to 63.6%**.
  महिलाओं के **इंटरनेट उपयोग** में सबसे बड़ी वृद्धि **आंध्र प्रदेश** में दर्ज की गई, जहाँ यह **21 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 63.6 प्रतिशत** हो गया।
- **Haryana** recorded the steepest fall in **exclusive breastfeeding among infants under six months**, from **69.5% to 41.2%**.
  हरियाणा में **छह माह से कम आयु के शिशुओं को केवल स्तनपान कराने** की दर में सबसे अधिक गिरावट दर्ज की गई, जो **69.5 प्रतिशत से घटकर 41.2 प्रतिशत** रह गई।
- The share of women classified as **overweight or obese** increased in every State.
  अधिक वजन या मोटापे की श्रेणी में आने वाली महिलाओं का अनुपात प्रत्येक राज्य में बढ़ा है।

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GS Paper II: International Relations	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports ओमान-सीईपीए (CEPA), भारत के निर्यातों के लिए एक नया प्रवेशद्वार
09J6	The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में विश्वास की कमी
09J6	Trump's $100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules H-1B वीज़ा पर ट्रंप की $100,000 फीस अवैध है, अदालत का फैसला
09J6	Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में जर्मनी की स्थिति पर सवाल

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The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports

GS II: IR

India and Oman share one of the oldest trading relationships, with commercial and maritime links dating back thousands of years. From the movement of spices, textiles and frankincense to enduring people-to-people ties, trade has long been a cornerstone of this partnership. The India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which came into force on June 1, 2026, reaffirms and strengthens this historic relationship by providing a modern framework to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation for the future.

India is amongst the top suppliers for Oman and bilateral trade has grown from $8.94 billion in FY2023-24 to $11.18 billion in FY2025-26, reflecting the growing complementarities between the two economies.

An expansion of India's trade ties

The CEPA comes at a time when India is actively diversifying its trade partnerships and integrating more deeply with global value chains. Following agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Australia, the European Free Trade Association, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union, the Oman CEPA further strengthens India's presence in a region that is central to its energy security, trade and strategic interests.

The CEPA offers significant opportunities for Indian exporters. Oman has offered duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines, covering 99.38% of India's exports by value. Before the agreement, only 15.33% of India's exports entered Oman at zero duty under the Most Favoured Nation regime. The CEPA, therefore, provides an immediate competitiveness boost across a broad range of sectors. In textiles and apparel, India already commands a 43% share of Oman's woven apparel imports and 31% of knitted apparel imports. The removal of the existing 5% tariff will strengthen the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers against China, which is the other dominant supplier in this market. In the case of chemicals, India already supplies nearly 39% of Oman's inorganic chemical imports, making it one of the leading players in the market. Tariff free access will only amplify this further.

Anant Goenka

President,
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)

The agreement boosts exports, services, investment and professional mobility

Likewise, engineering goods will also benefit. Oman imports over $3.7 billion worth of mechanical machinery and $3.3 billion worth of automotives annually, where India's market share is only 5% and 2%, respectively. Preferential market access under the CEPA can help Indian exports of engineering goods expand significantly and deepen their presence in Oman's infrastructure, construction and industrial sectors.

In pharmaceuticals, where India holds around 10% market share, the agreement's value lies not in tariff reductions but in regulatory facilitation. Products approved by leading international regulators will benefit from fast-tracked approvals, reducing compliance costs and accelerating market entry. As Oman's pharmaceutical market continues to expand, Indian companies will be well-positioned to capture a larger share. Duty-free access for products such as meat, eggs, honey, butter and processed foods will further strengthen India's already strong position. At the same time, sensitive sectors such as dairy, cereals, edible oils and several agricultural commodities have been kept outside tariff concessions, ensuring that domestic producers remain protected.

Streamlining procedures

Significant trade facilitation measures have been introduced. Oman will accept certificates issued by India's Export Inspection Council (EIC), eliminating duplicative testing and inspections, while also recognising India's organic (NPOP) and halal certification systems. There are dedicated sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT) provisions, which will enhance regulatory transparency and cooperation, and streamlined customs clearance, including fast-track processing for perishables, which will reduce costs and improve export efficiency.

Another forward-looking aspect of the CEPA is its strong focus on services and professional mobility. Bilateral services trade stood at $863 million in 2024, with India enjoying a surplus of nearly $447 million. Yet, India's share in Oman's global services imports remains just over 5%, indicating substantial untapped potential.

Oman has undertaken binding commitments covering professionals in sectors such as accounting, engineering, information technology, health care, education and consulting. Oman also raises the quotas for intra-corporate transferees, facilitating greater mobility of Indian professionals and specialists. Provisions relating to AYUSH and traditional medicine further create opportunities for Indian health care and wellness services in the Gulf.

Strategic location advantage

Beyond trade statistics, the CEPA has a larger strategic significance. Oman occupies a unique position at the crossroads of the Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa. Its ports at Sohar, Duqm and Salalah are emerging as major logistics and industrial hubs. For Indian businesses, Oman can serve not only as a destination market but also as a gateway to the wider Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region and East African economies.

The India-Oman CEPA once again demonstrates the evolution of India's trade policy from tariff negotiations to comprehensive economic partnerships encompassing goods, services, investment, mobility and regulatory cooperation. Its benefits will extend from textile clusters in Tamil Nadu and the gems and jewellery industry in Gujarat to engineering hubs in Maharashtra and Punjab, and from pharmaceutical manufacturers in Telangana to seafood exporters in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.

The real test will now lie in implementation and utilisation. If businesses actively leverage the opportunities created by the agreement, the CEPA can significantly expand India's export footprint, strengthen economic integration with the Gulf, and support the country's broader ambition of becoming a globally competitive manufacturing and services powerhouse. For India, the agreement opens not only the Omani market but also a broader gateway to the Gulf and beyond.

09J6. The Oman CEPA, a new gateway for India's exports
ओमान-सीईपीए (CEPA), भारत के निर्यातों के लिए एक नया प्रवेशद्वार

- **India and Oman share one of the oldest trading relationships, with commercial and maritime links dating back thousands of years.**
  भारत और ओमान विश्व के सबसे प्राचीन व्यापारिक संबंधों में से एक साझा करते हैं, जिनके वाणिज्यिक और समुद्री संबंध हजारों वर्षों पुराने हैं।
- From the movement of spices, textiles and frankincense to enduring people-to-people ties, trade has long been a cornerstone of this partnership.
  मसालों, वस्त्रों और लोबान के व्यापार से लेकर स्थायी जन-से-जन संबंधों तक, व्यापार इस साझेदारी का प्रमुख आधार रहा है।
- The **India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, which came into force on June 1, 2026, reaffirms and strengthens this historic relationship by providing a modern framework to deepen trade, investment and economic cooperation for the future.
  भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता, जो 1 जून 2026 से प्रभावी हुआ, व्यापार, निवेश और आर्थिक सहयोग को भविष्य में और गहरा करने हेतु एक आधुनिक ढाँचा प्रदान करके इस ऐतिहासिक संबंध को पुनः सुदृढ़ करता है।
- India is amongst the top suppliers for Oman and bilateral trade has grown from **$8.94 billion** in FY2023-24 to **$11.18 billion** in FY2025-26, reflecting the growing complementarities

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between the two economies.
भारत ओमान के प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ताओं में शामिल है और द्विपक्षीय व्यापार वित्त वर्ष 2023-24 में **8.94 अरब डॉलर** से बढ़कर वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में **11.18 अरब डॉलर** हो गया है, जो दोनों अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के बीच बढ़ती परस्पर पूरकता को दर्शाता है।

An expansion of India's trade ties
भारत के व्यापारिक संबंधों का विस्तार

- The CEPA comes at a time when India is actively diversifying its trade partnerships and integrating more deeply with global value chains.
यह समझौता ऐसे समय में आया है जब भारत सक्रिय रूप से अपने व्यापारिक साझेदारी नेटवर्क का विस्तार कर रहा है और वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं के साथ अधिक गहराई से जुड़ रहा है।
- Following agreements with the **United Arab Emirates, Australia, the European Free Trade Association, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the European Union**, the Oman CEPA further strengthens India's presence in a region that is central to its energy security, trade and strategic interests.
संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूरोपीय मुक्त व्यापार संघ, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, न्यूज़ीलैंड और यूरोपीय संघ के साथ हुए समझौतों के बाद, ओमान के साथ यह समझौता भारत की उस क्षेत्र में उपस्थिति को और सुदृढ़ करता है जो उसकी ऊर्जा सुरक्षा, व्यापार और रणनीतिक हितों के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- The CEPA offers significant opportunities for Indian exporters.
यह समझौता भारतीय निर्यातकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण अवसर प्रदान करता है।
- Oman has offered **duty-free access on 98.08% of its tariff lines**, covering **99.38% of India's exports by value**.
ओमान ने अपनी **98.08 प्रतिशत शुल्क श्रेणियों** पर शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच प्रदान की है, जो मूल्य के आधार पर भारत के **99.38 प्रतिशत निर्यात** को कवर करती है।
- Before the agreement, only **15.33% of India's exports** entered Oman at zero duty under the Most Favoured Nation regime.
इस समझौते से पहले, भारत के केवल **15.33 प्रतिशत निर्यात** को सर्वाधिक अनुकूल राष्ट्र व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत शून्य शुल्क पर ओमान में प्रवेश प्राप्त था।
- The CEPA, therefore, provides an immediate competitiveness boost across a broad range of sectors.
अतः यह समझौता अनेक क्षेत्रों में भारतीय उत्पादों की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता को तत्काल बढ़ावा प्रदान करता है।
- In **textiles and apparel**, India already commands a **43% share** of Oman's woven apparel imports and **31% share** of knitted apparel imports.
वस्त्र और परिधान क्षेत्र में भारत पहले से ही ओमान के बुने हुए परिधानों के आयात में **43 प्रतिशत** तथा बुने-बुनाए परिधानों के आयात में **31 प्रतिशत** हिस्सेदारी रखता है।
- The removal of the existing **5% tariff** will strengthen the competitiveness of Indian manufacturers against China, which is the other dominant supplier in this market.
मौजूदा **5 प्रतिशत शुल्क** हटने से भारतीय निर्माताओं की प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक क्षमता चीन के मुकाबले और मजबूत होगी, जो इस बाजार का दूसरा प्रमुख आपूर्तिकर्ता है।
- In the case of **chemicals**, India already supplies nearly **39%** of Oman's inorganic chemical imports, making it one of the leading players in the market.
रसायन क्षेत्र में भारत ओमान के अकार्बनिक रसायनों के आयात का लगभग **39 प्रतिशत** आपूर्ति करता है, जिससे वह इस बाजार का एक प्रमुख भागीदार बन गया है।
- Tariff-free access will only amplify this further.
शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच इस स्थिति को और अधिक मजबूत करेगी।
- Likewise, **engineering goods** will also benefit.
इसी प्रकार **अभियांत्रिकी उत्पादों** को भी लाभ प्राप्त होगा।

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- Oman imports over **$3.7 billion worth of mechanical machinery** and **$3.3 billion worth of automotives** annually, where India's market share is only **5% and 2%**, respectively.
  ओमान प्रतिवर्ष **3.7 अरब डॉलर से अधिक मूल्य की यांत्रिक मशीनरी** तथा **3.3 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के वाहन** आयात करता है, जिनमें भारत की बाजार हिस्सेदारी क्रमशः केवल **5 प्रतिशत और 2 प्रतिशत** है।
- Preferential market access under the CEPA can help Indian exports of engineering goods expand significantly and deepen their presence in Oman's infrastructure, construction and industrial sectors.
  समझौते के अंतर्गत प्राप्त प्राथमिकतापूर्ण बाजार पहुँच भारतीय अभियांत्रिकी उत्पादों के निर्यात को उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़ा सकती है तथा ओमान के आधारभूत संरचना, निर्माण और औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में उनकी उपस्थिति को मजबूत कर सकती है।
- In **pharmaceuticals**, where India holds around **10% market share**, the agreement's value lies not in tariff reductions but in regulatory facilitation.
  औषधि क्षेत्र में, जहाँ भारत की लगभग **10 प्रतिशत बाजार हिस्सेदारी** है, इस समझौते का महत्व शुल्क कटौती में नहीं बल्कि नियामकीय सुविधा में निहित है।
- Products approved by leading international regulators will benefit from **fast-tracked approvals**, reducing compliance costs and accelerating market entry.
  प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय नियामकों द्वारा अनुमोदित उत्पादों को **त्वरित स्वीकृति प्रक्रिया** का लाभ मिलेगा, जिससे अनुपालन लागत घटेगी और बाजार में प्रवेश तेज होगा।
- As Oman's pharmaceutical market continues to expand, Indian companies will be well-positioned to capture a larger share.
  जैसे-जैसे ओमान का औषधि बाजार विस्तार करेगा, भारतीय कंपनियाँ अधिक हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त करने की बेहतर स्थिति में होंगी।
- Duty-free access for products such as **meat, eggs, honey, butter and processed foods** will further strengthen India's already strong position.
  मांस, अंडे, शहद, मक्खन और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों को शुल्क-मुक्त पहुँच मिलने से भारत की पहले से मजबूत स्थिति और सुदृढ़ होगी।
- At the same time, sensitive sectors such as **dairy, cereals, edible oils and several agricultural commodities** have been kept outside tariff concessions, ensuring that domestic producers remain protected.
  साथ ही **दुग्ध उत्पाद, अनाज, खाद्य तेल तथा अनेक कृषि वस्तुओं** जैसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रों को शुल्क रियायतों से बाहर रखा गया है, जिससे घरेलू उत्पादकों के हित सुरक्षित रहेंगे।

Streamlining procedures
प्रक्रियाओं का सरलीकरण

- Significant **trade facilitation measures** have been introduced.
  महत्वपूर्ण **व्यापार सुगमता उपायों** को लागू किया गया है।
- Oman will accept certificates issued by India's **Export Inspection Council**, eliminating duplicative testing and inspections, while also recognising India's organic and halal certification systems.
  ओमान भारत की **निर्यात निरीक्षण परिषद** द्वारा जारी प्रमाणपत्रों को स्वीकार करेगा, जिससे दोहराव वाले परीक्षणों और निरीक्षणों की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो जाएगी। साथ ही वह भारत की जैविक तथा हलाल प्रमाणीकरण प्रणालियों को भी मान्यता देगा।
- There are dedicated **sanitary and phytosanitary provisions** and **technical barriers to trade provisions**, which will enhance regulatory transparency and cooperation.
  विशेष **स्वास्थ्य एवं पादप स्वच्छता प्रावधानों** तथा **व्यापार में तकनीकी बाधाओं से संबंधित प्रावधानों** को शामिल किया गया है, जो नियामकीय पारदर्शिता और सहयोग को बढ़ावा देंगे।
- Streamlined customs clearance, including fast-track processing for perishables, will reduce costs and improve export efficiency.

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शीघ्र नष्ट होने वाली वस्तुओं के लिए त्वरित प्रक्रिया सहित सरल सीमा-शुल्क निकासी व्यवस्था लागत को कम करेगी और निर्यात दक्षता में वृद्धि करेगी।

- Another forward-looking aspect of the CEPA is its strong focus on **services and professional mobility**.
  इस समझौते का एक अन्य दूरदर्शी पक्ष **सेवा क्षेत्र और पेशेवर गतिशीलता** पर इसका विशेष ध्यान है।
- Bilateral services trade stood at **$863 million** in 2024, with India enjoying a surplus of nearly **$447 million**.
  वर्ष 2024 में द्विपक्षीय सेवा व्यापार **863 मिलियन डॉलर** रहा, जिसमें भारत को लगभग **447 मिलियन डॉलर** का अधिशेष प्राप्त हुआ।
- Yet, India's share in Oman's global services imports remains just over **5%**, indicating substantial untapped potential.
  फिर भी ओमान के वैश्विक सेवा आयात में भारत की हिस्सेदारी केवल **5 प्रतिशत से थोड़ी अधिक** है, जो अपार अप्रयुक्त संभावनाओं का संकेत देती है।
- Oman has undertaken binding commitments covering professionals in sectors such as **accounting, engineering, information technology, health care, education and consulting**.
  ओमान ने **लेखांकन, अभियांत्रिकी, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी, स्वास्थ्य सेवा, शिक्षा और परामर्श** जैसे क्षेत्रों के पेशेवरों के लिए बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धताएँ स्वीकार की हैं।
- Oman also raises the quotas for **intra-corporate transferees**, facilitating greater mobility of Indian professionals and specialists.
  ओमान ने **कंपनी के भीतर स्थानांतरित कर्मचारियों** के लिए कोटा भी बढ़ाया है, जिससे भारतीय पेशेवरों और विशेषज्ञों की आवाजाही अधिक सुगम होगी।
- Provisions relating to **AYUSH and traditional medicine** further create opportunities for Indian health care and wellness services in the Gulf.
  आयुष और पारंपरिक चिकित्सा से संबंधित प्रावधान खाड़ी क्षेत्र में भारतीय स्वास्थ्य एवं कल्याण सेवाओं के लिए नए अवसर उत्पन्न करते हैं।

Strategic location advantage
रणनीतिक भौगोलिक लाभ

- Beyond trade statistics, the CEPA has a larger strategic significance.
  व्यापारिक आँकड़ों से परे, इस समझौते का व्यापक रणनीतिक महत्व भी है।
- Oman occupies a unique position at the crossroads of the **Gulf, the Indian Ocean and East Africa**.
  ओमान **खाड़ी क्षेत्र, हिंद महासागर और पूर्वी अफ्रीका** के संगम बिंदु पर एक विशिष्ट स्थान रखता है।
- Its ports at **Sohar, Duqm and Salalah** are emerging as major logistics and industrial hubs.
  इसके **सोहार, दुक्म और सलालाह** बंदरगाह प्रमुख रसद और औद्योगिक केंद्रों के रूप में उभर रहे हैं।
- For Indian businesses, Oman can serve not only as a destination market but also as a gateway to the wider **Gulf Cooperation Council region** and East African economies.
  भारतीय व्यवसायों के लिए ओमान केवल एक गंतव्य बाजार ही नहीं, बल्कि व्यापक **खाड़ी सहयोग परिषद क्षेत्र** और पूर्वी अफ्रीकी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं तक पहुँच का प्रवेशद्वार भी बन सकता है।
- The India-Oman CEPA once again demonstrates the evolution of India's trade policy from tariff negotiations to comprehensive economic partnerships encompassing goods, services, investment, mobility and regulatory cooperation.
  भारत-ओमान व्यापक आर्थिक भागीदारी समझौता एक बार फिर यह दर्शाता है कि भारत की व्यापार नीति शुल्क वार्ताओं से आगे बढ़कर वस्तुओं, सेवाओं, निवेश, पेशेवर गतिशीलता और नियामकीय सहयोग को समाहित करने वाली व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारियों तक विकसित हो चुकी है।

The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties

GS II:IR

Kallol Bhattacherjee

More than hundred days have passed since the Tarique Rahman government took charge in Bangladesh. However, contrary to early expectations from his leadership, India-Bangladesh relations have remained more or less the same as in the difficult months of the interim government.

Actions, not rhetoric

India reached out twice before Mr. Rahman became the Bangladesh Prime Minister. The first outreach was by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who visited Dhaka on December 31, 2025 to condole the passing of Mr. Rahman's mother, former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The second time was through Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who carried Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation letter, and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla who on February 17 participated in the swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Rahman. But sources in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) say such gestures in themselves are insufficient. An influential segment within the BNP feel that as a goodwill gesture towards the new government, India should have reversed some of the retributory steps that it had taken during the interim government's rule under Muhammad Yunus. These steps included the restarting of transhipments for goods from Bangladesh, full restoration of visa services including business and medical visas, and stopping the restrictive market access for Bangladeshi goods. None of these measures have been implemented so far, as per Dhaka. They argue that, by not reversing these decisions, India has not delivered any advance incentives to Mr. Rahman who will have to engage with the Jamaat-e-Islami and several anti-India student outfits before normalising ties with India.

On its part, the BNP's veteran leaders have tried to smoothen the relationship by creating greater public acceptability of the position that the presence of the deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India will not hold ties back, a departure from the hardline stance that the interim government had taken. Here also, Dhaka feels that such attempts have not found appreciation from the Indian side.

Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty

As proof they refer to the aggressive use of 'illegal immigration' in official communication from Delhi following the victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party in West Bengal and Assam. Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on sensitive issues such as illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as visa restoration and the renewal of the 1996 Ganga Water Treaty.

Dhaka had sent Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman to Delhi on April 7-8 for a brief visit, to test the waters, where he met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Jaishankar. However, the election campaign in Assam and West Bengal around Bangladesh-related issues and a flurry of interviews by exiled PM Sheikh Hasina have displayed that Mr. Rahman's BNP, despite winning a landslide majority in Bangladesh, has not managed to impress India. While a senior diplomat in Dhaka said that Bangladesh was assured that the language around State elections would not reflect New Delhi's foreign policy, the Ministry of External Affairs' strident position on illegal immigration have generated 'a sense of betrayal' in Dhaka's secretariat.

According to reports, Mr. Rahman, sensing that the window for restoration of ties with India is not opening as per expectations, is in the final stages of considering visits to Malaysia and China that are likely to take place in the last week of June.

Bangladesh's dilemma

This turn to China however cannot hide the fact that it is incumbent on Bangladesh, as much as it is on India, to repair bilateral ties. Bangladesh's ties with India remain broken because of the 2024 uprising and the subsequent interim rule whereas its ties with China, the U.S. and other players have prospered since August 2024. Further, a pragmatic assessment shows that without steady assurance from India on the main river Padma (Ganga), Bangladesh's other plans are not expected to proceed smoothly beyond 2026. River affairs expert Ainun Nishat has stated that a delay in the renewal of the 30-year-old Ganga treaty will put the Ganges-Kobadak irrigation project in a challenging situation affecting vast portions of western and central Bangladesh. The lack of predictable water supply will affect the upcoming sowing seasons, hurting Bangladesh's economy that is already dealing with the crippling effects of the energy crisis because of the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

The compounded effect of these disruptive forces will increase pressure on the Tarique Rahman government that is already under criticism for its inept handling of the worst measles outbreak in the country that has claimed the lives of at least 600 infants. Critics have targeted the government for its weak handling of the health crisis as well as the growing incidents of sexual violence, which is a symptom of the breakdown of law and order in the country that is yet to make a recovery since the protests of August 2024. Rivals, including Sheikh Hasina's Awami League that are mobilising on the ground despite a ban, will be strengthened if Mr. Rahman fails to renew the Ganga river agreement with Delhi before the deadline of December 31, 2026.

Such material factors on the ground call for pragmatism in both the capitals as the challenges will soon overwhelm Bangladesh, reverting it to instability, which again is not in India's immediate or long-term interests.

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09J6. The trust deficit in India-Bangladesh ties
भारत-बांग्लादेश संबंधों में विश्वास की कमी

- Bangladeshi diplomats have pointed out that Dhaka expected less rhetoric on sensitive issues such as illegal immigration, and more focus on issues such as visa restoration and the renewal of the **1996 Ganga Water Treaty**.
  बांग्लादेशी राजनयिकों ने संकेत दिया है कि ढाका को अवैध प्रवासन जैसे संवेदनशील विषयों पर कम बयानबाज़ी और वीज़ा बहाली तथा **1996 की गंगा जल संधि** के नवीनीकरण जैसे मुद्दों पर अधिक ध्यान देने की अपेक्षा थी।

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- Further, a pragmatic assessment shows that without steady assurance from India on the main river **Padma (Ganga)**, Bangladesh's other plans are not expected to proceed smoothly beyond 2026.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, व्यावहारिक आकलन यह दर्शाता है कि मुख्य नदी **पद्मा (गंगा)** के जल प्रवाह को लेकर भारत से स्थिर आश्वासन के बिना बांग्लादेश की अन्य योजनाएँ वर्ष 2026 के बाद सुचारु रूप से आगे नहीं बढ़ पाएँगी।
- River affairs expert **Ainun Nishat** has stated that a delay in the renewal of the **30-year-old Ganga treaty** will put the **Ganges-Kobadak irrigation project** in a challenging situation affecting vast portions of western and central Bangladesh.
  नदी मामलों के विशेषज्ञ **ऐनुन निशात** ने कहा है कि **30 वर्ष पुरानी गंगा संधि** के नवीनीकरण में विलंब होने पर **गंगा-कोबादक सिंचाई परियोजना** कठिन परिस्थिति में पड़ जाएगी, जिससे पश्चिमी और मध्य बांग्लादेश के विशाल क्षेत्र प्रभावित होंगे।
- Rivals, including **Sheikh Hasina's Awami League** that are mobilising on the ground despite a ban, will be strengthened if Mr. Rahman fails to renew the **Ganga river agreement** with Delhi before the deadline of **December 31, 2026**.
  प्रतिबंध के बावजूद सक्रिय रूप से संगठित हो रही **शेख हसीना की अवामी लीग** सहित विपक्षी दलों की स्थिति मजबूत होगी, यदि श्री रहमान **31 दिसंबर 2026** की समय-सीमा से पहले दिल्ली के साथ **गंगा नदी समझौते** का नवीनीकरण कराने में असफल रहते हैं।

Trump's $100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules

GS II: IR

Reuters
BOSTON

A federal judge on Monday struck down a $100,000 fee that U.S. President Donald Trump imposed on new H-1B visas for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.

U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in Boston issued the ruling in a lawsuit filed by 20 Democratic State Attorneys General challenging a fee Mr. Trump announced in September that raised the cost of obtaining H-1B visas.

The H-1B program offers 65,000 visas annually, with another 20,000 visas for workers with advanced degrees, approved for three to six years. Employers seeking a visa for a foreign worker before Mr. Trump's proclamation paid about $2,000 to $5,000 in fees. The increase in fees has discouraged H-1B visa requests, according to court filings.

Trump's $100,000 fee for H-1B visa fee is unlawful, court rules

H-1B वीज़ा पर ट्रंप की $100,000 फीस अवैध है, अदालत का फैसला

- A federal judge on Monday struck down a **$100,000 fee** that U.S. President **Donald Trump** imposed on new **H-1B visas** for highly skilled foreign workers, concluding that it constituted an unlawful tax that Congress never authorised.
  सोमवार को एक संघीय न्यायाधीश ने **$100,000 शुल्क** को रद्द कर दिया, जिसे अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने उच्च कौशल वाले विदेशी कामगारों के लिए नए **H-1B वीज़ा** पर लगाया था। न्यायाधीश ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि यह एक अवैध कर था, जिसे कांग्रेस ने कभी अधिकृत नहीं किया था।
- The **H-1B program** offers **65,000 visas annually**, with another **20,000 visas** for workers with advanced degrees, approved for three to six years.
  H-1B कार्यक्रम के तहत प्रतिवर्ष **65,000 वीज़ा** दिए जाते हैं, जबकि उच्च डिग्री रखने वाले कामगारों के लिए अतिरिक्त **20,000 वीज़ा** उपलब्ध होते हैं, जो तीन से छह वर्षों के लिए स्वीकृत किए जाते हैं।
- Employers seeking a visa for a foreign worker before Mr. Trump's proclamation paid about **$2,000 to $5,000** in fees.
  श्री ट्रंप की घोषणा से पहले किसी विदेशी कामगार के लिए वीज़ा प्राप्त करने वाले नियोक्ताओं को लगभग **$2,000 से $5,000** तक शुल्क देना पड़ता था।
- The increase in fees has discouraged **H-1B visa requests**, according to court filings.
  अदालती दस्तावेजों के अनुसार, शुल्क में वृद्धि ने **H-1B वीज़ा आवेदनों** को हतोत्साहित किया है।

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Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss

The country has failed to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the first time; its selective application of international law vis-a-vis Ukraine and Iran, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards Israel might have led smaller nations, especially of the Global South, to lose faith in it

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Joan Sony Cherian

Losing contest: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul casts his vote during the election of non-permanent members of the UNSC at the UN headquarters in New York City on June 3. AFP

On June 3, for the first time, Germany failed to win a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The largest economy in the European Union (EU) won just 104 votes, well below the required 127 votes, and lost to the other two contenders in the race, Portugal, which won 134 votes, and Austria which got 131 votes.

The UNSC has five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who rotate every two years. Out of these 10 seats, two are reserved for the regional grouping of 'Western European and other States' which includes Germany. Members for these 10 seats are elected by the UN General Assembly (UNGA), with a contesting nation needing at least two-thirds of the vote to win a place on the UNSC. Germany has been re-elected six times; whenever it has contested. Up until now.

Steadfast with Ukraine

The loss in the UNSC election is being seen as a major foreign policy defeat for the Christian Democratic Union (CDU)-led federal government of Germany and its head, Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who had, after coming to power last year, stated his desire to restore Germany's place on the world map. Opposition parties in the Bundestag, including the Greens as well as the far-right AfD party, called it an "embarrassing defeat".

Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, who had extensively lobbied for Germany's candidacy in the UNGA, stated that the loss could have been due to the fact that Germany takes a clear stance on issues that not all member states share. "There is our firm support for Ukraine; the fact that Russia does not want such a voice at the Security Council," said Mr. Wadephul. He also acknowledged that, "the fact that Germany must always assume a special responsibility for Israel in the Middle East conflict may also have cost votes."

With respect to Ukraine, the EU and Germany specifically have emerged as the war-torn nation's most steadfast supporters even in the face of the U.S.' changed attitude towards the country after Donald Trump became President for a second term. Under Mr. Merz, Germany has increased its military assistance for Ukraine. Moreover, in light of Russia's aggression and the U.S.' increasingly belligerent rhetoric towards the EU and NATO, Mr. Merz has advocated for increased budget for the domestic military while also calling for stronger European defence capabilities. Mr. Merz also became a part of the 'coalition of the willing', along with France and the U.K., in order to facilitate support for Ukraine.

Russia's "special military operation" in Ukraine has been condemned by almost the entire international order, with the U.S. and the EU invoking sanctions on the country. Portugal and Austria, in line with the EU's position, have also been strong supporters of Ukraine's right to sovereignty. Moreover, they have been consistently registering their interest in the UNSC seat for over 10 years.

Austria has also been one of the strongest allies of Israel in Europe but its long-standing policy of military neutrality makes it much less of a player in matters of international conflict. But for Germany, the question of Israel and Palestine has been more complicated.

Ambiguity with Israel

Ever since the breakout of the Israel-Hamas conflict in October 2023, Germany has steadfastly upheld Israel's right to defend itself. Since October 2023, the UNGA has adopted at least six major resolutions regarding the conflict and Israel's subsequent genocide in the Gaza Strip. Berlin abstained from three of them, including the most immediate ones in 2023 calling for a ceasefire and for enhanced UN rights for Palestine. Even as international condemnation for Israel increased due to rising casualties in the Gaza Strip, especially of children, Germany has been walking a tightrope with regards to its relation with Israel.

When Mr. Merz was elected Chancellor in early 2025, he spoke to Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the phone and said that he would "find ways and means for him (Netanyahu) to visit Germany and also to be able to leave again without being arrested in Germany," in defiance of the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Mr. Netanyahu on November 21, 2024, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the Gaza Strip.

While Chancellor Merz has since then criticised Israel for its excessive campaign in the Gaza Strip, even moving to restrict arms sales to the country in August 2025, which he lifted in November 2025 after the signing of a 'ceasefire', he visited Israel in December 2025 and held talks with Mr. Netanyahu where he re-affirmed support to Israel. He also refused to join an initiative by western allies to recognise the state of Palestine.

Germany's relationship with Israel is complicated by, as Mr. Wadephul mentioned, its 'special responsibility' – the political doctrine of Germany to back Israel's security in the light of Nazi Germany's crimes against Jews during the Holocaust in World War II.

Conflicting stances

Germany's standing as an upholder of international law has also taken a hit in the context of the ongoing Iran-Israel-U.S. war in West Asia which began on February 28, 2026. Mr. Merz refused to condemn the move as a violation of international law and stated that along with the U.S. and Israel, "we share the goal of ending the terror of these regimes". However, his initial support soon turned into criticism as the war progressed. The effects of the war have been increasingly hitting the German economy, with oil and gas prices rising sharply. The energy sector in Germany is already stressed as the nation has drastically reduced its dependence on Russia, which was its main source for energy, in light of the Ukraine war. By the end of April, Mr. Merz made scathing remarks against the U.S. and said that Iran's leadership was "humiliating" Washington.

Germany's selective application of international law vis-a-vis Ukraine and Iran, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards Israel might have led smaller nations, especially of the Global South, to lose faith in it and regard smaller European states as safer bets. It would be wise for Germany to re-evaluate its standing in the international order if it wishes to regain its position as an upholder of the United Nations and international law.

09J6. Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss

यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में जर्मनी की स्थिति पर सवाल

- Germany's standing in international order under scrutiny after UNSC loss.
  यूएनएससी में हार के बाद अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यवस्था में **जर्मनी** की स्थिति पर सवाल उठ रहे हैं।
- The country has failed to win a non-permanent seat on the UNSC for the first time.
  यह देश पहली बार **यूएन सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC)** की अस्थायी सीट जीतने में असफल रहा है।
- Its selective application of international law vis-a-vis **Ukraine** and **Iran**, and its cautious and often wavering approach towards **Israel** might have led smaller nations, especially of the **Global South**, to lose faith in it.

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यूक्रेन और **ईरान** के संदर्भ में अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून के चयनात्मक प्रयोग तथा **इज़राइल** के प्रति इसके सतर्क और अक्सर डगमगाते दृष्टिकोण के कारण छोटे देशों, विशेषकर **ग्लोबल साउथ** के देशों का इस पर विश्वास कम हो सकता है।

- On June 3, for the first time, Germany failed to win a non-permanent seat on the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**.
  3 जून को पहली बार **जर्मनी संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद (UNSC)** की अस्थायी सीट जीतने में विफल रहा।
- The largest economy in the **European Union (EU)** won just 104 votes, well below the required 127 votes, and lost to the other two contenders in the race, **Portugal**, which won 134 votes, and **Austria** which got 131 votes.
  यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था को केवल 104 वोट मिले, जो आवश्यक 127 वोटों से काफी कम थे, और वह अन्य दो दावेदारों **पुर्तगाल** (134 वोट) तथा **ऑस्ट्रिया** (131 वोट) से हार गया।
- The UNSC has five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who rotate every two years.
  UNSC में पाँच स्थायी सदस्य और 10 अस्थायी सदस्य होते हैं जो हर दो वर्ष में बदलते हैं।
- Out of these 10 seats, two are reserved for the regional grouping of **'Western European and other States'** which includes Germany.
  इन 10 सीटों में से दो सीटें **'वेस्टर्न यूरोपियन एंड अदर स्टेट्स'** समूह के लिए आरक्षित हैं, जिसमें **जर्मनी** शामिल है।
- Members for these 10 seats are elected by the **UN General Assembly (UNGA)**, with a contesting nation needing at least two-thirds of the vote to win a place on the UNSC.
  इन 10 सीटों के सदस्य **संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा (UNGA)** द्वारा चुने जाते हैं और किसी देश को सीट जीतने के लिए कम से कम दो-तिहाई मत प्राप्त करने होते हैं।
- Germany has been re-elected six times; whenever it has contested. Up until now.
  अब तक जब भी **जर्मनी** ने चुनाव लड़ा, वह छह बार पुनः निर्वाचित हुआ था।

Steadfast with Ukraine
यूक्रेन के प्रति दृढ़ समर्थन

- The loss in the UNSC election is being seen as a major foreign policy defeat for the **Christian Democratic Union (CDU)**-led federal government of Germany and its head, **Chancellor Friedrich Merz**, who had, after coming to power last year, stated his desire to restore Germany's place on the world map.
  यूएनएससी चुनाव में यह हार **क्रिश्चियन डेमोक्रेटिक यूनियन (CDU)** के नेतृत्व वाली जर्मन सरकार और उसके प्रमुख **चांसलर फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़** के लिए बड़ी विदेश नीति की पराजय मानी जा रही है।
- Opposition parties in the **Bundestag**, including the **Greens** as well as the far-right **AfD** party, called it an "embarrassing defeat".
  बुंडेस्टाग की विपक्षी पार्टियों, जिनमें **ग्रीन्स** और दक्षिणपंथी **AfD** शामिल हैं, ने इसे "शर्मनाक हार" कहा।

GS Paper III: Economy	**09 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	**Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough** **कश्मीर और कारगिल के बीच स्थित ज़ोजिला सुरंग में अंतिम सफलता मिलने की ओर प्रगति**
09J6	**Strategic afterthought** **रणनीतिक पुनर्विचार**
09J6	**Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate** **अनुचित' अनिवार्यता के खिलाफ सौर कंपनियाँ हाई कोर्ट पहुँचीं**
09J6	**The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work**

	स्टेबल कॉइन का असली अवसर उस आधारभूत संरचना में है जो इसे कार्यशील बनाती है

Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough

GS III: Economy

Peerzada Ashiq
SONAMARG (GANDERBAL)

India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather Zojila Tunnel in volatile seismic zone IV will witness the final breakthrough on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will oversee the final blasting from the Kargil side. The 13.14-km-long tunnel cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of 11,578 feet and connects the Kashmir valley with Ladakh's Kargil.

Mr. Gadkari will preside over the process of final blasting of the last block, which will see the tunnel through. The tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods, machines and stocks to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter for the first time ever in coming winters, officials said. Earlier, stocks would be maintained during early autumn months to feed soldiers on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in winters.

The Zojila Tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter. ANI

The Zojila Tunnel bypasses the weather-dependent Zojila Pass, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones and remains closed due to snow accumulation in winters.

A spokesman of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Ltd. (MEIL), which started work on the tunnel in 2020, termed the final breakthrough "a defining moment". "It demonstrates the successful execution of one of India's most complex transport infrastructure works in a hostile Himalayan environment," said senior MEIL officials.

The excavation work has been completed on the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of over 11,500 feet. "The project will deliver the long-envisioned objective of seamless, all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bringing long-term benefits in mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience," said MEIL officials.

Reduced travel time

The tunnel cost more than ₹6,800 crore. A 7.57-metre-high horseshoe-shaped single-tube two-lane tunnel will pass under the arduous Zojila Pass between Ganderbal district in Kashmir and Drass district of Ladakh. Officials say the travel time will come down from three hours to 20 minutes between Ganderbal and Kargil.

09J6. Zojila Tunnel between Kashmir and Kargil to see final breakthrough
कश्मीर और कारगिल के बीच स्थित ज़ोजिला सुरंग में अंतिम सफलता मिलने की ओर प्रगति

- India's ambitious, strategic, all-weather **Zojila Tunnel** in volatile **Seismic Zone IV** will witness the final breakthrough on **June 9** as **Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** will oversee the final blasting from the **Kargil** side.
  अस्थिर **भूकंपीय क्षेत्र-4** में स्थित भारत की महत्वाकांक्षी, सामरिक और सर्व-मौसमी **ज़ोजिला सुरंग** में **9 जून** को अंतिम सफलता का चरण पूरा होगा, जब **केंद्रीय सड़क परिवहन एवं राजमार्ग मंत्री नितिन गडकरी** कारगिल की ओर से अंतिम विस्फोट प्रक्रिया की निगरानी करेंगे।
- The **13.14-km-long tunnel** cuts through the mighty Himalayas at an altitude of **11,578 feet** and connects the **Kashmir Valley** with **Kargil** in Ladakh.
  13.14 किलोमीटर लंबी यह सुरंग समुद्र तल से **11,578 फीट** की ऊँचाई पर हिमालय पर्वतमाला को पार करती है और **कश्मीर घाटी** को लद्दाख के **कारगिल** से जोड़ती है।
- Mr. Gadkari will preside over the process of final blasting of the last block, which will see the tunnel through.
  श्री गडकरी अंतिम खंड के विस्फोट की प्रक्रिया का नेतृत्व करेंगे, जिससे सुरंग का निर्माण पूर्ण हो जाएगा।
- The tunnel is likely to allow security officials to ferry goods, machines and stocks to the high-altitude bases of Ladakh during peak winter for the first time ever in coming winters, officials said.

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यह सुरंग भविष्य की सर्दियों में पहली बार सुरक्षा बलों को लद्दाख के उच्च हिमालयी ठिकानों तक भीषण शीतकाल के दौरान सामान, मशीनरी और आवश्यक भंडार पहुँचाने में सक्षम बनाएगी।

- Earlier, stocks would be maintained during early autumn months to feed soldiers on the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** in winters.
  पूर्व में **वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा** पर तैनात सैनिकों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए शरद ऋतु के प्रारंभिक महीनों में ही भंडारण करना पड़ता था।
- The Zojila Tunnel bypasses the weather-dependent **Zojila Pass**, which is prone to landslides and shooting stones and remains closed due to snow accumulation in winters.
  ज़ोजिला सुरंग मौसम पर निर्भर **ज़ोजिला दर्रे** को दरकिनार करती है, जो भूस्खलन और गिरते पत्थरों के लिए संवेदनशील है तथा सर्दियों में भारी हिमपात के कारण बंद रहता है।
- A spokesman of **Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL)**, which started work on the tunnel in **2020**, termed the final breakthrough "a defining moment".
  मेघा इंजीनियरिंग एंड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर्स लिमिटेड के प्रवक्ता, जिसने वर्ष **2020** में इस सुरंग का कार्य आरम्भ किया था, ने अंतिम सफलता को "एक ऐतिहासिक क्षण" बताया।
- "It demonstrates the successful execution of one of India's most complex transport infrastructure works in a hostile Himalayan environment," said senior MEIL officials.
  कंपनी के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने कहा, "यह प्रतिकूल हिमालयी परिस्थितियों में भारत की सबसे जटिल परिवहन अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं में से एक के सफल निष्पादन को प्रदर्शित करता है।"
- The excavation work has been completed on the world's longest **single-tube bi-directional road tunnel** at an altitude of over **11,500 feet**.
  11,500 फीट से अधिक की ऊँचाई पर स्थित विश्व की सबसे लंबी **एकल-नलिका द्वि-दिशात्मक सड़क सुरंग** का खुदाई कार्य पूर्ण हो चुका है।
- "The project will deliver the long-envisioned objective of seamless, all-weather connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh, bringing long-term benefits in mobility, economic integration, and strategic resilience," said MEIL officials.
  कंपनी अधिकारियों ने कहा, "यह परियोजना कश्मीर और लद्दाख के बीच निर्बाध एवं सर्व-मौसमी संपर्क स्थापित करने के लंबे समय से कल्पित लक्ष्य को साकार करेगी तथा परिवहन, आर्थिक एकीकरण और सामरिक मजबूती के क्षेत्र में दीर्घकालिक लाभ प्रदान करेगी।"

Reduced travel time
यात्रा समय में कमी

- The tunnel cost more than **₹6,800 crore**.
  इस सुरंग की लागत **6,800 करोड़ रुपये** से अधिक है।
- A **7.57-metre-high horseshoe-shaped single-tube two-lane tunnel** will pass under the arduous Zojila Pass between **Ganderbal district** in Kashmir and **Drass district** of Ladakh.
  7.57 मीटर ऊँची घोड़े की नाल के आकार की एकल-नलिका द्वि-लेन सुरंग कश्मीर के **गांदरबल जिले** और लद्दाख के **द्रास जिले** के बीच स्थित कठिन ज़ोजिला दर्रे के नीचे से गुजरेगी।
- Officials say the travel time will come down from **three hours to 20 minutes** between **Ganderbal and Kargil**.
  अधिकारियों के अनुसार, **गांदरबल और कारगिल** के बीच यात्रा समय **तीन घंटे से घटकर मात्र 20 मिनट** रह जाएगा।

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GS III: Economy

Strategic afterthought

The government must be transparent with the Nicobar project

For a project so often invoked as a matter of national security strategy, the ballooning Great Nicobar Island development, now estimated to be at ₹91,000 crore, rests on a remarkably thin strategic record. The Centre has long cited the "strategic" character of its centrepiece – a transshipment port at Galathea Bay – to withhold information on its environmental clearances. Yet, the Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port "lacked strategic objectives". That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought, retrofitted to a balance sheet. Both the PIB and the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) cleared the proposal, yet the PPPAC refused ₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget – an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital. If the port cannot stand on commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.

Great Nicobar sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs of rare ecological value. The project – port, international airport, power plant and township – would clear vast tracts of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the nesting beaches of the leatherback turtle and the habitat of the endemic Nicobar megapode. Scientists who have studied the island warn that the loss would be irreversible, and that no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here. The island's indigenous inhabitants have objections of their own, running alongside the ecological ones but not reducible to them. Tribal councils have said that consent was secured without full disclosure, and asked that ancestral land and the resettlement promised after the 2004 tsunami not be overridden by the project. Their criticism is not a refusal of all development. The quarrel is with scale, secrecy and sequence – a project conceived at a magnitude the island cannot absorb. The remedy is transparency. The Centre should release the High-Powered Committee report in full, account openly for the true cost to the public exchequer, and weigh it against an environmental loss that the exchequer can never reimburse. A project of this scale owes the country at least that much.

09J6. Strategic afterthought
रणनीतिक पुनर्विचार

- The government must be **transparent** with the **Nicobar project**.

सरकार को **निकोबार परियोजना** के संबंध में **पारदर्शिता** बरतनी चाहिए।

- **For a project so often invoked as a matter of national security strategy, the ballooning Great Nicobar Island development, now estimated to be at ₹91,000 crore, rests on a remarkably thin strategic record.**

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा रणनीति के प्रश्न के रूप में बार-बार प्रस्तुत की जाने वाली **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना**, जिसकी लागत अब लगभग **₹91,000 करोड़** आँकी गई है, अत्यंत कमजोर रणनीतिक आधार पर टिकी हुई प्रतीत होती है।

- The Centre has long cited the "strategic" character of its centrepiece — a **transshipment port at Galathea Bay** — to withhold information on its environmental clearances.

केंद्र सरकार लंबे समय से अपनी प्रमुख परियोजना — **गैलेथिया खाड़ी स्थित स्थानांतरण बंदरगाह** — की "रणनीतिक" प्रकृति का हवाला देकर उसकी पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृतियों से संबंधित जानकारी सार्वजनिक करने से बचती रही है।

- Yet, the **Public Investment Board (PIB)**, a Finance Ministry body, found in August 2024 that the port "lacked strategic objectives".

किन्तु **लोक निवेश बोर्ड**, जो वित्त मंत्रालय की एक संस्था है, ने अगस्त 2024 में पाया कि इस बंदरगाह में "रणनीतिक उद्देश्य" का अभाव था।

- That label arrived only afterwards, from the Ministry of Defence and seems less like a founding rationale and more of an afterthought, retrofitted to a balance sheet.

यह रणनीतिक पहचान बाद में रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रदान की गई और यह मूल उद्देश्य की अपेक्षा बाद में जोड़े गए औचित्य जैसी प्रतीत होती है।

- Both the PIB and the **Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee** cleared the proposal, yet the latter refused **₹12,230 crore in Viability Gap Funding**, telling the Ports Ministry to find the money within its own budget.

लोक निवेश बोर्ड और **सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी मूल्यांकन समिति** दोनों ने प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दी, किन्तु बाद वाली समिति ने **₹12,230 करोड़ की व्यवहार्यता अंतर वित्तपोषण सहायता** देने से इनकार करते हुए बंदरगाह मंत्रालय को अपनी ही बजटीय व्यवस्था से धन जुटाने को कहा।

- This was an unusual rebuke for a venture sold as nationally vital.

राष्ट्रीय महत्व की परियोजना के रूप में प्रस्तुत किए गए उपक्रम के लिए यह एक असामान्य अस्वीकृति थी।

- If the port cannot stand on commercial returns, and if its real purpose is military, the case for a commercial transshipment hub dissolves.

यदि यह बंदरगाह व्यावसायिक लाभ के आधार पर टिक नहीं सकता और उसका वास्तविक उद्देश्य सैन्य है, तो एक व्यावसायिक स्थानांतरण केंद्र के रूप में उसका औचित्य समाप्त हो जाता है।

- **Great Nicobar** sits at the southern tip of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, wrapped in tropical rainforest and ringed by reefs of rare ecological value.
  ग्रेट निकोबार अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह के दक्षिणी छोर पर स्थित है, जो उष्णकटिबंधीय वर्षावनों से आच्छादित तथा दुर्लभ पारिस्थितिक महत्व वाली प्रवाल भित्तियों से घिरा हुआ है।
- The project — port, international airport, power plant and township — would clear vast tracts of that forest, much of it primary, and disturb the nesting beaches of the **leatherback turtle** and the habitat of the endemic **Nicobar megapode**.
  यह परियोजना — जिसमें बंदरगाह, अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डा, विद्युत संयंत्र और नगर विकास शामिल हैं — विशाल वन क्षेत्रों को साफ कर देगी, जिनमें अधिकांश मूल वन हैं, तथा **लेदरबैक कछुए** के अंडे देने वाले तटों और स्थानिक **निकोबार मेगापोड** के आवास को प्रभावित करेगी।
- Scientists who have studied the island warn that the loss would be irreversible, and that no afforestation elsewhere can replace what is felled here.
  द्वीप का अध्ययन करने वाले वैज्ञानिकों ने चेतावनी दी है कि यह क्षति अपरिवर्तनीय होगी और अन्यत्र किया गया कोई भी वनीकरण यहाँ नष्ट किए गए वनों की भरपाई नहीं कर सकेगा।

Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate

Industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu are up in arms against a Central rule that requires most new solar projects to be built only with domestically made cells

GS III: Economy

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of solar manufacturers and developers has approached the Karnataka High Court to defer a rule that, from June 1, requires most new solar projects to use only domestically made cells. They cite the gap between what Indian solar-cell makers charge and international prices.

Cells listed under the government's mandatory 'ALMM List-II' sell at around ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt, the petitioners said. "₹5 and ₹13 is unreasonable. That is what we are asking [the court to address]," Ramesh Shivanna of the Karnataka Renewable Energy Systems Manufacturers Association (KRESMA), which led the petition, told *The Hindu*.

ALMM is the government ratified Approved List of Models and Manufacturers and a list of domestic producer companies whose solar panels and constituent cells are mandatory for electricity distribution in India.

ALMM-I is a list of about 130 module manufacturers. ALMM-2 is a smaller group of about 17 companies that makes the solar cells for these modules.

The writ petition, filed on June 6 by solar industry associations from Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, challenges Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) orders that enforce ALMM List-II – the approved list of domestic solar-cell manufacturers – for projects commissioned on or after June 1, 2026. Reportedly other state associations too have filed similar petitions in other courts.

Price imparity: Cells listed under the 'ALMM List-II' sell at about ₹13 a watt, against an imported price of about ₹5 a watt. FILE PHOTO

'Defer enforcement'

The petitioners said they do not oppose the list, but want its enforcement deferred, at least a year, until domestic cells are available in adequate quantity and quality, and at a competitive price. The petitioners also pointed to the Finance Ministry's classification of the West Asia conflict as a force majeure event, under which the MNRE allowed extensions of contractual deadlines to solar-cell makers; the same consideration, they said, should apply to developers.

Mr. Shivanna said the government must step in on price until domestic supply matures. "The government should regulate the price," he said.

"When something is available so cheap in the global market and here you are being made to pay [much more], it is the government's responsibility to study what is happening globally and in India."

A handful of cell makers, he argued, were capturing the gain: by his estimate, at a 30 GW annual build and a roughly ₹8-a-watt premium, about ₹24,000 crore a year would flow to "four-five manufacturers," several of whom had also received production-linked incentives. According to MNRE database, only six of the seventeen ALMM-2 companies carry "high-efficiency" solar cells cells – Emmvee, Premier Energies Photovoltaic, Mundra Solar PV, Tata Power Renewable Energy (a small 247 MW line), Waaree and Renewsys, Reliance and Jupiter Solartech.

The dispute exposes a structural gap at the heart of India's solar expansion. Installed solar capacity has crossed 144 GW and is growing about 40% a year, and module-assembly capacity has reached roughly 210 GW. But upstream cell manufacturing – the step the new rule targets – stood at only about 27 GW at the end of 2025, according to Mercom India, a clean-energy research group. Ratings agency CareEdge estimates domestic cells meet just 25-30% of demand, leaving India reliant on imports, mainly from China. "Right now the whole capacity (of high efficiency cells) manufactured in India is not enough for our requirement," Mr. Shivanna said.

"When we ask for cell supply, [many] don't have stock." All companies that make cells make modules but many modules makers don't make cells whereby about 14 companies make up 98% of India's solar capacity addition.

MNRE has refused a blanket extension, saying in a May 25 order that industry consensus favoured "policy stability" to protect investor confidence in domestic manufacturing, and offering instead case-by-case relief for projects that are substantially built. On Monday, the ministry constituted a four-member expert committee to vet applications for time extension.

09J6. Solar firms move High Court over 'unreasonable' mandate

'अनुचित' अनिवार्यता के खिलाफ सौर कंपनियाँ हाई कोर्ट पहुँचीं

- A group of **solar manufacturers and developers** has approached the **Karnataka High Court** to defer a rule that, from **June 1**, requires most new solar projects to use only **domestically made cells**.

सौर निर्माताओं और डेवलपर्स के एक समूह ने **कर्नाटक हाई कोर्ट** का रुख किया है ताकि उस नियम को टाला जा सके, जिसके तहत **1 जून** से अधिकांश नई सौर परियोजनाओं में केवल **घरेलू रूप से निर्मित सेल** का उपयोग अनिवार्य किया गया है।

- They cite the gap between what Indian **solar-cell makers** charge and international prices.

वे भारतीय **सौर-सेल निर्माताओं** द्वारा वसूली जाने वाली कीमतों और अंतरराष्ट्रीय कीमतों के बीच के अंतर का हवाला देते हैं।

- Cells listed under the government's mandatory **'ALMM List-II'** sell at around **₹13 a watt**, against an imported price of about **₹5 a watt**, the petitioners said.

याचिकाकर्ताओं के अनुसार सरकार की अनिवार्य **'ALMM List-II'** में सूचीबद्ध सेल लगभग **₹13 प्रति वाट** में बिकते हैं, जबकि आयातित सेल की कीमत लगभग **₹5 प्रति वाट** है।

- **ALMM** is the government ratified **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers** and a list of domestic producer companies whose solar panels and constituent cells are mandatory for electricity distribution in India.
  ALMM सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित **Approved List of Models and Manufacturers** है तथा इसमें उन घरेलू उत्पादक कंपनियों की सूची शामिल है जिनके सौर पैनल और उनके सेल भारत में विद्युत वितरण के लिए अनिवार्य हैं।
- **ALMM-1** is a list of about **130 module manufacturers**.
  ALMM-1 लगभग **130 मॉड्यूल निर्माताओं** की सूची है।
- **ALMM-2** is a smaller group of about **17 companies** that makes the solar cells for these modules.
  ALMM-2 लगभग **17 कंपनियों** का एक छोटा समूह है जो इन मॉड्यूलों के लिए सौर सेल बनाता है।
- Installed **solar capacity** has crossed **144 GW** and is growing about **40% a year**, and **module-assembly capacity** has reached roughly **210 GW**.
  स्थापित **सौर क्षमता 144 GW** से अधिक हो चुकी है और लगभग **40% प्रतिवर्ष** की दर से बढ़ रही है, जबकि **मॉड्यूल-असेंबली क्षमता** लगभग **210 GW** तक पहुँच चुकी है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work

Gaining traction: Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as 15-fold by 2030. REUTERS

GS III: Economy

Reuters

LONDON

Stable coins grab the headlines,but the bigger prize for private equity investors may lie in the digital "plumbing" that makes them work.

We are rapidly moving into the age of AI, yet moving money still relies on architecture built for an analogue era: slow,expensive and complex. Stable coins could change that. This type of digital currency is pegged to a reserve asset like the U.S. dollar. Because of this structure, they are gaining traction in cross-border payments, treasury operations, crypto settlement and as a store of value in volatile economies.

Importantly, they are also offering something the traditional financial rails often cannot: near-instant settlement, round-the-clock operability, modest friction costs and a viable alternative where banking infrastructure is thin or trust is weak.

This tokenized form of cash is therefore more than an incremental upgrade. If properly structured and rigorously regulated, stable coins could do to money what email did to snail mail: make the old system increasingly obsolete.

Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as 15-fold by 2030, according to Citi and Brookfield research. The debate is no longer whether they will scale, bu thow quickly – and who will profit when they do.

History suggests the biggest gains in a technological boom are rarely made by investing in the invention itself. They are captured in the infrastructure that enables rapid adoption. For example, in the 19th century, railroads on their own did not drive industrialization and the massive wealth creation that came with it. The gains came from the web of steel, coal,logistics and distribution networks that followed. Electrification was not about the light bulb, but the grid. Stable coins are no different. They are the spark for transforming money movement, not the engine driving conversion.

Token explosion

Wall Street is rapidly moving deeper into digital assets. This is feeding the broader trend of tokenization, the process of turning traditional assets into digital tokens. The New York Stock Exchange, part of Intercontinental Exchange, is partnering with Securitize - a major player in tokenization - on a platform for digital coins linked to stocks and ETFs. Meanwhile, Nasdaq is teaming up with Kraken - a cryptocurrency exchange - to let investors trade tokenized versions of listed stocks and ETFs.

More broadly, in a recent Broadridge survey of 950 financial services firms, 54% said their firm is investing in tokenization, while 53% believe blockchain will dramatically reshape settlement.

For established financial institutions, the choice is stark:integrate and evolve this new technology or cede ground as activity shifts to faster, cheaper, more transparent rails.

In short, this appears to be a structural shift, not a cyclical one.

The technology needed for this instantaneous, trackable movement of money already exists. What remains under built is the plumbing that will enable stable coins to connect seamlessly with the existing financial system. The opportunity lies not in stable coins themselves, but in owning the toll roads they travel on.

This infrastructure includes issuance platforms, payment processors, digital wallets, custody systems, and the other on-and off-ramps that convert traditional currency into digital and back. It also includes compliance tools such as "know your customer" (KYC), anti-money laundering (AML) and transaction monitoring services.

This is where private equity can come in.

Capital can help financial institutions modernize legacy systems, carve out digital asset units from larger groups, or support governments building national digital-currency platforms.

None of this is risk-free. Stable coins are not insured like bank deposits, and their stability depends on the quality and liquidity of the issuer's reserves. Compared with banks, the firms that manage stable coins have fewer resources to address fraud and cybersecurity risks.

Moreover, regulatory clarity is needed. Markets do not scale when faced with ambiguity. Investors and institutions will require clear rules on reserves, redemptions, supervision andconsumer protection.

09J6. The real stable coin play is in the plumbing that makes it work

स्टेबल कॉइन का असली अवसर उस आधारभूत संरचना में है जो इसे कार्यशील बनाती है

- **Stable coins** grab the headlines, but the bigger prize for **private equity investors** may lie in the digital "**plumbing**" that makes them work.

स्टेबल कॉइन सुर्खियाँ बटोरते हैं, लेकिन **प्राइवेट इक्विटी निवेशकों** के लिए बड़ा अवसर उस डिजिटल "**प्लंबिंग**" में हो सकता है जो इन्हें कार्यशील बनाती है।

- We are rapidly moving into the age of **AI**, yet moving money still relies on architecture built for an analogue era: slow, expensive and complex.

हम तेजी से **AI** के युग में प्रवेश कर रहे हैं, फिर भी धन का हस्तांतरण अभी भी उस संरचना पर निर्भर है जो एनालॉग युग के लिए बनाई गई थी: धीमी, महंगी और जटिल।

- **Stable coins** could change that.

स्टेबल कॉइन इसे बदल सकते हैं।

- This type of digital currency is pegged to a reserve asset like the **U.S. dollar**.

इस प्रकार की डिजिटल मुद्रा को **अमेरिकी डॉलर** जैसी आरक्षित परिसंपत्ति से जोड़ा जाता है।

- Because of this structure, they are gaining traction in **cross-border payments**, **treasury operations**, **crypto settlement** and as a **store of value** in volatile economies.

इस संरचना के कारण ये **सीमा-पार भुगतान**, **कोषागार संचालन**, **क्रिप्टो निपटान** तथा अस्थिर अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में **मूल्य-संग्रहण के साधन** के रूप में लोकप्रिय हो रहे हैं।

- Importantly, they are also offering something the traditional financial rails often cannot: **near-instant settlement**, **round-the-clock operability**, modest friction costs and a viable alternative where banking infrastructure is thin or trust is weak.

महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, ये वह सुविधा भी प्रदान कर रहे हैं जो पारंपरिक वित्तीय व्यवस्था अक्सर नहीं कर पाती: **लगभग त्वरित निपटान**, **24×7 संचालन क्षमता**, कम लेनदेन लागत और उन क्षेत्रों में व्यवहार्य विकल्प जहाँ बैंकिंग अवसंरचना कमजोर है या भरोसा कम है।

- This tokenized form of cash is therefore more than an incremental upgrade.

इसलिए नकदी का यह **टोकनाइज्ड स्वरूप** केवल एक मामूली सुधार से कहीं अधिक है।

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- If properly structured and rigorously regulated, **stable coins** could do to money what email did to snail mail: make the old system increasingly obsolete.
  यदि इन्हें उचित ढंग से संरचित और कड़ाई से विनियमित किया जाए, तो **स्टेबल कॉइन** धन के साथ वही कर सकते हैं जो ईमेल ने पारंपरिक डाक के साथ किया था: पुराने तंत्र को धीरे-धीरे अप्रासंगिक बना देना।
- Stable coins currently in circulation are expected to surge as much as **15-fold by 2030**, according to **Citi** and **Brookfield** research.
  Citi और **Brookfield** के शोध के अनुसार, वर्तमान में प्रचलन में मौजूद स्टेबल कॉइन की मात्रा **2030 तक 15 गुना** बढ़ सकती है।
- The debate is no longer whether they will scale, but how quickly — and who will profit when they do.
  अब बहस इस बात पर नहीं है कि वे बड़े पैमाने पर अपनाए जाएँगे या नहीं, बल्कि इस पर है कि यह कितनी तेजी से होगा और इससे लाभ किसे मिलेगा।
- History suggests the biggest gains in a technological boom are rarely made by investing in the invention itself.
  इतिहास बताता है कि तकनीकी क्रांति के दौरान सबसे बड़ा लाभ आमतौर पर स्वयं आविष्कार में निवेश करने से नहीं मिलता।
- They are captured in the infrastructure that enables rapid adoption.
  वे उस अवसंरचना में निहित होते हैं जो तीव्र अपनाने को संभव बनाती है।
- For example, in the **19th century**, railroads on their own did not drive industrialization and the massive wealth creation that came with it.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **19वीं शताब्दी** में केवल रेलमार्गों ने औद्योगीकरण और उससे उत्पन्न विशाल संपत्ति निर्माण को आगे नहीं बढ़ाया था।
- The gains came from the web of **steel**, **coal**, **logistics** and **distribution networks** that followed.
  लाभ **इस्पात**, **कोयला**, **लॉजिस्टिक्स** और **वितरण नेटवर्कों** के व्यापक तंत्र से प्राप्त हुआ जो बाद में विकसित हुए।
- Electrification was not about the light bulb, but the **grid**.
  विद्युतीकरण का अर्थ केवल बल्ब नहीं था, बल्कि **ग्रिड** था।
- Stable coins are no different.
  स्टेबल कॉइन भी इससे अलग नहीं हैं।
- They are the spark for transforming money movement, not the engine driving conversion.
  वे धन हस्तांतरण को बदलने वाली चिंगारी हैं, परिवर्तन को संचालित करने वाला इंजन नहीं।

Token explosion
टोकन विस्फोट

- **Wall Street** is rapidly moving deeper into digital assets.
  वॉल स्ट्रीट तेजी से डिजिटल परिसंपत्तियों की ओर बढ़ रहा है।
- This is feeding the broader trend of **tokenization**, the process of turning traditional assets into digital tokens.
  यह **टोकनाइजेशन** की व्यापक प्रवृत्ति को बढ़ावा दे रहा है, जिसमें पारंपरिक परिसंपत्तियों को डिजिटल टोकनों में परिवर्तित किया जाता है।
- The **New York Stock Exchange**, part of **Intercontinental Exchange**, is partnering with **Securitize** – a major player in tokenization – on a platform for digital coins linked to stocks and ETFs.
  न्यूयॉर्क स्टॉक एक्सचेंज, जो **Intercontinental Exchange** का हिस्सा है, **Securitize** के साथ साझेदारी कर रहा है ताकि शेयरों और ETF से जुड़े डिजिटल कॉइन के लिए एक मंच विकसित किया जा सके।
- Meanwhile, **Nasdaq** is teaming up with **Kraken** – a cryptocurrency exchange – to let investors trade tokenized versions of listed stocks and ETFs.

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इसी बीच **Nasdaq**, **Kraken** नामक क्रिप्टोकरेंसी एक्सचेंज के साथ मिलकर निवेशकों को सूचीबद्ध शेयरों और ETF के टोकनाइज्ड संस्करणों में व्यापार की सुविधा दे रहा है।

- More broadly, in a recent **Broadridge survey** of **950 financial services firms**, **54%** said their firm is investing in tokenization, while **53%** believe blockchain will dramatically reshape settlement.
  व्यापक रूप से देखें तो **950 वित्तीय सेवा कंपनियों** पर किए गए हालिया **Broadridge सर्वेक्षण** में **54%** ने कहा कि उनकी कंपनी टोकनाइजेशन में निवेश कर रही है, जबकि **53%** का मानना है कि **ब्लॉकचेन** निपटान प्रणाली को पूरी तरह बदल देगा।
- For established financial institutions, the choice is stark: integrate and evolve this new technology or cede ground as activity shifts to faster, cheaper, more transparent rails.
  स्थापित वित्तीय संस्थानों के सामने स्पष्ट विकल्प है: इस नई तकनीक को अपनाकर विकसित हों या गतिविधियों के तेज, सस्ते और अधिक पारदर्शी माध्यमों की ओर स्थानांतरित होने पर अपनी स्थिति खो दें।
- In short, this appears to be a **structural shift**, not a cyclical one.
  संक्षेप में, यह एक **संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन** प्रतीत होता है, न कि चक्रीय परिवर्तन।
- The technology needed for this instantaneous, trackable movement of money already exists.
  धन के इस त्वरित और ट्रैक किए जा सकने वाले हस्तांतरण के लिए आवश्यक तकनीक पहले से मौजूद है।
- What remains under built is the plumbing that will enable stable coins to connect seamlessly with the existing financial system.
  जिस चीज़ का अभी भी पर्याप्त विकास नहीं हुआ है, वह वह आधारभूत संरचना है जो स्टेबल कॉइन को मौजूदा वित्तीय प्रणाली से सहज रूप से जोड़ सके।
- The opportunity lies not in stable coins themselves, but in owning the toll roads they travel on.
  अवसर स्वयं स्टेबल कॉइन में नहीं, बल्कि उन मार्गों के स्वामित्व में है जिन पर वे चलते हैं।
- This infrastructure includes **issuance platforms**, **payment processors**, **digital wallets**, **custody systems**, and the other on-and off-ramps that convert traditional currency into digital and back.
  इस अवसंरचना में **जारीकरण प्लेटफॉर्म**, **पेमेंट प्रोसेसर**, **डिजिटल वॉलेट**, **कस्टडी सिस्टम** तथा पारंपरिक मुद्रा को डिजिटल मुद्रा में और वापस बदलने वाले अन्य माध्यम शामिल हैं।
- It also includes compliance tools such as **know your customer (KYC)**, **anti-money laundering (AML)** and **transaction monitoring services**.
  इसमें **Know Your Customer (KYC)**, **Anti-Money Laundering (AML)** और **लेनदेन निगरानी सेवाएँ** जैसे अनुपालन उपकरण भी शामिल हैं।
- This is where **private equity** can come in.
  यही वह क्षेत्र है जहाँ **प्राइवेट इक्विटी** की भूमिका महत्वपूर्ण हो सकती है।
- Capital can help financial institutions modernize legacy systems, carve out digital asset units from larger groups, or support governments building national digital-currency platforms.
  पूंजी वित्तीय संस्थानों को पुरानी प्रणालियों का आधुनिकीकरण करने, बड़े समूहों से डिजिटल परिसंपत्ति इकाइयाँ अलग करने या राष्ट्रीय डिजिटल मुद्रा मंच विकसित करने वाली सरकारों को समर्थन देने में सहायता कर सकती है।
- None of this is risk-free.
  इनमें से कोई भी कार्य जोखिम-मुक्त नहीं है।
- Stable coins are not insured like bank deposits, and their stability depends on the quality and liquidity of the issuer's reserves.
  स्टेबल कॉइन बैंक जमा की तरह बीमित नहीं होते और उनकी स्थिरता जारीकर्ता के भंडार की गुणवत्ता तथा तरलता पर निर्भर करती है।
- Compared with banks, the firms that manage stable coins have fewer resources to address **fraud** and **cybersecurity risks**.
  बैंकों की तुलना में स्टेबल कॉइन का प्रबंधन करने वाली कंपनियों के पास **धोखाधड़ी** और **साइबर सुरक्षा जोखिमों** से निपटने के लिए कम संसाधन होते हैं।

- Moreover, **regulatory clarity** is needed.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **नियामकीय स्पष्टता** आवश्यक है।
- Markets do not scale when faced with ambiguity.
  अनिश्चितता की स्थिति में बाजार बड़े पैमाने पर विकसित नहीं हो पाते।
- Investors and institutions will require clear rules on **reserves**, **redemptions**, **supervision** and **consumer protection**.
  निवेशकों और संस्थानों को **भंडार**, **मोचन**, **निगरानी** और **उपभोक्ता संरक्षण** से संबंधित स्पष्ट नियमों की आवश्यकता होगी।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	Amplifying random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security यादृच्छिक संख्याओं को विस्तारित करने से डिजिटल सुरक्षा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।
09J6	New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans नई संकर सरसों किस्मों के लिए विविध कृषि योजनाओं की आवश्यकता है।

'Amplifying' random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security

Creating a truly unguessable password is difficult as even the best computers leave behind subtle, predictable patterns; by tapping into the power of quantum physics, scientists have now found a way to turn mostly random data into flawless security keys that are practically impossible to predict

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Digital security has an Achilles heel: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem. IMAGE CREATED WITH AI

Most digital security relies today on random numbers to generate cryptographic keys. Think of a cryptographic key like a long, complex password. If that password is truly random, an attacker has to guess every possible combination. But if the 'random' process used to make that password has a pattern, the attacker can use that pattern to skip billions of guesses.

Digital security has an Achilles's heel: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem. But in a study published in *Nature*, researchers at ETH Zürich have demonstrated a new solution called randomness amplification, where they used quantum physics to turn predictable bits of data into certifiably perfect randomness.

A note from the university said the researchers had effectively "generated certified perfect randomness for the first time".

Creating true randomness is actually really difficult. Most random number generators (RNGs) produce bits with a small bias. Say you're flipping a coin that lands on 'heads' 51% of the time instead of 50%. That 1% difference is a bias.

Santha-Vazirani limit

In 1986, computer science researchers Miklós Santha and Umesh Vazirani showed that a classical computer cannot upgrade a weakly random source into a perfectly random one. Put another way, if a source of random numbers is predictable even in a small way, classical post-processing alone could never eliminate it. So if you give a classical computer a biased coin, any data it produces based on that coil will remain just as biased and predictable, no matter how much the computer tries to improve on the input. This is why even high-end random number generators suffer from experimental imperfections – like heat or electronic noise – that make their outcomes slightly biased, and thus predictable to an advanced attacker.

"Even modern random number generators, which are based on quantum mechanical effects like the reflection of photons from beam splitters, are not entirely immune to such a systematic error or bias," Andreas Wallraff, one of the study's lead investigators and and Laboratory for Solid-State Physics professor, said in the note.

Over the last two decades, theoretical work has suggested that quantum physics may provide a workaround. In fact, in 2012, Roger Colbeck and Renato Renner – who is one of the authors of the new study – showed in theory that quantum physics could do it.

The ETH Zürich team achieved it using a Bell test, a physics experiment designed to prove a phenomenon called quantum entanglement. Entanglement is a state where two quantum particles – like atoms or photons – become linked such that a measurement performed on one particle instantly affects the other, no matter how far apart they are.

In a Bell test, two entangled particles are separated and measured. If the particles answer in a particular highly correlated way, it will show that the answers were not secretly decided in advance. In other words, the test will prove the universe itself did not know the answer until the moment the measurement happened.

Now, in quantum physics, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn't there before. For example, each of the two particles will be in a superposition of multiple states. When you measure one, it will collapse into one particular state – and so will the other entangled particle. This 'final' state is the new information.

Because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance. In the work, the team used this information as an additional source of randomness.

Quantum advantage

In their experiment, the team members entangled two particles, then placed them 30 m apart. This distance made sure the particles could not 'cheat' by communicating their 'final' states to each other at the speed of light.

Next, they used random biased bits to decide how to measure each particle. Then, with the measurement outcomes, they calculated the Bell violation score – a measure of how strongly the particles were entangled, and thus how clueless the universe might have been about the measurement outcomes. The score was 2.271.

This was above the classical limit of 2, meaning quantum physics rather than classical physics was in play. (Entanglement is a purely quantum phenomenon.)

"It is a clean instance of quantum advantage: a task quantum physics performs that classical physics provably cannot," Marin Ivezic, founder of research-driven consulting firm Applied Quantum, wrote on his site.

However, the highest score quantum physics allows is 2.82. And the closer an experiment gets to this value, the stronger the evidence that the particles are behaving according to quantum physics alone rather than also being influenced by bias. In a lab, stray heat, microscopic timing errors, and other subtle factors can create noise that biases the particles in small ways. And an attacker who understands the specific noise in a setup might notice that when the system glitches, it tends to produce a '1' more often than a '0', and use that to their advantage.

The researchers now had two resources: the original random biased bits and the new outcomes from the Bell test. They combined both using a mathematical tool called a two-source extractor. Its purpose is to blend two independent strings of data. Independent means knowing anything about String 1 must reveal nothing about String 2, and vice versa.

The extractor is designed so that if an attacker has a slight advantage in predicting String 1 and a slight advantage in predicting String 2, they have zero advantage in predicting the combination. The extractor achieves this by cancelling the strings' individual biases out as long as they are independent.

In their tests, the researchers worked with 5.3 billion random biased bits and 2.6 billion bits of information from the measurements.

They combined them in 1.3 billion trials, which they ran at 50,000 times per second over nine hours. At the end of each trial, the extractor output was 45 million bits – all purely random. The rest got pruned away because they were biased information or noise.

"The resulting sequence of zeros and ones is now really perfectly random, and we can even certify that," Prof. Renner, a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at ETH Zürich, said in the note. The certificate is the Bell test score.

"The technical improvements allowed us, for the first time, to create random numbers that will remain perfectly random for all eternity – no matter what analytical methods are used to assess their randomness," Prof. Renner added.

In quantum physics, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn't there before; because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance, becoming an additional source of randomness

The team also said their protocol to generate purely random numbers is device-independent – a gold standard in security that means even if you don't trust the person who built the hardware, even if you don't fully understand how the machine works, you can trust the output to be random.

In physics, it is mathematically impossible for a classical theory to score higher than 2 on a Bell test. By scoring 2.271 on the test, then, the researchers' setup proved it was producing random quantum information.

That said, according to the team's security analysis, the protocol has a failure probability of one in a trillion, similar to flipping a coin and getting 'heads' 40 times in a row. This is because of the number of tests, 1.3 billion. If they had conducted several billion more, the researchers may have reduced the failure rate to one in a quadrillion or quintillion. It is mathematically impossible to reach 100%.

In fact, the researchers had chosen one in a trillion as their finish line. And to reach that level of certainty with a score of 2.271, they had to discard a large amount of data in the end. If their score had been higher, they could have reached the same failure rate while keeping much more of the data.

While one in a trillion suffices for practical applications, the experiment's apparatus can't yet replace conventional random-number generators. First, it is complex and resource-intensive. Its randomness output is modest compared to commercial systems: around 1,400 bits per second versus 1 billion bits per second. It is also information-wise inefficient in that for every 1[9] "almost perfectly random" bits it consumed, it produced 1 "certified random" bit – whereas commercial generators produce a very large number of "almost perfectly random" bits from just one "somewhat random" bit.

But while the new protocol is slower and less efficient, it can produce randomness of a higher quality. That is, the work establishes that randomness can be amplified in lab conditions, that too in a device-independent way. It also proves the Santha-Vazirani limit can be broken by quantum physics.

Beacon of randomness

"My understanding is that the main advance here is not device-independent random-number generation *per se*. That has already been demonstrated using ... Bell tests," Urbasi Sinha, head of the Quantum Information and Computing lab at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, told *The Hindu*. "The new element is the experimental demonstration of device-independent randomness amplification: starting with a weak, imperfect source of randomness and using quantum correlations to certify output bits that are unbiased under the stated model."

"This is significant because practical quantum random-number generators are never ideal, and in our own work on QRNGs and semi-device-independent certification, we have also emphasised that the real issue is not whether a bit string passes statistical tests but whether its unpredictability can be certified from clearly stated physical assumptions," she added.

"The important caveat is that the guarantee here is conditional on the Santha-Vazirani weak-source model, the claimed bias bound on the input randomness, the... Bell-test implementation, and the validity of the extractor/security analysis."

The researchers proposed one application: a public randomness beacon – a service that broadcasts certified random bits for uses ranging from financial transactions and blockchain protocols to military encryption. The U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology already runs a service where it releases 512 random bits every 60 seconds on its website. They are used in lotteries, to assign juries, to sample voting machines, and for research.

That said, Mr. Ivezic cautioned in his write-up that while certifiable randomness could help security today, it will not help protect encrypted information against attacks by future quantum computers.

"Better randomness was never the answer to that problem," he wrote; "migrating to post-quantum algorithms is." India recently took its very first steps on this front.

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09J6. Amplifying random numbers brings a breakthrough in digital security
यादृच्छिक संख्याओं को विस्तारित करने से डिजिटल सुरक्षा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सफलता प्राप्त हुई है।

- Creating a truly **unguessable password** is difficult as even the best **computers** leave behind subtle, predictable **patterns**; by tapping into the power of **quantum physics**, scientists have now found a way to turn mostly random **data** into flawless **security keys** that are practically impossible to predict.

वास्तव में **अनुमान न लगाए जा सकने वाला पासवर्ड** बनाना कठिन है, क्योंकि सर्वोत्तम **कंप्यूटर** भी सूक्ष्म एवं पूर्वानुमेय **प्रतिरूप** छोड़ जाते हैं; **क्वांटम भौतिकी** की शक्ति का उपयोग करते हुए, वैज्ञानिकों ने अब अधिकांशतः यादृच्छिक **डेटा** को त्रुटिहीन **सुरक्षा कुंजियों** में परिवर्तित करने का एक तरीका खोज लिया है, जिनका पूर्वानुमान लगाना व्यावहारिक रूप से असंभव है।

- **Most digital security relies today on random numbers to generate cryptographic keys.**

आज अधिकांश डिजिटल सुरक्षा क्रिप्टोग्राफिक कुंजियाँ (Cryptographic Keys) उत्पन्न करने के लिए यादृच्छिक संख्याओं पर निर्भर करती है।

- Think of a **cryptographic key** like a long, complex password.

एक **क्रिप्टोग्राफिक कुंजी** को एक लंबे और जटिल पासवर्ड के समान समझिए।

- If that password is truly random, an attacker has to guess every possible combination.

यदि वह पासवर्ड वास्तव में यादृच्छिक है, तो किसी आक्रमणकारी को प्रत्येक संभावित संयोजन का अनुमान लगाना होगा।

- But if the 'random' process used to make that password has a pattern, the attacker can use that pattern to skip billions of guesses.
  किन्तु यदि उस पासवर्ड को बनाने वाली 'यादृच्छिक' प्रक्रिया में कोई पैटर्न हो, तो आक्रमणकारी उस पैटर्न का उपयोग करके अरबों अनुमानों को छोड़ सकता है।
- Digital security has an **Achilles's heel**: the numbers it uses for encryption are rarely as random as they seem.
  डिजिटल सुरक्षा की एक **कमज़ोर कड़ी (Achilles's heel)** है: एन्क्रिप्शन में प्रयुक्त संख्याएँ प्रायः उतनी यादृच्छिक नहीं होतीं जितनी वे प्रतीत होती हैं।
- But in a study published in **Nature**, researchers at **ETH Zürich** have demonstrated a new solution called **randomness amplification**, where they used **quantum physics** to turn predictable bits of data into certifiably perfect randomness.
  किन्तु **Nature** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में **ETH Zürich** के शोधकर्ताओं ने **रैंडमनेस एम्प्लीफिकेशन (Randomness Amplification)** नामक एक नया समाधान प्रदर्शित किया, जिसमें उन्होंने **क्वांटम भौतिकी** का उपयोग करके पूर्वानुमेय डेटा बिट्स को प्रमाणित पूर्ण यादृच्छिकता में परिवर्तित किया।
- Creating true randomness is actually really difficult.
  वास्तविक यादृच्छिकता उत्पन्न करना वास्तव में अत्यंत कठिन है।
- Most **random number generators (RNGs)** produce bits with a small bias.
  अधिकांश **रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर (RNGs)** थोड़े पक्षपात वाले बिट्स उत्पन्न करते हैं।
- Say you're flipping a coin that lands on 'heads' 51% of the time instead of 50%.
  मान लीजिए आप एक ऐसा सिक्का उछाल रहे हैं जो 50% के स्थान पर 51% बार 'हेड्स' पर गिरता है।
- That 1% difference is a **bias**.
  यह 1% का अंतर एक **पक्षपात (Bias)** है।

- So if you give a classical computer a biased coin, any data it produces based on that coin will remain just as biased and predictable, no matter how much the computer tries to improve on the input.
  अतः यदि आप किसी शास्त्रीय कंप्यूटर को एक पक्षपाती सिक्का देते हैं, तो उससे उत्पन्न कोई भी डेटा उतना ही पक्षपाती और पूर्वानुमेय बना रहेगा, चाहे कंप्यूटर इनपुट को सुधारने का कितना भी प्रयास करे।
- This is why even high-end random number generators suffer from experimental imperfections — like heat or electronic noise — that make their outcomes slightly biased, and thus predictable to an advanced attacker.
  इसी कारण उच्च स्तरीय रैंडम नंबर जनरेटर भी ऊष्मा या इलेक्ट्रॉनिक शोर जैसी प्रायोगिक अपूर्णताओं से प्रभावित होते हैं, जो उनके परिणामों को थोड़ा पक्षपाती बना देती हैं और इस प्रकार किसी उन्नत आक्रमणकारी के लिए उन्हें पूर्वानुमेय बना सकती हैं।
- The **ETH Zürich** team achieved it using a **Bell test**, a physics experiment designed to prove a phenomenon called **quantum entanglement**.
  ETH Zürich की टीम ने इसे **बेल परीक्षण (Bell Test)** का उपयोग करके प्राप्त किया, जो **क्वांटम उलझाव (Quantum Entanglement)** नामक घटना को सिद्ध करने हेतु बनाया गया एक भौतिकी प्रयोग है।
- **Entanglement** is a state where two **quantum particles** — like atoms or photons — become linked such that a measurement performed on one particle instantly affects the other, no matter how far apart they are.
  उलझाव (Entanglement) वह अवस्था है जिसमें दो **क्वांटम कण** — जैसे परमाणु या फोटॉन — इस प्रकार जुड़े होते हैं कि एक कण पर किया गया मापन दूसरे को तुरंत प्रभावित करता है, चाहे वे एक-दूसरे से कितनी भी दूरी पर हों।
- In a **Bell test**, two **entangled particles** are separated and measured.
  एक **बेल परीक्षण** में, दो **उलझे हुए कणों** को अलग किया जाता है और उनका मापन किया जाता है।

- If the particles answer in a particular highly correlated way, it will show that the answers were not secretly decided in advance.
  यदि कण एक विशेष अत्यधिक सहसंबद्ध तरीके से प्रतिक्रिया देते हैं, तो यह दर्शाएगा कि उनके उत्तर पहले से गुप्त रूप से निर्धारित नहीं थे।
- In other words, the test will prove the universe itself did not know the answer until the moment the measurement happened.
  दूसरे शब्दों में, यह परीक्षण सिद्ध करेगा कि स्वयं ब्रह्मांड को भी उत्तर का ज्ञान उस क्षण तक नहीं था जब तक मापन नहीं हुआ।
- Now, in **quantum physics**, the act of measuring something creates new information that wasn't there before.
  अब, **क्वांटम भौतिकी** में, किसी वस्तु का मापन करने की प्रक्रिया नई सूचना उत्पन्न करती है जो पहले अस्तित्व में नहीं थी।
- For example, each of the two particles will be in a **superposition** of multiple states.
  उदाहरण के लिए, दोनों कण अनेक अवस्थाओं के **अध्यारोपण** में होंगे।
- When you measure one, it will collapse into one particular state — and so will the other entangled particle.
  जब आप एक का मापन करते हैं, तो वह एक विशिष्ट अवस्था में सिमट जाएगा — और दूसरा उलझा हुआ कण भी ऐसा ही करेगा।
- This 'final' state is the new information.
  यह 'अंतिम' अवस्था ही नई सूचना होती है।
- Because this information is born at the exact instant of measurement, it is impossible for anyone to have known the outcome in advance.
  चूँकि यह सूचना मापन के ठीक उसी क्षण उत्पन्न होती है, इसलिए किसी के लिए भी परिणाम को पहले से जानना असंभव है।
- In the work, the team used this information as an additional source of **randomness**.
  इस कार्य में, टीम ने इस सूचना का उपयोग **यादृच्छिकता** के अतिरिक्त स्रोत के रूप में किया।

Quantum advantage
क्वांटम लाभ

- In their experiment, the team members entangled two particles, then placed them **30 m apart**.
  अपने प्रयोग में, टीम के सदस्यों ने दो कणों को उलझाया और फिर उन्हें **30 मीटर की दूरी** पर रखा।
- This distance made sure the particles could not 'cheat' by communicating their 'final' states to each other at the **speed of light**.
  इस दूरी ने सुनिश्चित किया कि कण **प्रकाश की गति** से अपनी 'अंतिम' अवस्थाओं का आदान-प्रदान करके 'धोखा' न दे सकें।
- Next, they used **random biased bits** to decide how to measure each particle.
  इसके बाद, उन्होंने प्रत्येक कण का मापन कैसे किया जाए, यह निर्धारित करने के लिए **यादृच्छिक पक्षपाती बिट्स** का उपयोग किया।
- Then, with the measurement outcomes, they calculated the **Bell violation score** — a measure of how strongly the particles were entangled, and thus how clueless the universe might have been about the measurement outcomes.
  फिर, मापन के परिणामों की सहायता से उन्होंने **बेल उल्लंघन स्कोर** की गणना की — यह इस बात का माप है कि कण कितनी दृढ़ता से उलझे हुए थे और इस प्रकार मापन परिणामों के बारे में ब्रह्मांड कितना अनभिज्ञ रहा होगा।
- "It is a clean instance of **quantum advantage**: a task quantum physics performs that classical physics provably cannot," Marin Ivezic, founder of research-driven consulting firm Applied Quantum, wrote on his site.
  "यह **क्वांटम लाभ** का एक स्पष्ट उदाहरण है: ऐसा कार्य जिसे क्वांटम भौतिकी कर सकती है जबकि शास्त्रीय

भौतिकी सिद्ध रूप से नहीं कर सकती," शोध-आधारित परामर्श संस्था के संस्थापक मेरिन इवेज़िक ने अपनी वेबसाइट पर लिखा।

- However, the highest score quantum physics allows is **2.82**.
  हालाँकि, क्वांटम भौतिकी द्वारा अनुमत उच्चतम स्कोर **2.82** है।
- And the closer an experiment gets to this value, the stronger the evidence that the particles are behaving according to quantum physics alone rather than also being influenced by bias.
  और कोई प्रयोग जितना अधिक इस मान के निकट पहुँचता है, उतना ही प्रबल प्रमाण मिलता है कि कण केवल क्वांटम भौतिकी के अनुसार व्यवहार कर रहे हैं, न कि किसी पक्षपात से प्रभावित होकर।
- In a lab, stray heat, microscopic timing errors, and other subtle factors can create noise that biases the particles in small ways.
  प्रयोगशाला में, अतिरिक्त ऊष्मा, सूक्ष्म समयगत त्रुटियाँ और अन्य सूक्ष्म कारक ऐसा शोर उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं जो कणों को थोड़े स्तर पर पक्षपाती बना देता है।
- And an attacker who understands the specific noise in a setup might notice that when the system glitches, it tends to produce a '1' more often than a '0', and use that to their advantage.
  और कोई आक्रमणकारी जो किसी व्यवस्था के विशिष्ट शोर को समझता हो, यह देख सकता है कि जब प्रणाली में त्रुटि आती है तो वह '0' की अपेक्षा '1' अधिक उत्पन्न करती है, और वह इसका लाभ उठा सकता है।
- The researchers now had two resources: the original **random biased bits** and the new outcomes from the **Bell test**.
  अब शोधकर्ताओं के पास दो संसाधन थे: मूल **यादृच्छिक पक्षपाती बिट्स** और **बेल परीक्षण** से प्राप्त नए परिणाम।
- They combined both using a mathematical tool called a **two-source extractor**.
  उन्होंने दोनों को **द्वि-स्रोत निष्कर्षक** नामक गणितीय उपकरण की सहायता से संयोजित किया।
- Its purpose is to blend two independent strings of data.
  इसका उद्देश्य आँकड़ों की दो स्वतंत्र श्रृंखलाओं को मिलाना है।
- Independent means knowing anything about String 1 must reveal nothing about String 2, and vice versa.
  स्वतंत्रता का अर्थ है कि पहली श्रृंखला के बारे में कोई भी जानकारी दूसरी श्रृंखला के बारे में कुछ भी प्रकट न करे, और इसके विपरीत भी यही सत्य हो।
- "The resulting sequence of zeros and ones is now really perfectly random, and we can even certify that," Prof. Renner, a professor at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at ETH Zürich, said in the note.
  "शून्य और एक की परिणामी श्रृंखला अब वास्तव में पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक है, और हम इसका प्रमाण भी दे सकते हैं," सैद्धांतिक भौतिकी संस्थान के प्रोफेसर रेनर ने टिप्पणी में कहा।
- The certificate is the **Bell test score**.
  यह प्रमाणपत्र **बेल परीक्षण स्कोर** है।
- "The technical improvements allowed us, for the first time, to create random numbers that will remain perfectly random for all eternity — no matter what analytical methods are used to assess their randomness," Prof. Renner added.
  "तकनीकी सुधारों ने हमें पहली बार ऐसी यादृच्छिक संख्याएँ उत्पन्न करने में सक्षम बनाया है जो अनंत काल तक पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक बनी रहेंगी — चाहे उनकी यादृच्छिकता का मूल्यांकन करने के लिए कोई भी विश्लेषणात्मक विधि क्यों न अपनाई जाए," प्रोफेसर रेनर ने आगे कहा।
- The team also said their protocol to generate purely random numbers is **device-independent** — a gold standard in security that means even if you don't trust the person who built the hardware, even if you don't fully understand how the machine works, you can trust the output to be random.
  टीम ने यह भी कहा कि पूर्णतः यादृच्छिक संख्याएँ उत्पन्न करने की उनकी प्रक्रिया **उपकरण-स्वतंत्र** है — जो सुरक्षा का स्वर्ण मानक है। इसका अर्थ है कि यदि आप हार्डवेयर बनाने वाले व्यक्ति पर विश्वास नहीं करते हों,

या मशीन की कार्यप्रणाली को पूरी तरह न समझते हों, तब भी आप उसके आउटपुट के यादृच्छिक होने पर भरोसा कर सकते हैं।

- In physics, it is mathematically impossible for a classical theory to score higher than **2** on a Bell test.
  भौतिकी में, किसी शास्त्रीय सिद्धांत के लिए बेल परीक्षण में **2** से अधिक स्कोर प्राप्त करना गणितीय रूप से असंभव है।

New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans

GS III: S&T

In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids. These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called Orobanche, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

India has long grappled with an edible oils deficit. In 2024-25, the country imported around 16 million tonnes at about ₹1.6 lakh crore. Mustard is the most vital oilseed crop to meet this demand, especially in the arid environments of North India. However, its yields have been suppressed throughout the year by Orobanche, a destructive root parasite that attaches to the mustard plant and drains it of water and nutrients. (It has more recently been called Phelipanche.)

The new IMI-resistant hybrids are a technological solution to this problem. Unlike genetically modified (GM) crops, these hybrids were developed in a process called mutation breeding – where scientists breed crops to preserve certain natural mutations. The process is based on an enzyme called acetolactate synthase (ALS), which is essential for plant growth. Normal mustard plants are killed by IMI herbicides because the herbicides inhibit ALS.

In the new IMI-resistant hybrids, a single change in the plant's DNA rendered the ALS enzyme resistant to the herbicide, freeing farmers to spray IMI herbicides directly over the field, killing only the weeds. This strategy is particularly effective against Orobanche because, as the herbicide moves through the soil and the plant, it strikes the parasite where manual weeding can't reach.

Farmers have welcomed these hybrids because they don't increase the demand for labour exactly when it might be unavailable, especially in the narrow window when weeding is necessary, and the research community because it protects oilseeds.

However, some experts have urged caution over their long-term use. In a commentary recently published in the journal *Current Science*, Deepak Pental, a leading geneticist at the University of Delhi, acknowledged the immediate benefits but also said the technology must be managed with care to prevent the weeds from evolving their own resistance.

Prof. Pental explained that if farmers rely on only one type of herbicide year after year, the "strong directional selection" will lead to "the emergence of resistant or less susceptible weed populations, the erosion of herbicide efficacy, and ultimately the strategic failure of the production system built around that chemistry".

To that end, he wrote that the introduction of these new crops should not be viewed as a simple trade-off, where chemicals merely replace manual labour, but as a "challenge" that requires a variety of weed-control methods. Specifically, for the technology to remain viable for more than a few years, it must be part of a broader, more diverse farming strategy that includes rotating crops, using different types of herbicides with various modes of action, and continuing to use manual weeding to remove any weeds that survive the chemical spray. "A single herbicide mode of action cannot be the foundation of a sustainable weed management strategy in any agriculture," Prof. Pental wrote.

As India rolls out IMI-resistant mustard this season, the new challenge for the agricultural enterprise will be to ensure these powerful new tools become part of a "durable, and evolutionarily informed" programme rather than a quick fix.

09J6. New mustard hybrids need diverse farming plans
नई संकर सरसों किस्मों के लिए विविध कृषि योजनाओं की आवश्यकता है।

- **In the 2026-27 rabi sowing season, from October to April, Indian farmers are set to begin the wide-scale cultivation of imidazolinone-resistant (IMI-resistant) mustard hybrids.**

वर्ष 2026-27 के रबी बुवाई मौसम में, अक्टूबर से अप्रैल के दौरान, भारतीय किसान इमिडाज़ोलिनोन-प्रतिरोधी सरसों संकरों की व्यापक स्तर पर खेती प्रारम्भ करने वाले हैं।

- These hybrids are designed to overcome a parasitic weed called **Orobanche**, a major hurdle in oilseed production.

इन संकरों को **ओरोबैंकी** नामक परजीवी खरपतवार से निपटने के लिए विकसित किया गया है, जो तिलहन उत्पादन में एक प्रमुख बाधा है।

- India has long grappled with an **edible oils deficit**.

भारत लंबे समय से **खाद्य तेलों की कमी** की समस्या से जूझ रहा है।

- In 2024-25, the country imported around **16 million tonnes** at about **₹1.6 lakh crore**.

वर्ष 2024-25 में देश ने लगभग **1.6 करोड़ टन** खाद्य तेल का आयात लगभग **1.6 लाख करोड़ रुपये** की लागत से किया।

- **Mustard** is the most vital oilseed crop to meet this demand, especially in the arid environments of North India.

इस मांग को पूरा करने के लिए **सरसों** सबसे महत्वपूर्ण तिलहन फसल है, विशेषकर उत्तर भारत के शुष्क क्षेत्रों में।

- However, its yields have been suppressed throughout the year by **Orobanche**, a destructive root parasite that attaches to the mustard plant and drains it of water and nutrients.

हालाँकि, इसकी उपज पूरे वर्ष **ओरोबैंकी** नामक विनाशकारी जड़-परजीवी द्वारा प्रभावित होती रही है, जो सरसों के पौधे से चिपककर उसका जल और पोषक तत्व चूस लेता है।

- (It has more recently been called **Phelipanche**.)
  (हाल के वर्षों में इसे **फेलिपैंकी** भी कहा जाने लगा है।)
- The new **IMI-resistant hybrids** are a technological solution to this problem.
  नए **आईएमआई-प्रतिरोधी संकर** इस समस्या का एक तकनीकी समाधान हैं।
- Unlike **genetically modified crops**, these hybrids were developed in a process called **mutation breeding** — where scientists breed crops to preserve certain natural mutations.
  आनुवंशिक रूप से संशोधित फसलों के विपरीत, इन संकरों को **उत्परिवर्तन प्रजनन** नामक प्रक्रिया द्वारा विकसित किया गया है, जिसमें वैज्ञानिक कुछ प्राकृतिक उत्परिवर्तनों को संरक्षित रखते हुए फसलों का प्रजनन करते हैं।
- The process is based on an enzyme called **acetolactate synthase (ALS)**, which is essential for plant growth.
  यह प्रक्रिया **एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़** नामक एंज़ाइम पर आधारित है, जो पौधों की वृद्धि के लिए अत्यंत आवश्यक है।
- Normal mustard plants are killed by **IMI herbicides** because the herbicides inhibit ALS.
  सामान्य सरसों के पौधे **आईएमआई शाकनाशियों** से नष्ट हो जाते हैं क्योंकि ये शाकनाशी एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़ की क्रिया को रोक देते हैं।
- In the new **IMI-resistant hybrids**, a single change in the plant's DNA rendered the ALS enzyme resistant to the herbicide, freeing farmers to spray IMI herbicides directly over the field, killing only the weeds.
  नए **आईएमआई-प्रतिरोधी संकरों** में पौधे के डीएनए में एक परिवर्तन ने एसीटोलैक्टेट सिंथेज़ एंज़ाइम को शाकनाशी के प्रति प्रतिरोधी बना दिया है, जिससे किसान खेत में सीधे आईएमआई शाकनाशी का छिड़काव कर सकते हैं और केवल खरपतवार नष्ट होते हैं।
- This strategy is particularly effective against **Orobanche** because, as the herbicide moves through the soil and the plant, it strikes the parasite where manual weeding can't reach.
  यह रणनीति विशेष रूप से **ओरोबैंकी** के विरुद्ध प्रभावी है क्योंकि शाकनाशी मिट्टी और पौधे के भीतर संचरित होकर उस परजीवी तक पहुँचता है जहाँ हाथ से निराई संभव नहीं होती।
- In a commentary recently published in the journal **Current Science**, **Deepak Pental**, a leading geneticist at the University of Delhi, acknowledged the immediate benefits but also said the technology must be managed with care to prevent the weeds from evolving their own resistance.
  हाल ही में पत्रिका **करेंट साइंस** में प्रकाशित एक टिप्पणी में **दीपक पेंटल**, जो दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के एक प्रमुख आनुवंशिकीविद् हैं, ने इसके तात्कालिक लाभों को स्वीकार किया, किंतु यह भी कहा कि खरपतवारों में प्रतिरोधक क्षमता विकसित होने से रोकने के लिए इस तकनीक का सावधानीपूर्वक प्रबंधन आवश्यक है।
- Prof. Pental explained that if farmers rely on only one type of herbicide year after year, the **strong directional selection** will lead to the emergence of resistant or less susceptible weed populations, the erosion of herbicide efficacy, and ultimately the strategic failure of the production system built around that chemistry.
  प्रोफेसर पेंटल ने स्पष्ट किया कि यदि किसान वर्ष दर वर्ष केवल एक प्रकार के शाकनाशी पर निर्भर रहेंगे, तो **प्रबल दिशात्मक चयन** के कारण प्रतिरोधी अथवा कम संवेदनशील खरपतवार आबादियाँ विकसित होंगी, शाकनाशी की प्रभावशीलता घटेगी और अंततः उस रासायनिक व्यवस्था पर आधारित उत्पादन प्रणाली विफल हो जाएगी।
- Specifically, for the technology to remain viable for more than a few years, it must be part of a broader, more diverse farming strategy that includes rotating crops, using different types of herbicides with various modes of action, and continuing to use manual weeding to remove any weeds that survive the chemical spray.
  विशेष रूप से, यदि इस तकनीक को कुछ वर्षों से अधिक समय तक प्रभावी बनाए रखना है, तो इसे एक व्यापक

और विविध कृषि रणनीति का हिस्सा बनाना होगा, जिसमें फसल चक्र अपनाना, विभिन्न कार्यविधियों वाले अलग-अलग शाकनाशियों का उपयोग करना तथा रासायनिक छिड़काव से बच जाने वाले खरपतवारों को हाथ से हटाना शामिल हो।

- "A single herbicide mode of action cannot be the foundation of a sustainable weed management strategy in any agriculture," Prof. Pental wrote.
"किसी भी कृषि प्रणाली में एकमात्र शाकनाशी कार्यविधि टिकाऊ खरपतवार प्रबंधन रणनीति का आधार नहीं बन सकती," प्रोफेसर पेंटल ने लिखा।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	09 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
09J6	India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI सिप्री (SIPRI) के अनुसार, भारत ने 2025 में अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का विस्तार किया
09J6	Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials अधिकारियों के अनुसार, निकोबार परियोजना समुद्री सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करेगी

India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India is estimated to have modestly expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025 and continued developing new nuclear delivery systems, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026 released on Monday.

The report estimated that India's nuclear stockpile had increased to around 190 warheads by early 2026. The country had around 180 such warheads in 2025.

SIPRI noted that New Delhi's ongoing nuclear modernisation programme is increasingly focused on developing longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China, while continuing to address security concerns arising from its long-standing rivalry with Pakistan.

The annual assessment of global armaments, disarmament and international security also highlighted the May 2025 India-Pakistan military confrontation, describing

The report estimates India's military expenditure at $92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% from last year

Operation Sindoor as an "unusually severe military crisis" between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

According to SIPRI, India carried out strikes during the conflict against Pakistani air and missile bases that were likely to have nuclear-related roles. However, the institute observed that both countries took measures to prevent further escalation despite heightened tensions.

The report further noted that India and Pakistan integrated cyberoperations into active military conflict for the first time during the crisis, underscoring the evolving nature of modern warfare and deterrence in South Asia.

Beyond the nuclear domain, India retained its position as the world's fifth-largest military spender in 2025. SIPRI estimated India's military expenditure at $92.1 billion, an increase of 8.9% over the previous year. The country ranked behind only the United States, China, Russia and Germany in defence spending.

India also remained the world's second-largest importer of major arms during the 2021-25 period, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports. SIPRI identified Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for 35% of global imports during the period.

Modernising arsenals

The report said all nine nuclear-armed states – the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel – continued to modernise their arsenals and increasingly relied on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power. Globally, the nine countries possessed an estimated 12,187 nuclear warheads at the start of 2026, of which around 9,745 were held in military stockpiles for potential use.

09J6. India expanded its nuclear arsenal in 2025, says SIPRI

सिप्री (SIPRI) के अनुसार, भारत ने 2025 में अपने परमाणु शस्त्रागार का विस्तार किया

- India is estimated to have modestly expanded its **nuclear arsenal** in 2025 and continued developing new **nuclear delivery systems**, according to the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2026** released on Monday.

सोमवार को जारी **स्टॉकहोम अंतरराष्ट्रीय शांति अनुसंधान संस्थान (सिप्री) वर्षपुस्तिका 2026** के अनुसार, भारत ने वर्ष 2025 में अपने **परमाणु शस्त्रागार** का सीमित विस्तार किया तथा नए **परमाणु प्रक्षेपण प्रणालियों** के विकास को जारी रखा।

- The report estimated that India's nuclear stockpile had increased to around **190 warheads** by early 2026.

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत तक भारत के परमाणु भंडार में लगभग **190 परमाणु वारहेड** हो गए थे।

- The country had around **180 warheads** in 2025.
  वर्ष 2025 में भारत के पास लगभग **180 परमाणु वारहेड** थे।
- SIPRI noted that New Delhi's ongoing **nuclear modernisation programme** is increasingly focused on developing longer-range weapons capable of reaching targets across China, while continuing to address security concerns arising from its long-standing rivalry with Pakistan.
  सिप्री ने उल्लेख किया कि नई दिल्ली का जारी **परमाणु आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम** अब ऐसे लंबी दूरी के हथियारों के विकास पर अधिक केंद्रित है जो चीन के विभिन्न लक्ष्यों तक पहुँच सकें, जबकि पाकिस्तान के साथ दीर्घकालिक प्रतिद्वंद्विता से उत्पन्न सुरक्षा चिंताओं का समाधान भी जारी है।
- Beyond the nuclear domain, India retained its position as the **world's fifth-largest military spender** in 2025.
  परमाणु क्षेत्र से परे, भारत ने वर्ष 2025 में **विश्व के पाँचवें सबसे बड़े रक्षा व्यय करने वाले देश** के रूप में अपनी स्थिति बनाए रखी।
- SIPRI estimated India's military expenditure at **92.1 billion अमेरिकी डॉलर**, an increase of **8.9%** over the previous year.
  सिप्री ने भारत का रक्षा व्यय **92.1 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर** आँका, जो पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में **8.9 प्रतिशत** अधिक है।
- The country ranked behind only the **United States, China, Russia and Germany** in defence spending.
  रक्षा व्यय के मामले में भारत केवल **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, चीन, रूस और जर्मनी** से पीछे रहा।
- India also remained the **world's second-largest importer of major arms** during the **2021-25 period**, accounting for **8.2% of global arms imports**.
  भारत **2021-25** की अवधि में **विश्व का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा प्रमुख हथियार आयातक** भी बना रहा, जिसकी वैश्विक हथियार आयात में **8.2 प्रतिशत** हिस्सेदारी रही।
- SIPRI identified **Ukraine, India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan** as the five largest arms importers, collectively accounting for **35% of global imports** during the period.
  सिप्री ने **यूक्रेन, भारत, सऊदी अरब, कतर और पाकिस्तान** को पाँच सबसे बड़े हथियार आयातकों के रूप में चिन्हित किया, जिनकी संयुक्त हिस्सेदारी इस अवधि में वैश्विक आयात का **35 प्रतिशत** रही।

Modernising arsenals
परमाणु शस्त्रागारों का आधुनिकीकरण

- The report said all **nine nuclear-armed states** — the **United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel** — continued to modernise their arsenals and increasingly relied on nuclear weapons as instruments of national power.
  रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, सभी **नौ परमाणु-सशस्त्र राष्ट्र** — **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, रूस, यूनाइटेड किंगडम, फ्रांस, चीन, भारत, पाकिस्तान, उत्तर कोरिया और इज़राइल** — अपने शस्त्रागारों का आधुनिकीकरण जारी रखे हुए हैं तथा राष्ट्रीय शक्ति के साधन के रूप में परमाणु हथियारों पर उनकी निर्भरता बढ़ रही है।
- Globally, the nine countries possessed an estimated **12,187 nuclear warheads** at the start of 2026.
  वैश्विक स्तर पर वर्ष 2026 की शुरुआत में इन नौ देशों के पास अनुमानतः **12,187 परमाणु वारहेड** मौजूद थे।

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- Of these, around **9,745 warheads** were held in military stockpiles for potential use.
  इनमें से लगभग **9,745 परमाणु वारहेड** संभावित उपयोग के लिए सैन्य भंडारों में रखे गए थे।

Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Under the Great Nicobar Island Development Project, India plans to invest around ₹13,000 crore to build a dual-use airport and runway for both civilian and Navy operations, said a senior official with the Ministry of Defence on Monday.

According to sources in the Ministry, the project, expected to be completed within five years, will be jointly funded by the Ministry along with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The government views the initiative as a strategic investment aimed at strengthening maritime security, boosting regional connectivity and enhancing India's presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Four components

Elaborating about the project, the official said the project comprises four major components – an International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP), a joint-user greenfield airport and Naval Air Station, a modern township, and a power plant. Together, these projects are expected to transform Great Nicobar into a key maritime and economic hub while enhancing India's defence capabilities in the strategically significant Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Located just 40 km from the Six Degree Channel, one of the world's busiest sea trade routes connecting the Gulf of Aden and the Malacca Strait, Great Nicobar occupies a critical position along global shipping lanes. Government officials said the project would reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports and strengthen its ability to monitor and secure vital Sea Lanes of Communication.

The project comprises a port, airport, and power plant. AFP

The proposed greenfield airport, approved by the Union Cabinet and to be operated by the Indian Navy, is expected to significantly improve maritime domain awareness, logistics support, and rapid deployment capabilities. The airport is also expected to promote tourism, officials said. It is understood that five sites, including INS Baaz at Campbell Bay, were assessed before Galathea Bay was selected for the airport. Technical constraints, limited expansion possibilities, and environmental concerns reportedly made the expansion of INS Baaz unviable.

Extensive studies

Addressing concerns over environmental impact and tribal rights, officials said the project has undergone extensive environmental assessments involving institutions such as the Zoological Survey of India, Wildlife Institute of India and the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. Of the island's total area, only 166.1 square kilometres have been earmarked for development, while more than 81% will continue to remain under forests, biosphere reserves, national parks and tribal conservation zones.

A dedicated conservation package worth ₹2,220 crore over 30 years has been planned to protect wildlife, including leatherback turtles, Nicobar megapodes and crocodiles, as well as coral reefs and mangrove ecosystems. The official confirmed that that no physical displacement of tribal communities is proposed and that consultations were conducted with tribal welfare authorities and representative bodies.

Besides strategic gains, the project is expected to generate over one lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities, providing a significant economic boost to the island region.

09J6. Nicobar project will enhance maritime security: officials
अधिकारियों के अनुसार, निकोबार परियोजना समुद्री सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करेगी

- **Great Nicobar Island Development Project: Strategic airport and maritime hub planned**
  ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना: सामरिक हवाई अड्डा और समुद्री केंद्र की योजना
- Under the **Great Nicobar Island Development Project**, India plans to invest around **₹13,000 crore** to build a **dual-use airport and runway** for both civilian and Navy operations, said a senior official with the **Ministry of Defence** on Monday.
  ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना के अंतर्गत भारत नागरिक और नौसेना दोनों प्रकार के संचालन हेतु **द्वि-उपयोगी हवाई अड्डा और रनवे** के निर्माण के लिए लगभग **13,000 करोड़ रुपये** का निवेश करने की योजना बना रहा है, यह जानकारी सोमवार को **रक्षा मंत्रालय** के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने दी।
- According to sources in the Ministry, the project, expected to be completed within **five years**, will be jointly funded by the Ministry along with the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
  मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के अनुसार, यह परियोजना, जिसके **पाँच वर्षों** में पूरण होने की अपेक्षा है, रक्षा मंत्रालय तथा **नागरिक उड्डयन मंत्रालय** द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से वित्तपोषित की जाएगी।
- The government views the initiative as a strategic investment aimed at strengthening **maritime security**, boosting regional connectivity and enhancing India's presence in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
  सरकार इस पहल को **समुद्री सुरक्षा** सुदृढ़ करने, क्षेत्रीय संपर्क बढ़ाने तथा **हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र** में भारत की उपस्थिति को मजबूत करने के उद्देश्य से एक सामरिक निवेश के रूप में देखती है।

Four components
चार प्रमुख घटक

- Elaborating about the project, the official said the project comprises **four major components** — an **International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP)**, a **joint-user greenfield airport and Naval Air Station**, a **modern township**, and a **power plant**.
  परियोजना के बारे में विस्तार से बताते हुए अधिकारी ने कहा कि इसमें **चार प्रमुख घटक** शामिल हैं — एक **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंटेनर ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाह**, एक **संयुक्त उपयोग वाला ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा एवं नौसैनिक वायु स्टेशन**, एक **आधुनिक टाउनशिप** तथा एक **विद्युत संयंत्र**।
- Together, these projects are expected to transform **Great Nicobar** into a key maritime and economic hub while enhancing India's defence capabilities in the strategically significant

Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

इन सभी परियोजनाओं के संयुक्त प्रभाव से **ग्रेट निकोबार** को एक महत्वपूर्ण समुद्री एवं आर्थिक केंद्र में परिवर्तित करने तथा सामरिक दृष्टि से महत्वपूर्ण **हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र** में भारत की रक्षा क्षमताओं को सुदृढ़ करने की अपेक्षा है।

- Located just **40 km from the Six Degree Channel**, one of the world's busiest sea trade routes connecting the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Malacca Strait**, Great Nicobar occupies a critical position along global shipping lanes.
  सिक्स डिग्री चैनल से मात्र **40 किलोमीटर** की दूरी पर स्थित ग्रेट निकोबार, जो **अदन की खाड़ी** और **मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य** को जोड़ने वाले विश्व के सबसे व्यस्त समुद्री व्यापार मार्गों में से एक है, वैश्विक नौवहन मार्गों पर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है।
- Government officials said the project would reduce India's dependence on foreign transshipment ports and strengthen its ability to monitor and secure vital **Sea Lanes of Communication**.
  सरकारी अधिकारियों ने कहा कि यह परियोजना विदेशी ट्रांसशिपमेंट बंदरगाहों पर भारत की निर्भरता कम करेगी तथा महत्वपूर्ण **समुद्री संचार मार्गों** की निगरानी और सुरक्षा क्षमता को सुदृढ़ करेगी।
- The proposed **greenfield airport**, approved by the **Union Cabinet** and to be operated by the **Indian Navy**, is expected to significantly improve maritime domain awareness, logistics support, and rapid deployment capabilities.
  प्रस्तावित **ग्रीनफील्ड हवाई अड्डा**, जिसे **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त है और जिसका संचालन **भारतीय नौसेना** द्वारा किया जाएगा, समुद्री क्षेत्रीय जागरूकता, रसद सहायता तथा त्वरित तैनाती क्षमताओं में उल्लेखनीय सुधार लाने की अपेक्षा रखता है।
- The airport is also expected to promote tourism, officials said.
  अधिकारियों के अनुसार, यह हवाई अड्डा पर्यटन को भी बढ़ावा देगा।
- It is understood that **five sites**, including **INS Baaz at Campbell Bay**, were assessed before **Galathea Bay** was selected for the airport.
  यह जानकारी मिली है कि हवाई अड्डे के लिए **गैलेथिया खाड़ी** का चयन करने से पहले **कैम्पबेल बे स्थित आईएनएस बाज़** सहित **पाँच स्थलों** का मूल्यांकन किया गया था।
- Technical constraints, limited expansion possibilities, and environmental concerns reportedly made the expansion of **INS Baaz** unviable.
  तकनीकी सीमाएँ, विस्तार की सीमित संभावनाएँ तथा पर्यावरणीय चिंताओं के कारण **आईएनएस बाज़** का विस्तार व्यवहार्य नहीं माना गया।

Extensive studies
व्यापक अध्ययन

- Addressing concerns over environmental impact and tribal rights, officials said the project has undergone extensive environmental assessments involving institutions such as the **Zoological Survey of India**, **Wildlife Institute of India** and the **Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History**.
  पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव और जनजातीय अधिकारों से संबंधित चिंताओं पर प्रतिक्रिया देते हुए अधिकारियों ने कहा कि इस परियोजना का व्यापक पर्यावरणीय मूल्यांकन किया गया है, जिसमें **भारतीय प्राणी सर्वेक्षण**, **भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान** तथा **सलीम अली पक्षिविज्ञान एवं प्राकृतिक इतिहास केंद्र** जैसी संस्थाएँ शामिल थीं।
- Of the island's total area, only **166.1 square kilometres** have been earmarked for development, while more than **81%** will continue to remain under forests, biosphere reserves, national parks and tribal conservation zones.
  द्वीप के कुल क्षेत्रफल में से केवल **166.1 वर्ग किलोमीटर** क्षेत्र विकास के लिए निर्धारित किया गया है, जबकि **81 प्रतिशत से अधिक** क्षेत्र वन, जैवमंडल आरक्षित क्षेत्र, राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और जनजातीय संरक्षण क्षेत्रों के अंतर्गत बना रहेगा।

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- A dedicated conservation package worth **₹2,220 crore** over **30 years** has been planned to protect wildlife, including **leatherback turtles**, **Nicobar megapodes** and **crocodiles**, as well as coral reefs and mangrove ecosystems.
  30 वर्षों की अवधि के लिए **2,220 करोड़ रुपये** का एक विशेष संरक्षण पैकेज तैयार किया गया है, जिसका उद्देश्य **लेदरबैक कछुओं**, **निकोबार मेगापोड**, **मगरमच्छों**, प्रवाल भित्तियों तथा मैंग्रोव पारिस्थितिक तंत्रों का संरक्षण करना है।

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PCS Special:	08 June 2026
08J6	Modi congratulates Major Abhilasha Barak on UN Award मोदी ने मेजर अभिलाषा बराक को संयुक्त राष्ट्र पुरस्कार मिलने पर बधाई दी
08J6	QUIZ

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PCS

Modi congratulates Major Abhilasha Barak on UN Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Major Abhilasha Barak on being conferred the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award and said the honour is a recognition of her exemplary service and also of India's longstanding contribution to the United Nations peacekeeping efforts. Major Barak, currently serving with the United Nations mission in Lebanon, has been honoured with the award for her outreach efforts with women and girls during her deployment in the West Asian nation. She is also the first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army. PTI

08J6. Modi congratulates Major Abhilasha Barak on UN Award

मोदी ने मेजर अभिलाषा बराक को संयुक्त राष्ट्र पुरस्कार मिलने पर बधाई दी

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday congratulated **Major Abhilasha Barak** on being conferred the **UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award** and said the honour is a recognition of her exemplary service and also of India's longstanding contribution to the **United Nations peacekeeping efforts**.

रविवार को प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने **मेजर अभिलाषा बराक** को **यूएन मिलिट्री जेंडर एडवोकेट ऑफ द ईयर अवार्ड** से सम्मानित किए जाने पर बधाई दी और कहा कि यह सम्मान उनकी उत्कृष्ट सेवा तथा **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना प्रयासों** में भारत के दीर्घकालिक योगदान की भी मान्यता है।

- Major Barak, currently serving with the **United Nations mission in Lebanon**, has been honoured with the award for her **outreach efforts** with women and girls during her deployment in the **West Asian nation**.

मेजर बराक, जो वर्तमान में **लेबनान में संयुक्त राष्ट्र मिशन** के साथ सेवा दे रही हैं, को **पश्चिम एशियाई देश** में अपनी तैनाती के दौरान महिलाओं और लड़कियों के साथ किए गए **जनसंपर्क प्रयासों** के लिए इस पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया गया है।

- She is also the **first woman combat helicopter pilot of the Indian Army**.

वह **भारतीय सेना की पहली महिला कॉम्बैट हेलीकॉप्टर पायलट** भी हैं।

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. What was the name of the World Cup before it was changed to the FIFA World Cup Trophy since 1974? **Ans: Jules Rimet trophy**
2. Who scored the first-ever goal in World Cup Football history? **Ans: Lucien Laurent of France**
3. Which country has taken part in all 22 editions of the Football World Cup held so far? **Ans: Brazil**
4. Which country has the dubious distinction of having played the World Cup final the most times yet still to win it on a single occasion? **Ans: Netherlands (3) – 1974, 1978 & 2010**
5. Which country has reached the semi-finals the most times in World Cup history? **Ans: Germany (12 times – played as West Germany before unification)**
Visual: Identify this player who holds a unique record in World Cup history of having played in three consecutive finals? **Ans: Cafu, Brazil (1994-2002)**
Early Birds: Prem Raj P. | Sadhan Panda | Prem Nath Tiwari | Keshav Raturi | Pulkit Sathe

08J6. QUIZ

1. What was the name of the World Cup before it was changed to the FIFA World Cup Trophy since 1974?

Answer: Jules Rimet Trophy

- The original FIFA World Cup trophy was known as the **Jules Rimet Trophy**, named after **Jules Rimet**, the former FIFA President who played a key role in establishing the FIFA World Cup in 1930. Initially called "Victory," it was renamed in his honour in 1946.
- The trophy was awarded from **1930 to 1970**. After **Brazil won the World Cup for the third time in 1970**, it received permanent ownership of the trophy. Consequently, FIFA introduced the **FIFA World Cup Trophy** in **1974**, which continues to be awarded today.

2. Who scored the first-ever goal in World Cup Football history?

- The distinction of scoring the **first goal in FIFA World Cup history** belongs to **Lucien Laurent** of France. He achieved this landmark feat on **13 July 1930** during the inaugural FIFA World Cup held in **Uruguay**.
- Laurent scored against **Mexico** in the match played at **Estadio Pocitos, Montevideo**.
- France eventually won the game 4–1. His goal marked the beginning of World Cup scoring history and secured his place in football folklore as the first-ever World Cup goalscorer.

3. Which country has taken part in all editions of the FIFA World Cup held so far?

Answer: Brazil

- **Brazil** is the only nation to have participated in **every FIFA World Cup tournament** since the competition began in **1930**. As of the latest completed edition (**2022 FIFA World Cup**), Brazil has appeared in all **22 editions** of the tournament.
- The country is also the most successful team in World Cup history, having won the title **five times** (1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, and 2002).

4. Which country has played the World Cup final the most times without ever winning it?

Answer: Netherlands

- The **Netherlands** holds the unfortunate record of reaching the FIFA World Cup final the most times without winning the tournament.
- The Dutch team finished as runners-up on **three occasions** — in **1974**, **1978**, and **2010**. In 1974 they lost to **West Germany**, in 1978 to **Argentina**, and in 2010 to **Spain** after extra time.

5. Which country has reached the semi-finals the most times in World Cup history?

Answer: Germany

- **Germany** holds the record for the highest number of **FIFA World Cup semi-final appearances**.

- Including appearances as **West Germany** before reunification and as unified Germany thereafter, the nation has reached the semi-finals **13 times** (updated after the 2022 World Cup cycle).
- Germany's remarkable consistency has also translated into **four World Cup titles** (1954, 1974, 1990, and 2014) and multiple runner-up finishes.

GS Paper 1: Society	08 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	A targeting in the name of demography जनसांख्यिकी के नाम पर लक्षित कार्रवाई
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A targeting in the name of demography

GS I: Society GS III: Economy

C. Rammanohar Reddy
Writer based in Hyderabad

India is on the cusp of a demographic upheaval. Fertility rates across the country have been falling for decades and are now on or below replacement levels. We will soon have to shift from the challenges of finding jobs for the youth bulge to preparing to care for an ageing population.

You would not think so looking at the Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the High-Level Committee on Demographic Change that the government constituted at the end of May. The ToRs are peppered with the need to address "illegal immigration" and border management. Home Minister Amit Shah said on the social media site X while announcing the formation of the committee that "Illegal infiltration and other reasons leading to Unnatural Demographic Change is a very big challenge for the present and future of any nation." It is no wonder that the committee does not have a single demographer to guide its work. Its chairperson is a retired Supreme Court of India judge; it has a retired IAS officer and a retired IPS officer, the Census Commissioner and an economist.

The infiltration narrative expands

Using strong words about "infiltrators", the Prime Minister had announced the need for such a committee from the ramparts of Red Fort on August 15, 2025. Indeed, this was the culmination of years of building a mythology that undocumented (Muslim) migrants from Bangladesh are swamping the districts on the border, spreading across the country and influencing electoral outcomes. It was way back in 2018 that Amit Shah, then Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President, said that Bangladeshi migrants were termites. The mythology about hordes of immigrants has seeped into the citizen's consciousness and has served well the electoral purposes of the BJP.

It has worked very well in Assam during a couple of election cycles, and it was stunningly effective in West Bengal during the recent elections where the need to deal with "infiltration" was a central feature of the BJP campaign. It is perhaps time now to make it a nation-wide campaign aided by the recommendations of the Demographic Change Committee.

Given how the issue has been highlighted and framed, we can have a fair idea of what the recommendations of this committee will be. It is still important to understand why this has little to do with demographic challenges and is all about moving to the next stage of the "Othering" of India's minorities, especially Muslims.

To begin with, what is the evidence of large-scale undocumented immigration from Bangladesh? It is revealing that the only kind of official evidence we have so far of "demographic change" (i.e., immigration from Bangladesh affecting population size and composition) are observations by the Home Minister of large increases in the population of a few of the border districts. Highlighting such increases without reference to domestic migration or differential fertility behaviour among communities is not proof of undocumented immigration. It is instructive that studies that had been done by official agencies showing evidence of demographic change in the border districts were removed without explanation, according to a report in this daily ("Government proposal in 2024 for a panel on 'demographic challenges' never took off", August 16, 2025). We can only presume that they were deleted because they did not stand scrutiny.

The Demographic Change Committee may become a platform to institutionalise the targeting of minorities

This is not about undocumented migration

For decades there has indeed been cross-border migration between India and Bangladesh across what is an integrated riverine ecology. But given the economic transformation that has taken place in Bangladesh in recent decades, it would be hard to argue for economic distress driving large-scale migration from Bangladesh to India. India's neighbour is no "basket case" as it was derisively described decades ago.

According to World Bank data, Bangladesh's per capita income (in nominal dollar terms) grew faster than India during 2005-23 (10.4% versus 7.70% compound annual growth rate); it now has roughly the same income as India's. In purchasing power parity terms, India's growth is slightly higher. Both countries presently have roughly the same per capita income however measured, and both now have the same levels of human development, according to the UNDP's Human Development Index. But the change in Bangladesh has been much faster. Why then would there be migration to India of a scale that there should be talk of being swamped? There would certainly remain pockets of distress forcing the poor to consider migrating to India and the more skilled to West Asia. But we cannot find economic evidence to suggest waves of Bangladeshis being pushed by distress to migrate to India, ending up affecting jobs and electoral outcomes here.

Of course, all this is not about undocumented migration. All this is really a code for the place of Muslims in India and an acceleration of the social, economic and political discrimination of this community of Indian citizens that has taken place over the past 12 years. And here the government has given a more dangerous diktat to the committee. Item (iv) reads "to analyse structural population changes at the level of religious or social communities, particularly where they deviate from broader trends". This in particular is about the fertility behaviour of Muslims and "where they deviate from broader trends".

For a century now, the Hindutva campaign has whipped up fears of Muslims overtaking Hindus in population.

This is now firmly impregnated in the minds of Hindus of all ages, classes, castes and regions. It is to be found in everyday social conversations, on social media of course, and it is expressed in less than thinly veiled terms during electoral campaigns.

When facts are ignored

It is tiresome to repeat the facts, but one has to, even when confronted by a wall of disinformation and prejudice. Yes, the share of Muslims in India's population has risen from 10% in 1951 to 14% in 2011, at the time of the last Census. Yes, in the past, the Muslim community on a whole has shown a higher fertility than the Hindus and other religious denominations. This has been on account of its poorer economic status, lower education of women and perhaps even religious beliefs. However, fertility among Muslim women has begun falling rapidly, with the result that the gap between Muslims and Hindus has narrowed and will soon disappear. On the desired number of children that women want to have, there is now almost no difference between Hindus and Muslims. So much for Muslims now having more children than Hindus. And to repeat what is well-known, the best example of why religion is not the determinant of fertility behaviour: Muslim women in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir exhibit lower fertility than the Hindu women of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Poverty and education matter more. This is the deviation that needs to be addressed, not fertility behaviour according to religion.

To speak then about Muslim fertility "deviating from broad trends", as one of the ToRs of the committee indicates, is to ignore the facts on the ground and fall back on familiar tropes about the behaviour of this minority, giving official validation of age-old misinformation.

We cannot escape from the realisation that this committee is being asked to recommend steps to target minorities under the cover of checking undocumented migration. After all, we have already become an inhumane society where, according to reliable reports, government agencies have flown Rohingya refugees from Delhi to the Andamans and then pushed them into the sea with life jackets. So when the Demographic Change Committee is asked "to recommend a streamlined and permanent operational mechanism for the legal, fair, and time-bound identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants already residing in the country", there is a chilling similarity between the language of this "permanent operational mechanism" and the "Final Solution" practised in 1940s Europe.

We should not say we have not been forewarned.

08J6.A targeting in the name of demography
जनसांख्यिकी के नाम पर लक्षित कार्रवाई

- It is no wonder that the committee does not have a single **demographer** to guide its work.
  यह आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि समिति के कार्य का मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए उसमें एक भी **जनसांख्यिकी विशेषज्ञ** नहीं है।
- Its chairperson is a retired **Supreme Court of India** judge; it has a retired **IAS officer** and a retired **IPS officer**, the **Census Commissioner** and an **economist**.
  इसके अध्यक्ष **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के एक सेवानिवृत्त न्यायाधीश हैं; समिति में एक सेवानिवृत्त **आईएएस अधिकारी**, एक सेवानिवृत्त **आईपीएस अधिकारी**, **जनगणना आयुक्त** तथा एक **अर्थशास्त्री** शामिल हैं
- According to **World Bank** data, **Bangladesh's per capita income** (in nominal dollar terms) grew faster than **India** during **2005-23** (**10.4%** versus **7.70%** **compound annual growth rate**); it now has roughly the same income as India's.

विश्व बैंक के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **2005-23** के दौरान **बांग्लादेश की प्रति व्यक्ति आय** (सांकेतिक डॉलर के आधार पर) **भारत** की तुलना में अधिक तेज़ी से बढ़ी (**10.4%** बनाम **7.70% चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर**); अब उसकी आय लगभग भारत के समान है।

- In **purchasing power parity** terms, India's growth is slightly higher.
  क्रय शक्ति समता (PPP) के आधार पर भारत की वृद्धि दर थोड़ी अधिक है।
- Both countries presently have roughly the same **per capita income** however measured, and both now have the same levels of **human development**, according to the **UNDP's Human Development Index**.
  मापन की किसी भी पद्धति से देखें, वर्तमान में दोनों देशों की **प्रति व्यक्ति आय** लगभग समान है, और **यूएनडीपी के मानव विकास सूचकांक** के अनुसार दोनों का **मानव विकास** स्तर भी समान है।
- Yes, the share of **Muslims** in **India's population** has risen from **10% in 1951** to **14% in 2011**, at the time of the last **Census**.
  हाँ, अंतिम **जनगणना** के समय **भारत की जनसंख्या** में **मुसलमानों** की हिस्सेदारी **1951 में 10%** से बढ़कर **2011 में 14%** हो गई थी।
- Yes, in the past, the **Muslim community** on a whole has shown a higher **fertility** than the **Hindus** and other religious denominations.
  हाँ, अतीत में समग्र रूप से **मुस्लिम समुदाय** ने **हिंदुओं** तथा अन्य धार्मिक समुदायों की तुलना में अधिक **प्रजनन दर** प्रदर्शित की है।
- However, **fertility among Muslim women** has begun falling rapidly, with the result that the gap between **Muslims and Hindus** has narrowed and will soon disappear.
  हालाँकि, **मुस्लिम महिलाओं में प्रजनन दर** तेजी से घटने लगी है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप **मुसलमानों और हिंदुओं** के बीच का अंतर कम हो गया है और शीघ्र ही समाप्त हो जाएगा।
- On the **desired number of children** that women want to have, there is now almost no difference between **Hindus and Muslims**.
  महिलाएँ जितने **बच्चे चाहती हैं**, उस वांछित संख्या के संदर्भ में अब **हिंदुओं और मुसलमानों** के बीच लगभग कोई अंतर नहीं रह गया है।
- And to repeat what is well-known, the best example of why **religion** is not the determinant of **fertility behaviour**: **Muslim women** in **Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir** exhibit lower fertility than the **Hindu women** of **Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**.
  और यह दोहराना आवश्यक है कि **धर्म प्रजनन व्यवहार** का निर्धारक नहीं है; इसका सर्वोत्तम उदाहरण यह है कि **तमिलनाडु, केरल और जम्मू-कश्मीर** की **मुस्लिम महिलाएँ**, **बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश** की **हिंदू महिलाओं** की तुलना में कम प्रजनन दर प्रदर्शित करती हैं।
- **Poverty** and **education** matter more.
  गरीबी और **शिक्षा** अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कारक हैं।
- So when the **Demographic Change Committee** is asked "to recommend a streamlined and permanent operational mechanism for the legal, fair, and time-bound identification, detention, and deportation of illegal immigrants already residing in the country", there is a chilling similarity between the language of this "permanent operational mechanism" and the "**Final Solution**" practised in **1940s Europe**.
  इसलिए जब **जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तन समिति** से "देश में पहले से रह रहे अवैध प्रवासियों की कानूनी, निष्पक्ष और समयबद्ध पहचान, निरुद्धीकरण तथा निर्वासन हेतु एक सुव्यवस्थित और स्थायी परिचालन तंत्र" की सिफारिश करने को कहा जाता है, तो इस "स्थायी परिचालन तंत्र" की भाषा और **1940 के दशक के यूरोप** में अपनाए गए "**फाइनल सॉल्यूशन**" के बीच एक भयावह समानता दिखाई देती है।

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A movement losing momentum and daughters

Launched by PM Modi in Panipat in 2015, the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign initially delivered strong results. Haryana's Sex Ratio at Birth rose from 838 in 2010 to 923 by 2019, driven by strict raids on pre-natal testing centres, inter-State crackdowns, monthly video conference reviews, and fixed accountability. However, data for the first four months of 2026 show that the number of girl babies born has dipped below 900, sparking fears that the programme is losing focus and momentum, reports **Ashok Kumar**

GS I: Society

At 31, Bijli Devi weighs just 44 kg. Weak and pregnant, she has come to Katlupur sub-centre in Sonipat district for a routine vaccination. The doctor has flagged her pregnancy as high risk. This is her seventh in 12 years. She has six daughters, 2 to 12. "I have little choice," she says. Her husband, an agricultural labourer, and in-laws want a son. She doesn't know what will happen if the seventh is a girl too. Her two oldest daughters have dropped out of school. They now work as farm labourers alongside their father. "We never went for sex-determination," Bijli Devi adds. "We don't have the means." A sex-determination test, illegal in India, costs ₹50,000-60,000 on the black market.

In May this year, a secret sex-determination racket, running in the middle of Gurugram, was busted. At Aayu Hospital in Hari Nagar, a mere 2 kilometres north of Sector 37 police station, along the frenetic arterial stretch of Khandsa Road off the Delhi-Jaipur Highway, sleuths dismantled a syndicate peddling prenatal gender testing. Arrested consultant radiologist Manjit Kumar would allegedly conduct the sex-determination test for ₹40,000.

Here, in the pulsating heart of the Millennium City, directly opposite the cacophonous Sector 10A market, thrived the illicit sex-determination centre. This, more than a decade after the clarion call of "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" (BBBP) echoed from Panipat, more than a thousand surgical raids executed, and upwards of 4,000 miscreants incarcerated.

The bust wasn't just about catching criminals. It exposed a deeper failure: the slow collapse of monitoring and the fading fear of law among offenders. For the enforcement teams, the brazenness of it all was a jolt.

The rupture surfaced against an ominous backdrop: Haryana's Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) has plummeted to 898 girls per 1,000 boys in the first four months of 2026. Only four of the 23 districts – Nuh, Rewari, Sonipat, and Panchkula – breached the 900 mark. At the bottom of the table, Charkhi Dadri recorded 768 girls per 1,000 boys. Since BBBP's inception, annual SRB figures had ascended, cresting at 923 in both 2019 and 2025.

The May raid revealed an uncomfortable truth. Between the gap of slogans and supervision lies the old persistent practice of eliminating female foetuses.

Lost focus and direction

In May, another sex-determination racket at Leelawati Hospital in NIT Faridabad was also busted. The accused, Om Prakash, was not a doctor. A senior secondary pass-out, he ran the centre and used a foetal doppler, a handheld ultrasound tool used to listen to a baby's heartbeat, for sex-determination, fooling desperate parents seeking sons. The hospital sits a stone's throw from the district's Chief Medical Officer's office.

Sex-determination centres running openly in metro cities, along with the SRB slide, signal that a programme which once raised hope of fixing the skewed ratio is losing steam, say those associated with the programme for the past several years, adding that it demands a renewed, sustained crackdown and constant monitoring to restore accountability.

A Food and Drug Administration official who has participated in over 30 raids, including inter-State operations, says the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has lost "focus" and "direction."

> Women often get sex-determination done outside Haryana, then use easily available MTP kits for abortion – even over the counter. When we report cases, no action is taken against the women because proving an illegal abortion is difficult
>
> **SUNITA**
> President, Haryana ASHA Workers' Union

"The two key components of the programme – constant monitoring and the crackdown – are now missing," says the officer, requesting anonymity. He partially links the decline to the change of guard in Haryana and the transfer of then Additional Principal Secretary out of the State. He is now the Additional Secretary in the Union Health Ministry. The programme was personally monitored by then Chief Minister Manohar Lal, who was replaced by the incumbent Nayab Singh Saini before the 2024 Lok Sabha poll.

"The number of raids and FIRs has gone down, and the focus has shifted from action against illegal sex-determination centres to the medical termination of the pregnancies, putting the cart before the horse," he remarks. The previous machinery used raids, FIRs, daily accountability.

From a peak of 271 FIRs in 2016, the crackdown collapsed to just 85 cases in 2023 and 47 in 2024. Though 154 cases surfaced last year, the priority had inverted. For the first time, cases filed under the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994, stood at 37. However, FIRs under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, were by up 117. In 2026, only 28 FIRs have been registered until May.

"The monthly video conferences held with district officers, including Deputy Commissioners, before 2021, have now become a thing of the past, making the officers complacent," he says.

The racket adapts, moves, hides

From its launch in Panipat on January 22, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi until September 2021, the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme in Haryana had one constant – nodal officer Rakesh Gupta.

Every month, he ran video conferences with Deputy Commissioners, Chief Medical Officers, and Food and Drug Administration officials from all districts. Files moved, and so did teams on the ground. As raids intensified, the racket didn't vanish; it migrated. Sex-determination centres cropped up across the border in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, and Uttarakhand. Haryana officials then began holding meetings with bureaucrats and political leadership in neighbouring States, pushing for joint action.

COVID-19 disrupted the rhythm. Despite health officials being diverted to pandemic duty, for three years after the pandemic, the SRB ranged between 914-917, before a dip in 2024.

Formal tip-offs and informal networks fed the raids. Because illegal sex-determination centres must market themselves to find clients, word leaks. Teams used decoys to catch doctors and touts red-handed. But conviction rates stayed low, admit officials, though they do not disclose how low.

The 'market' told its own story. A sex-determination test that cost ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 before the crackdown shot up to ₹1.5 lakh. Demand didn't fall, but supply crashed under monitoring and raids.

Rejecting allegations of policy failure, health officials assert that Haryana's Sex Ratio at Birth has rebounded to 923 in 2025, driven by a renewed "crackdown effect". They concede that post-pandemic complacency from 2019-2024 weakened enforcement, with fewer raids, causing SRB to slip to 910. The 2025 recovery, they argue, reflects revived surveillance.

However, the monthly SRB hovered between 889 and 910 through the first half of 2025. The final three months posted abnormally high ratios, ranging from 930 to 997. The pattern has raised eyebrows among officials and activists alike, casting doubt on whether the "2025 Recovery" reflects genuine improvement or statistical manoeuvring. Critics within the Health Department allege that male births were deliberately underregistered towards December to artificially inflate the annual average.

Responding to *The Hindu*'s query on the late-2025 spike and early-2026 dip in Sex Ratio at Birth, the Haryana Health Department argued that SRB was calculated for the calendar year and monthly fluctuations were routine. "Historically, SRB declines in the summer months and shows an upward trend from September to December," the department stated. It added that total birth registrations increased in 2025 compared to 2024. As per CRS data, 5,16,402 births were registered in 2024, while 2025 recorded 5,19,691 registrations. The department maintained that seasonal variation, not data manipulation, explains the monthly swings in SRB.

It also said that top-level monitoring is ongoing, with weekly video conferences, and review meetings. A State Task Force chaired by Additional Chief Secretary (Health) meets regularly, while District Task Forces led by Deputy Commissioners convene monthly. Their approach was one of "reverse tracking", targeting those resorting to illegal abortions.

The department flagged some key challenges in tackling female foeticide: the misuse of handheld, mobile-sized ultrasound machines; repeat offenders undeterred by legal action; and legal sex detection in countries like Thailand and Singapore, where people go to get sex-determination tests.

The son preference

"The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao mission in Haryana took a back seat towards the end of 2021 and the Swachh Bharat Mission came to the fore," says Manasi Mishra, who heads the Research and Knowledge Management Division at Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Social Research (CSR) that works in the gender space.

CSR had been implementing the Meri Shakti Meri Beti programme since 2007, targeting prenatal sex selection and girl empowerment. After the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme was launched, CSR became the nodal agency for five skewed-SRB districts in Haryana: Gurugram, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Jhajjar, and Mahendragarh. The NGO ran BBBP there until 2021.

Mishra adds that once the sex ratio at birth showed improvement, the government began to relax. "There was no official announcement, but the call of the day was, since this target has been achieved, we should be more focused on the Swachh Bharat Mission and to make the State Open Defecation Free," Mishra says.

Government officials working on BBBP were largely moved to sanitation work, she says. "All of a sudden, this change happened in every district. In the five districts I had been working with, BBBP took a backseat."

Her 25 community watch groups reported rampant sex-selection amid zero monitoring during the pandemic. "They keep sending me messages that during the pandemic, sex selection went on rapidly and there was no check." She warns that northern states like Haryana and Punjab have deep-rooted son preference and without economic upliftment of girls and visible role models, gains will soon be reversed.

"There is no concentrated effort to sustain the achievements of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. It remains a slogan only." Earlier success came from multi-stakeholder work: Panchayat engagement, medical audits with PC-PNDT authorities, and mobilising ASHA and anganwadi workers.

Sunita, president of the CITU-affiliated Haryana ASHA Workers' Union, attributes the post-Covid slowdown in enforcement to "fatigue," frequent top-level transfers, and a disconnect from ground realities. Officers at the helm, she says, lack field insight, and there's little action against violators. ASHAs are tasked with tracking pregnant women whose first child is a daughter.

"These women often get sex-determination done outside Haryana, then use easily available MTP kits for abortion – even over the counter," Sunita explains. "When we report cases, no action is taken against the women because proving an illegal abortion is difficult."

The demoralisation runs deeper. "Many private clinics sealed for illegal sex selection reopen after some time. It de-motivates teams that worked hard to bust them," she says.

At the Katlupur vaccination centre, Meenakshi, 37, has two daughters, both of who were delivered by caesarean sections. Doctors warned her against a third pregnancy. She says there was no pressure from her husband or in-laws. She wanted a son. "My husband is unwell. His elder brother died. I thought a male child should carry forward the family name." Her aunt, she claims, knows people who run illegal sex selection centres. She says she has never tried it.

The son preference remains entrenched. "A family in Nahari village celebrated for 17 days when a boy was born," says Sunita. In September last, the ASHA Workers' Union ran a month-long inquiry across Haryana to understand why female foeticide persists. "We didn't find a single family that opted for family planning after their first child was a girl. But many stopped after a boy. The mindset has not changed," Sunita says. "Everyone still wants a son."

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Bijli Devi, 31, is pregnant with her seventh child, and has come for a vaccination at Katlupur health sub-centre in Haryana's Sonipat. Her family hopes she will have a son. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

08J6. A movement losing momentum and daughters
गति और बेटियों दोनों को खोता एक आंदोलन

- Launched by **PM Modi** in **Panipat** in 2015, the **Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao** campaign initially delivered strong results.
  2015 में **प्रधानमंत्री मोदी** द्वारा **पानीपत** में शुरू किया गया **बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ** अभियान प्रारंभिक दौर में मजबूत परिणाम देने में सफल रहा।
- **Haryana's Sex Ratio at Birth** rose from **838** in 2010 to **923** by 2019, driven by strict raids on pre-natal testing centres, inter-State crackdowns, monthly video conference reviews, and fixed accountability.
  हरियाणा का जन्म के समय लिंगानुपात 2010 में **838** से बढ़कर 2019 तक **923** हो गया, जिसका श्रेय प्रसवपूर्व जांच केन्द्रों पर सख्त छापों, अंतर-राज्यीय कार्रवाई, मासिक वीडियो कॉन्फ्रेंस समीक्षा और निश्चित जवाबदेही को जाता है।

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- However, data for the first four months of **2026** show that the number of girl babies born has dipped below **900**, sparking fears that the programme is losing focus and momentum, reports **Ashok Kumar**.
  हालाँकि, **2026** के पहले चार महीनों के आंकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि जन्मी बच्चियों की संख्या **900** से नीचे चली गई है, जिससे यह आशंका पैदा हुई है कि यह कार्यक्रम अपना फोकस और गति खो रहा है, जैसा कि **अशोक कुमार** की रिपोर्ट में बताया गया है।
- A **sex-determination test**, illegal in India, costs **₹50,000-60,000** on the black market.
  भारत में अवैध **लिंग निर्धारण परीक्षण** की काला बाज़ार में कीमत **₹50,000-60,000** होती है।

GS Paper 1: Geography	08 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	Missed call चूकी हुई चेतावनी

GS I: Geography

Missed call

India must brace itself for a deficient southwest monsoon

The southwest monsoon reached Kerala on June 4, three days past its normal date and four days behind the India Meteorological Department's own forecast. This is the first time since 2015 that the agency has misjudged the onset beyond its margin of error. A late arrival, in itself, is no calamity. The date on which the rains touch the Kerala coast has little statistical bearing on how much falls over the four months that follow. Many times in the past, the monsoon has begun early and failed, and also begun late and recovered. It is what the monsoon has in store over the next four months that is unsettling. The India Meteorological Department has pegged seasonal rainfall at 90% of the long-period average, with a 60% probability of an outright deficient year – its most pessimistic pre-season call in a decade. Only the northeast is expected to see normal rain; the northwest, central India, the peninsula and the monsoon core zone that waters most of the country's rain-fed farmland are all forecast to fall short. As monsoon watchers have often cautioned, it is the distribution – the sudden long dry spells, sown crops that then face the danger of being unwatered – that matters. Every monsoon is consequential for India. This one is exceptionally so, because it arrives atop an input crisis. The West Asia conflict and the disruption at the Strait of Hormuz earlier this year throttled energy supply and fertilizer production.

History offers little comfort. Around 60% of El Niño years since 1951 have brought deficient or below-normal rains; 2002, 2009 were the severest droughts of the century with significant shortfalls in 2014 and 2015. With El Niño now near-certain through the heart of the season, the government must not count on a late, redeeming swing of the Indian Ocean Dipole. That means activating the Agriculture Ministry, Jal Shakti and Consumer Affairs Ministries on a war footing along with the disaster management authorities, with advisories steering farmers toward short-duration pulses, oilseeds and millets over thirsty paddy. Disciplined groundwater and reservoir management are necessary and crop insurance and relief provisioning must be readied. India will also have to brave more days of severe heat, which a parched landscape will only sharpen. The government as recently as last week claimed to deliver a record *kharif* production. While hoping for the best, it must prepare for the worst. A weak monsoon would fall on a farm economy whose nutrients and fuel are both already scarce and dear.

08J6. Missed call
चूकी हुई चेतावनी

- India must brace itself for a **deficient southwest monsoon**.

भारत को **कमज़ोर दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून** का सामना करने के लिए स्वयं को तैयार करना चाहिए।

- Only the **northeast** is expected to see normal rain; the **northwest**, **central India**, the **peninsula** and the **monsoon core zone** that waters most of the country's rain-fed farmland are all forecast to fall short.

केवल **पूर्वोत्तर भारत** में सामान्य वर्षा होने की संभावना है, जबकि **उत्तर-पश्चिम**, **मध्य भारत**, **प्रायद्वीपीय क्षेत्र** तथा देश के अधिकांश वर्षा-आधारित कृषि क्षेत्रों को सिंचित करने वाला **मानसून कोर ज़ोन** सभी में वर्षा सामान्य से कम रहने का अनुमान है।

- With **El Niño** now near-certain through the heart of the season, the government must not count on a late, redeeming swing of the **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**.

चूँकि इस मौसम के मुख्य भाग में **एल नीनो** की स्थिति लगभग निश्चित है, इसलिए सरकार को **हिन्द महासागर द्विध्रुव (IOD)** के देर से अनुकूल होने की संभावना पर निर्भर नहीं रहना चाहिए।

- That means activating the **Agriculture Ministry**, **Jal Shakti Ministry** and **Consumer Affairs Ministry** on a war footing along with the disaster management authorities.

इसका अर्थ है कि **कृषि मंत्रालय**, **जल शक्ति मंत्रालय**, **उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्रालय** तथा आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरणों को युद्धस्तर पर सक्रिय किया जाए।

- Disciplined **groundwater** and **reservoir management** are necessary and **crop insurance** and relief provisioning must be readied.

सुव्यवस्थित **भूजल** एवं **जलाशय प्रबंधन** आवश्यक है तथा **फसल बीमा** और राहत प्रावधानों को भी तैयार रखा जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper II: Polity	08 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	The Ordinance question before the SC उच्चतम न्यायालय के समक्ष अध्यादेश का प्रश्न

The Ordinance question before the SC

The Collegium's acceptance of an Ordinance that creates four additional judges' posts raises questions about judicial independence, security of tenure and the appearance of detachment from the executive; court has taken a calculated risk by staking its independence on the goodwill of the government and Parliament

GS II: Polity

LETTER & SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

In February 1937, the President of the United States of America, Franklin D. Roosevelt, asked Congress to enlarge the nine-judge Supreme Court. He sought a new justice for each one past 70 who refused to retire, up to 15 in all. The Senate Judiciary Committee saw through it. It preferred "an independent Court, a fearless Court," to one that bent "out of fear or sense of obligation to the appointing power." The Senate refused, with 70 members voting against and 20 in favour, and the plan was dead.

In Delhi last week, five judges took the oath; three occupy chairs, that no statute has created. They sit because the President, by Ordinance, lifted the sanctioned strength from 34 to 38.

Ordinance-made seats

The five are fit for office: four sat as Chief Justices of High Courts, the fifth came from the bar. Their elevation is not the grievance; the manner of it is. The Ordinance was promulgated on May 16, when the Court sat at 32 against a sanctioned 34. Two lawful vacancies existed; two of Tuesday's appointments filled them. The other three rest on the Ordinance alone.

Article 124(1) leaves the number of judges to what Parliament may prescribe. An Article 123 Ordinance carries, for its life, the force of an Act. Independence of the judiciary is a basic feature of the Constitution. It is also about whether the court holds its seats free of obligation to the political branch. A court that owes three chairs to a six-week renewable Ordinance holds them at the executive's sufferance.

A test of principle

In 2015, a Constitution Bench decided *Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India*. It struck down the 99th Amendment and the National Judicial Appointments Commission. Parliament had passed it 367 to nil in the Lok Sabha, with the States ratifying. The commission was to have six members: the Chief Justice, the two senior-most judges after him, the Union Law Minister, and two eminent persons. The eminent persons were to be chosen by a panel of the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice, and the Leader of the Opposition. That composition was meant to keep the choice neutral. Yet the Act provided that any two members could veto a name. The court feared that the Law Minister and even one eminent person could thus block a candidate the judges favoured. It held that this destroyed the judiciary's primacy in its own appointments.

Yet the Supreme Court Collegium has accepted an Ordinance that seats three of its own, despite the uncertainty over its fate. Under Article 123, the President may withdraw an Ordinance at any time. Both Houses may disapprove it by resolution. Otherwise, it ceases to operate six weeks after Parliament reassembles.

The court itself taught the country to distrust the Ordinance. In *D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar* (1986), it called governance by repromulgated ordinance a fraud on the Constitution. In *Krishna Kumar Singh vs State of Bihar* (2017), a seven-judge Bench ruled against using ordinance-making power as a parallel source of legislation.

If the Bill replaces the Ordinance, the anomaly closes. If not, the apex court's strength reverts to 34, and the executive cannot bridge the gap by repromulgation, the fraud Wadhwa condemned. Whether a judge appointed to an Ordinance-created post can be removed once that post lapses is untested. Their judgments hold under the de facto doctrine, affirmed in *Gokaraju Rangaraju vs State of Andhra Pradesh* (1981). The subtler harm is to appearance: in any matter touching the Union, the government whose majority must regularise their seats may appear before them. A judge whose tenure lies, even loosely, in one party's gift cannot wear the detachment the office demands.

GETTY IMAGES

C.J Surya Kant administers the oath of office to Justice V. Mohana as a judge of the Supreme Court, in New Delhi on June 2. She is only the second woman to be elevated directly from the Bar to the court. PTI

The calculated risk

The court sits at 37; the 38th and last sanctioned post is empty, the calendar suggests why. Justice Pankaj Mithal retires on June 16 and Justice J.K. Maheshwari on June 28. Their retirements reopen two lawful seats, into which two of the three Ordinance judges move. A judge in the 38th post would be the junior-most. Its occupant would reach a lawful seat only at Justice Satish Chandra Sharma's retirement on November 29, months after the Ordinance expires. Leaving it empty spares the court a judge stranded that long.

That leaves Justice V. Mohana, alone of the five from the bar and so junior-most, on an Ordinance post. She can reach a lawful seat only when Justice Sanjay Karol retires on August 22. Here, the Collegium seems to have taken a calculated risk. Justice Karol's retirement all but coincides with the Ordinance's likely lapse, six weeks into the monsoon session. The replacing law should thus arrive first, and even a short delay is caught by his vacancy, which absorbs her. Her position turns precarious only if the Ordinance is rejected or lapses before August 22. Then the strength reverts to 34, the court still sits at 35, and she holds a post that the law no longer recognises. That a judge of the highest court should depend on which reading prevails, and on when Parliament meets, is the disquiet.

The five are fit for office: four sat as Chief Justices of High Courts, the fifth came from the bar

Larger question

The wager will likely be won; the government has the numbers, and the Opposition will not unsettle freshly sworn judges. But that is not the point. The court has staked its independence and its judges' security of tenure on the goodwill of the executive and Parliament.

The U.S. Senate's warning of 1937 was against a court bound by obligation to the appointing power. The graver danger is a court that no longer notices the obligation. Independence of the judiciary is not only the right to say no to the executive. It is the instinct to want to.

(V. Venkatesan is Contributing Editor at Supreme Court Observer. Views expressed are personal)

THE GIST

- Five judges were sworn in to the Supreme Court after the sanctioned strength was raised from 34 to 38 through a Presidential Ordinance; while two appointments filled existing vacancies, three were made to newly created posts.
- The Supreme Court has previously held in cases such as *D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar* and *Krishna Kumar Singh vs State of Bihar* that ordinance-making power cannot become a parallel source of legislation and that repeated promulgation of ordinances is unconstitutional.
- If Parliament does not replace the Ordinance with a law, the court's sanctioned strength would revert to 34, raising unresolved questions about the status of judges appointed to Ordinance-created posts and the legal implications of such appointments.

08J6. The Ordinance question before the SC
उच्चतम न्यायालय के समक्ष अध्यादेश का प्रश्न

- The **Collegium's acceptance** of an **Ordinance** that creates four additional **judges' posts** raises questions about **judicial independence**, **security of tenure** and the appearance of **detachment from the executive**; the court has taken a calculated risk by staking its independence on the **goodwill of the government and Parliament**.
  चार अतिरिक्त **न्यायाधीशों के पदों** के सृजन वाले एक **अध्यादेश** को **कोलेजियम द्वारा स्वीकार किए जाने** से **न्यायिक स्वतंत्रता**, **पद की सुरक्षा** तथा **कार्यपालिका से पृथकता की प्रतीति** को लेकर प्रश्न उत्पन्न होते हैं;

न्यायालय ने अपनी स्वतंत्रता को **सरकार और संसद की सद्भावना** पर आधारित करके एक सोचा-समझा जोखिम उठाया है।

- The **Senate** refused, with **70 members voting against** and **20 in favour**, and the plan was dead.
  सीनेट ने इस प्रस्ताव को अस्वीकार कर दिया; **70 सदस्यों ने विरोध में** और **20 ने समर्थन में** मतदान किया, जिसके साथ ही यह योजना समाप्त हो गई।
- **Article 124(1)** leaves the number of judges to what **Parliament** may prescribe.
  अनुच्छेद 124(1) न्यायाधीशों की संख्या निर्धारित करने का अधिकार **संसद** को देता है।
- An **Article 123 Ordinance** carries, for its life, the force of an Act.
  अनुच्छेद 123 के अंतर्गत जारी **अध्यादेश** अपनी वैधता की अवधि तक कानून के समान प्रभाव रखता है।
- A court that owes three chairs to a **six-week renewable Ordinance** holds them at the executive's sufferance.
  ऐसा न्यायालय जिसके तीन पद **छह सप्ताह के लिए नवीकरणीय अध्यादेश** पर आधारित हों, वे पद वस्तुतः कार्यपालिका की इच्छा पर निर्भर माने जा सकते हैं।

A test of principle
सिद्धांत की परीक्षा

- In **2015**, a **Constitution Bench** decided **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association vs Union of India**.
  2015 में एक **संविधान पीठ** ने **सुप्रीम कोर्ट एडवोकेट्स-ऑन-रिकॉर्ड एसोसिएशन बनाम भारत संघ** मामले का निर्णय दिया।
- It struck down the **99th Constitutional Amendment** and the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)**.
  इसने **99वें संविधान संशोधन** तथा **राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग (NJAC)** को निरस्त कर दिया।
- **Parliament** had passed it **367 to nil** in the **Lok Sabha**, with the States ratifying it.
  लोकसभा में इसे **367 मतों से बिना किसी विरोध के** पारित किया गया था और राज्यों ने भी इसका अनुमोदन किया था।
- The commission was to have **six members**: the **Chief Justice of India**, the **two senior-most judges** after him, the **Union Law Minister**, and **two eminent persons**.
  इस आयोग में **छह सदस्य** होने थे: **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश**, उनके बाद के **दो वरिष्ठतम न्यायाधीश**, **केंद्रीय विधि मंत्री** तथा **दो प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति**।
- The eminent persons were to be chosen by a panel of the **Prime Minister**, the **Chief Justice**, and the **Leader of the Opposition**.
  इन प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तियों का चयन **प्रधानमंत्री**, **मुख्य न्यायाधीश** तथा **विपक्ष के नेता** की समिति द्वारा किया जाना था।
- That composition was meant to keep the choice neutral.
  इस संरचना का उद्देश्य चयन प्रक्रिया को निष्पक्ष बनाए रखना था।
- Yet the Act provided that **any two members could veto a name**.
  फिर भी अधिनियम में यह प्रावधान था कि **कोई भी दो सदस्य किसी नाम को वीटो कर सकते थे**।
- The court feared that the **Law Minister** and even **one eminent person** could thus block a candidate the judges favoured.
  न्यायालय को आशंका थी कि **विधि मंत्री** और **एक प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्ति** मिलकर उस उम्मीदवार को रोक सकते हैं जिसे न्यायाधीश समर्थन देना चाहते हों।
- It held that this destroyed the judiciary's **primacy in its own appointments**.
  न्यायालय ने माना कि इससे न्यायपालिका की **अपनी नियुक्तियों में प्रधानता** समाप्त हो जाती है।
- Yet the **Supreme Court Collegium** has accepted an **Ordinance** that seats three of its own, despite the uncertainty over its fate.

फिर भी **सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम** ने ऐसे **अध्यादेश** को स्वीकार किया है जिसके आधार पर उसके तीन सदस्य नियुक्त हुए हैं, जबकि उसके भविष्य को लेकर अनिश्चितता बनी हुई है।

- Under **Article 123**, the **President** may withdraw an Ordinance at any time.
  अनुच्छेद 123 के अंतर्गत **राष्ट्रपति** किसी भी समय अध्यादेश को वापस ले सकते हैं।
- Both Houses may disapprove it by resolution.
  संसद के दोनों सदन प्रस्ताव पारित कर उसे अस्वीकार कर सकते हैं।
- Otherwise, it ceases to operate **six weeks after Parliament reassembles**.
  अन्यथा, संसद के पुनः सत्रारंभ होने के **छह सप्ताह बाद** अध्यादेश स्वतः समाप्त हो जाता है।
- In **D.C. Wadhwa vs State of Bihar (1986)**, it called governance by **repromulgated ordinances** a **fraud on the Constitution**.
  डी.सी. वाधवा बनाम बिहार राज्य (1986) मामले में न्यायालय ने बार-बार पुनः जारी किए गए अध्यादेशों के माध्यम से शासन को **संविधान के साथ छल** बताया था।
- In **Krishna Kumar Singh vs State of Bihar (2017)**, a **seven-judge Bench** ruled against using **ordinance-making power** as a parallel source of legislation.
  कृष्ण कुमार सिंह बनाम बिहार राज्य (2017) में **सात न्यायाधीशों की पीठ** ने अध्यादेश निर्माण शक्ति को समानांतर विधायी स्रोत के रूप में उपयोग करने के विरुद्ध निर्णय दिया था।
- Whether a judge appointed to an **Ordinance-created post** can be removed once that post lapses is untested.
  यह प्रश्न अभी तक अनुत्तरित है कि **अध्यादेश द्वारा सृजित पद** पर नियुक्त न्यायाधीश को उस पद की समाप्ति के बाद हटाया जा सकता है या नहीं।
- Justice Karol's retirement all but coincides with the Ordinance's likely lapse, six weeks into the **monsoon session**.
  न्यायमूर्ति करोल की सेवानिवृत्ति लगभग उसी समय होती है जब **मानसून सत्र** शुरू होने के छह सप्ताह बाद अध्यादेश के समाप्त होने की संभावना है।
- Her position turns precarious only if the Ordinance is rejected or lapses before **August 22**.
  उनकी स्थिति केवल तभी संकटपूर्ण होगी जब **22 अगस्त** से पहले अध्यादेश अस्वीकृत हो जाए या समाप्त हो जाए।

GS Paper II: Governance	**08 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	**'Detailed NFHS report will provide a broader picture'** **'विस्तृत एनएफएचएस रिपोर्ट एक व्यापक तस्वीर प्रदान करेगी'**
08J6	**How ICMR is rewiring the health ecosystem** **आईसीएमआर किस प्रकार स्वास्थ्य पारितंत्र को पुनर्संरचित कर रहा है**
08J6	**India's pension scheme lags in terms of coverage, contribution** **कवरेज और अंशदान के मामले में भारत की पेंशन योजना पीछे है**
08J6	**The retirement trap India is walking into unprepared** **भारत जिस सेवानिवृत्ति जाल में बिना तैयारी के प्रवेश कर रहा है**

'Detailed NFHS report will provide a broader picture'

GS II: Governance

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Union Health Ministry sources addressed criticism directed at "missing" indicators, such as anaemia, sanitation, and coverage of clean cooking fuel, in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 factsheets saying those are being monitored through dedicated national surveys and administrative databases, and were not "duplicated" in the preliminary release.

Responding to "commentary in sections of the media regarding the absence of certain indicators", official sources said the factsheets represent the first stage of dissemination and cover 101 major indicators intended to provide a concise snapshot of India's most critical health and demographic trends.

"The factsheets are the first stage of dissemination. The detailed national report will provide a much broader picture," sources said. The report will be released subsequently with a much wider range of indicators, detailed analyses and methodological documentation.

"The aim is to ensure that each indicator is reported through the most appropriate and authoritative source, reducing duplication and improving overall data coherence," sources said. They said several indicators cited as "missing" from the factsheets are being monitored through dedicated national systems. Sanitation and clean cooking fuel coverage, for instance, are tracked through specialised surveys and administrative platforms such as Swachh Survekshan Grameen and the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry's surveys, making duplication within the factsheets unnecessary, they said.

Key statistics relating to mortality, birth registration and population characteristics continue to be generated through systems such as the Sample Registration System, Civil Registration System and Census framework.

On the absence of anaemia estimates in the factsheets, they said that haemoglobin testing was not undertaken in NFHS-6 due to concerns surrounding the capillary blood sampling methodology used in previous rounds.

08J6. 'Detailed NFHS report will provide a broader picture'

'विस्तृत एनएफएचएस रिपोर्ट एक व्यापक तस्वीर प्रदान करेगी'

- **Union Health Ministry** sources addressed criticism directed at "missing" indicators, such as **anaemia, sanitation, and coverage of clean cooking fuel**, in the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 factsheets** saying those are being monitored through dedicated national surveys and administrative databases, and were not "duplicated" in the preliminary release.

केंद्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय के सूत्रों ने **राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण (एनएफएचएस)-6 फैक्टशीट्स** में **एनीमिया, स्वच्छता और स्वच्छ खाना पकाने के ईंधन की कवरेज** जैसे "गायब" संकेतकों को लेकर की गई आलोचना का जवाब देते हुए कहा कि इनकी निगरानी समर्पित राष्ट्रीय सर्वेक्षणों और प्रशासनिक डेटाबेसों के माध्यम से की जा रही है, और प्रारंभिक रिलीज़ में इन्हें "दोहराया" नहीं गया था।

- Responding to "commentary in sections of the media regarding the absence of certain indicators", official sources said the factsheets represent the first stage of dissemination and cover **101 major indicators** intended to provide a concise snapshot of India's most critical **health and demographic trends**.

"कुछ संकेतकों की अनुपस्थिति को लेकर मीडिया के कुछ वर्गों में की गई टिप्पणियों" के जवाब में आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा कि ये फैक्टशीट्स प्रसार के पहले चरण का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं और **101 प्रमुख संकेतकों** को शामिल करती हैं, जिनका उद्देश्य भारत के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण **स्वास्थ्य और जनसांख्यिकीय रुझानों** की संक्षिप्त झलक प्रदान करना है।

- **Sanitation** and **clean cooking fuel coverage**, for instance, are tracked through specialised surveys and administrative platforms such as **Swachh Survekshan Grameen** and the **Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry's surveys**, making duplication within the factsheets unnecessary, they said.

उन्होंने कहा कि उदाहरण के लिए **स्वच्छता** और **स्वच्छ खाना पकाने के ईंधन की कवरेज** का आकलन **स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षण ग्रामीण** तथा **सांख्यिकी और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के सर्वेक्षणों** जैसे विशेषीकृत सर्वेक्षणों और प्रशासनिक प्लेटफॉर्मों के माध्यम से किया जाता है, जिससे फैक्टशीट्स में इनकी पुनरावृत्ति अनावश्यक हो जाती है।

- Key statistics relating to **mortality, birth registration and population characteristics** continue to be generated through systems such as the **Sample Registration System, Civil Registration System and Census framework**.

मृत्यु दर, जन्म पंजीकरण और जनसंख्या की विशेषताओं से संबंधित प्रमुख आँकड़े **नमूना पंजीकरण प्रणाली, नागरिक पंजीकरण प्रणाली और जनगणना ढाँचे** जैसी प्रणालियों के माध्यम से तैयार किए जाते रहेंगे।

- On the absence of **anaemia estimates** in the factsheets, they said that **haemoglobin testing** was not undertaken in **NFHS-6** due to concerns surrounding the **capillary blood sampling methodology** used in previous rounds.
फैक्टशीट्स में **एनीमिया के आकलनों** की अनुपस्थिति पर उन्होंने कहा कि **एनएफएचएस-6** में **हीमोग्लोबिन परीक्षण** नहीं किया गया, क्योंकि पिछले दौरों में उपयोग की गई **केशिकीय रक्त नमूना पद्धति** को लेकर चिंताएँ थीं।

How ICMR is rewiring the health ecosystem

GS II: Governance

As the nation advances toward the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the question is not only about how to treat disease, but how one builds a health system that is anticipatory, equitable, and innovation-driven. At the heart of this transformation lies a reimagined approach to health, one that connects data to decisions and decisions to impact.

Building on the hard-earned lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India's apex body for biomedical research, has undertaken a series of forward-looking reforms. These reforms range from reimagining its institutional architecture to strengthening the way research is funded and translated into impact. This shift reflects a deliberate move towards integrated, institute-led research aligned with national priorities, where science is designed not just to generate knowledge, but to solve pressing public health challenges.

A strategic reorientation

A cornerstone of this transformation is the restructuring of the ICMR's institutional architecture. Recent reforms have expanded the mandates of several institutes, repositioning them as interdisciplinary hubs rather than narrowly defined entities. The evolution of institutes toward domains such as digital health and data science, child health, and women's health reflect the changing contours of India's disease burden and technological capabilities. Another important step is the creation of a network of regional National Institutes of Health Research across the country, from Dibrugarh in the Northeast to Jodhpur in the west. These institutes will conduct operational research with State and district health systems to ensure that relevant research is conducted and the output is used on the ground. These changes signal a strategic reorientation toward future-ready science, where AI, genomics, and real-time data systems are integral to public health decision-making.

Rajiv Bahl

Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Director-General, Indian Council of Medical Research

The roadmap to 2047 will be shaped by advances in digital health, bio-manufacturing, and sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on capacity building and global collaboration

Equally important is the shift from compartmentalised functioning to a connected national research ecosystem. Institutes are now envisioned as resource centres that contribute to a shared national mission, ensuring that evidence generated in one setting informs action across the country. This systems-level thinking is critical in an era where health challenges, be it antimicrobial resistance, pandemics, or non-communicable diseases, are complex and interconnected. Similarly, the research funding ecosystem is also going through a redesign.

This integrated continuum marks a decisive shift from funding projects to enabling solutions. It is further reinforced by the National Health Research Programme (NHRP), which has identified 13 priority areas ranging from antimicrobial resistance and tuberculosis to mental health, nutrition, and emergency care.

Technology, too, is playing a transformative role. The integration of AI into diagnostics, surveillance, and program implementation is helping bridge longstanding gaps between urban and rural healthcare. AI-enabled tools for tuberculosis and diabetic retinopathy screening are already supporting frontline health workers, while innovations such as AI-driven nutritional monitoring are improving program delivery at scale. The i-Drone initiative, which began with vaccine delivery and has expanded to transport critical medical supplies, exemplifies how cutting-edge technology can overcome geographic barriers and bring care closer to communities. At the frontier of science, advances across the medtech gamut, from medical devices and diagnostics to next-generation vaccines and therapeutics, are enabling more targeted, patient-centric interventions. In parallel, the integration of traditional knowledge systems through innovative, evidence-based models is gaining global recognition. Schemes such as First in the World Challenge complemented with platforms such as MedTechMitra and the Medical Innovations-Patent Mitra initiative are accelerating the journey from research to commercialisation, ensuring that publicly funded science translates into affordable, accessible technologies for the people.

Towards universal access

The true measure of these reforms, however, lies in their impact on public health. Initiatives such as the India Hypertension Control Initiative have demonstrated how evidence-based strategies can transform chronic disease management at scale. Mission-mode programmes in emergency care, including mobile stroke units and rapid cardiac response systems, are redefining outcomes in life-threatening conditions. Expanded diagnostic networks and indigenous technologies are strengthening early detection and treatment across diseases ranging from cancer to infectious outbreaks. These efforts are closely aligned with the National Health Policy 2017, which emphasises preventive and promotive healthcare, universal access, and quality of care.

As we look to the future, the vision is clear. The ICMR will continue to serve as a catalyst, bringing together researchers, clinicians, policymakers, and the industry to build a resilient health ecosystem. The roadmap to 2047 will be shaped by advances in digital health, bio-manufacturing, and sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on capacity building and global collaboration. The transformation underway within the ICMR is an invitation to all stakeholders to participate in this journey and to ensure that science serves society in the most meaningful way.

08J6. How ICMR is rewiring the health ecosystem
आईसीएमआर किस प्रकार स्वास्थ्य पारितंत्र को पुनर्संरचित कर रहा है

- As the nation advances toward the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**, the question is not only about how to treat disease, but how one builds a health system that is **anticipatory, equitable, and innovation-driven**.
  जैसे-जैसे राष्ट्र **विकसित भारत 2047** के दृष्टिकोण की ओर अग्रसर हो रहा है, प्रश्न केवल रोगों के उपचार का नहीं है, बल्कि ऐसे स्वास्थ्य तंत्र के निर्माण का है जो **पूर्वानुमान आधारित, समतामूलक और नवाचार-प्रेरित** हो।
- Building on the hard-earned lessons of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, India's apex body for biomedical research, has undertaken a series of forward-looking reforms.
  कोविड-19 महामारी से प्राप्त महत्वपूर्ण अनुभवों के आधार पर, जैव-चिकित्सीय अनुसंधान की भारत की सर्वोच्च संस्था **भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR)** ने अनेक दूरदर्शी सुधारों की शुरुआत की है।
- This shift reflects a deliberate move towards **integrated, institute-led research** aligned with national priorities, where science is designed not just to generate knowledge, but to solve pressing public health challenges.
  यह परिवर्तन राष्ट्रीय प्राथमिकताओं के अनुरूप **एकीकृत एवं संस्थान-नेतृत्व वाले अनुसंधान** की दिशा में एक सुनियोजित कदम को दर्शाता है, जहाँ विज्ञान का उद्देश्य केवल ज्ञान उत्पन्न करना नहीं, बल्कि सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य की गंभीर चुनौतियों का समाधान करना भी है।

A strategic reorientation
एक रणनीतिक पुनर्संरेखन

- Recent reforms have expanded the mandates of several institutes, repositioning them as **interdisciplinary hubs** rather than narrowly defined entities.
  हाल के सुधारों ने कई संस्थानों के कार्यक्षेत्र का विस्तार किया है, जिससे वे सीमित परिभाषित इकाइयों के बजाय **बहुविषयक केंद्रों** के रूप में विकसित हो रहे हैं।
- The evolution of institutes toward domains such as **digital health and data science, child health, and women's health** reflect the changing contours of India's disease burden and technological capabilities.
  डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य एवं डेटा विज्ञान, बाल स्वास्थ्य तथा महिला स्वास्थ्य जैसे क्षेत्रों की ओर संस्थानों का विकास भारत में बदलते रोग-भार और तकनीकी क्षमताओं को दर्शाता है।
- Another important step is the creation of a network of regional **National Institutes of Health Research** across the country, from **Dibrugarh** in the Northeast to **Jodhpur** in the west.
  एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण कदम देशभर में क्षेत्रीय **राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान संस्थानों** के नेटवर्क की स्थापना है, जो पूर्वोत्तर के **डिब्रूगढ़** से लेकर पश्चिम के **जोधपुर** तक फैला होगा।
- These changes signal a strategic reorientation toward **future-ready science**, where **AI, genomics, and real-time data systems** are integral to public health decision-making.
  ये परिवर्तन **भविष्य के लिए तैयार विज्ञान** की दिशा में रणनीतिक पुनर्संरेखन का संकेत देते हैं, जहाँ **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI), जीनोमिक्स और वास्तविक समय डेटा प्रणालियाँ** सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य निर्णयों का अभिन्न हिस्सा होंगी।
- It is further reinforced by the **National Health Research Programme (NHRP)**, which has identified **13 priority areas** ranging from **antimicrobial resistance and tuberculosis** to **mental health, nutrition, and emergency care**.
  इसे **राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान कार्यक्रम (NHRP)** द्वारा और अधिक सुदृढ़ किया गया है, जिसने **13 प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों** की पहचान की है, जिनमें **रोगाणुरोधी प्रतिरोध और तपेदिक** से लेकर **मानसिक स्वास्थ्य, पोषण और आपातकालीन चिकित्सा देखभाल** तक के विषय शामिल हैं।

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Towards universal access
सार्वभौमिक पहुँच की ओर

- **AI-enabled tools** for **tuberculosis** and **diabetic retinopathy screening** are already supporting frontline health workers, while innovations such as **AI-driven nutritional monitoring** are improving program delivery at scale.
  तपेदिक (टीबी) और **डायबिटिक रेटिनोपैथी जांच** के लिए **एआई-सक्षम उपकरण** पहले से ही अग्रिम पंक्ति के स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों की सहायता कर रहे हैं, जबकि **एआई-आधारित पोषण निगरानी** जैसी नवाचार तकनीकें बड़े स्तर पर कार्यक्रमों के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन को बेहतर बना रही हैं।
- The **i-Drone initiative**, which began with vaccine delivery and has expanded to transport critical medical supplies, exemplifies how cutting-edge technology can overcome geographic barriers and bring care closer to communities.
  आई-ड्रोन पहल, जिसकी शुरुआत वैक्सीन वितरण से हुई थी और जो अब महत्वपूर्ण चिकित्सा सामग्रियों के परिवहन तक विस्तारित हो चुकी है, यह दर्शाती है कि अत्याधुनिक तकनीक किस प्रकार भौगोलिक बाधाओं को पार कर स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को समुदायों के अधिक निकट ला सकती है।
- At the frontier of science, advances across the **medtech gamut**, from **medical devices and diagnostics** to **next-generation vaccines and therapeutics**, are enabling more targeted, patient-centric interventions.
  विज्ञान के अग्रिम क्षेत्र में **चिकित्सा प्रौद्योगिकी (मेडटेक)** के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में हुई प्रगति, **चिकित्सीय उपकरणों और निदान प्रणालियों** से लेकर **अगली पीढ़ी के टीकों और उपचारों** तक, अधिक लक्षित और रोगी-केंद्रित हस्तक्षेपों को संभव बना रही है।
- In parallel, the integration of **traditional knowledge systems** through innovative, evidence-based models is gaining global recognition.
  साथ ही, नवाचारी एवं साक्ष्य-आधारित मॉडलों के माध्यम से **पारंपरिक ज्ञान प्रणालियों** का एकीकरण वैश्विक स्तर पर मान्यता प्राप्त कर रहा है।
- Schemes such as **First in the World Challenge** complemented with platforms such as **MedTechMitra** and the **Medical Innovations-Patent Mitra initiative** are accelerating the journey from research to commercialisation, ensuring that publicly funded science translates into affordable, accessible technologies for the people.
  फर्स्ट इन द वर्ल्ड चैलेंज, **मेडटेकमित्र** तथा **मेडिकल इनोवेशंस-पेटेंट मित्र पहल** जैसे मंच अनुसंधान से व्यावसायीकरण तक की प्रक्रिया को तेज़ कर रहे हैं, जिससे यह सुनिश्चित हो रहा है कि सार्वजनिक धन से संचालित विज्ञान लोगों के लिए किफायती और सुलभ तकनीकों में परिवर्तित हो।

Towards universal access
सार्वभौमिक पहुँच की ओर

- The true measure of these reforms, however, lies in their impact on **public health**.
  हालाँकि, इन सुधारों का वास्तविक मूल्यांकन **सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य** पर उनके प्रभाव से होगा।
- Initiatives such as the **India Hypertension Control Initiative** have demonstrated how evidence-based strategies can transform chronic disease management at scale.
  इंडिया हाइपरटेंशन कंट्रोल इनिशिएटिव जैसी पहलों ने यह प्रदर्शित किया है कि साक्ष्य-आधारित रणनीतियाँ बड़े स्तर पर दीर्घकालिक रोग प्रबंधन को किस प्रकार परिवर्तित कर सकती हैं।
- These efforts are closely aligned with the **National Health Policy 2017**, which emphasises **preventive and promotive healthcare**, **universal access**, and **quality of care**.
  ये प्रयास **राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य नीति 2017** के अनुरूप हैं, जो **निवारक एवं प्रोत्साहक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं**, **सार्वभौमिक पहुँच** तथा **गुणवत्तापूर्ण स्वास्थ्य देखभाल** पर बल देती है।
- As we look to the future, the vision is clear.
  भविष्य की ओर देखते हुए दृष्टि स्पष्ट है।

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- The roadmap to **2047** will be shaped by advances in **digital health, bio-manufacturing, and sustainable development**, with a strong emphasis on **capacity building** and **global collaboration**.
  2047 तक की रूपरेखा **डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य, जैव-विनिर्माण तथा सतत विकास** में प्रगति द्वारा निर्धारित होगी, जिसमें **क्षमता निर्माण** और **वैश्विक सहयोग** पर विशेष बल दिया जाएगा।

India's pension scheme lags in terms of coverage, contribution

The Centre's contribution to India's flagship pension scheme has remained the same while the add-on contributions by State governments have increased

GS II: Governance: Government Scheme

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

The Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) – the Government of India's flagship cash assistance scheme for the elderly under its National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) – is in dire need of a revamp as it remains frozen in time, since 2007, both in terms of the sum of ₹200 it offers per person per month and the roughly 2.2 crore beneficiaries it covers. The States and Union Territories (UTs) add their own contributions, ranging from ₹150 to ₹2,000, on top of the ₹200 offered by the Union government for the 60-plus age group or the ₹500 it offers for the 80-plus category.

Chart 1 shows how the Union government's contribution for this centrally-sponsored scheme has remained the same while the add-on contributions by State governments have increased between 2012 and 2023. States such as Telangana and Andhra Pradesh contribute the largest sums – of around ₹2,000. Many others do not bring as much to the table. Chhattisgarh offers ₹150, taking the total pension to ₹350, while West Bengal offers a total of ₹250. Goa and Manipur do not provide any additional amount.

The call for increasing the quantum of assistance, number of beneficiaries and linking the assistance with inflation, as it is done for the payment of Dearness Allowance to government employees, has been made at least since 2013, when the task force constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) first made such recommendations. The latest official recommendations came from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Lok Sabha in 2025 and the report released in May 2026 based on an independent evaluation of the NSAP commissioned by MoRD. The evaluation report said that the real value of the assistance fixed at ₹200 has "significantly eroded due to inflation, and that the amount should be increased to ₹353 to retain its original purchasing power".

An analysis by *The Hindu* based on the changes in the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) (base year 2012) at the all-India level showed that since 2013, the value of ₹200 has eroded to just around ₹99. This means that beneficiaries can buy only half the quantity of food items they could earlier buy with ₹200. Conversely, they should be receiving a minimum of around ₹400 to be able to afford even the small quantity of items they could buy with ₹200 in 2013 **(Chart 2)**.

Notably, the survey findings in the latest report highlighted that over 95% of the beneficiaries cited increase in prices as the main reason for their demand to increase the pension amount. More than 80% of them stated that the current pension amount does not cover their daily needs **(Chart 5)**.

The task force's report in 2013, the PAC's 2025 report and the recent MoRD report have all recommended an increase in coverage, stating that the Union government was relying on outdated BPL data to fix ceilings on the number of beneficiaries. The MoRD report estimated that the IGNOAPS beneficiaries should be nearly 17 crore at present and about 20 crore by 2030, which is 10-fold higher than the present coverage of 2.2 crore people. **Chart 3** shows how the number of beneficiaries have remained stagnant when compared with the projected growth of the elderly population.

The report also surveyed 6,000 beneficiaries across 600 Gram Panchayats across 10 sample States. In nine out of these 10 States, less than 10% of respondents thought that the scheme was "fully adequate", with a majority stating that it was only "somewhat adequate" or not adequate at all **(Chart 4)**.

With inputs from Pon Vasanth R. A.

Old and unsupported

The data for the charts were sourced from the Lok Sabha replies, the Ministry of Rural Development's report titled "Impact Assement and Evaluation of NSAP", and the Minstry of Statistics and Program Implementation

CHART 1: The monthly pension offered by all States, barring few Union Territories, under the centrally-sponsored Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) as of 2023

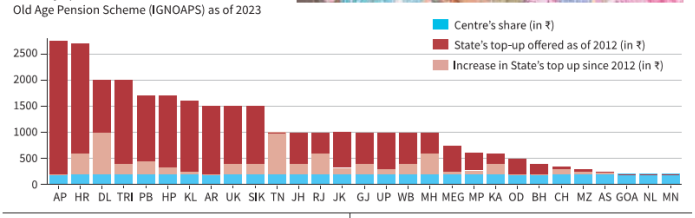


CHART 2: The erosion of the value of ₹200 as per changes in the Consumer Food Price Index (base year 2012) and the minimum assistance that ought to be paid to match that value

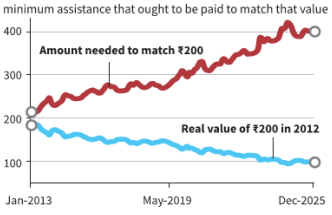


CHART 3: Number of beneficiaries who have remained fairly constant over the years when compared to the projected growth in the elderly population (in crore)

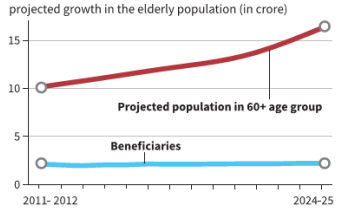


CHART 4: The response of surveyed beneficiaries in nine States and Jammu and Kashmir for a study commissioned by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) on the adequacy of assistance under IGNOAPS

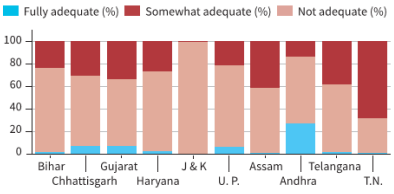
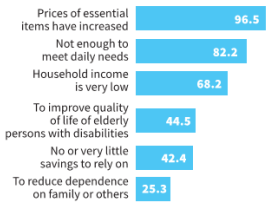


CHART 5: The reasons cited by respondents (%) of the MoRD study for the need to increase IGNOAPS assistance



08J6. India's pension scheme lags in terms of coverage, contribution
कवरेज और अंशदान के मामले में भारत की पेंशन योजना पीछे है

- The **Centre's contribution** to India's **flagship pension scheme** has remained the same while the **add-on contributions** by **State governments** have increased.
  भारत की **प्रमुख पेंशन योजना** में **केंद्र सरकार का अंशदान** समान बना हुआ है, जबकि **राज्य सरकारों** द्वारा दिए जाने वाले **अतिरिक्त अंशदान** में वृद्धि हुई है।

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Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)

इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय वृद्धावस्था पेंशन योजना (IGNOAPS)

- The **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)** — the Government of India's flagship **cash assistance scheme** for the elderly under its **National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)** — is in dire need of a revamp as it remains frozen in time, since **2007**, both in terms of the sum of **₹200 per person per month** and the roughly **2.2 crore beneficiaries** it covers.
  इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय वृद्धावस्था पेंशन योजना (IGNOAPS) — जो **राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सहायता कार्यक्रम (NSAP)** के अंतर्गत वृद्धजनों के लिए भारत सरकार की प्रमुख **नकद सहायता योजना** है — में व्यापक सुधार की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि **2007** से इसमें न तो **₹200 प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति माह** की सहायता राशि बढ़ाई गई है और न ही लगभग **2.2 करोड़ लाभार्थियों** की संख्या में परिवर्तन हुआ है।
- The **States and Union Territories (UTs)** add their own contributions, ranging from **₹150 to ₹2,000**, on top of the ₹200 offered by the Union government for the **60-plus age group** or the ₹500 it offers for the **80-plus category**.
  राज्य और केंद्रशासित प्रदेश (UTs) अपनी ओर से **₹150 से ₹2,000** तक का अतिरिक्त योगदान देते हैं, जो केंद्र सरकार द्वारा **60 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वर्ग** के लिए दी जाने वाली **₹200** तथा **80 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वर्ग** के लिए दी जाने वाली **₹500** की राशि के अतिरिक्त होता है।
- **Chart 1** shows how the Union government's contribution for this **centrally-sponsored scheme** has remained the same while the add-on contributions by State governments have increased between **2012 and 2023**.
  चार्ट 1 दर्शाता है कि इस **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजना** में केंद्र सरकार का योगदान स्थिर बना रहा, जबकि **2012 से 2023** के बीच राज्यों का अतिरिक्त योगदान बढ़ा है।
- The call for increasing the **quantum of assistance**, **number of beneficiaries** and linking the assistance with **inflation**, as it is done for the payment of **Dearness Allowance (DA)** to government employees, has been made at least since **2013**, when the task force constituted by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** first made such recommendations.
  सहायता राशि, **लाभार्थियों की संख्या** बढ़ाने तथा सहायता को **मुद्रास्फीति** से जोड़ने की मांग कम-से-कम **2013** से की जा रही है, जब **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय (MoRD)** द्वारा गठित कार्यबल ने पहली बार ऐसी सिफारिशें की थीं। यह व्यवस्था सरकारी कर्मचारियों के **महंगाई भत्ते (DA)** की तरह होनी चाहिए।
- The evaluation report said that the real value of the assistance fixed at **₹200** has "significantly eroded due to inflation, and that the amount should be increased to **₹353** to retain its original purchasing power".
  मूल्यांकन रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि **₹200** की सहायता राशि का वास्तविक मूल्य "मुद्रास्फीति के कारण काफी घट गया है और इसकी मूल क्रय शक्ति बनाए रखने के लिए इसे **₹353** किया जाना चाहिए।"
- An analysis by **The Hindu** based on the changes in the **Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)** (base year **2012**) at the all-India level showed that since **2013**, the value of **₹200** has eroded to just around **₹99**.
  उपभोक्ता खाद्य मूल्य सूचकांक (CFPI) (आधार वर्ष **2012**) में हुए परिवर्तनों पर आधारित **द हिंदू** के विश्लेषण से पता चला कि **2013** के बाद **₹200** का वास्तविक मूल्य घटकर लगभग **₹99** रह गया है।

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The retirement trap India is walking into unprepared

India is entering a phase where ageing, healthcare, personal finance will become deeply interconnected public issues; retirement can no longer be limited to tax-saving instruments

GS II: Governance

TWILIGHT ZONE

Vishwajeet Goel

India is growing older, at a pace most households are financially unprepared for. As per the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), almost one of five Indians will be over the age of 60 by 2050. The elderly population in India is likely to rise from about 15 crore today to more than 34 crore over the next three decades. At the same time, healthcare costs continue to rise sharply, while inflation steadily chips away at household savings.

Yet, retirement planning in India still largely operates on assumptions built for another era.

We are living longer

Better healthcare access, improved sanitation, rising incomes and medical advancements have helped Indians live longer than previous generations.

But the longer people live, the more years they must fund without a regular income. For most people retirement calculations are based on current spends than future costs.

A family spending ₹75,000/month today may believe a few crores will comfortably sustain retirement. But inflation changes the picture dramatically. Even with moderate inflation, everyday expenses can multiply several times over two or three decades. The impact becomes even sharper in healthcare.

> In recent years, medical inflation in India has stayed at 12-14%, much higher than the overall inflation. Treatment can now cost a chunk of retirement savings.

> Even with moderate inflation, everyday expenses can multiply several times over two or three decades. The impact becomes even sharper in healthcare.

This is why retirement planning can no longer rely on traditional savings instruments. India needs stronger pension participation and long-term retirement-focused investing habits. Instruments such as the National Pension System (NPS) encourage sustained retirement planning via regulated and relatively low-cost structure. Its flexibility across equity, government securities and debt allocation allows investors to gradually align risk with age and retirement goals. More importantly, NPS addresses the absence of a structured pension culture outside of government employment.

In recent years, medical inflation in India has stayed between 12-14%, significantly higher than overall inflation. Treatment can now use a huge chunk of retirement savings.

India is witnessing a rapid rise in chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiac disorders which are long-duration illnesses requiring continuous medication, diagnostics, follow-up care and, in many cases, repeated hospitalisation.

While earlier generations often associated retirement with reduced spending, modern retirees may experience the opposite. Healthcare, assisted living, home care support, diagnostics and medicines can become recurring monthly expenses changing the role of health insurance in household financial planning. Health cover today is increasingly becoming central to retirement protection. Without adequate coverage, even disciplined long-term savings can erode quickly after a major medical event.

Starting early

The advantage of starting early in instruments such as NPS is the ability to build a retirement corpus gradually over decades while benefiting from compounding and professional fund management. For younger earners especially, time is the biggest asset. Small but consistent contributions made early can potentially create significantly larger retirement outcomes compared with delayed investing later.

Traditional retirement strategies are not able to keep pace with realities.

Fixed deposits, long considered the safest retirement instrument, often fail to generate inflation-beating post-tax returns over long periods. Realty is illiquid and does not always provide reliable rental income. Pension cover in India is also limited.

At the same time, Indian society is changing. Urbanisation, migration, nuclear families and changing career patterns mean many retirees may no longer have the same family- support structures similar to earlier generations. Financial independence during retirement is an economic and a social necessity.

Starting early allows compounding to work over decades rather than years.

But retirement planning cannot be reduced to chasing market returns or accumulating the largest corpus. The larger objective is sustainability. People need savings that can survive inflation, market cycles and rising healthcare costs over long retirement periods.

India is entering a phase where ageing, healthcare, and personal finance will become deeply interconnected public issues. It's retirement conversation can no longer remain limited to tax-saving investments or fixed deposits.

The challenge is, how does a country prepare millions of people to financially sustain lives becoming longer, more expensive and medically more demanding? This would define the future of retirement planning in India.

(The writer is Head, Pensionbazaar)

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08J6. The retirement trap India is walking into unprepared
भारत जिस सेवानिवृत्ति जाल में बिना तैयारी के प्रवेश कर रहा है

- As per the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, almost one of five Indians will be over the age of 60 by 2050.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र जनसंख्या कोष (UNFPA) के अनुसार, वर्ष 2050 तक लगभग हर पाँच में से एक भारतीय की आयु 60 वर्ष से अधिक होगी।
- The elderly population in India is likely to rise from about **15 crore** today to more than **34 crore** over the next three decades.
  भारत में वृद्ध जनसंख्या वर्तमान लगभग **15 करोड़** से बढ़कर अगले तीन दशकों में **34 करोड़** से अधिक होने की संभावना है।
- Instruments such as the **National Pension System (NPS)** encourage sustained retirement planning via regulated and relatively low-cost structure.
  राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली (NPS) जैसे साधन विनियमित और अपेक्षाकृत कम लागत वाली संरचना के माध्यम से दीर्घकालिक सेवानिवृत्ति योजना को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।
- Its flexibility across **equity, government securities and debt allocation** allows investors to gradually align risk with age and retirement goals.
  इक्विटी, सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों और ऋण आवंटन में इसकी लचीलापन निवेशकों को उम्र और सेवानिवृत्ति लक्ष्यों के अनुसार जोखिम को धीरे-धीरे समायोजित करने की अनुमति देता है।
- India is witnessing a rapid rise in chronic conditions such as **diabetes, hypertension and cardiac disorders** which are long-duration illnesses requiring continuous medication, diagnostics, follow-up care and, in many cases, repeated hospitalisation.
  भारत में **मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप और हृदय संबंधी विकारों** जैसी दीर्घकालिक बीमारियों में तेजी से वृद्धि हो रही है, जिनके लिए निरंतर दवा, जांच, अनुवर्ती देखभाल और कई मामलों में बार-बार अस्पताल में भर्ती होने की आवश्यकता होती है।

GS Paper II: International Relations	08 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	Not seeking mediation on border: Nepal FM सीमा विवाद पर मध्यस्थता नहीं चाहते: नेपाल के विदेश मंत्री
08J6	Bolivian Congress gives Paz power to use troops against crippling protests बोलीवियाई संसद ने पाज़ को व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शनों से निपटने के लिए सेना के उपयोग की शक्ति दी
08J6	Weighing ties with Russia and West, conflicted, cornered Armenia votes रूस और पश्चिम के बीच संबंधों को तौलते हुए, दुविधाग्रस्त और दबावग्रस्त आर्मेनिया मतदान कर रहा है

Not seeking mediation on border: Nepal FM

Claim to the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura trijunction is Kathmandu's focus, says Khanal

New 'political reality' in Nepal seeks to avoid 'old baggage' in ties with India, says Foreign Minister

To solve disputes through diplomacy; in contact with U.K. over documents not mediation: Khanal

GS II: IR

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Kathmandu is focused on establishing Nepal's claim on the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura trijunction and is not "asking for mediation" by third parties, Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal said here on Sunday.

At a press conference at the Embassy of Nepal, Mr. Khanal said he represented a "completely new political reality in Nepal" that was determined to deliver "uncompromising good governance". The new government of Prime Minister Balendra Shah was not in favour of tying Nepal-India relations down to "old baggage", he added.

"We want to solve our disputes through diplomatic processes. We just want to see if we can access some of the documents that might be in libraries or museums in the U.K. Our position was not that we were asking for mediation," Mr. Khanal said, elaborating on Mr. Shah's remarks that Nepal was in contact with China and the U.K. on the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura dispute with India.

Shah's statement

"The problems that existed when British India left the region still persist, so we believe Britain also has a role to play in this matter," Mr. Shah had said in Nepal's Parliament, stirring debates.

India's Ministry of External Affairs had issued a rebuttal, reiterating that India and Nepal had established a bilateral mechanism for discussing the dispute, and there was no scope for third-party intervention.

As the new generation of rulers, the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) refuses to "look at India through the distorted, hypersensitive lens of 20th century geopolitics", Mr. Khanal said. "Instead, the RSP wants to shift the entire vocabulary of Nepal-India relations away from geopolitical friction and square it firmly on development diplomacy," he added.

Field trip: Nepal's Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal visits the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

After a gap of a few years, the border issue between the two sides began simmering again when India on April 30 announced the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra for 2026, scheduled to be conducted in 20 batches of 50 pilgrims each.

The Ministry of External Affairs announced that the pilgrimage would be conducted "in coordination with the Government of the People's Republic of China" through the Lipulekh pass that is claimed by Nepal, and the Nathu La pass in Sikkim.

This announcement attracted a protest from Nepal, which communicated its objection to both India and China.

"We have expressed our position through an official diplomatic note to both India and China. We have clearly said to both countries that the land [Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura] belongs to us. That's been our historical claim," Mr. Khanal said in response to questions.

'More visits soon'

He said his visit to India had restarted the track of high-level interaction from the two sides, and more such visits would take place from Nepal's side soon with Finance Minister Swarnim Wagle expected to visit Delhi "very soon".

Mr. Khanal had held a formal meeting with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday, when the two sides officially announced the operationalisation of peer-to-peer (P2P) cross-border payment transactions under a memorandum of understanding between Nepal Clearing House Ltd. and the National Payments Corporation of India, he said, which would enable digital and financial connectivity between the two sides.

The Nepal Prime Minister was focused on the "domestic front" as he was keen to show "early results" because of the "strong mandate" that the RSP had received in the May election, Mr. Khanal said, refusing to provide a "timeline" for Mr. Shah's visit to India.

The RSP led by Mr. Shah came to power after defeating the well-established, formerly dominant political players, including the Nepali Congress and the Maoist parties (Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist-Leninist, or CPN-UML, and CPN-Maoist Centre).

Mr. Shah's rise to prime ministership took place against the backdrop of the "Gen Z uprising" in Nepal that overthrew the government of K.P. Sharma Oli after Mr. Oli launched a crackdown on Nepal's digital ecosystem in the first week of September 2025.

To a question on the fate of the report of the Eminent Persons Group set up over a decade ago to provide guidelines to India-Nepal bilateral ties, Mr. Khanal said, "The EPG was commissioned by an agreement of the two Prime Ministers, and the report can only be submitted to two Prime Ministers."

08J6. Not seeking mediation on border: Nepal FM
सीमा विवाद पर मध्यस्थता नहीं चाहते: नेपाल के विदेश मंत्री

- **Claim to the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura trijunction is Kathmandu's focus, says Khanal**

  कालापानी-लिपुलेख-लिम्पियाधुरा त्रि-जंक्शन पर दावा काठमांडू का मुख्य फोकस है, खानाल ने कहा।

- "We want to solve our disputes through diplomatic processes. We just want to see if we can access some of the documents that might be in libraries or museums in the **U.K.** Our position was not that we were asking for mediation," Mr. Khanal said, elaborating on Mr. Shah's remarks that Nepal was in contact with **China** and the **U.K.** on the Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura dispute with India.

  "हम अपने विवादों को कूटनीतिक प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से सुलझाना चाहते हैं। हम केवल यह देखना चाहते हैं कि क्या हमें कुछ ऐसे दस्तावेज़ मिल सकते हैं जो **ब्रिटेन** के पुस्तकालयों या संग्रहालयों में हो सकते हैं। हमारा रुख यह नहीं था कि हम मध्यस्थता की मांग कर रहे थे," श्री खानाल ने कहा और भारत के साथ कालापानी-लिपुलेख-लिम्पियाधुरा विवाद पर नेपाल के **चीन** और **ब्रिटेन** के संपर्क में होने संबंधी श्री शाह की टिप्पणी को स्पष्ट किया।

- The **Ministry of External Affairs** announced that the pilgrimage would be conducted "in coordination with the Government of the **People's Republic of China**" through the **Lipulekh pass** that is claimed by Nepal, and the **Nathu La pass** in Sikkim.

  विदेश मंत्रालय ने घोषणा की कि यह यात्रा "**जनवादी गणराज्य चीन** की सरकार के समन्वय से" नेपाल द्वारा दावा किए गए **लिपुलेख दर्रे** तथा सिक्किम के **नाथू ला दर्रे** के माध्यम से आयोजित की जाएगी।

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Bolivian Congress gives Paz power to use troops against crippling protests

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse

LA PAZ

Bolivia's legislature gave the green light on Sunday for President Rodrigo Paz to use the military to clear roadblocks that have crippled key cities for weeks.

A month of heated demonstrations calling for the centre-right Paz to step down have paralysed the Andean nation, with blockades causing severe food and medicine shortages.

Endless lines at the pump have also led many to sleep in the vehicles to not lose their place.

A Bill relaxing the country's strict rules surrounding states of emergency passed the lower chamber following 15 hours of overnight debate, the body's President, Roberto Castro, announced.

Fireworks and tear gas explode together as police officers try to clear a highway during a protest in San Julian, Bolivia. REUTERS

Having already passed the Senate, it heads to Mr. Paz's desk for signature.

The new law comes a day after dozens of riot police backed by military vehicles fired tear gas as they attempted to clear a road in the town of San Julian.

The town is in the Santa Cruz region – an agricultural breadbasket supplying food to the country's western areas.

Protesters threw stones and burned tires to try to halt the police's advance.

Mr. Paz on Sunday wrote on X that that the capital La Paz and second city El Alto are "still facing difficult times, but concrete progress is also beginning to be made".

The U.S.-backed, pro-business Paz took office in November promising to resolve the country's worst economic crisis in decades, but his unpopular economic reforms and failure to respond to social demands have roused public ire.

The new rules would allow troops to use force against protesters, and grants them a "presumption of legality" in situations of conflict.

08J6. Bolivian Congress gives Paz power to use troops against crippling protests

बोलीवियाई संसद ने पाज़ को व्यापक विरोध प्रदर्शनों से निपटने के लिए सेना के उपयोग की शक्ति दी

- **Bolivia's legislature** gave the green light on Sunday for President **Rodrigo Paz** to use the military to clear roadblocks that have crippled key cities for weeks.
  रविवार को **बोलीविया की संसद** ने राष्ट्रपति **रोड्रिगो पाज़** को उन सड़क अवरोधों को हटाने के लिए सेना का उपयोग करने की अनुमति दे दी, जिन्होंने कई सप्ताहों से प्रमुख शहरों को ठप कर रखा है।
- A month of heated demonstrations calling for the **centre-right Paz** to step down have paralysed the **Andean nation**, with blockades causing severe food and medicine shortages.
  मध्य-दक्षिणपंथी पाज़ के इस्तीफे की मांग को लेकर एक महीने से चल रहे तीव्र प्रदर्शनों ने **एंडियन राष्ट्र** को पंगु बना दिया है, जबकि नाकेबंदी के कारण भोजन और दवाओं की गंभीर कमी हो गई है।
- The town is in the **Santa Cruz region** — an agricultural breadbasket supplying food to the country's western areas.
  यह नगर **सांता क्रूज़ क्षेत्र** में स्थित है, जो देश के पश्चिमी इलाकों को खाद्य आपूर्ति करने वाला प्रमुख कृषि क्षेत्र है।

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Weighing ties with Russia and West, conflicted, cornered Armenia votes

With mounting pressure from Russia against Armenia joining European Union and a vocally pro-Russian Opposition, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his ruling Civil Contract party, which advocates balanced ties with U.S., Europe and Moscow, are seeking a strong mandate in parliamentary polls

GS II: IR

Associated Press
YEREVAN

Armenians will vote Sunday in parliamentary elections as the incumbent government, under mounting Russian pressure, seeks to loosen ties with Moscow and deepen cooperation with the West.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his ruling Civil Contract party are looking for a strong mandate for a new geopolitical course. The Opposition they face includes some parties that are vocally pro-Russian.

Russian officials have hit Armenian exports with a barrage of restrictions in recent weeks, while high-ranking officials, including President Vladimir Putin, have made thinly veiled threats comparing Armenia's path to that already taken by Ukraine.

Armenian investigators said they issued six arrest warrants for members of the Opposition Strong Armenia party the day before the vote, accusing them of buying votes. The nation's Central Election Committee confirmed Saturday that the party could run after a member of another Opposition party, Republic, appealed for Strong Armenia to be barred over corruption allegations.

Armenia's Parliament, the National Assembly, must consist of at least 101 members who are elected for five-year terms. Parties must win at least 4% of the vote to take a seat, while blocs made up of three or more parties must hit 8%.

Two political blocs and 17 parties are taking part in Sunday's election. Most pollsters and experts have predicted Mr. Pashinyan, who came to power in 2018 following sweeping street protests, will come out ahead.

Making a choice: A woman casts her ballot at a polling station in Yerevan during Armenia's parliamentary election on Sunday. AP

Balanced foreign policy

"I think Armenians expect, first of all, a peaceful, independent and prosperous Armenia from this election, as we have today," said Hripsime Grigoryan, a Civil Contract member of the outgoing Parliament.

Mr. Pashinyan has spoken on several occasions about the need for a balanced foreign policy ensuring Armenia maintains good relations with the United States, Europe and Russia, as well as regional powers such as Turkey and Iran. Despite this, he has attracted far more enthusiasm in the West than in Moscow. He has been endorsed by several European leaders, as well as U.S. President Donald Trump.

"Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, of Armenia, a great friend and Leader, is making his Country strong, wealthy, and very secure," Mr. Trump wrote on social media, urging Armenians to "Make (Armenia) Great Again."

This has displeased the Kremlin. Speaking to journalists after Russia's Victory Day parade on May 9, Mr. Putin said if the Armenian people saw benefits in joining the European Union then "we will certainly have nothing to say against it." Yet he also reminded reporters, "We are currently living through everything that is happening in respect of Ukraine. And how did it start? It started with Ukraine's joining or attempting to join the EU."

Unlike the Civil Contract party, most of Armenia's Opposition supports building stronger relations with Moscow.

The Strong Armenia party seeks to develop business ties with Russia and has accused Mr. Pashinyan of attempting to start a war with Moscow. Party leader Samvel Karapetyan is on trial for allegedly advocating for the government's overthrow, which the Armenian-Russian billionaire has rejected as a politically motivated case. He has coordinated the party's campaign while under house arrest, aided by his nephew Narek Karapetyan.

Other potential contenders include former President Robert Kocharyan, who leads the Hayastan bloc and has accused Mr. Pashinyan of "seriously undermining" relations with Russia, and the Prosperous Armenia Party led by pro-Russian business owner Gagik Tsarukyan. These parties also have strongly criticised Mr. Pashinyan for attempting to normalise relations with neighbouring Azerbaijan. The Armenian leader and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev initialed a document on moving toward a peace deal at the White House alongside U.S. President Donald Trump in August.

The two countries were locked in a decades-long conflict over the fate of Karabakh, a breakaway region that had been controlled for decades by ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia. Azerbaijan took control of the entire Karabakh region during a rapid offensive in 2023.

"I want this government to change because the condition of our country is getting worse," Sahakyan Elina, a supporter of the Prosperous Armenia Party, told *AP* at a rally Thursday. "I don't want to live with my enemies in unity."

'Economic coercion'

Russian officials have slapped new restrictions on Armenian produce in the run-up to the parliamentary vote, banning the import of Armenian flowers, certain types of cognac and wine, eggplants, potatoes, dried fruits, fish and more. Russia says the bans are related to violations of agricultural import rules.

The European Commission on Thursday described the move as "nothing short of economic coercion." "By extending export restrictions on Armenian products, Moscow is weaponising economic relations for political pressure. We know this playbook all too well," the Commission said.

Moscow also controls a significant portion of Armenia's energy and infrastructure and supplies it with cheap gas, which is a point that Mr. Putin has been quick to drive home in his meetings with Mr. Pashinyan.

Mr. Putin also has stressed that Armenia cannot join the EU and remain within the Eurasian Economic Union, a Russian-led customs bloc. "Being in a customs union with the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union is impossible," Mr. Putin said. "It's simply impossible by definition."

08J6. Weighing ties with Russia and West, conflicted, cornered Armenia votes रूस और पश्चिम के बीच संबंधों को तौलते हुए, दुविधाग्रस्त और दबावग्रस्त आर्मेनिया मतदान कर रहा है

- With mounting pressure from **Russia** against Armenia joining the European **Union** and a vocally pro-Russian Opposition, Prime Minister **Nikol Pashinyan** and his ruling **Civil Contract** party, which advocates balanced ties with **U.S., Europe and Moscow**, are seeking a strong mandate in parliamentary polls.
  यूरोपीय संघ में शामिल होने के खिलाफ **रूस** के बढ़ते दबाव और मुखर रूस-समर्थक विपक्ष के बीच, प्रधानमंत्री **निकोल पशिनयान** और उनकी सत्तारूढ़ **सिविल कॉन्ट्रैक्ट** पार्टी, जो **अमेरिका, यूरोप और मॉस्को** के साथ संतुलित संबंधों की पक्षधर है, संसदीय चुनावों में मजबूत जनादेश की तलाश कर रही है।
- Armenians will vote Sunday in parliamentary elections as the incumbent government, under mounting Russian pressure, seeks to loosen ties with Moscow and deepen cooperation with the West.
  रविवार को आर्मेनियाई नागरिक संसदीय चुनावों में मतदान करेंगे, जबकि मौजूदा सरकार बढ़ते रूसी दबाव के बीच मॉस्को के साथ संबंधों को कमज़ोर करने और पश्चिम के साथ सहयोग को गहरा करने का प्रयास कर रही है।
- Mr. Pashinyan has spoken on several occasions about the need for a balanced foreign policy ensuring Armenia maintains good relations with the **United States, Europe and Russia**, as

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well as regional powers such as **Turkey and Iran**.

श्री पशिनयान कई अवसरों पर संतुलित विदेश नीति की आवश्यकता पर जोर दे चुके हैं ताकि आर्मेनिया **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, यूरोप और रूस** के साथ-साथ क्षेत्रीय शक्तियों **तुर्किये और ईरान** के साथ भी अच्छे संबंध बनाए रख सके।

- Mr. Putin also has stressed that Armenia cannot join the **EU** and remain within the **Eurasian Economic Union**, a Russian-led customs bloc.

  श्री पुतिन ने यह भी जोर दिया है कि आर्मेनिया **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** में शामिल होने के साथ-साथ रूस-नेतृत्व वाले **यूरेशियन आर्थिक संघ** का सदस्य नहीं रह सकता।
- "Being in a customs union with the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union is impossible," Mr. Putin said.

  श्री पुतिन ने कहा, "यूरोपीय संघ और यूरेशियन आर्थिक संघ दोनों के साथ एक ही सीमा शुल्क संघ में रहना असंभव है।"

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GS III: Economy

Testing times

GDP data reveal some strengths, but they will come under strain

The GDP growth data released on Friday simultaneously portray recent economic strength and reveal some reasons for worry. The provisional estimates of GDP growth for 2025-26 have been pegged at 7.7%, which is marginally higher than the 7.6% predicted by the government in February. This suggests that March, the first full month since the West Asia crisis erupted, did not see enough of an impact to affect the full year's growth. That resilience will be dented in the months ahead. The data also showed that several key sectors of the economy, such as manufacturing and several services sectors, grew by double digits over and above a relatively high base. These are all good signs for an economy heading into severe supply-related headwinds due to the war in Iran. Notably, both Private Final Consumption Expenditure and Gross Fixed Capital Formation – metrics of household consumption and government and private sector investment activity, respectively – grew faster in 2025-26 than they did in the previous year. The consumption growth is especially welcome given that it had been at a tepid 5.8% for the previous two years. It remains to be seen how much of the investment growth was driven by the private sector. Even if this growth was driven by government spending, it has positive knock-on effects on the rest of the economy.

The weakness in the agriculture sector, however, is something to worry about. The sector's growth slowed to 3% in 2025-26 from 4.2% in 2024-25, despite the 2025 monsoon having concluded at 108% of its long period average (LPA). This is dire news, given that the India Meteorological Department has predicted that this year's monsoon will only be 90% of the LPA. That is not counting the fertilizer supply constraints that will really be felt in the months ahead. The data also show the rising dominance of services in the economy, with their share rising to 54.3% of total gross value added (GVA) in 2025-26, up from 51.9% in 2022-23. The agriculture sector, which continues to employ the largest share of the population by far, saw its share in GVA fall to below 20% from 22.1% in 2022-23. The manufacturing sector's share has remained largely unchanged, another cause for concern. This suggests that India is not growing its value-added manufacturing sector fast enough. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), government, and independent economists are in agreement that 2026-27 will see growth slowing significantly. The RBI predicted growth will dip to 6.6%, and the Chief Economic Adviser said that he saw no need to second-guess this estimate. Last year's tariff-related disruptions were a test of India's export resilience. This year's energy supply disruptions will test the entire economy as well as the government's policy agility.

08J6.Testing times
परीक्षा की घड़ी

- The provisional estimates of **GDP growth** for **2025-26** have been pegged at **7.7%**, which is marginally higher than the **7.6%** predicted by the government in February.

2025-26 के लिए **जीडीपी वृद्धि** के अनंतिम अनुमान **7.7%** निर्धारित किए गए हैं, जो फरवरी में सरकार द्वारा अनुमानित **7.6%** से थोड़ा अधिक है।

- Notably, both **Private Final Consumption Expenditure** and **Gross Fixed Capital Formation** — metrics of household consumption and government and private sector investment activity, respectively — grew faster in **2025-26** than they did in the previous year.

विशेष रूप से **निजी अंतिम उपभोग व्यय (Private Final Consumption Expenditure)** तथा **सकल स्थिर पूंजी निर्माण (Gross Fixed Capital Formation)** — जो क्रमशः घरेलू उपभोग और सरकारी एवं निजी निवेश गतिविधियों के संकेतक हैं — ने **2025-26** में पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में अधिक तेज़ वृद्धि दर्ज की।

- This is dire news, given that the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has predicted that this year's monsoon will only be **90% of the LPA**.

यह अत्यंत चिंताजनक समाचार है, क्योंकि **भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD)** ने अनुमान लगाया है कि इस वर्ष का मानसून केवल **LPA के 90%** तक ही रहेगा।

- That is not counting the **fertilizer supply constraints** that will really be felt in the months ahead.

इसके अतिरिक्त आने वाले महीनों में महसूस की जाने वाली **उर्वरक आपूर्ति संबंधी बाधाओं** को इसमें शामिल नहीं किया गया है।

- The data also show the rising dominance of **services** in the economy, with their share rising to **54.3%** of total **gross value added (GVA)** in **2025-26**, up from **51.9%** in **2022-23**.

आँकड़े अर्थव्यवस्था में **सेवा क्षेत्र** के बढ़ते प्रभुत्व को भी दर्शाते हैं, जिसका हिस्सा **2025-26** में कुल **सकल मूल्य वर्धन (GVA)** का **54.3%** हो गया, जबकि **2022-23** में यह **51.9%** था।

- The **agriculture sector**, which continues to employ the largest share of the population by far, saw its share in **GVA** fall to below **20%** from **22.1%** in **2022-23**.

कृषि क्षेत्र, जो अब भी सबसे अधिक जनसंख्या को रोजगार प्रदान करता है, का **GVA** में हिस्सा **2022-23** के **22.1%** से घटकर **20%** से नीचे आ गया।

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From borderland to India's strategic resource frontier

GS III: Economy

Sangmuan Hangsing

Researcher and alumnus of the Kautilya School of Public Policy

Within days of one another, official platforms of the Ministry of Mines cast several northeastern States in a similar frame – as repositories of strategic minerals and untapped potential. Manipur was described as a "quiet mineral frontier", Arunachal Pradesh as a "resource-rich frontier", while Meghalaya and Mizoram were portrayed through comparable narratives that emphasised the hidden wealth beneath their hills. Governments routinely publicise natural resources and development opportunities, and such descriptions would ordinarily attract little attention.

Taken together, however, they point to a broader shift in the language through which the northeast is increasingly being framed in the national conversation and strategic picture.

The critical mineral push

The timing is significant because critical minerals have moved from geological discussions into strategic ones. Lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel and rare earth elements increasingly shape industrial competition, technological manufacturing and energy transitions. Batteries, semiconductors, renewable technologies and defence systems depend upon them, and countries have begun repositioning themselves around access to these resources. India itself continues to depend on imports for several critical minerals and has consequently expanded exploration efforts. According to a Ministry of Mines reply in Parliament, the Geological Survey of India undertook 43 critical mineral exploration projects across northeastern States during the 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 field seasons, covering minerals such as graphite, vanadium, lithium, rare earth elements, nickel and cobalt. Exploration activity has expanded across Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. In Manipur, projects involving nickel, cobalt and chromium exploration have recently been initiated.

Geological surveys have pointed toward mineral potential across the region for years.

Critical mineral ambitions must account for the people, land and history of northeast India

What appears to be changing is the language through which that significance is increasingly being understood. The northeast has long held strategic significance that extends beyond geology, but the framework through which that significance is understood now appears to be widening.

Shift in language

For decades, the northeast has figured in national strategy largely through the language of borders and security. Discussions have centred on insurgencies, territorial management, connectivity initiatives and geopolitics considerations involving neighbouring countries, while infrastructure and development were often justified as instruments of strategic access and territorial security.

The language of resources is increasingly entering a strategic space once dominated by concerns over borders and security. Critical minerals are now discussed alongside trade corridors and geopolitical access, with territorial and resource security converging. Places once viewed mainly as sensitive border regions are increasingly seen as strategic assets.

The repeated use of the word frontier is revealing, because frontiers rarely function as neutral descriptions. They do not merely describe geography; they often reflect how States imagine it. Historically, frontiers have been viewed as spaces awaiting integration, development or extraction because they appear as landscapes of future possibility.

The difficulty is that frontiers are rarely empty spaces waiting to be discovered. The hills and valleys of the northeast already contain dense social and political worlds structured around customary land systems, local institutions and long-standing relationships with territory. Questions of land often extend beyond economics, as they are also tied to authority, identity and memory. Resource extraction thus enters landscapes that already possess institutions and histories of their own.

These questions become particularly significant in regions where political uncertainties continue to shape everyday life. In Manipur, years of violence and displacement have intensified debates over land and territorial arrangements. Similar concerns about ownership, ecological vulnerability and local participation have surfaced across the northeast at different times. Projects involving land often acquire meanings that extend beyond development, as communities interpret them through the lens of trust, representation and political inclusion.

Resources and inclusion

India's search for critical resources is understandable within a global environment increasingly shaped by supply-chain uncertainty and strategic competition. The northeast itself also requires infrastructure, employment and economic opportunities that have remained uneven for decades. Questions surrounding resource development rarely fit neatly into positions of support or opposition.

How quickly these transitions unfold and who shapes them may matter as much as the resources themselves. For a very long time, national priorities and local realities in the northeast often moved at different speeds. Connectivity projects sometimes arrived without corresponding economic ecosystems, while strategic considerations frequently overshadowed questions surrounding participation and representation. Resource development risks reproducing similar tensions if extraction begins moving faster than institutions capable of managing its social consequences.

What is being debated extends beyond the minerals beneath the hills. The northeast has spent years being viewed first as a border to be secured and then as a corridor to be connected. If it now begins entering national imagination as a landscape of strategic resources, the question is whether this new frontier will finally include the people who already inhabit it, or merely assign another purpose to the land beneath their feet.

08J6.From borderland to India's strategic resource frontier
सीमांत क्षेत्र से भारत के सामरिक संसाधन अग्रक्षेत्र तक

The critical mineral push
महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिजों की ओर बढ़ता जोर

- **Manipur** was described as a "**quiet mineral frontier**", **Arunachal Pradesh** as a "**resource-rich frontier**", while **Meghalaya** and **Mizoram** were portrayed through comparable narratives that emphasised the hidden wealth beneath their hills.
  मणिपुर को "**शांत खनिज सीमांत**", **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** को "**संसाधन-समृद्ध सीमांत**" के रूप में वर्णित किया गया, जबकि **मेघालय** और **मिजोरम** को भी इसी प्रकार की कथाओं के माध्यम से प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिनमें उनकी पहाड़ियों के नीचे छिपी संपदा पर बल दिया गया।
- **Lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel** and **rare earth elements** increasingly shape industrial competition, technological manufacturing and energy transitions.
  लिथियम, कोबाल्ट, ग्रेफाइट, निकेल तथा **दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व** औद्योगिक प्रतिस्पर्धा, तकनीकी विनिर्माण और ऊर्जा संक्रमण को लगातार प्रभावित कर रहे हैं।
- **Batteries, semiconductors, renewable technologies** and **defence systems** depend upon them, and countries have begun repositioning themselves around access to these resources.
  बैटरियाँ, सेमीकंडक्टर, नवीकरणीय प्रौद्योगिकियाँ तथा **रक्षा प्रणालियाँ** इन पर निर्भर हैं, और विभिन्न देशों ने

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इन संसाधनों तक पहुँच को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी रणनीतियों को पुनः व्यवस्थित करना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है।

- According to a **Ministry of Mines** reply in **Parliament**, the **Geological Survey of India** undertook **43 critical mineral exploration projects** across northeastern States during the **2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 field seasons**, covering minerals such as **graphite, vanadium, lithium, rare earth elements, nickel and cobalt**.
  संसद में **खान मंत्रालय** द्वारा दिए गए उत्तर के अनुसार, **भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण (GSI)** ने **2022-23, 2023-24 तथा 2024-25 के क्षेत्रीय सत्रों** के दौरान पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में **43 महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज अन्वेषण परियोजनाएँ** संचालित कीं, जिनमें **ग्रेफाइट, वैनेडियम, लिथियम, दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व, निकेल तथा कोबाल्ट** जैसे खनिज शामिल थे।
- In **Manipur**, projects involving **nickel, cobalt and chromium exploration** have recently been initiated.
  मणिपुर में हाल ही में **निकेल, कोबाल्ट और क्रोमियम अन्वेषण** से संबंधित परियोजनाएँ प्रारम्भ की गई हैं।
- Discussions have centred on **insurgencies**, **territorial management**, **connectivity initiatives** and **geopolitical considerations** involving neighbouring countries, while infrastructure and development were often justified as instruments of strategic access and territorial security.
  चर्चाएँ मुख्यतः **उग्रवाद**, **क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधन**, **संपर्कता पहलों** तथा पड़ोसी देशों से संबंधित **भूराजनीतिक विचारों** पर केंद्रित रही हैं, जबकि अवसंरचना और विकास को प्रायः रणनीतिक पहुँच और क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा के साधन के रूप में उचित ठहराया गया है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Investing in gold and silver

THINKINVESTOR

Geopolitical tensions around the world have made gold and silver important assets to have in one's investment portfolio. But you must be mindful of differences between the two assets.

GS III: Economy
Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

You would have observed how gold and silver prices have moved in recent times. It is also highly likely you gained from the price movements over the last year. With gold prices near record highs and silver prices very volatile, many appear undecided on the next course of action on the two metals. Should you buy now or wait for a dip? If so, should you buy physical or financial asset? Here, we discuss why market timing on gold and silver exchange traded funds (ETFs) is optimal.

Market timing?

The important decision you should make is whether to buy the physical asset or its financial equivalent viz. ETFs. It is optimal to invest in ETFs for two reasons. One, it is operationally efficient to buy and sell ETFs. And two, gold and silver ETFs closely track the spot price of the underlying metal. True, these ETFs trade at a premium to spot price but you may be able to capture a similar premium when you sell the ETF. Selling price of 24-carat physical gold is typically lower than its spot price.

The question of whether you should buy ETF units now or wait for a dip depends on how you invest in gold and silver and manage the positions. Typically, gold and silver form part of satellite portfolio within the core-satellite framework. In this framework, the core portfolio is goal-based and the satellite is trading portfolio, geared to capturing short-term price fluctuations in the market. That means you must be comfortable with market timing. To do this, you must be good at reading price charts – applying technical analysis. Otherwise, you could buy such research from investment professionals. Another choice would be to set up short-term systematic investment plans (SIPs) and take profit whenever the investment generates predefined absolute gains. This choice, however, removes market timing out of the decision process.

Conclusion

The geopolitical tensions around the world have made both gold and silver important assets to have in one's investment portfolio. But you must be mindful of the difference between the two assets. Gold is typically considered as safe haven during global crisis (referred to as flight to quality). Also, central banks across the world invest in gold to build reserves. Silver is primarily an input in manufacturing processes. So, their returns and price volatility may not always be similar.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

08J6. Investing in gold and silver

सोने और चांदी में निवेश

- If so, should you buy **physical or financial asset?**

यदि खरीदना है, तो क्या आपको भौतिक संपत्ति खरीदनी चाहिए या वित्तीय संपत्ति?

- Here, we discuss why market timing on **gold and silver exchange traded funds (ETFs)** is optimal.

यहाँ हम चर्चा करते हैं कि **गोल्ड और सिल्वर एक्सचेंज ट्रेडेड फंड्स (ETFs)** में बाजार का सही समय चुनना क्यों उपयुक्त है।

- An ETF is a basket of securities such as stocks, bonds, commodities, gold, government securities, or a combination of assets.

- One, it is operationally efficient to buy and sell ETFs.

पहला, ईटीएफ को खरीदना और बेचना परिचालन की दृष्टि से अधिक सुविधाजनक है।

- And two, **gold and silver ETFs** closely track the spot price of the underlying metal.

दूसरा, **गोल्ड और सिल्वर ईटीएफ** संबंधित धातु की स्पॉट कीमत का निकटता से अनुसरण करते हैं।

- True, these ETFs trade at a premium to spot price but you may be able to capture a similar premium when you sell the ETF.

यह सही है कि ये ईटीएफ स्पॉट कीमत से अधिक मूल्य पर कारोबार करते हैं, लेकिन जब आप ईटीएफ बेचते हैं तो आपको भी समान प्रीमियम प्राप्त हो सकता है।

- Selling price of **24-carat physical gold** is typically lower than its spot price.

24 कैरेट भौतिक सोने का विक्रय मूल्य सामान्यतः उसकी स्पॉट कीमत से कम होता है।

- Typically, gold and silver form part of **satellite portfolio** within the **core-satellite framework**.

आमतौर पर सोना और चांदी **कोर-सैटेलाइट ढाँचे** के अंतर्गत **सैटेलाइट पोर्टफोलियो** का हिस्सा होते हैं।

- In this framework, the core portfolio is goal-based and the satellite is trading portfolio, geared to capturing short-term price fluctuations in the market.

इस ढाँचे में कोर पोर्टफोलियो लक्ष्य-आधारित होता है और सैटेलाइट पोर्टफोलियो एक ट्रेडिंग पोर्टफोलियो होता है, जिसका उद्देश्य बाजार में अल्पकालिक मूल्य उतार-चढ़ाव से लाभ कमाना होता है।

- Another choice would be to set up short-term **systematic investment plans (SIPs)** and take profit whenever the investment generates predefined absolute gains.

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एक अन्य विकल्प अल्पकालिक **सिस्टेमैटिक इन्वेस्टमेंट प्लान (SIPs)** स्थापित करना है और जब भी निवेश पूर्वनिर्धारित निश्चित लाभ उत्पन्न करे, तब लाभ बुक करना है।

- **Gold** is typically considered as a safe **haven** during global crisis (referred to as **flight to quality**).
  वैश्विक संकट के दौरान **सोने** को सामान्यतः **सुरक्षित निवेश विकल्प (सेफ हेवन)** माना जाता है, जिसे **फ्लाइट टू क्वालिटी** कहा जाता है।
- Also, **central banks** across the world invest in gold to build reserves.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, दुनिया भर के **केंद्रीय बैंक** अपने भंडार बनाने के लिए सोने में निवेश करते हैं।
- **Silver** is primarily an input in manufacturing processes.
  चांदी मुख्य रूप से विनिर्माण प्रक्रियाओं में उपयोग होने वाला एक इनपुट है।
- So, their returns and price volatility may not always be similar.
  इसलिए, इन दोनों के प्रतिफल और मूल्य अस्थिरता हमेशा समान नहीं हो सकते।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	**08 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	**Homo erectus fossil yields secrets long thought to be beyond genetics** **होमो इरेक्टस जीवाश्म ने ऐसे रहस्यों का उद्घाटन किया जो लंबे समय तक आनुवंशिकी की पहुँच से परे माने जाते थे**
08J6	**Pyroprocessing: heat shows the way** **पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग: ऊष्मा मार्ग दिखाती है**

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Homo erectus fossil yields secrets long thought to be beyond genetics

That modern humans carry DNA fragments from two other members of the genus *Homo* raised the possibility that they may also harbour genetic material from other extinct human species; but in the 14 years since the Denisovan genome was published, no new genome from any other extinct human relative has been uncovered — until now

GS III: S&T

Arun Panchapakesan

For much of modern history, human evolution was thought to progress in linear fashion, with one species replacing another, one by one. The famous 'ape turning to human' cartoon illustrating a stooped primate gradually straightening into a modern man essentially captures this idea.

That picture began to change in the second half of the 19th century when scientists started to unearth human-like fossils. At the time, scientists used geological clues such as the depth at which a fossil was found and the rock layers surrounding it to determine the age of fossils. This method could establish which fossils were older or younger than others but did not reveal precise dates.

The timeline suggested an intriguing possibility, however. It appeared that these different kinds of humans had not followed one another in succession but had lived alongside each other. Radiometric dating techniques later confirmed this idea: multiple human species had coexisted on the earth at various points.

Series of surprises

In 2003, the Human Genome Project announced the first high-quality sequence of the human genome. Human beings finally possessed the secret to their own identity – the reason(s) they were unique. That sense of identity, however, proved to be short-lived.

In 2010, scientists published the genome of the Neanderthals, our closest extinct relatives. When they compared Neanderthal DNA with the genomes of living people, they uncovered a remarkable result. Most humans alive today carry around 1-2% Neanderthal DNA in their own genomes. In Africans, this percentage is slightly lower, but even their DNA is 0.3-0.5% Neanderthal.

The surprises did not end there. In 2012, scientists sequenced the genome of Denisovans, another human lineage, finding that some present-day populations, particularly in Oceania and parts of Southeast Asia, had 3-6% Denisovan DNA.

That we carry DNA fragments from two other members of the genus *Homo* raised the possibility that we may also harbour genetic material from other extinct human species. But in the 14 years since the Denisovan genome was published, no new genome from any other extinct human relative has been uncovered.

DNA after death

The difficulty lies in the nature of DNA itself. The moment an organism dies, its DNA begins to break down. Enzymes released from dying cells cut DNA into small pieces. Microbes and fungi invade the remains and further degrade the genetic material. Water and oxygen promote chemical reactions that further damage DNA. Then there are temperature fluctuations, solar radiation, and UV damage. Over a few tens of millennia, the DNA is reduced to a few small pieces.

To recover DNA from these ancient humans, scientists need to be very lucky. The specimen must have been exposed to cold, dry, and stable environments such as permafrost, frozen sediments, or the inside of a deep cave. This is very rare – and why only a small fraction of fossils contain usable DNA.

One such species whose DNA sequence has evaded us for a long time is *Homo erectus*, the species estimated to have originated over 2 million years ago and thought to be one of the first human relatives to spread widely across Africa, Europe, and Asia.

Acid etching

A recent study published in *Nature* has provided the first molecular sequences from *Homo erectus* fossils from China. Rather than attempting to recover DNA directly, the researchers extracted proteins preserved within the enamel of six *Homo erectus* teeth dated to around 4,00,000 years ago. Because proteins are the products of the DNA, their sequences can reveal portions of the underlying genetic information, providing a rare, albeit narrow, view into the genome of an extinct human species.

The method used to recover the genetic information is notable. Usually, recovering ancient DNA or proteins requires scientists to grind up part of a fossil, so museum curators are reluctant to permit such analyses, especially when there is no guarantee that usable genetic material will be recovered.

To overcome this problem, the researchers used acid etching, a technique where a small area of the tooth enamel is briefly exposed to a dilute acid solution, which dissolves microscopic amounts of tooth enamel and releases the proteins trapped within it. The fossil is left largely intact. Since tooth enamel is a highly mineralised tissue, it can trap and protect proteins for a long time.

The researchers proceeded to successfully recover enamel proteins from five male and one female *Homo erectus* individuals. When they compared the protein sequences with those of modern humans, Neanderthals, and Denisovans, they made two interesting discoveries.

First, all six *Homo erectus* individuals had a protein variant that has never been found in any other known species in the genus *Homo*. Second, they carried another variant present in Denisovans. This suggests populations related to these Chinese *Homo erectus* may have interbred with Denisovans in East Asia.

Shared story

However, because the results come from only the enamel proteins and not the entire genome, they are not conclusive. It was long known that the Denisovan genome contains DNA from a much older species of the human lineage. While this study points to *Homo erectus* as a possible candidate, it does not prove it.

Nevertheless, the study represents an advance far beyond the information it has generated, which by itself is tiny. This is the first effort to recover meaningful molecular data from *Homo erectus* fossils, long thought to be beyond the reach of genetics.

Though Neanderthals, Denisovans, and others have vanished from the earth, traces of their existence endure within our DNA. The more we look, the more we find that the story of humans is not only ours: it is theirs as well.

(Arun Panchapakesan is an assistant professor at the Y.R. Gaitonde Centre for AIDS Research and Education, Chennai. arun.panchapakesan@gmail.com)

Representative image of the bones of the *Homo erectus* fossil 'Turkana Boy', the most complete fossil of the species found to date. EINSAMER SCHÜTZE (CC BY-SA)

THE GIST

- Radiometric dating techniques have confirmed that multiple human species had coexisted on the earth at various points
- While the Human Genome Project in 2003 provided humans with a sense of unique identity, later studies showed the presence of Neanderthal and Denisovan DNA in the modern human genome
- A recent study on enamel from *Homo erectus* teeth has revealed a protein variant never found before in the genus as well as another variant present in Denisovans
- It was known that the Denisovan genome contains DNA from a much older species of human lineage and the study, while not conclusive, points to *Homo erectus* as a possible candidate

08J6. Homo erectus fossil yields secrets long thought to be beyond genetics होमो इरेक्टस जीवाश्म ने ऐसे रहस्यों का उद्घाटन किया जो लंबे समय तक आनुवंशिकी की पहुँच से परे माने जाते थे

- That **modern humans** carry **DNA fragments** from two other members of the genus **Homo** raised the possibility that they may also harbour **genetic material** from other **extinct human species**; but in the 14 years since the **Denisovan genome** was published, no new genome from any other extinct human relative has been uncovered — until now.
  यह तथ्य कि **आधुनिक मनुष्य** वंश **होमो** के दो अन्य सदस्यों के **डीएनए अंश** अपने भीतर धारण करते हैं, इस संभावना को जन्म देता है कि वे अन्य **विलुप्त मानव प्रजातियों** की **आनुवंशिक सामग्री** भी अपने भीतर संजोए हुए हो सकते हैं; किंतु **डेनिसोवन जीनोम** के प्रकाशित होने के बाद के 14 वर्षों में किसी अन्य विलुप्त मानव संबंधी का कोई नया जीनोम प्राप्त नहीं हुआ था — अब तक।
- **Radiometric dating techniques** later confirmed this idea: multiple human species had coexisted on the earth at various points.

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बाद में **रेडियोमेट्रिक डेटिंग तकनीकों** ने इस विचार की पुष्टि की कि विभिन्न समयों पर पृथ्वी पर अनेक मानव प्रजातियाँ साथ-साथ विद्यमान थीं।

Series of surprises
आश्चर्यों की श्रृंखला

- In **2003**, the **Human Genome Project** announced the first high-quality sequence of the human genome.
  2003 में **ह्यूमन जीनोम प्रोजेक्ट** ने मानव जीनोम के प्रथम उच्च-गुणवत्ता वाले अनुक्रम की घोषणा की।
- In **2010**, scientists published the genome of the **Neanderthals**, our closest extinct relatives.
  2010 में वैज्ञानिकों ने हमारे सबसे निकटवर्ती विलुप्त संबंधियों **निएंडरथल्स** के जीनोम को प्रकाशित किया।
- **Enzymes** released from dying cells cut DNA into small pieces.
  मरती हुई कोशिकाओं से निकलने वाले **एंजाइम** डीएनए को छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों में विभाजित कर देते हैं।
- **Microbes** and **fungi** invade the remains and further degrade the genetic material.
  सूक्ष्मजीव और **कवक** अवशेषों पर आक्रमण कर आनुवंशिक सामग्री को और अधिक नष्ट कर देते हैं।
- **Water** and **oxygen** promote chemical reactions that further damage DNA.
  जल और **ऑक्सीजन** ऐसी रासायनिक अभिक्रियाओं को बढ़ावा देते हैं जो डीएनए को और अधिक क्षति पहुँचाती हैं।
- Then there are **temperature fluctuations**, **solar radiation**, and **UV damage**.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **तापमान में उतार-चढ़ाव**, **सौर विकिरण** तथा **पराबैंगनी (UV) क्षति** भी प्रभाव डालते हैं।
- One such species whose DNA sequence has evaded us for a long time is **Homo erectus**, the species estimated to have originated over **2 million years ago** and thought to be one of the first human relatives to spread widely across **Africa, Europe, and Asia**.
  ऐसी ही एक प्रजाति, जिसका डीएनए अनुक्रम लंबे समय से हमारी पहुँच से बाहर रहा है, **होमो इरेक्टस** है। यह प्रजाति लगभग **20 लाख वर्ष पूर्व** उत्पन्न हुई मानी जाती है और इसे उन प्रारम्भिक मानव संबंधियों में गिना जाता है जिन्होंने **अफ्रीका, यूरोप और एशिया** में व्यापक रूप से प्रसार किया।

Acid etching
अम्लीय उत्कीर्णन (एसिड एचिंग)

- A recent study published in **Nature** has provided the first molecular sequences from **Homo erectus** fossils from **China**.
  हाल ही में **नेचर** में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन ने **चीन** से प्राप्त **होमो इरेक्टस** जीवाश्मों से प्रथम आणविक अनुक्रम उपलब्ध कराए हैं।
- Rather than attempting to recover **DNA** directly, the researchers extracted proteins preserved within the enamel of six **Homo erectus** teeth dated to around **4,00,000 years ago**.
  प्रत्यक्ष रूप से **डीएनए** प्राप्त करने का प्रयास करने के बजाय, शोधकर्ताओं ने लगभग **4,00,000 वर्ष पुराने** छह **होमो इरेक्टस** दाँतों के एनामेल में संरक्षित प्रोटीनों को निकाला।
- First, all six **Homo erectus** individuals had a protein variant that has never been found in any other known species in the genus **Homo**.
  पहली खोज यह थी कि सभी छह **होमो इरेक्टस** व्यक्तियों में एक ऐसा प्रोटीन प्रकार पाया गया जो **होमो** वंश की किसी अन्य ज्ञात प्रजाति में कभी नहीं मिला है।
- Second, they carried another variant present in **Denisovans**.
  दूसरी खोज यह थी कि उनमें एक अन्य प्रकार भी मौजूद था जो **डेनिसोवन्स** में पाया जाता है।
- This suggests populations related to these Chinese **Homo erectus** may have interbred with **Denisovans** in **East Asia**.

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यह संकेत देता है कि इन चीनी **होमो इरेक्टस** से संबंधित जनसंख्याओं का **पूर्वी एशिया** में **डेनिसोवन्स** के साथ अंतःप्रजनन हुआ हो सकता है।

- It was long known that the **Denisovan genome** contains DNA from a much older species of the human lineage.
  यह लंबे समय से ज्ञात है कि **डेनिसोवन जीनोम** में मानव वंश की एक अत्यंत प्राचीन प्रजाति का डीएनए मौजूद है।
- Though **Neanderthals**, **Denisovans**, and others have vanished from the earth, traces of their existence endure within our **DNA**.
  यद्यपि **निएंडरथल्स**, **डेनिसोवन्स** और अन्य मानव प्रजातियाँ पृथ्वी से विलुप्त हो चुकी हैं, फिर भी उनके अस्तित्व के चिह्न हमारे **डीएनए** में आज भी विद्यमान हैं।

Pyroprocessing: heat shows the way

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Pyroprocessing is a way to change a solid material physically or chemically using high temperature. It is a dry process and very energy-intensive. The three sectors that use it most are cement-making, metallurgy, and nuclear power.

Of these, cement-making uses pyroprocessing the most. First, finely ground limestone, clay and iron — the raw materials — are fed into a rotary kiln. As the temperature increases to 900° C, the limestone loses its carbon dioxide, and at around 1,450° C, the mix partly melts to form marble-sized nodules called clinker. The clinker is then ground to produce cement.

In metallurgy, pyroprocessing is used to extract metals from their ores in multiple stages. For example, sulphide ores are heated in air — or roasted — to convert them into metal oxides, like zinc sulphide. Smelting melts an ore to separate the metal from waste impurities called slag. Heating limestone to yield lime is likewise called calcining.

In the nuclear industry, pyroprocessing has a slightly different meaning. It is used to reprocess spent nuclear fuel, in techniques developed in the 1980s and 1990s. First, used nuclear fuel is broken up into pieces and placed in a salt bath — usually a mixture of lithium and potassium chlorides at 500° C or more. Then, an electric current is passed through the salt bath, causing different elements to become separated depending on their electrochemical properties. Operators then recover the elements of interest in separate streams.

A rotary kiln is visible as the rust-coloured horizontal tube at the centre in this image of a cement plant in the U.S. GREG GOEBEL (CC BY-SA)

This form of pyroprocessing has been the subject of study in Japan, South Korea, and the U.S. and is used as part of programmes involving advanced fast reactors.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

08J6. Pyroprocessing: heat shows the way

पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग: ऊष्मा मार्ग दिखाती है

- **Pyroprocessing** is a way to change a solid material physically or chemically using high temperature.
  पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग उच्च तापमान का उपयोग करके किसी ठोस पदार्थ में भौतिक अथवा रासायनिक परिवर्तन करने की एक विधि है।
- It is a dry process and very energy-intensive.
  यह एक शुष्क प्रक्रिया है तथा इसमें अत्यधिक ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता होती है।
- The three sectors that use it most are **cement-making**, **metallurgy**, and **nuclear power**.
  इसके सर्वाधिक उपयोग करने वाले तीन क्षेत्र **सीमेंट निर्माण**, **धातुकर्म** तथा **परमाणु ऊर्जा** हैं।
- Of these, **cement-making** uses pyroprocessing the most.
  इनमें से **सीमेंट निर्माण** में पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग का सबसे अधिक उपयोग होता है।
- First, finely ground **limestone**, **clay** and **iron** — the raw materials — are fed into a **rotary kiln**.
  सबसे पहले बारीक पिसे हुए **चूना पत्थर**, **मिट्टी** और **लौह** — जो कच्ची सामग्री हैं — को एक **रोटरी भट्ठी (रोटरी किल्न)** में डाला जाता है।
- As the temperature increases to **900° C**, the limestone loses its **carbon dioxide**, and at around **1,450° C**, the mix partly melts to form marble-sized nodules called **clinker**.
  जैसे-जैसे तापमान **900° सेल्सियस** तक बढ़ता है, चूना पत्थर अपनी **कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड** खो देता है, और लगभग **1,450° सेल्सियस** पर मिश्रण आंशिक रूप से पिघलकर संगमरमर के आकार की गांठें बनाता है, जिन्हें **क्लिंकर** कहा जाता है।
- The clinker is then ground to produce cement.
  इसके बाद **क्लिंकर** को पीसकर सीमेंट तैयार किया जाता है।

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- In **metallurgy**, pyroprocessing is used to extract metals from their ores in multiple stages.
  धातुकर्म में पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग का उपयोग अयस्कों से धातुओं को अनेक चरणों में निकालने के लिए किया जाता है।
- For example, **sulphide ores** are heated in air — or roasted — to convert them into metal oxides, like **zinc sulphide**.
  उदाहरण के लिए, **सल्फाइड अयस्कों** को वायु में गर्म किया जाता है — अर्थात उनका **रोस्टिंग** किया जाता है — ताकि उन्हें धातु ऑक्साइडों में परिवर्तित किया जा सके, जैसे **जिंक सल्फाइड**।
- **Smelting** melts an ore to separate the metal from waste impurities called **slag**.
  स्मेल्टिंग में अयस्क को पिघलाया जाता है ताकि धातु को **स्लैग** कहलाने वाली अपशिष्ट अशुद्धियों से अलग किया जा सके।
- Heating **limestone** to yield **lime** is likewise called **calcining**.
  इसी प्रकार **चूना पत्थर** को गर्म करके **चूना** प्राप्त करने की प्रक्रिया को **कैल्सिनिंग** कहा जाता है।
- In the **nuclear industry**, pyroprocessing has a slightly different meaning.
  परमाणु उद्योग में पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग का अर्थ कुछ भिन्न होता है।
- It is used to reprocess **spent nuclear fuel**, in techniques developed in the **1980s and 1990s**.
  इसका उपयोग **उपयोग किए जा चुके परमाणु ईंधन** के पुनर्प्रसंस्करण के लिए किया जाता है, जिनकी तकनीकें **1980 और 1990 के दशक** में विकसित की गई थीं।
- First, used nuclear fuel is broken up into pieces and placed in a **salt bath** — usually a mixture of **lithium** and **potassium chlorides** at **500° C** or more.
  सबसे पहले प्रयुक्त परमाणु ईंधन को टुकड़ों में विभाजित किया जाता है और एक **लवण स्नान (सॉल्ट बाथ)** में रखा जाता है — जो सामान्यतः **लिथियम** और **पोटैशियम क्लोराइड** के मिश्रण से बना होता है तथा जिसका तापमान **500° सेल्सियस** या उससे अधिक होता है।
- Then, an electric current is passed through the salt bath, causing different elements to become separated depending on their **electrochemical properties**.
  इसके बाद लवण स्नान में विद्युत धारा प्रवाहित की जाती है, जिससे विभिन्न तत्व अपने **वैद्युत-रासायनिक गुणों** के आधार पर अलग हो जाते हैं।
- Operators then recover the elements of interest in separate streams.
  इसके पश्चात संचालक आवश्यक तत्वों को अलग-अलग धाराओं में प्राप्त कर लेते हैं।
- This form of pyroprocessing has been the subject of study in **Japan**, **South Korea**, and the **U.S.** and is used as part of programmes involving **advanced fast reactors**.
  पाइरोप्रोसेसिंग का यह स्वरूप **जापान**, **दक्षिण कोरिया** तथा **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** में अध्ययन का विषय रहा है और इसका उपयोग **उन्नत तीव्र रिएक्टरों (एडवांस्ड फास्ट रिएक्टर्स)** से संबंधित कार्यक्रमों के एक भाग के रूप में किया जाता है।

GS Paper III: Environment	08 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
08J6	

A lush retreat

Greener pastures: Spotted deer graze on a clearing inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, near Udhagamandalam, in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. Recent showers have helped improve the vegetation in the reserve, drawing deer to open grasslands. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Greener pastures: Spotted deer graze on a clearing inside the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, near Udhagamandalam, in Tamil Nadu on Sunday. Recent showers have helped improve the vegetation in the reserve, drawing deer to open grasslands.

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BIG SHOT

GS III: Environment

As part of the Wilderness Project, wildlife experts who visited Angola's Lisima plateau in February have reported eight new species of dragonfly, three unknown grasshoppers, and some 60 new butterflies and moths in vivid hues. They have also found a spider species that fluoresces under ultraviolet light (shown). REUTERS

As part of the Wilderness Project, wildlife experts who visited Angola's Lisima plateau in February have reported eight new species of dragonfly, three unknown grasshoppers, and some 60 new butterflies and moths in vivid hues. They have also found a spider species that **fluoresces under ultraviolet light** (shown).

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PCS Special:	07 June 2026
07J6	Actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56 56 वर्ष की आयु में अभिनेता सलीम कुमार का निधन
07J6	HC raps U.P. police, says officers serve 'political bosses' उच्च न्यायालय ने यू.पी. पुलिस को फटकार लगाई, कहा अधिकारी 'राजनीतिक आकाओं' की सेवा करते हैं
07J6	Praggnanandhaa caps fairytale run with title win प्रज्ञानानंद ने खिताब जीतकर अपने शानदार सफर को ऐतिहासिक मुकाम दिया
07J6	Andreeva ends Chwalinska's dream run for first Major title एंड्रीवा ने च्वालिंस्का के सपनों के सफर को रोककर पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब जीता
07J6	India defeats Bangladesh, wins title for the sixth time भारत ने बांग्लादेश को हराकर छठी बार खिताब जीता
07J6	Indian men triumph, women bag bronze भारतीय पुरुष टीम बनी चैंपियन, महिला टीम ने कांस्य पदक जीता

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Breaking new ground: Andreeva is the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam while the 114th-ranked Chwalinska will climb to 21 after her runner-up finish. AFP

Breaking new ground: **Andreeva** is the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam while the 114th-ranked Chwalinska will climb to 21 after her runner-up finish.

Actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar, 56, passed away at a private hospital in Kochi late on Saturday night.

He was rushed to Amrita Hospital in the city after complaining of discomfort on Saturday morning and had been on ventilator support since.

Kumar has a medical history marked by recurring illnesses and had undergone a liver transplant a few years ago.

He has won both the National and State awards for 'Best Actor' for his moving portrayal in film *Adaminte Makan Abu* (2010). He has won the Kerala State Film Award on four occasions.

During the recent Kerala Assembly election, Kumar openly supported the Congress-led UDF, appearing alongside its leaders on several occasions and criticising the LDF leadership.

Since his debut in a small role in *Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam* (1996), Kumar has acted in over 250 films.

Salim Kumar

Kumar, who has acted in Tamil and Bengali movies, has also tried his luck in writing and directing.

Characters made unforgettable by him such as Manavalan in *Pulival Kalyanam*, Pyari in *Kalyanaraman*, Kannan Sranku in *Mayavi*, the mentally challenged character in *CID Moosa*, dance master Vikram in *Chathikkatha Chanthu*, advocate Mukundan Unni in *Meesha Madhavan*, Koshy in *Ee Parakkum Thalika*, and Chandran in *Kunjikoonan* were among those that found enduring popularity in meme culture.
(With PTI inputs)

07J6. Actor Salim Kumar passes away at 56
56 वर्ष की आयु में अभिनेता सलीम कुमार का निधन

- National award-winning Malayalam actor Salim Kumar, 56, passed away at a private hospital in **Kochi** late on Saturday night.
  राष्ट्रीय पुरस्कार विजेता मलयालम अभिनेता **सलीम कुमार**, 56, का शनिवार देर रात **कोच्चि** के एक निजी अस्पताल में निधन हो गया।
- He has won both the **National** and **State awards** for '**Best Actor**' for his moving portrayal in film **Adaminte Makan Abu (2010)**.
  उन्होंने फिल्म **Adaminte Makan Abu (2010)** में अपने मार्मिक अभिनय के लिए **सर्वश्रेष्ठ अभिनेता** का **राष्ट्रीय** और **राज्य पुरस्कार** दोनों जीते थे।
- He has won the **Kerala State Film Award** on four occasions.
  उन्होंने चार बार **केरल राज्य फिल्म पुरस्कार** जीता था।
- Since his debut in a small role in **Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam (1996)**, Kumar has acted in over **250 films**.

Ishtamanu Nooru Vattam (1996) में एक छोटे से किरदार से शुरुआत करने के बाद कुमार ने **250 से अधिक फिल्मों** में अभिनय किया।

- Kumar, who has acted in **Tamil** and **Bengali** movies, has also tried his luck in writing and directing.

तमिल और **बंगाली** फिल्मों में अभिनय कर चुके कुमार ने लेखन और निर्देशन में भी हाथ आजमाया।

HC raps U.P. police, says officers serve 'political bosses'

PCS: GS V

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Court slams illegal use of Gangsters Act to keep a homemaker in jail for 80 days

Questioning the functioning of the Uttar Pradesh police, the Allahabad High Court recently observed that the loyalties of the State's police officers often appear to be aligned with the ruling dispensation rather than the Constitution.

The remarks came from the Bench of Justice Vinod Diwakar, which was hearing a case pertaining to the Gangsters Act against Ghaziabad resident Rajendra Tyagi and his family on Wednesday. While quashing the case, the court found that the allegations arose from land and financial disputes and did not meet the legal requirements for invoking the stringent law.

The court expressed serious concern about the arrest of Lalita Tyagi, a homemaker, who spent nearly 80 days in jail. It termed her arrest "patently illegal, arbitrary and wholly unwarranted".

Reprimanding the police, the court noted that a deeply entrenched culture has taken root in which the rule of law is treated less as a Constitutional mandate and more as an administrative obstacle.

"The vertical loyalty of officers runs not toward the Constitution but toward the ruling dispensation. Field officers, acutely conscious of the transfer-posting economy, calibrate their conduct to satisfy political superiors. Encounter killings, selective crackdowns, and targeted use of the Gangsters Act against inconvenient individuals have periodically attracted judicial notice," the court said.

It further recorded a *prima facie* finding that former Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra appeared to have misused his authority while approving the Gangsters Act proceedings.

07J6. HC raps U.P. police, says officers serve 'political bosses'

उच्च न्यायालय ने यू.पी. पुलिस को फटकार लगाई, कहा अधिकारी 'राजनीतिक आकाओं' की सेवा करते हैं

- Questioning the functioning of the **Uttar Pradesh police**, the **Allahabad High Court** recently observed that the loyalties of the State's police officers often appear to be aligned with the ruling dispensation rather than the **Constitution**.

उत्तर प्रदेश पुलिस के कार्यकलापों पर सवाल उठाते हुए **इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय** ने हाल ही में टिप्पणी की कि राज्य के पुलिस अधिकारियों की निष्ठा अक्सर **संविधान** के बजाय सत्तारूढ़ व्यवस्था के प्रति दिखाई देती है।

- The remarks came from the Bench of **Justice Vinod Diwakar**, which was hearing a case pertaining to the **Gangsters Act** against **Ghaziabad** resident **Rajendra Tyagi** and his family on Wednesday.

ये टिप्पणियां **न्यायमूर्ति विनोद दिवाकर** की पीठ ने कीं, जो बुधवार को **गाजियाबाद** निवासी **राजेंद्र त्यागी** और उनके परिवार के विरुद्ध **गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट** से संबंधित मामले की सुनवाई कर रही थी।

- While quashing the case, the court found that the allegations arose from land and financial disputes and did not meet the legal requirements for invoking the stringent law.

मामले को निरस्त करते हुए न्यायालय ने पाया कि आरोप भूमि और वित्तीय विवादों से उत्पन्न हुए थे तथा कठोर कानून लागू करने की कानूनी आवश्यकताओं को पूरा नहीं करते थे।

- The court expressed serious concern about the arrest of **Lalita Tyagi**, a homemaker, who spent nearly **80 days in jail**.

न्यायालय ने गृहिणी **ललिता त्यागी** की गिरफ्तारी पर गंभीर चिंता व्यक्त की, जिन्होंने लगभग **80 दिन जेल में** बिताए।

- It termed her arrest "**patently illegal, arbitrary and wholly unwarranted**".

न्यायालय ने उनकी गिरफ्तारी को "**स्पष्ट रूप से अवैध, मनमानी और पूरी तरह अनुचित**" बताया।

- Reprimanding the police, the court noted that a deeply entrenched culture has taken root in which the **rule of law** is treated less as a Constitutional mandate and more as an administrative obstacle.

पुलिस को फटकार लगाते हुए न्यायालय ने कहा कि एक गहरी जड़ें जमा चुकी संस्कृति विकसित हो गई है, जिसमें **कानून के शासन** को संवैधानिक आदेश के बजाय प्रशासनिक बाधा के रूप में देखा जाता है।

- "The vertical loyalty of officers runs not toward the **Constitution** but toward the ruling dispensation.
  "अधिकारियों की ऊर्ध्वाधर निष्ठा **संविधान** की ओर नहीं बल्कि सत्तारूढ़ व्यवस्था की ओर होती है।
- Field officers, acutely conscious of the **transfer-posting economy**, calibrate their conduct to satisfy political superiors.
  मैदानी अधिकारी **स्थानांतरण-पदस्थापन व्यवस्था** के प्रति अत्यधिक सजग रहते हुए अपने व्यवहार को राजनीतिक वरिष्ठों को संतुष्ट करने के अनुरूप ढालते हैं।
- **Encounter killings**, selective crackdowns, and targeted use of the **Gangsters Act** against inconvenient individuals have periodically attracted judicial notice," the court said.
  मुठभेड़ हत्याएं, चुनिंदा कार्रवाई तथा असुविधाजनक व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध **गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट** का लक्षित उपयोग समय-समय पर न्यायपालिका के संज्ञान में आया है," न्यायालय ने कहा।
- It further recorded a prima facie finding that former **Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra** appeared to have misused his authority while approving the **Gangsters Act** proceedings.
  न्यायालय ने आगे प्रथम दृष्टया यह भी दर्ज किया कि पूर्व **गाजियाबाद पुलिस आयुक्त अजय कुमार मिश्रा** ने **गैंगस्टर्स एक्ट** की कार्यवाही को स्वीकृति देते समय अपने अधिकार का दुरुपयोग किया प्रतीत होता है।

Praggnanandhaa caps fairytale run with title win

The 20-year-old Grandmaster becomes the first Indian to clinch the coveted crown; overnight leader So settles for the second spot; Carlsen finishes fourth while Gukesh gets the wooden spoon

PCS

NORWAY CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Amazing turnaround: Praggnanandhaa outwitted Firouzja, Carlsen, Gukesh and Keymer on the trot. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

The usually quiet Deichman Bjorvika, a public library here, was a beehive of activity well past its working hours on Friday. The reason – an Indian player answering to the name R. Praggnanandhaa had done the unthinkable, winning a chess tournament featuring Magnus Carlsen – as rare as the Northern Lights in a southern hemisphere sky.

The 20-year-old from Chennai stormed to the title in sensational style after languishing in the last place after round six of the Open event in Norway Chess 2026. He won four classical games on the trot and his victims included Alireza Firouzja, the great Carlsen, Gukesh and Vincent Keymer.

In the process, he became the first Indian to win the prestigious title.

Praggnanandhaa was as clinical as one could get as he accounted for the best with an impressive display as was evidenced by his decimation of Keymer.

He topped the leaderboard with 18 points, one ahead of American Wesley So, with his convincing win in the final round.

The Indian entered the game against Keymer needing to not only win but also hope that So didn't claim a victory in the classical against Firouzja. Fortune favours the brave and Praggnanandhaa outclassed his opponent to pick up three points. With So being held to a draw, another golden chapter was added to Indian chess.

While Praggnanandhaa came up with a special performance, his compatriot and World champion D. Gukesh's form was up-and-down. He finished with the wooden spoon after a last-round loss to Carlsen, who wound up fourth after an eminently forgettable outing.

The women's event saw Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva slump to a defeat in her final outing after having clinched the title on Thursday (with a round to spare). China's Zhu Jiner had a strong finish to take the second spot ahead of the 2025 champion Anna Muzychuk.

India's Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy suffered losses to finish fifth and sixth, respectively.

The results: 10th round:
Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 15.5) lost to Wesley So (USA, 17) in Armageddon; Vincent Keymer (Ger, 11) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (18); Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 13) bt D. Gukesh (8).
Women: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 16) bt Koneru Humpy (9); Ju Wenjun (Chn, 13.5) bt Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 16.5); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 15) bt Divya Deshmukh (10).
Final standings: Open: 1. Praggnanandhaa 18 points, 2. So 17, 3. Firouzja 15.5, 4. Carlsen 13, 5. Keymer 11, 6. Gukesh 8.
Women: 1. Assaubayeva 16.5, 2. Zhu 16, 3. Muzychuk 15, 4. Ju 13.5, 5. Divya 10, 6. Humpy 9.
(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

Praggnanandhaa thrilled to prevail in a field featuring the elite players

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Popular champion: Praggnanandhaa was swarmed by the fans after his triumph. FLICKR/NORWAYCHESS

R. Praggnanandhaa... the name is no more a tongue-twister. The chess world and fans have gotten used to it as the Indian Grandmaster just keeps winning and winning. Beating Magnus Carlsen in his own backyard in a tournament which he has dominated is no mean feat and he did it in style, winning four classical games in a row to surge to the top.

"Winning this is more special and Magnus was there. Here it's just the top players," he told the Indian media after beating Germany's Vincent Keymer in the 10th and final round to register a historic maiden triumph in Norway Chess 2026 at Deichman Bjorvika on Friday.

It may or may not be the biggest title of his career thus far, but his tournament win was a hugely popular one. He was swarmed by fans as the night wore on but managed to please them with autographs and pictures.

Carlsen was effusive in praise of the champion and said, "he won the last four classical games. That's as clutch as it gets. Pragg is an incredible fighter and it is fun to see him get rewarded for that." The World No. 1 lost both his classical games to the Indian GM.

Asked what was the reason for the turnaround after two losses in the middle of the tournament and being last after round six, Praggnanandhaa said: "I don't think I changed anything in particular. But the conscious effort of playing faster certainly helped me in my games. I had more time than my opponent in most of the games."

> The conscious effort of playing faster certainly helped me in my games

After a tepid run in the middle of the event, a phone call with his mother probably was the game-changer. Praggnanandhaa said he had spoken to her (on June 1) before the match against Alireza Firouzja and that she had told him 'It's a new month. You'll play well."

Play well... he really did.

07J6. Praggnanandhaa caps fairytale run with title win
प्रज्ञानानंद ने खिताब जीतकर अपने शानदार सफर को ऐतिहासिक मुकाम दिया

- The **20-year-old** from **Chennai** stormed to the title in sensational style after languishing in the last place after round six of the Open event in **Norway Chess 2026**.
  चेन्नई के **20 वर्षीय** खिलाड़ी ने **नॉर्वे चेस 2026** के ओपन वर्ग में छह राउंड के बाद अंतिम स्थान पर रहने के बावजूद शानदार वापसी करते हुए खिताब जीत लिया।
- His victims included **Alireza Firouzja**, the great **Magnus Carlsen**, **D. Gukesh** and **Vincent Keymer**.
  उन्होंने **अलीरेज़ा फिरूज़जा**, महान **मैग्नस कार्लसन**, **डी. गुकेश** और **विन्सेंट कीमर** को हराया।

- In the process, he became the **first Indian** to win the prestigious title.
  इस उपलब्धि के साथ वे यह प्रतिष्ठित खिताब जीतने वाले **पहले भारतीय** बन गए।
- He topped the leaderboard with **18 points**, one ahead of American **Wesley So**, with his convincing win in the final round.
  उन्होंने अंतिम राउंड में प्रभावशाली जीत दर्ज कर **18 अंक** के साथ शीर्ष स्थान हासिल किया और अमेरिकी **वेस्ली सो** से एक अंक आगे रहे।
- While Praggnanandhaa came up with a special performance, his compatriot and **World Champion D. Gukesh's** form was up-and-down.
  जहां प्रज्ञानानंद ने विशेष प्रदर्शन किया, वहीं उनके हमवतन और **विश्व चैंपियन डी. गुकेश** का प्रदर्शन उतार-चढ़ाव भरा रहा।
- He finished with the wooden spoon after a last-round loss to **Magnus Carlsen**.
  अंतिम राउंड में **मैग्नस कार्लसन** से हारने के बाद वे अंतिम स्थान पर रहे।
- **Carlsen** wound up fourth after an eminently forgettable outing.
  कार्लसन निराशाजनक प्रदर्शन के बाद चौथे स्थान पर रहे।
- The women's event saw **Kazakhstan's Bibisara Assaubayeva** slump to a defeat in her final outing after having clinched the title on Thursday with a round to spare.
  महिला वर्ग में **कज़ाखस्तान की बिबिसारा असाउबायेवा** ने एक राउंड शेष रहते गुरुवार को खिताब जीत लिया था, लेकिन अंतिम मुकाबले में उन्हें हार का सामना करना पड़ा।
- **China's Zhu Jiner** had a strong finish to take the second spot ahead of the **2025 champion Anna Muzychuk**.
  चीन की झू जिनर ने शानदार अंत करते हुए **2025 की चैंपियन अन्ना मुज़ीचुक** से आगे दूसरा स्थान हासिल किया।
- India's **Divya Deshmukh** and **Koneru Humpy** suffered losses to finish fifth and sixth, respectively.
  भारत की **दिव्या देशमुख** और **कोनेरू हम्पी** को हार का सामना करना पड़ा और वे क्रमशः पांचवें तथा छठे स्थान पर रहीं।

Andreeva ends Chwalinska's dream run for first Major title

PCS

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Mirra Andreeva won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska in straight sets in the French Open final.

The 19-year-old Russian beat Chwalinska 6-3, 6-2 to become the youngest Roland Garros women's singles champion since Monica Seles, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in 1992.

With her first-ever Major crown, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after 2005 to win a Grand Slam.

The Coupe Suzanne Lenglen will now take centre spot in Andreeva's burgeoning trophy cabinet, which already features two WTA 1000 titles.

Defeat at the final hurdle brought to an end an astonishing run which started in qualifying for Chwalinska, who won nine matches in the French capital to become the first qualifier to reach the final in the Open era.

However, the World No. 114's career will now be on a different stratosphere as she will climb to 21 in the rankings and be assured of competing regularly in tennis' biggest tournaments.

Argentina's Horacio Zeballos and Spaniard Marcel Granollers won their second straight French Open men's doubles title by beating Harri Heliovaara and Henry Patten in the final.

Third title as a pair

The 41-year-old Zeballos and Granollers, 40, eased to a 6-4, 6-2 victory to secure their third Grand Slam title as a pairing, after also winning last year's US Open.

"Now we can say that it was an amazing two weeks," said Zeballos.

"I can't be more happy. I'm proud in this moment. Yeah, it's unbelievable. It's unbelievable feeling for us and for all of the team."

Finnish player Heliovaara and Britain's Patten missed out on a third Slam title themselves, having won the 2025 Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2024.

THE RESULTS

Women: Final: 8-Andreeva bt Chwalinska (Pol) 6-3, 6-2.
Men: Doubles: Final: 1-Zeballos (Arg) & Granollers (Esp) bt 2-Heliovaara (Fin) & Patten (GBr) 6-4, 6-2.

07J6. Andreeva ends Chwalinska's dream run for first Major title

एंड्रीवा ने च्वालिंस्का के सपनों के सफर को रोककर पहला ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब जीता

- **Mirra Andreeva** won her first **Grand Slam** title on Saturday by downing Polish qualifier **Maja Chwalinska** in straight sets in the **French Open** final.

मिर्रा एंड्रीवा ने शनिवार को **फ्रेंच ओपन** के फाइनल में पोलैंड की क्वालीफायर **माजा च्वालिंस्का** को सीधे सेटों में हराकर अपना पहला **ग्रैंड स्लैम** खिताब जीता।

- The **19-year-old Russian** beat Chwalinska **6-3, 6-2** to become the youngest **Roland Garros women's singles champion** since **Monica Seles**, then aged 18, won her third straight title in Paris in **1992**.

19 वर्षीय रूसी खिलाड़ी ने च्वालिंस्का को **6-3, 6-2** से हराकर **1992** में **मोनिका सेलेस** के बाद सबसे कम उम्र की **रोलां गैरो महिला एकल चैंपियन** बनने का गौरव हासिल किया।

- With her first-ever **Major crown**, Andreeva also became the first player, man or woman, born after **2005** to win a **Grand Slam**.
  अपने पहले **मेजर खिताब** के साथ एंड्रीवा **2005** के बाद जन्मी पहली खिलाड़ी बनीं, जिन्होंने **ग्रैंड स्लैम** जीता है।
- **Argentina's Horacio Zeballos** and **Spain's Marcel Granollers** won their second straight **French Open men's doubles title** by beating **Harri Heliovaara** and **Henry Patten** in the final.
  अर्जेंटीना के होरासियो जेबालोस और **स्पेन के मार्सेल ग्रेनोलर्स** ने फाइनल में **हैरी हेलियोवारा** और **हेनरी पैटन** को हराकर लगातार दूसरा **फ्रेंच ओपन पुरुष युगल खिताब** जीता।

Third title as a pair
जोड़ी के रूप में तीसरा खिताब

- The **41-year-old Zeballos** and **40-year-old Granollers** eased to a **6-4, 6-2** victory to secure their third **Grand Slam title** as a pairing, after also winning last year's **US Open**.
  41 वर्षीय जेबालोस और **40 वर्षीय ग्रेनोलर्स** ने **6-4, 6-2** से जीत दर्ज कर जोड़ी के रूप में अपना तीसरा **ग्रैंड स्लैम खिताब** हासिल किया, इससे पहले उन्होंने पिछले वर्ष का **यूएस ओपन** भी जीता था।

India defeats Bangladesh, wins title for the sixth time

SAFF WOMEN'S C'SHIPS

PCS

Press Trust of India
MARGAO

India clinched the SAFF Women's Championship football title for the sixth time and its first in seven years with a 3-1 win over Bangladesh in the summit clash here on Saturday.

Pyari Xaxa (42nd), Sanfida Nongrum (46th) and Lynda Kom Serto (82nd) scored for India, while Ritu Porna Chakma (45+2) pulled one back for Bangladesh. The host had beaten the same opponents 3-0 in the group stage.

India ended the tournament unbeaten, scoring 18 goals while conceding just one. After five title-wins on the trot, India could not even reach the final in the last two editions when Bangladesh walked away with the trophy. India had last won the title in 2019.

Richly rewarded: The Indian women's team capped off an unbeaten run with the crown. AIFF

07J6. India defeats Bangladesh, wins title for the sixth time
भारत ने बांग्लादेश को हराकर छठी बार खिताब जीता

- **India** clinched the **SAFF Women's Championship** football title for the **sixth time** and its **first in seven years** with a **3-1** win over **Bangladesh** in the summit clash here on Saturday.
  भारत ने शनिवार को फाइनल मुकाबले में **बांग्लादेश** को **3-1** से हराकर **सैफ महिला फुटबॉल चैम्पियनशिप** का खिताब **छठी बार** जीता और **सात वर्षों** बाद यह उपलब्धि हासिल की।

- **Pyari Xaxa (42nd minute)**, **Sanfida Nongrum (46th minute)** and **Lynda Kom Serto (82nd minute)** scored for **India**.
  प्यारी शाषा (42वां मिनट), **सैनफिदा नोंगरुम (46वां मिनट)** और **लिंडा कॉम सेर्टो (82वां मिनट)** ने **भारत** के लिए गोल किए।
- **Ritu Porna Chakma (45+2 minute)** pulled one back for **Bangladesh**.
  ऋतु पोर्ना चकमा (45+2 मिनट) ने **बांग्लादेश** के लिए एक गोल किया।
- The host had beaten the same opponents **3-0** in the **group stage**.
  मेजबान टीम ने **ग्रुप चरण** में भी इसी प्रतिद्वंद्वी को **3-0** से हराया था।
- **India** ended the tournament **unbeaten**, scoring **18 goals** while conceding just **one goal**.
  भारत ने पूरे टूर्नामेंट में **अजेय** रहते हुए **18 गोल** किए और केवल **एक गोल** खाया।
- India had last won the title in **2019**.
  भारत ने इससे पहले यह खिताब **2019** में जीता था।

Indian men triumph, women bag bronze

PCS

U-18 ASIA CUP HOCKEY

Agencies
KAKAMIGAHARA [JAPAN]

Ashish Tani Purti's hat-trick powered the Indian men's hockey team to the U-18 Asia Cup title win after defeating host Japan 4-1 in the final here on Saturday.

Ashish Tani Purti starred with a hat-trick, while captain Ketan Kushwaha also found the back of the net as India produced a commanding display against the host.

Numada Gaku scored for Japan, according to a press release. The Indian women's team won the bronze medal after registering a commanding 3-0 victory over Korea in the third-place match. Sandeepa Kumari, captain Sweety Kujur and Nousheen Naz were on target as the women capped off their campaign with podium finish.

Hockey India announced a cash award of ₹3 lakh for each player in the men's team and ₹1.5 lakh for each member of the support staff.

Each member of the women's team was awarded ₹1 lakh while the support staff got ₹50,000 each.

Purti was awarded Player of the Match for his stellar performance in the men's final and was also recognised as the tournament's top scorer with an impressive 17 goals.

India further dominated the individual honours with Ayush Rajak being named the best goalkeeper. Among the women, Nausheen emerged as the top scorer with 12 goals. Sandeepa was adjudged the Player of the Match in women's final.

Champions: The Indian men's team celebrates the top-of-the-podium finish.
X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

The results: Men: Final: India 4 (Ashish Tani Purti 2, 28, 34, Ketan Kushwaha 30) bt Japan 1 (Numada Gaku 52).
Women: Third place: India 3 (Sandeepa Kumari 2, Sweety Kujur 16, Nousheen Naz 33) bt Korea 0.

07J6. Indian men triumph, women bag bronze

भारतीय पुरुष टीम बनी चैंपियन, महिला टीम ने कांस्य पदक जीता

- **Ashish Tani Purti's** hat-trick powered the **Indian men's hockey team** to the **U-18 Asia Cup** title win after defeating host **Japan** 4-1 in the final here on Saturday.
  आशीष तानी पूर्ति की हैट्रिक की बदौलत **भारतीय पुरुष हॉकी टीम** ने शनिवार को मेजबान **जापान** को फाइनल में 4-1 से हराकर **अंडर-18 एशिया कप** का खिताब जीत लिया।
- **Ashish Tani Purti** starred with a hat-trick, while captain **Ketan Kushwaha** also found the back of the net as India produced a commanding display against the host.
  आशीष तानी पूर्ति ने हैट्रिक लगाकर शानदार प्रदर्शन किया, जबकि कप्तान **केतन कुशवाहा** ने भी गोल किया और भारत ने मेजबान टीम के खिलाफ प्रभावशाली खेल दिखाया।
- **Numada Gaku** scored for **Japan**, according to a press release.
  प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार **नुमादा गाकु** ने **जापान** के लिए गोल किया।
- The **Indian women's team** won the **bronze medal** after registering a commanding **3-0** victory over **Korea** in the third-place match.
  भारतीय महिला टीम ने तीसरे स्थान के मुकाबले में **कोरिया** को **3-0** से हराकर **कांस्य पदक** जीता।
- **Sandeepa Kumari**, captain **Sweety Kujur** and **Nousheen Naz** were on target as the women capped off their campaign with a podium finish.
  संदीपा कुमारी, कप्तान **स्वीटी कुजूर** और **नौशीन नाज़** ने गोल किए और महिला टीम ने पदक जीतकर अपने अभियान का समापन किया।
- **Hockey India** announced a cash award of **₹3 lakh** for each player in the men's team and **₹1.5 lakh** for each member of the support staff.
  हॉकी इंडिया ने पुरुष टीम के प्रत्येक खिलाड़ी के लिए **3 लाख रुपये** तथा सहयोगी स्टाफ के प्रत्येक सदस्य के लिए **1.5 लाख रुपये** की नकद पुरस्कार राशि की घोषणा की।

- Each member of the women's team was awarded **₹1 lakh** while the support staff got **₹50,000** each.
  महिला टीम के प्रत्येक सदस्य को **1 लाख रुपये** तथा सहयोगी स्टाफ के प्रत्येक सदस्य को **50,000 रुपये** दिए गए।
- **Purti** was awarded **Player of the Match** for his stellar performance in the men's final and was also recognised as the tournament's **top scorer** with an impressive **17 goals**.
  पूर्ति को पुरुष फाइनल में शानदार प्रदर्शन के लिए **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** चुना गया और **17 गोल** के साथ वे टूर्नामेंट के **सर्वाधिक गोल करने वाले खिलाड़ी** भी बने।
- India further dominated the individual honours with **Ayush Rajak** being named the **best goalkeeper**.
  भारत ने व्यक्तिगत पुरस्कारों में भी दबदबा कायम रखा और **आयुष रजक** को **सर्वश्रेष्ठ गोलकीपर** चुना गया।
- Among the women, **Nousheen Naz** emerged as the **top scorer** with **12 goals**.
  महिला वर्ग में **नौशीन नाज़ 12 गोल** के साथ **सर्वाधिक गोल करने वाली खिलाड़ी** रहीं।
- **Sandeepa Kumari** was adjudged the **Player of the Match** in the women's final.
  महिला फाइनल में **संदीपा कुमारी** को **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** चुना गया।

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Besieged history

Beaufort Castle

A 12th-century hilltop castle has emerged as a key strategic flashpoint in Israel's war with Hezbollah in occupied southern Lebanon

GS I: World History

Akul Baiju

REUTERS

The Beaufort Castle sits right beside the Litani River in southern Lebanon, with an unobstructed view of northern Israel and the sweeping Beqaa valley. The 900-year-old structure, which literally means "beautiful fort" in Old French, has come under renewed spotlight after the Israeli military invasion on June 1.

Originally called Qalaat al-Shaqif, or the "Castle of the High Rock," Beaufort was built by European crusaders atop older fortifications in 1139. Invaded and besieged multiple times throughout its long history, the bastion has been at the centre of the Israel-Lebanon conflict and a pain point in the fragile ceasefire, announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on April 17.

In 1190, the stately structure was captured by Saladin, the first Sultan of Egypt and Syria, who used it as an important border outpost to strengthen his reign. Due to its military importance, the castle has changed hands frequently, with Crusaders (most famously the Knights Templar), Egyptian Mamluks, Ottomans, and the French all leaving their marks on it.

The Frankish Crusaders created its two-storey keep with an entry through the ground floor, unlike other forts of its time. Exposed stone staircases cut directly into the rock were built, forcing visitors and attackers to ascend in a single file on the highly exposed path.

The Mamluks added curved towers to defend against the firing of spherical stones. They inscribed Arabic victory messages into the front gates of the castle. The Ottoman takeover saw the repartitioning of the 15,000-square-metre area for logistical and residential usage. They built barracks and added slits in the fort walls for precise firing.

Internal politics led to many of the early constructions being mined and later restored using crude stone.

The French period saw the stripping away of Ottoman influence and attempts at restoring Crusader architecture. Beaufort has a sharp 300m drop on one side and the valley on the other, protecting it from enemy attacks. This vantage point is still used for military strikes, surveillance, and the deployment of weaponry.

The natural trench between the fortress and the fast-flowing Litani leads to the city of Nabatieh, an ancient centre for the trade of precious spices and commodities like Myrrh and Frankincense in its historical Souk el-Tanen market.

Caught in the war

The sand-battered behemoth is on track to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has been included on the country's 'tentative list.' November 2024 saw the global body granting it provisional enhanced protection under the 1954 Hague Convention.

During the 1970s, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) attacked Israel from the fort's ramparts. Underground bunkers and command centres were constructed, with some going as deep as 65m underground.

In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon, seized the fortress from the PLO, and raised the 'blue and white' for the first time. This was a significant moment. Then Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon called the taking of Beirut a war that was "worth it" and rejected the allegations of it being "immoral."

The banner of Israel came down in 2000 when the Israelis blew up their bunkers and abandoned the castle, when they withdrew from Lebanon after 18 years of occupation. What followed was its opening to the public and years of restoration, with a brief pause in 2006 due to another Israeli invasion.

The 2026 invasion by Israel marks one of the most significant escalations in the conflict since the dawn of the millennium.

In March this year, Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel in retaliation for the U.S.-Israeli assassination of Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. In response, Israel launched massive air strikes which were followed by a ground invasion.

The U.S.-backed ceasefire is functionally defunct, with both sides launching attacks against each other. Israel wants to push Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon and keep the territory it has captured. Hezbollah says it would continue to fight as long as Israel continues the occupation of Lebanese land.

07J6. Besieged history
घेराबंदी का इतिहास

- A **12th-century hilltop castle** has emerged as a key strategic flashpoint in **Israel's war with Hezbollah** in occupied southern **Lebanon**.
  12वीं शताब्दी का एक पहाड़ी किला दक्षिणी **लेबनान** के कब्जे वाले क्षेत्र में **इज़राइल और हिज़्बुल्लाह के युद्ध** का एक प्रमुख सामरिक केंद्र बनकर उभरा है।

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Website : patrioticias.in

- The **Beaufort Castle** sits right beside the **Litani River** in southern Lebanon, with an unobstructed view of northern Israel and the sweeping **Beqaa Valley**.
  ब्यूफोर्ट कैसल दक्षिणी लेबनान में **लितानी नदी** के किनारे स्थित है, जहां से उत्तरी इज़राइल और विस्तृत **बेका घाटी** का स्पष्ट दृश्य दिखाई देता है।
- The **900-year-old structure**, which literally means "**beautiful fort**" in Old French, has come under renewed spotlight after the Israeli military invasion on **June 1**.
  यह **900 वर्ष पुरानी संरचना**, जिसका पुरानी फ्रेंच भाषा में शाब्दिक अर्थ "**सुंदर किला**" है, **1 जून** को हुए इज़राइली सैन्य आक्रमण के बाद फिर से चर्चा में आ गई है।
- Originally called **Qalaat al-Shaqif**, or the "**Castle of the High Rock**," Beaufort was built by European crusaders atop older fortifications in **1139**.
  मूल रूप से **क़लाअत अल-शकीफ** या "**ऊंची चट्टान का किला**" कहलाने वाला ब्यूफोर्ट, **1139** में यूरोपीय धर्मयोद्धाओं द्वारा पुराने किलाबंद ढांचे के ऊपर बनाया गया था।
- In **1190**, the stately structure was captured by **Saladin**, the first Sultan of Egypt and Syria, who used it as an important border outpost to strengthen his reign.
  1190 में इस भव्य संरचना पर **सलाउद्दीन** ने कब्जा कर लिया, जो मिस्र और सीरिया के पहले सुल्तान थे, और उन्होंने इसे अपने शासन को मजबूत करने के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण सीमावर्ती चौकी के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया।
- Due to its military importance, the castle has changed hands frequently, with **Crusaders**, **Knights Templar**, **Egyptian Mamluks**, **Ottomans**, and the **French** all leaving their marks on it.
  सैन्य महत्व के कारण इस किले का नियंत्रण कई बार बदला और **क्रूसेडर**, **नाइट्स टेम्पलर**, **मिस्री ममलूक**, **उस्मानी साम्राज्य** तथा **फ्रांसीसियों** ने इस पर अपनी छाप छोड़ी।
- The **Frankish Crusaders** created its two-storey keep with an entry through the ground floor, unlike other forts of its time.
  फ्रैंकी क्रूसेडरों ने इसका दो मंजिला मुख्य भाग बनाया, जिसमें प्रवेश भूतल से होता था, जो उस समय के अन्य किलों से अलग था।
- The natural trench between the fortress and the fast-flowing **Litani** leads to the city of **Nabatieh**, an ancient centre for the trade of precious spices and commodities like **Myrrh** and **Frankincense** in its historical **Souk el-Tanen** market.
  किले और तेज़ बहने वाली **लितानी नदी** के बीच स्थित प्राकृतिक खाई **नबातियेह** शहर तक जाती है, जो अपने ऐतिहासिक **सूक एल-तानन** बाजार में **मिर्र** और **लोबान** जैसे बहुमूल्य मसालों और वस्तुओं के व्यापार का प्राचीन केंद्र रहा है।

Caught in the war
युद्ध की चपेट में

- The sand-battered behemoth is on track to become a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and has been included on the country's '**tentative list**.'
  रेत और समय की मार झेल चुका यह विशाल किला **यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल** बनने की दिशा में अग्रसर है और इसे देश की '**अस्थायी सूची**' में शामिल किया गया है।
- **November 2024** saw the global body granting it provisional enhanced protection under the **1954 Hague Convention**.
  नवंबर 2024 में वैश्विक संस्था ने इसे **1954 हेग कन्वेंशन** के तहत अस्थायी उन्नत संरक्षण प्रदान किया।
- During the **1970s**, the **Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)** attacked Israel from the fort's ramparts.
  1970 के दशक में **फिलिस्तीन मुक्ति संगठन (PLO)** ने किले की प्राचीरों से इज़राइल पर हमले किए।

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07J6	Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival औद्योगिक नमक पैन सांभर झील के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा बन रहे हैं

GS I: Geography

Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival

Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland saltwater wetland. When they analysed satellite data from 1984 to 2023, scientists found the lake depends heavily on seasonal rain, with water levels peaking in late summer and shrinking significantly in the dry season. Between 2022 and 2023, the lake's surface also shrank while salt pans nearby expanded. The authors said efforts to conserve the lake must separate industrial salt pans and the wetland environment, including natural saline land.

07J6. Industrial salt pans threaten Sambhar Lake's survival

औद्योगिक नमक पैन सांभर झील के अस्तित्व के लिए खतरा बन रहे हैं

- **Sambhar Lake** is **India's largest inland saltwater wetland**.

सांभर झील भारत की सबसे बड़ी अंतर्देशीय खारे पानी की आर्द्रभूमि है।

- The authors said efforts to conserve the lake must separate **industrial salt pans** and the **wetland environment**, including **natural saline land**.

अध्ययनकर्ताओं ने कहा कि झील के संरक्षण के लिए **औद्योगिक नमक उत्पादन क्षेत्रों** और **आर्द्रभूमि पारितंत्र** को, जिसमें **प्राकृतिक लवणीय भूमि** भी शामिल है, स्पष्ट रूप से अलग-अलग प्रबंधित किया जाना चाहिए।

GS Paper II: Polity	07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07J6	SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बच्चे के पितृत्व जानने के अधिकार और पिता के निजता के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन बनाया

PATRIOTIC IAS

SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy

GS II: Polity

Rizmi Lia M.
CHENNAI

The Supreme Court, in a ruling last week, upheld the use of DNA test in a long-running paternity dispute, addressing the complex question of whether an individual's right to privacy overrides the need to determine parentage.

Earlier, the top court had consistently held in various judgments that DNA tests should not be ordered routinely, but there has never been a conclusive answer to when they should be permitted.

Paternity cases largely revolved around the concerns of legitimacy and the need to avoid illegitimising children. However, after the Supreme Court's landmark decision of *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* in 2017 which ruled that the right to privacy is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, the court has continuously ruled that compulsory DNA testing interferes with an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.

The top court had earlier consistently held in various judgments that DNA tests should not be ordered routinely. ISTOCK/GETTY IMAGES

In the present case, Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh upheld the trial court order directing a DNA test to prove paternity. The alleged father and appellant approached the court to overturn the trial order.

Section 112 of the Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 116 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam) states that a child is presumed to be legitimate unless the party disputing paternity proves that there was non-access for the relevant period of the marriage and it is upon the alleged father to prove the non-access.

In a series of older cases, the court has pulled back from using the DNA test to prove paternity. Especially since the above said section was enacted in 1872, when there was no scientific means to determine paternity. However, the DNA testing method became commercially available in India by the 1980s.

In 2014, the Supreme Court gave a wider interpretation in *Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik v. Lata Nandlal Badwaik* holding that "in our opinion, when there is a conflict between a conclusive proof envisaged under law and a proof based on scientific advancement accepted by the world community to be correct, the latter must prevail over the former".

N.D. Tiwari case

In the same year, the N.D. Tiwari paternity row was highly publicised in which veteran politician Narayan Dutt Tiwari was compelled to take a DNA test that proved he was the biological father of Rohit Shekhar. The long-drawn-out six-year case established a significant legal precedent regarding privacy, scientific evidence, and the rights of children born out of wedlock. Though Tiwari strongly argued that his right to privacy was violated, the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court ordered for the test.

In the present case, neither the court gave an unrestricted right to the child to demand DNA testing nor abandon the alleged father's right to privacy, but rather held that in the domain of right to privacy, it wants to balance the interests of the alleged father's privacy with that of the child's desire for closure on a question that has loomed large on his life.

07J6. SC balances child's right to know paternity, father's right to privacy
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बच्चे के पितृत्व जानने के अधिकार और पिता के निजता के अधिकार के बीच संतुलन बनाया

- However, after the Supreme Court's landmark decision of **Justice K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017)** which ruled that the **right to privacy** is a fundamental right under **Article 21 of the Constitution**, the court has continuously ruled that compulsory DNA testing interferes with an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy.
  हालांकि, **जस्टिस के.एस. पुट्टस्वामी बनाम भारत संघ (2017)** के ऐतिहासिक निर्णय के बाद, जिसमें **निजता के अधिकार** को **संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21** के तहत मौलिक अधिकार माना गया, अदालत लगातार यह कहती रही है कि अनिवार्य डीएनए परीक्षण व्यक्ति की निजता और शारीरिक स्वायत्तता के अधिकार में हस्तक्षेप करता है।
- In the present case, **Justice Sanjay Karol** and **Justice N. Kotiswar Singh** upheld the trial court order directing a DNA test to prove paternity.

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वर्तमान मामले में **न्यायमूर्ति संजय करोल** और **न्यायमूर्ति एन. कोटिस्वर सिंह** ने पितृत्व सिद्ध करने के लिए डीएनए परीक्षण कराने के निचली अदालत के आदेश को बरकरार रखा।

- The alleged father and appellant approached the court to overturn the trial order.
  कथित पिता और अपीलकर्ता ने निचली अदालत के आदेश को निरस्त कराने के लिए अदालत का रुख किया था।
- **Section 112 of the Evidence Act, 1872 (Section 116 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam)** states that a child is presumed to be legitimate unless the party disputing paternity proves that there was non-access for the relevant period of the marriage and it is upon the alleged father to prove the non-access.
  भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 1872 की धारा 112 (भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम, 2023 की धारा 116) के अनुसार, किसी बच्चे को वैध माना जाएगा, जब तक कि पितृत्व पर विवाद करने वाला पक्ष यह सिद्ध न कर दे कि विवाह की संबंधित अवधि के दौरान पति-पत्नी के बीच संपर्क नहीं था, और यह साबित करने का दायित्व कथित पिता पर होता है।
- In a series of older cases, the court has pulled back from using the DNA test to prove paternity.
  पुराने मामलों की एक श्रृंखला में अदालत ने पितृत्व सिद्ध करने के लिए डीएनए परीक्षण के उपयोग से परहेज किया था।
- Especially since the above said section was enacted in **1872**, when there was no scientific means to determine paternity.
  विशेष रूप से इसलिए क्योंकि उपरोक्त धारा **1872** में बनाई गई थी, जब पितृत्व निर्धारित करने का कोई वैज्ञानिक साधन उपलब्ध नहीं था।
- However, the **DNA testing method** became commercially available in India by the **1980s**.
  हालांकि, **डीएनए परीक्षण पद्धति** भारत में **1980 के दशक** तक व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध हो गई थी।
- In **2014**, the Supreme Court gave a wider interpretation in **Nandlal Wasudeo Badwaik v. Lata Nandlal Badwaik** holding that "in our opinion, when there is a conflict between a conclusive proof envisaged under law and a proof based on scientific advancement accepted by the world community to be correct, the latter must prevail over the former".
  2014 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने **नंदलाल वासुदेव बडवाइक बनाम लता नंदलाल बडवाइक** मामले में व्यापक व्याख्या करते हुए कहा कि "हमारी राय में, जब कानून द्वारा परिकल्पित निर्णायक साक्ष्य और वैज्ञानिक प्रगति पर आधारित तथा विश्व समुदाय द्वारा सही माने गए साक्ष्य के बीच टकराव हो, तो बाद वाला पहले पर वरीयता प्राप्त करेगा।"

N.D. Tiwari case
एन.डी. तिवारी मामला

- In the same year, the **N.D. Tiwari paternity row** was highly publicised in which veteran politician **Narayan Dutt Tiwari** was compelled to take a DNA test that proved he was the biological father of **Rohit Shekhar**.
  उसी वर्ष **एन.डी. तिवारी पितृत्व विवाद** काफी चर्चित रहा, जिसमें वरिष्ठ राजनेता **नारायण दत्त तिवारी** को डीएनए परीक्षण कराने के लिए बाध्य किया गया था, जिसने सिद्ध किया कि वे **रोहित शेखर** के जैविक पिता थे।
- In the present case, neither the court gave an unrestricted right to the child to demand DNA testing nor abandon the alleged father's right to privacy, but rather held that in the domain of right to privacy, it wants to balance the interests of the alleged father's privacy with that of the child's desire for closure on a question that has loomed large on his life.
  वर्तमान मामले में अदालत ने न तो बच्चे को डीएनए परीक्षण की असीमित मांग का अधिकार दिया और न ही कथित पिता के निजता के अधिकार को त्यागा, बल्कि यह कहा कि निजता के अधिकार के क्षेत्र में वह कथित

पिता की गोपनीयता और बच्चे के उस प्रश्न का उत्तर पाने की इच्छा, जिसने उसके जीवन पर गहरा प्रभाव डाला है, दोनों के हितों के बीच संतुलन बनाना चाहती है।

GS Paper II: Governance	07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07J6	The Gen Z trio that took on the CBSE सीबीएसई को चुनौती देने वाली जेन-ज़ेड की तिकड़ी
07J6	Govt. standardises edible oil pack sizes for price comparison मूल्य तुलना के लिए सरकार ने खाद्य तेल पैक आकारों का मानकीकरण किया

PATRIOTIC IAS

The Gen Z trio that took on the CBSE

Vedant Shrivastava, Nisarga Adhikary and Sarthak Sidhant

The three students who were viciously trolled for raising their voice on public platforms against the CBSE's On-Screen Marking system stand vindicated after the Board admitted to flaws in the system

Maitri Porecha

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Nisarga Adhikary, an 'ethical hacker', Vedant Shrivastava, and Sarthak Sidhant have exposed flaws in the CBSE's marking system.

Vedant Shrivastava (17), Nisarga Adhikary (19) and Sarthak Sidhant (18) were ordinary teenagers until two weeks ago, before they raised their voice on public platforms against the Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) botched up On-Screen Marking system. After the board admitted to flaws in the system, the Gen Z trio stood vindicated.

Class 12 student Vedant was in for a rude shock when he got called 'anti-national,' on X, as he flagged receiving a stranger's answer sheet instead of his own to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

One of the first students to raise his voice against the On-Screen Marking system deployed by the CBSE, Vedant, who is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower,' says that since he went public on X, what has ensued is utter 'chaos.' The trolling did not stop at being called an 'anti-national,' or 'Pakistani'. "People went on to comment about my physical appearance and my speech," he says. After pointing out the botch-up, senior officials at the CBSE admitted their mistake and traced his original physics answer sheet.

"I took to X to voice my concerns as CBSE was not replying to my distress calls. Because I am a minor, X does not specifically mention country or location but highlights the larger region to which the account belongs. In my case, this was South Asia, and I was brutally trolled and called a 'Pakistani,'" Vedant says.

After the CBSE portal for re-evaluation opened on June 2, Vedant applied to get 13 questions re-evaluated in four subjects – Computer Science, English, Mathematics and Physics.

An East Delhi resident, Vedant observes that the CBSE implemented On-Screen Marking in a hasty manner. "In my school, some teachers are very aged and they are used to checking answer copies by hand. They are not well versed with using computers. If the CBSE wants to implement the OSM system in 2027 they should give teachers proper training," he says.

It has been two weeks since Vedant's post on X, which blew the lid off a massive evaluation fiasco in the CBSE, but the media attention over the teenager has not died down.

"The controversy started affecting me but my family was very supportive," he says adding that he got 'distracted,' by the CBSE upheaval for the last two weeks but is now re-starting his preparation for the National Defence Academy entrance exams. "I aspire to be a fighter pilot with the Indian Air Force."

'Ethical hacker'

Nisarga Adhikary, a West Bengal-based "ethical hacker", exposed "critical vulnerabilities" in the CBSE's OSM portal, including leaking sensitive student information.

The CBSE immediately slipped into denial after Nisarga went public with his posts on X, and nearly after two weeks, it admitted to the flaws. "It was really frustrating for me that the CBSE and the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) took three months (since he first raised complaints in February) to admit the flaws in their portal," Nisarga told *The Hindu*. Between 2023 and 2025, Nisarga found himself embroiled in the Joint Entrance Exams (JEE) race, which he said was 'pretty depressing.' "I don't see a point in putting effort for an institute (Indian Institutes of Technology) when they are not even in top 100 ranking institutes across the world," he told *The Hindu*. Life came full circle for Nisarga when an expert IIT team invited him to fix the vulnerabilities in the CBSE's IT ecosystem. Asked why the students have been forced to take matters into their own hands, Nisarga says: "Gen Z holding people accountable is the way to go as some people in high places are full of ego."

At age 19, when most students are busy with regular schooling, Nisarga had already started interning in tech companies. He primarily identifies as a software engineer and has worked on digitising restaurant menus for a Mumbai-based tech company Skann before dabbling into an internship with Singapore-based crypto giant Cypherock and then interning with Bengaluru-based tech company Wavelength. Hacking into CBSE portals was his first brush with social activism, he says.

Nisarga says he has multiple job offers from Silicon Valley in California, and he does not want to 'waste his time going to college'. "In case I take up an offer in the U.S., I will aim to apply for an extraordinary talent visa [U.S. O-1 nonimmigrant visa], which allows individuals who have reached the top of their fields to live and work in the U.S.," he says. "However, I will stay back in India if I get a good research opportunity to work in IITs."

Nisarga believes in combining computer programming with activism to champion public rights causes around data privacy. The teen 'ethical hacker' has also publicly stated that he is 'queer,' and is concerned about the LGBTQ rights in India.

"I want to build an inclusive society where people are more accepting of each other. Religion is a coping mechanism whereas we need more scientific thought over religion to build an inclusive society," he says.

Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant is being chased by journalists since he alleged through comparison of public documents that the CBSE had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor COEMPT Eduteck in the OSM portal issue. Sarthak became what is likely the youngest person to depose in front of a Parliamentary Panel. After his deposition on June 2, he has not been able to return home, because he says he feels 'unsafe'. He felt compelled to shift to an undisclosed location after journalists reached his accommodation in New Delhi. "In Ranchi, I gather there are journalists waiting for me outside my house. I don't want to go back home, so I am staying put at an undisclosed location," he says.

Seeds of rationality

Sarthak says he is of a curious nature and he likes spending most of his time on his computer "digging into new things". "I do not like watching movies or web shows. What I like, however, is old songs with meaningful lyrics playing in the background while I work on my computer." Sarthak is a fan of progressive Indian poet Sahir Ludhianvi and when asked what his favourite works are, without hesitation, he immediately cites lyrics – *Tu Hindu banega na Musalaman banegaa, Insaan ki aulad hai, Insaan banega* (You will neither be a Hindu or Muslim, you are humanity's child you will be a human).

Sarthak says his parents had an intercaste marriage and they have an evolutionary and pragmatic perspective, which sowed seeds of rationality and logic in him since a young age. "After my father passed away due to cardiac arrest two years ago, I started questioning concepts like religion, philosophy and faith."

Sarthak wants to pursue engineering and go on to blend technology with social welfare for bettering lives. He looks up to Dinkar's poetry and cites the poet's famous work: *'Lohe ke ped hare honge,'* (Dried out trees will become green). "The sole message of this poetry is that one should keep asking questions and put in constant efforts to seek answers," he says.

THE GIST

- Vedant Shrivastava, one of the first students to raise his voice against the On-Screen Marking system deployed by the CBSE, is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower'
- Nisarga Adhikary, a 19-year-old cybersecurity researcher, exposed "critical vulnerabilities" in the CBSE's OSM portal, including leaking sensitive student information
- Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant has alleged through comparison of public documents that the CBSE had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor COEMPT Eduteck in the OSM portal issue

07J6. The Gen Z trio that took on the CBSE
सीबीएसई को चुनौती देने वाली जेन-ज़ेड की तिकड़ी

- **Vedant Shrivastava, Nisarga Adhikary and Sarthak Sidhant**
  वेदांत श्रीवास्तव, निसर्ग अधिकारी और सार्थक सिद्धांत
- The three students who were viciously trolled for raising their voice on public platforms against the **CBSE's On-Screen Marking system** stand vindicated after the Board admitted to flaws in the system.
  सीबीएसई की ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक मंचों पर आवाज उठाने के कारण बुरी तरह ट्रोल किए गए इन तीन छात्रों को तब सही साबित किया गया जब बोर्ड ने प्रणाली में खामियों को स्वीकार कर लिया।
- **Vedant Shrivastava (17)**, **Nisarga Adhikary (19)** and **Sarthak Sidhant (18)** were ordinary teenagers until two weeks ago, before they raised their voice on public platforms against the **Central Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE)** botched up **On-Screen Marking system**.
  वेदांत श्रीवास्तव (17), **निसर्ग अधिकारी (19)** और **सार्थक सिद्धांत (18)** दो सप्ताह पहले तक सामान्य किशोर थे, जब तक उन्होंने **केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (सीबीएसई)** की त्रुटिपूर्ण **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली** के खिलाफ सार्वजनिक मंचों पर आवाज नहीं उठाई थी।
- After the board admitted to flaws in the system, the **Gen Z trio** stood vindicated.
  बोर्ड द्वारा प्रणाली में खामियां स्वीकार करने के बाद **जेन-ज़ेड की यह तिकड़ी** सही साबित हुई।
- Class 12 student **Vedant** was in for a rude shock when he got called 'anti-national' on **X**, as he flagged receiving a stranger's answer sheet instead of his own to the **Central Board of**

Secondary Education (CBSE).

कक्षा 12 के छात्र **वेदांत** को उस समय बड़ा झटका लगा जब उन्हें **X** पर 'राष्ट्रविरोधी' कहा गया, क्योंकि उन्होंने **सीबीएसई** से अपनी उत्तरपुस्तिका के बजाय किसी अन्य छात्र की उत्तरपुस्तिका मिलने का मुद्दा उठाया था।

- One of the first students to raise his voice against the **On-Screen Marking system** deployed by the **CBSE**, Vedant, who is now being referred to as 'the primary whistleblower,' says that since he went public on **X**, what has ensued is utter 'chaos.'

  सीबीएसई द्वारा लागू **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग प्रणाली** के खिलाफ सबसे पहले आवाज उठाने वाले छात्रों में से एक वेदांत, जिन्हें अब 'मुख्य व्हिसलब्लोअर' कहा जा रहा है, बताते हैं कि **X** पर सार्वजनिक रूप से बोलने के बाद पूरी तरह 'अराजकता' फैल गई।
- The trolling did not stop at being called an 'anti-national,' or 'Pakistani'.

  ट्रोलिंग केवल 'राष्ट्रविरोधी' या 'पाकिस्तानी' कहे जाने तक सीमित नहीं रही।
- "People went on to comment about my physical appearance and my speech," he says.

  "लोगों ने मेरी शारीरिक बनावट और बोलने के तरीके पर भी टिप्पणियां करनी शुरू कर दीं," उन्होंने कहा।
- After pointing out the botch-up, senior officials at the **CBSE** admitted their mistake and traced his original **Physics answer sheet**.

  त्रुटि की ओर ध्यान दिलाने के बाद **सीबीएसई** के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने अपनी गलती स्वीकार की और उनकी मूल **भौतिकी उत्तरपुस्तिका** खोज निकाली।
- "I took to **X** to voice my concerns as **CBSE** was not replying to my distress calls.

  "मैंने अपनी चिंताएं व्यक्त करने के लिए **X** का सहारा लिया क्योंकि **सीबीएसई** मेरी शिकायतों का जवाब नहीं दे रहा था।
- Because I am a minor, **X** does not specifically mention country or location but highlights the larger region to which the account belongs.

  क्योंकि मैं नाबालिग हूं, **X** विशेष रूप से देश या स्थान का उल्लेख नहीं करता बल्कि उस बड़े क्षेत्र को दर्शाता है जिससे खाता संबंधित है।
- In my case, this was **South Asia**, and I was brutally trolled and called a 'Pakistani,'" Vedant says.

  मेरे मामले में यह **दक्षिण एशिया** था और मुझे बुरी तरह ट्रोल किया गया तथा 'पाकिस्तानी' कहा गया," वेदांत ने कहा।
- After the **CBSE portal** for re-evaluation opened on **June 2**, Vedant applied to get **13 questions** re-evaluated in four subjects — **Computer Science, English, Mathematics and Physics**.

  2 जून को पुनर्मूल्यांकन हेतु **सीबीएसई पोर्टल** खुलने के बाद वेदांत ने **कंप्यूटर साइंस, अंग्रेज़ी, गणित और भौतिकी** के **13 प्रश्नों** के पुनर्मूल्यांकन के लिए आवेदन किया।
- An **East Delhi** resident, Vedant observes that the **CBSE** implemented **On-Screen Marking** in a hasty manner.

  पूर्वी दिल्ली निवासी वेदांत का मानना है कि **सीबीएसई** ने **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग** को जल्दबाजी में लागू किया।
- "In my school, some teachers are very aged and they are used to checking answer copies by hand.

  "मेरे विद्यालय में कुछ शिक्षक काफी उम्रदराज हैं और वे हाथ से उत्तरपुस्तिकाएं जांचने के आदी हैं।
- They are not well versed with using computers.

  वे कंप्यूटर के उपयोग में अधिक दक्ष नहीं हैं।
- If the **CBSE** wants to implement the **OSM system** in **2027** they should give teachers proper training," he says.

  यदि **सीबीएसई 2027** में **ओएसएम प्रणाली** लागू करना चाहता है तो उसे शिक्षकों को उचित प्रशिक्षण देना चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।
- It has been two weeks since Vedant's post on **X**, which blew the lid off a massive evaluation fiasco in the **CBSE**, but the media attention over the teenager has not died down.

वेदांत की **X** पोस्ट को दो सप्ताह हो चुके हैं, जिसने **सीबीएसई** के मूल्यांकन घोटाले का खुलासा किया, लेकिन मीडिया का ध्यान अब भी उन पर बना हुआ है।

- "The controversy started affecting me but my family was very supportive," he says adding that he got 'distracted' by the **CBSE** upheaval for the last two weeks but is now re-starting his preparation for the **National Defence Academy** entrance exams.
  "इस विवाद का मुझ पर प्रभाव पड़ने लगा था, लेकिन मेरा परिवार बहुत सहयोगी था," उन्होंने कहा और जोड़ा कि पिछले दो सप्ताह से **सीबीएसई** विवाद के कारण उनका ध्यान भटक गया था, लेकिन अब वे **राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी** प्रवेश परीक्षा की तैयारी फिर से शुरू कर रहे हैं।
- "I aspire to be a fighter pilot with the **Indian Air Force**."
  "मैं **भारतीय वायुसेना** में फाइटर पायलट बनना चाहता हूं।"

'Ethical hacker'
'एथिकल हैकर'

- **Nisarga Adhikary**, a **West Bengal-based** "ethical hacker", exposed "critical vulnerabilities" in the **CBSE's OSM portal**, including leaking sensitive student information.
  पश्चिम बंगाल के "एथिकल हैकर" **निसर्ग अधिकारी** ने **सीबीएसई के ओएसएम पोर्टल** में "गंभीर कमजोरियों" का खुलासा किया, जिनमें छात्रों की संवेदनशील जानकारी का लीक होना भी शामिल था।
- "I don't see a point in putting effort for an institute (**Indian Institutes of Technology**) when they are not even in top 100 ranking institutes across the world," he told The Hindu.
  "जब **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (IIT)** दुनिया के शीर्ष 100 संस्थानों में भी नहीं हैं, तो वहां प्रवेश पाने के लिए अत्यधिक प्रयास करने का मुझे कोई विशेष कारण नहीं दिखता," उन्होंने कहा।
- Life came full circle for Nisarga when an expert **IIT** team invited him to fix the vulnerabilities in the **CBSE's IT ecosystem**.
  निसर्ग के जीवन में एक दिलचस्प मोड़ तब आया जब एक विशेषज्ञ **आईआईटी** टीम ने उन्हें **सीबीएसई के आईटी तंत्र** की कमजोरियों को दूर करने के लिए आमंत्रित किया।
- Asked why the students have been forced to take matters into their own hands, Nisarga says: "**Gen Z** holding people accountable is the way to go as some people in high places are full of ego."
  जब उनसे पूछा गया कि छात्रों को खुद आगे क्यों आना पड़ा, तो निसर्ग ने कहा, "**जेन-ज़ेड** द्वारा लोगों को जवाबदेह ठहराना जरूरी है क्योंकि ऊंचे पदों पर बैठे कुछ लोग अहंकार से भरे हुए हैं।"
- At age **19**, when most students are busy with regular schooling, Nisarga had already started interning in tech companies.
  19 वर्ष की आयु में, जब अधिकांश छात्र नियमित पढ़ाई में व्यस्त रहते हैं, निसर्ग तकनीकी कंपनियों में इंटर्नशिप शुरू कर चुके थे।
- He primarily identifies as a **software engineer** and has worked on digitising restaurant menus for a Mumbai-based tech company **Skann** before dabbling into an internship with Singapore-based crypto giant **Cypherock** and then interning with Bengaluru-based tech company **Wavelength**.
  वे स्वयं को मुख्य रूप से **सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियर** मानते हैं और मुंबई की तकनीकी कंपनी **Skann**, सिंगापुर की क्रिप्टो कंपनी **Cypherock** तथा बेंगलुरु की तकनीकी कंपनी **Wavelength** के साथ कार्य कर चुके हैं।
- Hacking into **CBSE** portals was his first brush with social activism, he says.
  उनके अनुसार **सीबीएसई** पोर्टलों से जुड़ा यह मामला सामाजिक सक्रियता का उनका पहला अनुभव था।
- Nisarga says he has multiple job offers from **Silicon Valley** in **California**, and he does not want to 'waste his time going to college'.
  निसर्ग का कहना है कि उन्हें **कैलिफोर्निया की सिलिकॉन वैली** से कई नौकरी प्रस्ताव मिले हैं और वे 'कॉलेज जाकर समय बर्बाद नहीं करना चाहते'।
- "In case I take up an offer in the **U.S.**, I will aim to apply for an **extraordinary talent visa (U.S. O-1 nonimmigrant visa)**, which allows individuals who have reached the top of their

fields to live and work in the U.S.," he says.
"यदि मैं **अमेरिका** में कोई प्रस्ताव स्वीकार करता हूं, तो मैं **यू.एस. O-1 गैर-आप्रवासी वीज़ा** के लिए आवेदन करूंगा," उन्होंने कहा।

- "However, I will stay back in India if I get a good research opportunity to work in **IITs**."
"हालांकि, यदि मुझे **आईआईटी** में अच्छा शोध अवसर मिलता है तो मैं भारत में ही रहूंगा।"
- Nisarga believes in combining **computer programming** with activism to champion public rights causes around **data privacy**.
निसर्ग **कंप्यूटर प्रोग्रामिंग** और सामाजिक सक्रियता को जोड़कर **डेटा गोपनीयता** से जुड़े जनहित के मुद्दों को आगे बढ़ाने में विश्वास रखते हैं।
- The teen 'ethical hacker' has also publicly stated that he is 'queer,' and is concerned about the **LGBTQ rights** in India.
इस युवा 'एथिकल हैकर' ने सार्वजनिक रूप से स्वयं को 'क्वियर' बताया है और भारत में **LGBTQ अधिकारों** को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त की है।
- "I want to build an inclusive society where people are more accepting of each other.
"मैं एक समावेशी समाज बनाना चाहता हूं जहां लोग एक-दूसरे को अधिक स्वीकार करें।
- Religion is a coping mechanism whereas we need more scientific thought over religion to build an inclusive society," he says.
धर्म एक सहारा देने वाली व्यवस्था हो सकता है, लेकिन समावेशी समाज बनाने के लिए हमें अधिक वैज्ञानिक सोच की आवश्यकता है," उन्होंने कहा।

Seeds of rationality
तार्किकता के बीज

- **Ranchi-based Sarthak Sidhant** is being chased by journalists since he alleged through comparison of public documents that the **CBSE** had diluted requirements to favour technology vendor **COEMPT Eduteck** in the **OSM portal** issue.
रांची निवासी सार्थक सिद्धांत तब से मीडिया की सुर्खियों में हैं, जब उन्होंने सार्वजनिक दस्तावेजों की तुलना के आधार पर आरोप लगाया कि **सीबीएसई** ने **COEMPT Eduteck** को लाभ पहुंचाने के लिए **ओएसएम पोर्टल** से जुड़े मानदंडों को शिथिल किया।
- Sarthak became what is likely the youngest person to depose in front of a **Parliamentary Panel**.
सार्थक संभवतः **संसदीय समिति** के समक्ष बयान देने वाले सबसे युवा व्यक्ति बने।
- After his deposition on **June 2**, he has not been able to return home, because he says he feels 'unsafe'.
2 जून को बयान देने के बाद वे घर नहीं लौट सके क्योंकि उन्हें स्वयं को 'असुरक्षित' महसूस हो रहा है।
- He felt compelled to shift to an undisclosed location after journalists reached his accommodation in **New Delhi**.
पत्रकारों के **नई दिल्ली** स्थित उनके आवास तक पहुंचने के बाद उन्हें एक अज्ञात स्थान पर जाना पड़ा।
- "In Ranchi, I gather there are journalists waiting for me outside my house.
"रांची में मेरे घर के बाहर पत्रकार मेरा इंतजार कर रहे हैं।
- I don't want to go back home, so I am staying put at an undisclosed location," he says.
मैं घर वापस नहीं जाना चाहता, इसलिए एक अज्ञात स्थान पर रह रहा हूं," उन्होंने कहा।
- Sarthak says he is of a curious nature and he likes spending most of his time on his computer "digging into new things".
सार्थक कहते हैं कि उनका स्वभाव जिज्ञासु है और वे अपना अधिकांश समय कंप्यूटर पर "नई चीजों की खोज" में बिताना पसंद करते हैं।
- "I do not like watching movies or web shows.
"मुझे फिल्में या वेब शो देखना पसंद नहीं है।

- What I like, however, is old songs with meaningful lyrics playing in the background while I work on my computer."
  लेकिन मुझे कंप्यूटर पर काम करते समय सार्थक बोल वाले पुराने गीत सुनना पसंद है।"
- Sarthak is a fan of progressive Indian poet **Sahir Ludhianvi**.
  सार्थक प्रगतिशील भारतीय कवि **साहिर लुधियानवी** के प्रशंसक हैं।
- Sarthak says his parents had an **intercaste marriage** and they have an evolutionary and pragmatic perspective, which sowed seeds of rationality and logic in him since a young age.
  सार्थक बताते हैं कि उनके माता-पिता का **अंतरजातीय विवाह** हुआ था और उनका दृष्टिकोण व्यावहारिक एवं प्रगतिशील था, जिसने बचपन से ही उनमें तर्कशीलता और विवेक के बीज बोए।
- "After my father passed away due to **cardiac arrest** two years ago, I started questioning concepts like religion, philosophy and faith."
  "दो वर्ष पहले मेरे पिता की **हृदयाघात** से मृत्यु के बाद मैंने धर्म, दर्शन और आस्था जैसे विषयों पर प्रश्न उठाने शुरू किए।"
- Sarthak wants to pursue **engineering** and go on to blend technology with social welfare for bettering lives.
  सार्थक **इंजीनियरिंग** करना चाहते हैं और आगे चलकर तकनीक को सामाजिक कल्याण के साथ जोड़कर लोगों का जीवन बेहतर बनाना चाहते हैं।
- He looks up to **Dinkar's poetry** and cites the poet's famous work: '**Lohe ke ped hare honge**,' (Dried out trees will become green).
  वे **दिनकर की कविताओं** से प्रेरित हैं और उनकी प्रसिद्ध पंक्ति '**लोहे के पेड़ हरे होंगे**' का उल्लेख करते हैं।
- "The sole message of this poetry is that one should keep asking questions and put in constant efforts to seek answers," he says.
  "इस कविता का मुख्य संदेश है कि व्यक्ति को लगातार प्रश्न पूछते रहना चाहिए और उत्तर खोजने के लिए निरंतर प्रयास करते रहना चाहिए," उन्होंने कहा।

Govt. standardises edible oil pack sizes for price comparison

GS II: Governance

Meenakshi Verma Ambwani
NEW DELHI

The revised SoP prescribes nine standard pack sizes.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has prescribed standard pack sizes for edible oils under the Legal Metrology framework to help consumers compare prices across brands and make informed purchasing decisions.

In a statement, the Department said it has amended the Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) governing net quantity declarations and standard pack sizes for edible oils and fats. Manufacturers, packers and importers have three months to comply with the new norms.

The move follows consultations with industry associations representing nearly 90% of the edible oil sector. According to the Department, the proliferation of non-standard pack sizes in recent years has made price comparison difficult and created confusion among consumers.

The revised SoP prescribes nine standard pack sizes – 200 ml/g, 500 ml/g, 1 litre/kg, 2 litre/kg, 3 litre/kg, 4 litre/kg, 5 litre/kg, 15 litre/kg and 20 litre/kg – for major edible oils, including palm, soybean, sunflower, mustard, groundnut, sesame, rice bran, cottonseed and corn oil, as well as blended oils.

Volume declaration

The new rules also mandate declaration of both volume and equivalent weight on packs to improve transparency. The provisions apply to both domestically manufactured and imported edible oils. Packages below 200 ml or 200 grams and minor edible oils have been exempted from the standard pack-size requirement to ensure the continued availability of affordable small packs. Companies may adopt the new pack sizes immediately, even before the transition period ends.

Welcoming the move, Sudhakar Desai, president of the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association, said it would "restore structural sanity to retail shelves and level the playing field".

He noted while flexibility in pack sizes was intended to give industry greater freedom, it had led to a proliferation of non-standard packs and widespread market confusion.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

07J6. Govt. standardises edible oil pack sizes for price comparison

मूल्य तुलना के लिए सरकार ने खाद्य तेल पैक आकारों का मानकीकरण किया

- The **Department of Consumer Affairs** has prescribed **standard pack sizes** for edible oils under the **Legal Metrology** framework to help consumers compare prices across brands and make informed purchasing decisions.
  उपभोक्ता मामले विभाग ने उपभोक्ताओं को विभिन्न ब्रांडों की कीमतों की तुलना करने और सूचित खरीद निर्णय लेने में सहायता हेतु **लीगल मेट्रोलॉजी** ढांचे के तहत खाद्य तेलों के लिए **मानक पैक आकार** निर्धारित किए हैं।
- The revised **SoP** prescribes **nine standard pack sizes — 200 ml/g, 500 ml/g, 1 litre/kg, 2 litre/kg, 3 litre/kg, 4 litre/kg, 5 litre/kg, 15 litre/kg and 20 litre/kg** — for major edible oils.
  संशोधित **SoP** के अनुसार प्रमुख खाद्य तेलों के लिए **नौ मानक पैक**

आकार — 200 मि.ली./ग्राम, 500 मि.ली./ग्राम, 1 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 2 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 3 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 4 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 5 लीटर/किलोग्राम, 15 लीटर/किलोग्राम और 20 लीटर/किलोग्राम — निर्धारित किए गए हैं।

- These include **palm, soybean, sunflower, mustard, groundnut, sesame, rice bran, cottonseed and corn oil**, as well as **blended oils**.
  इनमें **पाम, सोयाबीन, सूरजमुखी, सरसों, मूंगफली, तिल, राइस ब्रान, कपास बीज और मक्का तेल** सहित **मिश्रित तेल** भी शामिल हैं।

Volume declaration
आयतन घोषणा

- The new rules also mandate declaration of both **volume** and **equivalent weight** on packs to improve transparency.
  नए नियमों के तहत पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने के लिए पैकेटों पर **आयतन** और उसके **समतुल्य वजन** दोनों का उल्लेख करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- He noted while flexibility in pack sizes was intended to give industry greater freedom, it had led to a proliferation of **non-standard packs** and widespread market confusion.
  उन्होंने कहा कि यद्यपि पैक आकारों में लचीलापन उद्योग को अधिक स्वतंत्रता देने के उद्देश्य से था, लेकिन इससे **गैर-मानक पैकों** की संख्या बढ़ी और बाजार में व्यापक भ्रम की स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई।

GS Paper III: Economy	07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07J6	Why did SC back curbs on online gaming? ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों का समर्थन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्यों किया?
07J6	Prime Minister flags 'national interest' in Sterlite's 'green copper' project in TN प्रधानमंत्री ने तमिलनाडु में स्टरलाइट की 'ग्रीन कॉपर' परियोजना में 'राष्ट्रीय हित' का मुद्दा उठाया

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Why did SC back curbs on online gaming?

What were the two sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms in front of the Court? What were the main objections raised by gaming companies against the GST levy? What are the likely consequences for India's online gaming industry?

GS III: Economy

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Supreme Court on May 27, 2026, delivered two rulings with major ramifications for the country's real-money gaming industry. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's retrospective 28% GST levy on online gaming companies and, in a separate judgment, affirmed the validity of State laws prohibiting real-money gaming platforms.

What did the Court have to decide?

The judgments arose from two distinct sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms. The first batch related to State laws prohibiting online betting and wagering. In 2021, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka enacted legislation criminalising betting on games played in cyberspace and prescribing penalties, including imprisonment. After the Madras and Karnataka High Courts struck down these enactments, the respective State governments approached the Supreme Court, arguing that betting and gambling fall within their legislative competence under Entry 34 of List II of the Seventh Schedule. They further contended that the restrictions were necessary to address addiction and other social harms associated with online betting.

The second batch concerned the applicability of the GST regime to online gaming involving money stakes. The appeals arose from decisions of the Bombay and Karnataka High Courts, which held that online gaming transactions did not constitute actionable claims under the GST law and consequently quashed tax proceedings initiated against gaming companies. The Union government thereafter challenged these rulings before the Supreme Court.

Supreme Court of India.

> The Court held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome

Why was the GST levy upheld?

The dispute over the GST liability of online gaming platforms stemmed from amendments approved by the GST Council in August 2023. The Council clarified that all online games involving bets or wagers, irrespective of whether they were predominantly games of skill or games of chance, would attract GST at 28% on the full value of the amount staked by players.

Following the Council's decision, the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI) issued a series of tax demand notices to gaming companies. The notices sought to levy GST not only under the amended regime, which came into force on October 1, 2023, but also on revenues earned during the pre-amendment period, resulting in tax demands running into several lakh crore rupees.

Challenging these demands, gaming companies argued that GST could be levied only on the consideration retained by the platform and not on the entire value of bets or contest entry fees contributed by users. Taxing the full face value of stakes, they contended, was commercially untenable and failed to account for the long-recognised distinction between games of skill and games of chance.

Rejecting these arguments, the Supreme Court held that online gaming platforms involving money stakes were distinct from conventional skill-based competitions. While participants in a skill-based contest merely pay an entry fee to compete, the Court observed that online gaming platforms are structured around wagering and often encourage repeated participation through discounts and bonuses.

The Court further held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome. Referring to the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act), which expressly includes actionable claims relating to lottery, betting, and gambling within the tax net, the Court concluded that Parliament was competent to levy GST on online gaming involving money stakes. It also rejected the industry's contention that the 2023 amendments imposed a fresh levy. Instead, the Court held that the amendments merely "clarified and standardised" the existing legal framework governing the taxation of such activities and were therefore capable of operating retrospectively.

Why did the Court uphold State curbs on real-money gaming?

At the outset, the Court observed that "betting" and "gambling" are res extra commercium (activities outside legitimate commerce) and therefore fall outside the protection ordinarily available to trade and business activities. It held that while games of skill may be constitutionally protected, the introduction of money stakes imparts the character of wagering to the activity, bringing it within the States' legislative competence.

The Bench was also not persuaded by the contention that fantasy sports are predominantly skill-based. It noted that even sophisticated predictive models are unable to forecast sporting outcomes with certainty.

The Court further observed that the widespread availability of smartphones and digital payment gateways had effectively turned every mobile phone into a virtual "gambling house". It held that State governments are competent to impose reasonable restrictions on such activities and could draw legislative support not only from Entry 34 of List II relating to betting and gambling but also from Entry 1 concerning public order.

What are the implications?

The judgments come at a time when the industry is already grappling with the fallout of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (2025 Act). The legislation prohibited all forms of online real-money gaming, with the government citing national security concerns, including the alleged use of digital wallets and cryptocurrencies for money laundering and illicit fund transfers. It, however, carved out exceptions for e-sports, educational games, and social gaming.

Sudipta Bhattacharjee, Partner at Khaitan & Co, who has represented several online gaming and casino companies before the Supreme Court, told *The Hindu* that the industry had effectively come to a standstill following the enactment of the 2025 law, which could make recovery of the tax demands difficult. "The GST ruling may not translate into any meaningful recovery for the authorities. Many companies have either shifted their operations outside India or pivoted to sectors such as social gaming and fintech. The GST demands are several times higher than the revenues these companies have ever earned and are simply beyond their ability to pay. We are also likely to see a spate of insolvency proceedings," he said.

Mr. Bhattacharjee also pointed out that the verdict could have implications for the challenge to the 2025 law on the ground that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to enact it. "The apex court has clearly held that betting and gambling are State subjects under Entry 34 and upheld State laws regulating such activities. We will now have to wait and see how the Union government defends its position that it has the legislative competence to enact the 2025 law under Entry 52 of the Union List, which permits regulation of industries where such intervention is considered expedient in the public interest," he said.

07J6.Why did SC back curbs on online gaming?

ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर प्रतिबंधात्मक उपायों का समर्थन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने क्यों किया?

The Supreme Court rulings on real-money gaming industry

रियल-मनी गेमिंग उद्योग पर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्णय

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- The **Supreme Court** on May 27, 2026, delivered two rulings with major ramifications for the country's **real-money gaming industry**.
  सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 27 मई, 2026 को देश के **रियल-मनी गेमिंग उद्योग** पर व्यापक प्रभाव डालने वाले दो महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय दिए।
- A Bench of Justices **J.B. Pardiwala** and **R. Mahadevan** upheld the constitutional validity of the Centre's retrospective **28% GST levy** on online gaming companies and, in a separate judgment, affirmed the validity of State laws prohibiting real-money gaming platforms.
  न्यायमूर्ति **जे.बी. पारदीवाला** और **आर. महादेवन** की पीठ ने ऑनलाइन गेमिंग कंपनियों पर केंद्र सरकार द्वारा लगाए गए पूर्वव्यापी **28% जीएसटी** की संवैधानिक वैधता को बरकरार रखा तथा एक पृथक निर्णय में रियल-मनी गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले राज्य कानूनों की वैधता की भी पुष्टि की।

What did the Court have to decide?
न्यायालय को किन प्रश्नों पर निर्णय देना था?

- The judgments arose from two distinct sets of appeals concerning the regulation and taxation of online gaming platforms.
  ये निर्णय ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों के विनियमन और कराधान से संबंधित दो पृथक अपीलों से उत्पन्न हुए।
- The first batch related to State laws prohibiting online betting and wagering.
  पहला समूह ऑनलाइन सट्टेबाजी और दांव लगाने पर प्रतिबंध लगाने वाले राज्य कानूनों से संबंधित था।
- In 2021, **Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka** enacted legislation criminalising betting on games played in cyberspace and prescribing penalties, including imprisonment.
  वर्ष 2021 में **तमिलनाडु** और **कर्नाटक** ने साइबरस्पेस में खेले जाने वाले खेलों पर सट्टेबाजी को अपराध घोषित करने तथा कारावास सहित दंड निर्धारित करने वाले कानून बनाए।
- After the **Madras High Court** and **Karnataka High Court** struck down these enactments, the respective State governments approached the Supreme Court, arguing that betting and gambling fall within their legislative competence under **Entry 34 of List II of the Seventh Schedule**.
  मद्रास उच्च न्यायालय और **कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय** द्वारा इन कानूनों को निरस्त किए जाने के बाद संबंधित राज्य सरकारों ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया और तर्क दिया कि सट्टेबाजी और जुआ **सातवीं अनुसूची की सूची-II की प्रविष्टि 34** के अंतर्गत उनके विधायी अधिकार क्षेत्र में आते हैं।
- They further contended that the restrictions were necessary to address addiction and other social harms associated with online betting.
  उन्होंने यह भी तर्क दिया कि ऑनलाइन सट्टेबाजी से जुड़ी लत और अन्य सामाजिक दुष्प्रभावों से निपटने के लिए ये प्रतिबंध आवश्यक हैं।
- The second batch concerned the applicability of the **GST regime** to online gaming involving money stakes.
  दूसरा समूह धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर **जीएसटी व्यवस्था** की प्रयोज्यता से संबंधित था।
- The appeals arose from decisions of the **Bombay High Court** and **Karnataka High Court**, which held that online gaming transactions did not constitute **actionable claims** under the GST law and consequently quashed tax proceedings initiated against gaming companies.
  ये अपीलें **बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय** और **कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय** के उन निर्णयों से उत्पन्न हुईं, जिनमें कहा गया था कि ऑनलाइन गेमिंग लेन-देन जीएसटी कानून के अंतर्गत **कार्यान्वित दावे (Actionable Claims)** नहीं हैं और परिणामस्वरूप गेमिंग कंपनियों के विरुद्ध आरंभ की गई कर कार्यवाहियों को निरस्त कर दिया गया था।
- The Union government thereafter challenged these rulings before the Supreme Court.
  इसके बाद केंद्र सरकार ने इन निर्णयों को सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में चुनौती दी।

Why was the GST levy upheld?
जीएसटी अधिरोपण को क्यों बरकरार रखा गया?

- The dispute over the GST liability of online gaming platforms stemmed from amendments approved by the **GST Council** in August 2023.
  ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों की जीएसटी देयता को लेकर विवाद अगस्त 2023 में **जीएसटी परिषद** द्वारा अनुमोदित संशोधनों से उत्पन्न हुआ।
- The Council clarified that all online games involving bets or wagers, irrespective of whether they were predominantly games of skill or games of chance, would attract GST at **28%** on the full value of the amount staked by players.
  परिषद ने स्पष्ट किया कि दांव या सट्टे से जुड़े सभी ऑनलाइन खेल, चाहे वे मुख्यतः कौशल आधारित हों या भाग्य आधारित, खिलाड़ियों द्वारा लगाई गई पूरी राशि के मूल्य पर **28% जीएसटी** के अधीन होंगे।
- Following the Council's decision, the **Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI)** issued a series of tax demand notices to gaming companies.
  परिषद के निर्णय के बाद **डायरेक्टरेट जनरल ऑफ जीएसटी इंटेलिजेंस (DGGI)** ने गेमिंग कंपनियों को कर मांग संबंधी अनेक नोटिस जारी किए।
- The notices sought to levy GST not only under the amended regime, which came into force on October 1, 2023, but also on revenues earned during the pre-amendment period, resulting in tax demands running into several lakh crore rupees.
  इन नोटिसों में 1 अक्टूबर 2023 से लागू संशोधित व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत ही नहीं, बल्कि संशोधन से पूर्व अर्जित राजस्व पर भी जीएसटी लगाने का प्रयास किया गया, जिससे कर मांग कई लाख करोड़ रुपये तक पहुंच गई।
- Challenging these demands, gaming companies argued that GST could be levied only on the consideration retained by the platform and not on the entire value of bets or contest entry fees contributed by users.
  इन मांगों को चुनौती देते हुए गेमिंग कंपनियों ने तर्क दिया कि जीएसटी केवल प्लेटफॉर्म द्वारा रखी गई राशि पर लगाया जा सकता है, न कि उपयोगकर्ताओं द्वारा जमा की गई संपूर्ण सट्टा राशि या प्रतियोगिता प्रवेश शुल्क पर।
- Taxing the full face value of stakes, they contended, was commercially untenable and failed to account for the long-recognised distinction between games of skill and games of chance.
  उनका तर्क था कि दांव की पूरी अंकित राशि पर कर लगाना व्यावसायिक रूप से अव्यवहारिक है तथा यह कौशल आधारित और भाग्य आधारित खेलों के बीच लंबे समय से मान्य अंतर की उपेक्षा करता है।
- Rejecting these arguments, the Supreme Court held that online gaming platforms involving money stakes were distinct from conventional skill-based competitions.
  इन तर्कों को अस्वीकार करते हुए सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने कहा कि धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म पारंपरिक कौशल-आधारित प्रतियोगिताओं से भिन्न हैं।
- While participants in a skill-based contest merely pay an entry fee to compete, the Court observed that online gaming platforms are structured around wagering and often encourage repeated participation through discounts and bonuses.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि जहां कौशल-आधारित प्रतियोगिताओं में प्रतिभागी केवल भाग लेने हेतु प्रवेश शुल्क देते हैं, वहीं ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्म सट्टेबाजी की संरचना पर आधारित होते हैं और अक्सर छूट तथा बोनस के माध्यम से बार-बार भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करते हैं।
- The Court further held that, for GST purposes, the distinction between games of skill and games of chance becomes irrelevant once money is staked on an uncertain outcome.
  न्यायालय ने आगे कहा कि जीएसटी के संदर्भ में जैसे ही किसी अनिश्चित परिणाम पर धनराशि लगाई जाती है, कौशल आधारित और भाग्य आधारित खेलों के बीच का अंतर अप्रासंगिक हो जाता है।
- Referring to the **Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act)**, which expressly includes actionable claims relating to lottery, betting, and gambling within the tax net, the Court concluded that Parliament was competent to levy GST on online gaming involving money stakes.
  केंद्रीय वस्तु एवं सेवा कर अधिनियम, 2017 (CGST Act) का उल्लेख करते हुए, जो लॉटरी, सट्टेबाजी और जुए से संबंधित कार्यान्वित दावों को स्पष्ट रूप से कर के दायरे में शामिल करता है, न्यायालय ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि धनराशि आधारित ऑनलाइन गेमिंग पर जीएसटी लगाने का अधिकार संसद को प्राप्त है।

- It also rejected the industry's contention that the 2023 amendments imposed a fresh levy.
  न्यायालय ने उद्योग के इस तर्क को भी अस्वीकार कर दिया कि वर्ष 2023 के संशोधनों द्वारा कोई नया कर लगाया गया है।
- Instead, the Court held that the amendments merely "clarified and standardised" the existing legal framework governing the taxation of such activities and were therefore capable of operating retrospectively.
  इसके विपरीत, न्यायालय ने कहा कि इन संशोधनों ने केवल ऐसी गतिविधियों के कराधान से संबंधित विद्यमान कानूनी ढांचे को "स्पष्ट और मानकीकृत" किया है, इसलिए इन्हें पूर्वव्यापी प्रभाव से लागू किया जा सकता है।

Why did the Court uphold State curbs on real-money gaming?
न्यायालय ने रियल-मनी गेमिंग पर राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिबंधों को क्यों बरकरार रखा?

- At the outset, the Court observed that **"betting"** and **"gambling"** are **res extra commercium** (activities outside legitimate commerce) and therefore fall outside the protection ordinarily available to trade and business activities.
  प्रारंभ में न्यायालय ने कहा कि **"सट्टेबाजी"** और **"जुआ" रेस एक्स्ट्रा कॉमर्सियम (res extra commercium)** हैं (अर्थात वैध वाणिज्यिक गतिविधियों के दायरे से बाहर की गतिविधियाँ) और इसलिए इन्हें सामान्यतः व्यापार एवं व्यवसाय को प्राप्त संवैधानिक संरक्षण उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- It held that while games of skill may be constitutionally protected, the introduction of money stakes imparts the character of wagering to the activity, bringing it within the States' legislative competence.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि यद्यपि कौशल-आधारित खेलों को संवैधानिक संरक्षण प्राप्त हो सकता है, किंतु जब उनमें धनराशि दांव पर लगाई जाती है तो गतिविधि का स्वरूप **सट्टेबाजी** का हो जाता है, जिससे वह राज्यों के विधायी अधिकार क्षेत्र में आ जाती है।
- The Bench was also not persuaded by the contention that **fantasy sports** are predominantly skill-based.
  पीठ **फैंटेसी स्पोर्ट्स** को मुख्यतः कौशल-आधारित मानने वाले तर्क से भी सहमत नहीं हुई।
- It noted that even sophisticated predictive models are unable to forecast sporting outcomes with certainty.
  न्यायालय ने उल्लेख किया कि अत्याधुनिक पूर्वानुमान मॉडल भी खेल प्रतियोगिताओं के परिणामों की निश्चित भविष्यवाणी करने में सक्षम नहीं हैं।
- The Court further observed that the widespread availability of **smartphones** and **digital payment gateways** had effectively turned every mobile phone into a virtual **"gambling house"**.
  न्यायालय ने आगे कहा कि **स्मार्टफोन** और **डिजिटल भुगतान गेटवे** की व्यापक उपलब्धता ने प्रभावी रूप से प्रत्येक मोबाइल फोन को एक आभासी **"जुआघर"** में परिवर्तित कर दिया है।
- It held that State governments are competent to impose reasonable restrictions on such activities and could draw legislative support not only from **Entry 34 of List II** relating to betting and gambling but also from **Entry 1** concerning public order.
  न्यायालय ने कहा कि राज्य सरकारें ऐसी गतिविधियों पर युक्तिसंगत प्रतिबंध लगाने के लिए सक्षम हैं और इसके लिए वे केवल **सूची-II की प्रविष्टि 34** (सट्टेबाजी और जुआ) ही नहीं, बल्कि **लोक व्यवस्था** से संबंधित **प्रविष्टि 1** से भी विधायी आधार प्राप्त कर सकती हैं।

What are the implications?
इसके क्या निहितार्थ हैं?

- The judgments come at a time when the industry is already grappling with the fallout of the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025 (2025 Act)**.

ये निर्णय ऐसे समय में आए हैं जब उद्योग पहले से ही **ऑनलाइन गेमिंग (संवर्धन एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम, 2025 (2025 अधिनियम)** के प्रभावों से जूझ रहा है।

- The legislation prohibited all forms of online real-money gaming, with the government citing **national security concerns**, including the alleged use of digital wallets and cryptocurrencies for **money laundering** and illicit fund transfers.
  इस कानून ने ऑनलाइन रियल-मनी गेमिंग के सभी रूपों पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया था, जिसके लिए सरकार ने **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा संबंधी चिंताओं** का हवाला दिया था, जिनमें **मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग** और अवैध धन हस्तांतरण हेतु डिजिटल वॉलेट तथा क्रिप्टोकरेंसी के कथित उपयोग को शामिल किया गया था।
- It, however, carved out exceptions for **e-sports**, **educational games**, and **social gaming**.
  हालांकि, इसने **ई-स्पोर्ट्स**, **शैक्षिक खेलों** तथा **सोशल गेमिंग** के लिए अपवाद प्रदान किए।
- **Sudipta Bhattacharjee**, Partner at **Khaitan & Co**, who has represented several online gaming and casino companies before the Supreme Court, told The Hindu that the industry had effectively come to a standstill following the enactment of the 2025 law, which could make recovery of the tax demands difficult.
  खैतान एंड कंपनी के भागीदार **सुदीप्त भट्टाचार्जी**, जिन्होंने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में अनेक ऑनलाइन गेमिंग और कैसीनो कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व किया है, ने कहा कि 2025 के कानून के लागू होने के बाद उद्योग प्रभावी रूप से ठहराव की स्थिति में पहुंच गया है, जिससे कर मांगों की वसूली कठिन हो सकती है।
- "The GST ruling may not translate into any meaningful recovery for the authorities.
  "जीएसटी संबंधी निर्णय से संभवतः अधिकारियों को कोई सार्थक वसूली प्राप्त नहीं होगी।
- Many companies have either shifted their operations outside India or pivoted to sectors such as **social gaming** and **fintech**.
  कई कंपनियों ने या तो अपने परिचालन भारत से बाहर स्थानांतरित कर दिए हैं अथवा **सोशल गेमिंग** और **फिनटेक** जैसे क्षेत्रों की ओर रुख कर लिया है।
- The GST demands are several times higher than the revenues these companies have ever earned and are simply beyond their ability to pay.
  जीएसटी की मांगें इन कंपनियों द्वारा अब तक अर्जित कुल राजस्व से कई गुना अधिक हैं और उनका भुगतान करना इनके सामर्थ्य से बाहर है।
- We are also likely to see a spate of **insolvency proceedings**," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "हमें **दिवालियापन कार्यवाहियों** की एक बड़ी संख्या भी देखने को मिल सकती है।"
- Mr. **Bhattacharjee** also pointed out that the verdict could have implications for the challenge to the 2025 law on the ground that Parliament lacked the legislative competence to enact it.
  श्री **भट्टाचार्जी** ने यह भी इंगित किया कि यह निर्णय 2025 के कानून को इस आधार पर दी गई चुनौती को प्रभावित कर सकता है कि संसद को इसे बनाने का विधायी अधिकार प्राप्त नहीं था।
- "The apex court has clearly held that betting and gambling are State subjects under **Entry 34** and upheld State laws regulating such activities.
  उन्होंने कहा, "सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट रूप से कहा है कि सट्टेबाजी और जुआ **प्रविष्टि 34** के अंतर्गत राज्य विषय हैं तथा ऐसी गतिविधियों को विनियमित करने वाले राज्य कानूनों को वैध ठहराया है।
- We will now have to wait and see how the Union government defends its position that it has the legislative competence to enact the 2025 law under **Entry 52 of the Union List**, which permits regulation of industries where such intervention is considered expedient in the public interest," he said.
  अब यह देखना होगा कि केंद्र सरकार किस प्रकार यह सिद्ध करती है कि उसे **संघ सूची की प्रविष्टि 52** के अंतर्गत 2025 का कानून बनाने का विधायी अधिकार प्राप्त है, जो उन उद्योगों के विनियमन की अनुमति देती है जिनमें सार्वजनिक हित में हस्तक्षेप आवश्यक समझा जाता है।" उन्होंने कहा।

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TOPICS COVERED	
07J6	Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen बारिश के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की नमी और नाइट्रोजन पर दोहरा आघात पहुँचा सकते हैं
07J6	What is a birthmark? How does it form? जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) क्या होता है? यह कैसे बनता है?

Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen

GS III: S&T

Vasudevan Mukunth

Two new studies, published in *Nature* and *Nature Geoscience*, have found that as climate change concentrates rainfall into fewer, more intense events, the land below may face a double whammy. In their May 13 paper in *Nature*, Dartmouth College, U.S., researchers concluded that more concentrated rain can reduce the amount of water stored in soils and aquifers across all global climates. This is because heavy bursts of rain can exceed the soil's infiltration capacity, leading to an "infiltration excess" where water pools on the surface.

Because these intense events are typically separated by longer dry intervals, the pooled water evaporates instead of recharging deep soil layers. Their work suggests that the drying effect of precipitation concentration is roughly equal in magnitude to the wetting effect of increasing total annual rainfall, effectively neutralising potential gains in the availability of water in many regions.

In their May 25 paper in *Nature Geoscience*, researchers from across China reported a specific rainfall threshold of around 700 mm/year that seemed to determine how soil retains nitrogen. Below this threshold, the soil generally retains nitrogen because a limited amount of water restricts the movement of nutrients and encourages competition between plants and microbes. But above 700 mm, more moisture encourages leaching, leading to significant nitrogen loss.

These studies together suggest concentrated rainfall could blur the distinction between wetter and drier rainfall regimes. If a region receives 600 mm of rain in concentrated bursts rather than in steady intervals, the downpours could wash more nitrogen out of the soils than the annual rainfall total alone would suggest.

According to the *Nature* study, 27% of the world's population will face abnormally dry conditions due to concentrated rainfall alone even if total rainfall doesn't decrease. A growing body of research suggests the southwest monsoon is itself becoming more episodic, with more seasonal rainfall falling in intense downpours separated by longer dry intervals.

This, together with the *Nature Geoscience* study's findings, suggests annual total rainfall alone may no longer capture how ecosystems respond to changing rainfall patterns.

Intense rainfall events can wash away nitrogen, a nutrient crucial for plant growth, before it can be used, while the subsequent dry period can quicken water loss by evaporation.

07J6. Bursts of rain may deal a double whammy to soil moisture, nitrogen
बारिश के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की नमी और नाइट्रोजन पर दोहरा आघात पहुँचा सकते हैं

- Two new studies, published in **Nature** and **Nature Geoscience**, have found that as **climate change** concentrates rainfall into fewer, more intense events, the land below may face a **double whammy**.
  Nature और **Nature Geoscience** में प्रकाशित दो नए अध्ययनों में पाया गया है कि जैसे-जैसे **जलवायु परिवर्तन** वर्षा को कम लेकिन अधिक तीव्र घटनाओं में केंद्रित कर रहा है, भूमि को **दोहरी मार** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।
- In their **May 13** paper in **Nature**, **Dartmouth College, U.S.**, researchers concluded that more concentrated rain can reduce the amount of water stored in soils and aquifers across all global climates.
  13 मई को **Nature** में प्रकाशित अपने शोधपत्र में **अमेरिका के डार्टमाउथ कॉलेज** के शोधकर्ताओं ने निष्कर्ष निकाला कि अधिक केंद्रित वर्षा विश्व के सभी जलवायु क्षेत्रों में मिट्टी और भूजलभृतों (**Aquifers**) में संग्रहित जल की मात्रा को कम कर सकती है।
- This is because heavy bursts of rain can exceed the soil's **infiltration capacity**, leading to an **"infiltration excess"** where water pools on the surface.
  ऐसा इसलिए होता है क्योंकि वर्षा के तीव्र दौर मिट्टी की **अवशोषण क्षमता (Infiltration Capacity)** से अधिक हो सकते हैं, जिससे **"अतिरिक्त अवशोषण स्थिति (Infiltration Excess)"** उत्पन्न होती है और जल सतह पर एकत्र हो जाता है।
- Because these intense events are typically separated by longer dry intervals, the pooled water evaporates instead of recharging deep soil layers.
  चूँकि ऐसी तीव्र वर्षा घटनाओं के बीच सामान्यतः लंबे शुष्क अंतराल होते हैं, इसलिए एकत्रित जल गहरी मिट्टी की परतों को पुनर्भरित करने के बजाय वाष्पित हो जाता है।
- Their work suggests that the **drying effect** of precipitation concentration is roughly equal in magnitude to the **wetting effect** of increasing total annual rainfall, effectively neutralising potential gains in the availability of water in many regions.
  उनके अध्ययन से संकेत मिलता है कि वर्षा के केंद्रीकरण का **शुष्ककारी प्रभाव** कुल वार्षिक वर्षा में वृद्धि के

आर्द्रीकरण प्रभाव के लगभग बराबर होता है, जिससे अनेक क्षेत्रों में जल उपलब्धता में संभावित वृद्धि का लाभ प्रभावी रूप से समाप्त हो जाता है।

- In their **May 25** paper in **Nature Geoscience**, researchers from across **China** reported a specific rainfall threshold of around **700 mm/year** that seemed to determine how soil retains **nitrogen**.
  25 मई को **Nature Geoscience** में प्रकाशित शोधपत्र में **चीन** के शोधकर्ताओं ने लगभग **700 मिमी प्रति वर्ष** की एक विशिष्ट वर्षा सीमा का उल्लेख किया, जो यह निर्धारित करती प्रतीत होती है कि मिट्टी **नाइट्रोजन** को किस प्रकार संचित रखती है।
- Below this threshold, the soil generally retains nitrogen because a limited amount of water restricts the movement of nutrients and encourages competition between plants and microbes.
  इस सीमा से कम वर्षा होने पर मिट्टी सामान्यतः नाइट्रोजन को बनाए रखती है क्योंकि सीमित जल पोषक तत्वों की गति को बाधित करता है और पौधों तथा सूक्ष्मजीवों के बीच प्रतिस्पर्धा को बढ़ावा देता है।
- But above **700 mm**, more moisture encourages **leaching**, leading to significant nitrogen loss.
  किन्तु **700 मिमी** से अधिक वर्षा होने पर अधिक नमी **लीचिंग (Leaching)** को बढ़ावा देती है, जिससे नाइट्रोजन की उल्लेखनीय हानि होती है।
- These studies together suggest concentrated rainfall could blur the distinction between wetter and drier rainfall regimes.
  ये दोनों अध्ययन मिलकर संकेत देते हैं कि केंद्रित वर्षा अधिक आर्द्र और अधिक शुष्क वर्षा व्यवस्थाओं के बीच के अंतर को धुंधला कर सकती है।
- If a region receives **600 mm** of rain in concentrated bursts rather than in steady intervals, the downpours could wash more nitrogen out of the soils than the annual rainfall total alone would suggest.
  यदि किसी क्षेत्र में **600 मिमी** वर्षा नियमित अंतरालों के बजाय तीव्र दौरों में होती है, तो ऐसी मूसलाधार वर्षा मिट्टी से अपेक्षा से अधिक नाइट्रोजन बहाकर ले जा सकती है, जितना केवल वार्षिक वर्षा की मात्रा से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है।
- According to the **Nature** study, **27% of the world's population** will face abnormally dry conditions due to concentrated rainfall alone even if total rainfall doesn't decrease.
  Nature अध्ययन के अनुसार, भले ही कुल वर्षा में कमी न हो, फिर भी केवल केंद्रित वर्षा के कारण **विश्व की 27% जनसंख्या** असामान्य रूप से शुष्क परिस्थितियों का सामना करेगी।
- A growing body of research suggests the **southwest monsoon** is itself becoming more episodic, with more seasonal rainfall falling in intense downpours separated by longer dry intervals.
  बढ़ते शोध यह संकेत देते हैं कि **दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून** स्वयं अधिक खंडित (episodic) होता जा रहा है, जिसमें मौसमी वर्षा का बड़ा भाग तीव्र वर्षा घटनाओं के रूप में होता है और इनके बीच लंबे शुष्क अंतराल होते हैं।
- This, together with the **Nature Geoscience** study's findings, suggests annual total rainfall alone may no longer capture how ecosystems respond to changing rainfall patterns.
  यह तथ्य, **Nature Geoscience** अध्ययन के निष्कर्षों के साथ मिलकर, संकेत देता है कि केवल वार्षिक कुल वर्षा अब यह समझने के लिए पर्याप्त नहीं है कि पारिस्थितिक तंत्र बदलते वर्षा प्रतिरूपों पर किस प्रकार प्रतिक्रिया करते हैं।
- Intense rainfall events can wash away **nitrogen**, a nutrient crucial for plant growth, before it can be used, while the subsequent dry period can quicken water loss by **evaporation**.
  तीव्र वर्षा की घटनाएँ पौधों की वृद्धि के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण पोषक तत्व **नाइट्रोजन** को उसके उपयोग से पहले ही बहा सकती हैं, जबकि इसके बाद आने वाला शुष्क काल **वाष्पीकरण** के माध्यम से जल हानि को और तेज कर सकता है।

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Marks that stay

What is a birthmark? How does it form?
GS III: S&T

A birthmark is a coloured mark on the skin that is either present at birth or develops shortly afterwards. While some of them may fade over time, others stay for life. Birthmarks are essentially 'mistakes' in the development of skin cells or blood vessels. They generally fall in one of two categories. Vascular birthmarks occur when blood vessels in a particular area do not form correctly, i.e. because there are too many of them or they may be wider than usual. The extra blood flow that results gives the skin there a red, pink or even purple appearance. Common examples include the so-called 'stork bikes' on the neck or the 'strawberry' marks. Second, pigmented birthmarks are caused when melanocytes, the cells that give your skin its colour, overgrow in an area. As these cells cluster together, they create a patch that is darker than the surrounding skin. Common variations include moles, light-brown 'café-au-lait' spots, and bluish-gray patches. The exact reason why these clusters form is not known.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

07J6. What is a birthmark? How does it form?
जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) क्या होता है? यह कैसे बनता है?

- A **birthmark** is a coloured mark on the skin that is either present at birth or develops shortly afterwards.

जन्मचिह्न (Birthmark) त्वचा पर बना एक रंगीन निशान होता है, जो या तो जन्म के समय मौजूद होता है अथवा जन्म के कुछ समय बाद विकसित हो जाता है।

- While some of them may fade over time, others stay for life.

इनमें से कुछ समय के साथ हल्के पड़ सकते हैं, जबकि कुछ जीवनभर बने रहते हैं।

- **Birthmarks** are essentially **'mistakes'** in the development of skin cells or blood vessels.

जन्मचिह्न मूलतः त्वचा कोशिकाओं या रक्त वाहिकाओं के विकास में होने वाली **'त्रुटियों'** का परिणाम होते हैं।

- They generally fall in one of two categories.

सामान्यतः इन्हें दो प्रमुख श्रेणियों में विभाजित किया जाता है।

- **Vascular birthmarks** occur when blood vessels in a particular area do not form correctly, i.e. because there are too many of them or they may be wider than usual.

संवहनी जन्मचिह्न तब उत्पन्न होते हैं जब किसी विशेष क्षेत्र की रक्त वाहिकाएँ सही प्रकार से विकसित नहीं होतीं, अर्थात उनकी संख्या अधिक होती है या वे सामान्य से अधिक चौड़ी होती हैं।

- The extra blood flow that results gives the skin there a **red**, **pink** or even **purple** appearance.

इसके परिणामस्वरूप होने वाला अतिरिक्त रक्त प्रवाह त्वचा को **लाल**, **गुलाबी** अथवा **बैंगनी** रंग का स्वरूप प्रदान करता है।

- Common examples include the so-called **'stork bites'** on the neck or the **'strawberry'** marks.

इसके सामान्य उदाहरणों में गर्दन पर पाए जाने वाले **'स्टॉर्क बाइट्स'** तथा **'स्ट्रॉबेरी'** जैसे निशान शामिल हैं।

- Second, **pigmented birthmarks** are caused when **melanocytes**, the cells that give your skin its colour, overgrow in an area.

दूसरे प्रकार के **रंजित जन्मचिह्न** तब बनते हैं जब **मेलानोसाइट्स (Melanocytes)**, जो त्वचा को रंग प्रदान करने वाली कोशिकाएँ हैं, किसी क्षेत्र में अत्यधिक बढ़ जाती हैं।

- Common variations include **moles**, light-brown **'café-au-lait' spots**, and **bluish-gray patches**.

इसके सामान्य प्रकारों में **तिल (Moles)**, हल्के भूरे रंग के **'कैफे-ओ-ले' धब्बे (Café-au-lait Spots)** तथा **नीले-धूसर रंग के चकत्ते (Bluish-Gray Patches)** शामिल हैं।

GS Paper III: Environment	07 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07J6	**Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey** **काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में त्वरित पक्षी सर्वेक्षण के दौरान 30 शिकारी पक्षी और छह सारस प्रजातियाँ दर्ज की गईं**

Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve in Assam has 30 species of raptors and six species of storks, a rapid survey focused on these two categories of birds has revealed.

The survey, conducted by a 10-member team between the last week of February and March 2, was released on Friday (June 5) to mark World Environment Day. The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve authority surveyed in collaboration with researchers of Gauhati University.

The enumerators recorded 217 individual raptors – buzzards, eagles, falcons, owls, and vultures – across 30 species and 266 individual storks across six species.

A black-necked stork spotted at Kaziranga National Park in Assam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Critical habitats

India is home to 112 species of raptors, both diurnal and nocturnal. Kaziranga and the adjoining landscape harbour about 50 species of these raptors. Assam's rich, diverse wetlands and the Himalayan foothills provide critical habitats for these birds of prey.

India houses eight of the 20 stork species found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide. All eight of these are found in Assam, although Kaziranga has recorded six.

The raptor-stork study was conducted across Kaziranga's three administrative zones – the East Assam Wildlife Division, the Biswanath Wildlife Division, and the Nagaon Wildlife Division.

The Eastern Assam Wildlife Division recorded 21 species of raptors and five species of storks. While Biswanath recorded 20 species of raptors and six species of storks, Nagaon recorded 14 and five, respectively.

Among the stork species, the Asian openbill (*Anastomus oscitans*) was the most abundant, with 92 individuals spotted. The greater adjutant stork (*Leptoptilos dubius*) was the rarest, with three individuals recorded. Among the raptors, the Himalayan griffon vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) was the most common with 69 individual sightings, while the booted eagle and white-tailed eagle were the rarest species with one individual sighting each.

"Kaziranga's landscape also serves as a last stronghold for the enigmatic Pallas's fish eagle (*Haliaeetus leucoryphus*). A survey conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India in January 2020 reported 10 active nests of Pallas's fish eagle in Kaziranga, making it the protected area with the highest number of [this bird's] breeding sites in the world," an official statement read.

07J6. Kaziranga National Park records 30 raptor and six stork species in a rapid bird survey

काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान में त्वरित पक्षी सर्वेक्षण के दौरान 30 शिकारी पक्षी और छह सारस प्रजातियाँ दर्ज की गईं

- The **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve** in **Assam** has **30 species of raptors** and **six species of storks**, a rapid survey focused on these two categories of birds has revealed.
  असम स्थित **काजीरंगा राष्ट्रीय उद्यान एवं टाइगर रिजर्व** में **शिकारी पक्षियों (रैप्टर्स) की 30 प्रजातियाँ** और **सारसों की छह प्रजातियाँ** पाई गई हैं, यह जानकारी इन दो श्रेणियों के पक्षियों पर केंद्रित एक त्वरित सर्वेक्षण से सामने आई है।
- The enumerators recorded **217 individual raptors** — buzzards, eagles, falcons, owls, and vultures — across **30 species** and **266 individual storks** across **six species**.
  सर्वेक्षणकर्ताओं ने **30 प्रजातियों** के अंतर्गत **217 शिकारी पक्षियों** — बजर्ड, ईगल, फाल्कन, उल्लू और गिद्ध — तथा **छह प्रजातियों** के अंतर्गत **266 सारसों** को दर्ज किया।

Critical habitats
महत्त्वपूर्ण आवास

- **India** is home to **112 species of raptors**, both diurnal and nocturnal.
  भारत दिन और रात दोनों समय सक्रिय रहने वाली **शिकारी पक्षियों की 112 प्रजातियों** का आवास है।
- **Assam's** rich, diverse wetlands and the **Himalayan foothills** provide critical habitats for these birds of prey.
  असम की समृद्ध और विविध आर्द्रभूमियाँ तथा **हिमालय की तलहटी** इन शिकारी पक्षियों के लिए महत्त्वपूर्ण आवास प्रदान करती हैं।

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- **India** houses **eight of the 20 stork species** found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide.
  विश्व के उष्णकटिबंधीय और उपोष्णकटिबंधीय क्षेत्रों में पाई जाने वाली **20 सारस प्रजातियों** में से **आठ भारत** में पाई जाती हैं।
- The raptor-stork study was conducted across **Kaziranga's three administrative zones** — the **East Assam Wildlife Division**, the **Biswanath Wildlife Division**, and the **Nagaon Wildlife Division**.
  रैप्टर-सारस अध्ययन **काजीरंगा के तीन प्रशासनिक क्षेत्रों** — **पूर्वी असम वन्यजीव प्रभाग**, **बिस्वनाथ वन्यजीव प्रभाग** और **नगांव वन्यजीव प्रभाग** — में किया गया।
- The **greater adjutant stork (Leptoptilos dubius)** was the rarest, with **three individuals** recorded.
  ग्रेटर एडजुटेंट सारस (Leptoptilos dubius) सबसे दुर्लभ पाया गया, जिसके केवल **तीन पक्षी** दर्ज किए गए।
- Among the raptors, the **Himalayan griffon vulture (Gyps himalayensis)** was the most common with **69 individual sightings**, while the **booted eagle** and **white-tailed eagle** were the rarest species with **one individual sighting each**.
  शिकारी पक्षियों में **हिमालयन ग्रिफॉन गिद्ध (Gyps himalayensis)** सबसे अधिक पाया गया, जिसकी **69 बार उपस्थिति दर्ज** की गई, जबकि **बूटेड ईगल** और **व्हाइट-टेल्ड ईगल** सबसे दुर्लभ रहे, जिनकी **केवल एक-एक बार उपस्थिति दर्ज** की गई।
- "**Kaziranga's landscape** also serves as a last stronghold for the enigmatic **Pallas's fish eagle (Haliaeetus leucoryphus)**.
  "**काजीरंगा का परिदृश्य** रहस्यमयी **पैलस फिश ईगल (Haliaeetus leucoryphus)** के अंतिम मजबूत आवासों में से एक है।
- A survey conducted by the **Wildlife Institute of India** in **January 2020** reported **10 active nests** of **Pallas's fish eagle** in **Kaziranga**, making it the protected area with the highest number of breeding sites of this bird in the world," an official statement read.
  जनवरी 2020 में **भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान** द्वारा किए गए सर्वेक्षण में **काजीरंगा** में **पैलस फिश ईगल** के **10 सक्रिय घोंसले** दर्ज किए गए थे, जिससे यह विश्व में इस पक्षी के सर्वाधिक प्रजनन स्थलों वाला संरक्षित क्षेत्र बन गया है," आधिकारिक बयान में कहा गया।

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PCS Special:	01 June 2026
06J6	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to be next Vice-Chief of Air Staff एयर मार्शल आशुतोष दीक्षित होंगे अगले वाइस चीफ ऑफ एयर स्टाफ

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Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to be next Vice-Chief of Air Staff

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, a distinguished fighter pilot and test pilot, has been appointed the next Vice-Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) and will assume office on July 1. He succeeds Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor.

Currently serving as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC), Air Marshal Dixit has played a pivotal role in enhancing jointness among the armed forces and advancing efforts towards the creation of integrated theatre commands.

His tenure has focused on improving coordination and operational synergy between the Army, Navy and Air Force.

An accomplished officer with extensive operational and leadership experience, Air Marshal Dixit has also been closely associated with the Indian Air Force's modernisation drive.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

During various assignments at the Air headquarters, he contributed significantly to the promotion of indigenous fighter aircraft programmes and capability enhancement initiatives.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on December 6, 1986, Air Marshal Dixit is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, the Defence Services Staff College, Bangladesh, and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

Flying instructor

A qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot, he has accumulated more than 3,300 flying hours on over 20 types of aircraft, including the Mirage-2000, MiG-21 and Jaguar fighter jets.

During his distinguished career, he commanded a premier fighter training base under the Southern Air Command, which earned recognition as the best base in the command during his tenure.

06J6. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to be next Vice-Chief of Air Staff
एयर मार्शल आशुतोष दीक्षित होंगे अगले वाइस चीफ ऑफ एयर स्टाफ

- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, a distinguished fighter pilot and test pilot, has been appointed the next **Vice-Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS)** and will assume office on **July 1**.
  एयर मार्शल आशुतोष दीक्षित, एक प्रतिष्ठित फाइटर पायलट और टेस्ट पायलट, को अगला **वाइस चीफ ऑफ एयर स्टाफ (VCAS)** नियुक्त किया गया है और वे **1 जुलाई** को पदभार ग्रहण करेंगे।
- He succeeds **Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor**.
  वे **एयर मार्शल नागेश कपूर** का स्थान लेंगे।
- Currently serving as the **Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC)**, Air Marshal Dixit has played a pivotal role in enhancing jointness among the armed forces and advancing efforts towards the creation of **integrated theatre commands**.
  वर्तमान में **चीफ ऑफ इंटीग्रेटेड डिफेंस स्टाफ (CISC)** के रूप में कार्यरत एयर मार्शल दीक्षित ने सशस्त्र बलों के बीच समन्वय बढ़ाने और **इंटीग्रेटेड थिएटर कमांड्स** के निर्माण की दिशा में प्रयासों को आगे बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- His tenure has focused on improving coordination and operational synergy between the **Army, Navy and Air Force**.
  उनका कार्यकाल **थल सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना** के बीच समन्वय और परिचालन सहयोग को बेहतर बनाने पर केंद्रित रहा है।
- An accomplished officer with extensive operational and leadership experience, Air Marshal Dixit has also been closely associated with the **Indian Air Force's modernisation drive**.
  व्यापक परिचालन और नेतृत्व अनुभव वाले एक उत्कृष्ट अधिकारी के रूप में एयर मार्शल दीक्षित **भारतीय वायु सेना के आधुनिकीकरण अभियान** से भी निकटता से जुड़े रहे हैं।

- During various assignments at the Air headquarters, he contributed significantly to the promotion of **indigenous fighter aircraft programmes** and capability enhancement initiatives.
  वायु मुख्यालय में विभिन्न नियुक्तियों के दौरान उन्होंने **स्वदेशी लड़ाकू विमान कार्यक्रमों** और क्षमता वृद्धि पहलों को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया।
- Commissioned into the fighter stream of the **Indian Air Force** on **December 6, 1986**, Air Marshal Dixit is an alumnus of the **National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla**, the **Defence Services Staff College, Bangladesh**, and the **National Defence College, New Delhi**.
  6 दिसंबर, 1986 को **भारतीय वायु सेना** की फाइटर स्ट्रीम में कमीशन प्राप्त करने वाले एयर मार्शल दीक्षित **राष्ट्रीय रक्षा अकादमी, खडकवासला**, **डिफेंस सर्विसेज स्टाफ कॉलेज, बांग्लादेश**, और **राष्ट्रीय रक्षा कॉलेज, नई दिल्ली** के पूर्व छात्र हैं।

Flying instructor
फ्लाइंग इंस्ट्रक्टर

- A qualified flying instructor and an experimental test pilot, he has accumulated more than **3,300 flying hours** on over **20 types of aircraft**, including the **Mirage-2000, MiG-21 and Jaguar** fighter jets.
  एक योग्य **फ्लाइंग इंस्ट्रक्टर** और प्रायोगिक टेस्ट पायलट के रूप में उन्होंने **20 से अधिक प्रकार के विमानों** पर **3,300 से अधिक उड़ान घंटे** पूरे किए हैं, जिनमें **मिराज-2000, मिग-21 और जगुआर** लड़ाकू विमान शामिल हैं।
- During his distinguished career, he commanded a premier fighter training base under the **Southern Air Command**, which earned recognition as the best base in the command during his tenure.
  अपने विशिष्ट करियर के दौरान उन्होंने **सदर्न एयर कमांड** के अंतर्गत एक प्रमुख फाइटर प्रशिक्षण बेस का नेतृत्व किया, जिसे उनके कार्यकाल में कमांड का सर्वश्रेष्ठ बेस माना गया।

GS Paper 1: Geography	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
06J6.	Five Azerbaijanis killed in Azov Sea drone attack: Baku अज़ोव सागर ड्रोन हमले में पाँच अज़रबैजानी नागरिकों की मौत: बाकू

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Five Azerbaijanis killed in Azov Sea drone attack: Baku

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
BAKU

Five Azerbaijanis were killed and three wounded in a drone attack on Friday on two foreign cargo ships in the Sea of Azov, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said.

Russia said Ukraine carried out the attack.

The commander of Ukraine's unmanned systems forces said Kyiv had struck "loitering vessels" transporting illegal cargo in the area, without commenting on the statements by Baku and Moscow or the reports of crew killed.

Citing an official Russian communication to Baku, Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said 25 of its citizens were among the crews of the two vessels, which it said were not owned by Azerbaijani companies.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, said the vessels, the *Natra* and *Tsirkon*, were attacked by Ukrainian drones early Friday while sailing from Turkiye to the port of Rostov-on-Don under the flags of Belize and Palau respectively.

06J6. Five Azerbaijanis killed in Azov Sea drone attack: Baku

अज़ोव सागर ड्रोन हमले में पाँच अज़रबैजानी नागरिकों की मौत: बाकू

- Five **Azerbaijanis** were killed and three wounded in a **drone attack** on Friday on two foreign cargo ships in the **Sea of Azov**, **Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry** said.

अज़रबैजान के विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि शुक्रवार को **अज़ोव सागर** में दो विदेशी मालवाहक जहाजों पर हुए **ड्रोन हमले** में पाँच **अज़रबैजानी नागरिकों** की मौत हो गई और तीन घायल हो गए।

- **Russia** said **Ukraine** carried out the attack.

रूस ने कहा कि यह हमला **यूक्रेन** ने किया।

- The commander of **Ukraine's unmanned systems forces** said Kyiv had struck "**loitering vessels**" transporting illegal cargo in the area, without commenting on the statements by **Baku** and **Moscow** or the reports of crew killed.

यूक्रेन की मानव रहित प्रणाली बलों के कमांडर ने कहा कि कीव ने क्षेत्र में अवैध माल ले जा रहे "**भटकते हुए जहाजों (Loitering Vessels)**" को निशाना बनाया, लेकिन उन्होंने **बाकू** और **मॉस्को** के बयानों या चालक दल के मारे जाने की खबरों पर कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की।

GS Paper II: International Relations	06 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
06J6	Pressure to limit India-Russia ties will hurt global stability, says Putin भारत-रूस संबंधों को सीमित करने का दबाव वैश्विक स्थिरता को नुकसान पहुँचाएगा, पुतिन ने कहा
06J6	Leaders gather for summit on the EU's enlargement into the Western Balkans पश्चिमी बाल्कन में यूरोपीय संघ के विस्तार पर शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए नेता एकत्र हुए

Pressure to limit India-Russia ties will hurt global stability, says Putin

Russian President calls India a reliable partner, says a 'large economy' like India will prioritise national interests; New Delhi's relations with U.S. will not cause friction, he says; points out that it is 'not a good idea' to interfere in 'delicate' India-China ties

GS II: IR

Press Trust of India
ST. PETERSBURG

Western pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi to scale back India's engagement with Russia will harm global stability, Russian President Vladimir Putin said late on Thursday at a press conference.

"Everyone has understood that putting pressure on Prime Minister Narendra Modi (and India) that has the largest population in the world, is detrimental for international relations and for bilateral relations. It doesn't matter where this pressure comes from," he said.

Calling India a "reliable" strategic partner, Mr. Putin said India's growth has not "come out of the blue" but was an outcome of the hard work done under Mr. Modi's leadership.

The remarks came against the backdrop of Western capitals expressing unease over India-Russia relations and the oil trade amid the Ukraine war.

The U.S., for instance, has been asking India to stop importing Russian crude oil and had slapped punitive tariffs.

Vladimir Putin had met Narendra Modi during a visit to New Delhi for a bilateral summit in December 2025. R.V. MOORTHY

But Mr. Putin said New Delhi will prioritise its national interests and added that India's engagement with the U.S. does not affect its strategic ties with Russia.

"I don't think this is a case. We are glad that India is developing its relations with all the countries, it's a great country, a large economy, the largest democracy, it is only natural that it develops its economy in accordance with its interest with those countries that it deems necessary," Mr. Putin said when asked whether India's alignment with Washington creates structural friction for Russia.

No interference

Last September, in the wake of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff war, a photo of Mr. Modi, Mr. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping from the SCO Summit in Tianjin grabbed the global spotlight. Mr. Putin, who is set to visit India in September for the BRICS summit, said Moscow will not interfere in the "delicate" bilateral relations between India and China.

Russian President says he does not believe Pak. is under the control of China

The Russian President, who called Mr. Xi his "old friend", said, "This is a delicate, multi-faceted relationship between India and China, and interfering into them is not a good idea. Of course, we interact with both our friends... President Xi and Prime Minister Modi are both trying to resolve all the issues of mutual interest, including the border issue."

Highlighting Moscow's strategic equilibrium in Asia, President Putin characterised Russia's ties with India and China as having evolved organically. He stressed that Moscow's growing synergy with New Delhi does not come at Beijing's expense, just as Russia's deep alliance with China does not compromise its bond with India.

"Russia has established these relations (with India and China). It was happening naturally. Relations between Russia and India do not disturb China, our relations with China do not disturb India," he said.

Mr. Putin also touched upon the ties between India and Pakistan. "We are well aware of the intricacies of the issues concerning the border between India and Pakistan," he said, addding that he does not believe Pakistan was under the control of China.

Su-57 on offer

The President also offered Russia's fifth-generation stealth aircraft Su-57 to India and suggested that the combat jet could be jointly built in India.

"As for the Su-57, we offered our friends from India to jointly develop this machine, a fifth-generation aircraft. I think it's the best to date. But our Indian friends said, 'well, let's see'," he said.

"In principle, this could have been our (Russia-India) product. We made it independently. And we are ready to work with India. To work and develop. There will be no restrictions whatsoever," he said.

06J6. Pressure to limit India-Russia ties will hurt global stability, says Putin
भारत-रूस संबंधों को सीमित करने का दबाव वैश्विक स्थिरता को नुकसान पहुँचाएगा, पुतिन ने कहा

Su-57 on offer
Su-57 की पेशकश

- The President also offered Russia's **fifth-generation stealth aircraft Su-57** to India and suggested that the combat jet could be jointly built in India.
  राष्ट्रपति ने भारत को रूस के **पाँचवीं पीढ़ी के स्टील्थ लड़ाकू विमान Su-57** की पेशकश भी की और सुझाव दिया कि इस लड़ाकू विमान का संयुक्त निर्माण भारत में किया जा सकता है।
- उन्होंने कहा, "इस पर किसी प्रकार का कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं होगा।"

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Leaders gather for summit on the EU's enlargement into the Western Balkans

The European Union signals its commitment to expand into the Western Balkans to counter security and economic threats posed by Russia, China; Montenegro considered a front-runner among region's other candidate nations; top EU diplomats seek ways to accelerate the membership process

GS II: IR

Associated Press
MONTENEGRO

Balkan bonhomie: Heads of state pose for the family photo at the EU-Western Balkans Summit in Tivat, Montenegro, with a focus on the integration of the six Western Balkans nations into the EU. AFP

Leaders from across the European Union and the Balkans gathered in Montenegro on Friday to discuss expanding the bloc to include countries in the region, seen as a key area in countering security and economic threats posed by Russia and China.

The EU-Western Balkans summit, being held in the Adriatic Sea coastal town of Tivat, brings together EU leaders including President Emmanuel Macron of France and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen as well as the heads of candidate countries in the Balkans.

High on the agenda will be Montenegro's EU accession. The bloc has already formed a working group to draft an accession treaty for the country, a signal that membership is within reach.

Security was heavy across Montenegro after the National Security Agency said it had foiled a plot to disrupt the summit and had turned away 87 Serbian nationals because they posed "a risk for internal and national security."

Adding members to the bloc for more single market economic benefits and stronger security capabilities has gained increased urgency in recent years as the continent has faced a series of challenges, such as lopsided trade with China, migration pressures, the war in Ukraine and increasing hybrid threats from Russia.

Reforms and rapport

The EU has signalled its commitment to expanding into the Western Balkans, where it has urged candidate countries such as Montenegro to carry out reforms like cutting corruption and shoring up democratic institutions – steps viewed as benefiting both the candidate nations and the EU as a whole.

"Enlargement means that we can win economically, become stronger politically, and provide more security to our citizens," said European Parliament President Roberta Metsola.

In a post on X, Mr. Merz said the bloc wants the Western Balkan countries to join the EU "as quickly as possible."

"The fact that we haven't admitted any new members in 13 years also shows shortcomings of the EU," he wrote. "We want to overcome those today."

As wars rage in Ukraine, Iran and West Asia, and Europe's security has come under question with the United States viewed as less committed to its NATO allies, EU countries have pushed to boost their military capabilities to ward off future threats.

During a tour of countries in the Western Balkans this week, European Council President Antonio Costa, who is hosting the summit, has emphasised how serious the bloc is about enlarging.

Speaking in Serbia on Thursday after meeting with Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic, Mr. Costa said the EU would look for new ways to speed up the membership process for the Western Balkan candidate countries.

In times of "global geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability," Mr. Costa said, enlarging the EU is "not just an opportunity. It is a geostrategic necessity for Europe."

'28 by 28'

Montenegro, a small, mountainous country that was once a part of Yugoslavia and which this week marked the 20th anniversary of its independence from a union with neighbouring Serbia, is considered a front-runner ahead of the region's other candidate countries of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

After joining NATO in 2017, the country of 623,000 people is now set on fulfilling an ambitious agenda of becoming the 28th member of the EU in 2028. The motto "28 by 28" has even been inscribed on one of the planes of Montenegro's national airline.

All 27 EU members must agree before each chapter can be opened, and then again for it to be closed. Ukraine and Moldova are also among about 10 countries aspiring to join the bloc, while Iceland will hold a referendum in August on whether to apply.

Serbian leader Vucic said he had high hopes for the summit and accession paths for Balkan countries. "We will see a lot of progress of Western Balkan countries in the future. Of course, we need to do a lot of reforms," he said. "We are on our EU path."

Ms. Von der Leyen too called for quickening the accession process. "Enlargement is merits-based, but merits-based does not mean slow. We have to make the process faster and more credible."

Faruk Bašić, a researcher at the Brussels Institute for Geopolitics, said the summit will likely result in a rapid movement for Montenegro to join the bloc in 2028. It will also likely see new safeguards to ensure member nations don't break EU norms.

The summit will be the first to bring together EU leaders since the stunning defeat in April of Viktor Orbán, Hungary's former Russia-friendly Prime Minister who, during his 16-year rule, flouted the EU's standards on democracy and the rule of law and forged close ties with other autocrats.

Mr. Orbán's successor, Hungarian Prime Minister Péter Magyar, did not attend the summit.

With the painful experience of Mr. Orbán's democratic backsliding and historic use of the veto in the European Council, the EU is devising new ways to use financial penalties or restricted access to the single market to pressure incoming nations to carry out reforms and adapt to the bloc's standards, Mr. Bašić said.

"The EU is trying to find a way to admit a country that isn't fully ready to be admitted without losing the ability to hold it accountable after the fact," he said, pointing to Ukraine's accession bid as well as nations in the Western Balkans like Serbia and Kosovo.

06J6. Leaders gather for summit on the EU's enlargement into the Western Balkans

पश्चिमी बाल्कन में यूरोपीय संघ के विस्तार पर शिखर सम्मेलन के लिए नेता एकत्र हुए

- **Montenegro** is considered a front-runner among the region's other candidate nations.
  मोंटेनेग्रो को क्षेत्र के अन्य उम्मीदवार देशों में सबसे आगे माना जा रहा है।
- The **EU-Western Balkans summit**, being held in the Adriatic Sea coastal town of **Tivat**, brings together EU leaders including President **Emmanuel Macron** of France and German Chancellor **Friedrich Merz**.
  एड्रियाटिक सागर के तटीय शहर **तिवात** में आयोजित **EU-पश्चिमी बाल्कन शिखर सम्मेलन** में फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति **इमैनुएल मैक्रों** और जर्मनी के चांसलर **फ्रेडरिक मर्ज़** सहित यूरोपीय नेता शामिल हुए।
- "Enlargement means that we can win economically, become stronger politically, and provide more security to our citizens," said **European Parliament President Roberta Metsola**.
  यूरोपीय संसद की अध्यक्ष रोबर्टा मेट्सोला ने कहा, "विस्तार का अर्थ है कि हम आर्थिक रूप से लाभान्वित होंगे, राजनीतिक रूप से मजबूत बनेंगे और अपने नागरिकों को अधिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करेंगे।"
- During a tour of countries in the Western Balkans this week, **European Council President Antonio Costa**, who is hosting the summit, emphasised how serious the bloc is about enlarging.

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इस सप्ताह पश्चिमी बाल्कन देशों के दौरे के दौरान सम्मेलन के मेज़बान **यूरोपीय परिषद के अध्यक्ष एंटोनियो कोस्टा** ने विस्तार को लेकर यूरोपीय संघ की गंभीरता पर जोर दिया।

- Speaking in **Serbia** on Thursday after meeting with Serbian President **Aleksandar Vucic**, Mr. Costa said the EU would look for new ways to speed up the membership process.
  गुरुवार को **सर्बिया** में राष्ट्रपति **अलेक्ज़ेंडर वुचिच** से मुलाकात के बाद कोस्टा ने कहा कि यूरोपीय संघ सदस्यता प्रक्रिया को तेज करने के नए तरीके खोजेगा।

'28 by 28'
'28 बाय 28'

- **Montenegro**, a small mountainous country that was once part of **Yugoslavia**, this week marked the **20th anniversary** of its independence from a union with neighbouring **Serbia**.
  मोंटेनेग्रो, जो कभी **यूगोस्लाविया** का हिस्सा था, ने इस सप्ताह पड़ोसी **सर्बिया** के साथ अपने संघ से स्वतंत्रता की **20वीं वर्षगांठ** मनाई।
- The country is considered a front-runner ahead of other candidate countries including **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo and North Macedonia**.
  इसे **अल्बानिया, बोस्निया-हर्जेगोविना, सर्बिया, कोसोवो और उत्तर मैसेडोनिया** जैसे अन्य उम्मीदवार देशों से आगे माना जाता है।
- All **27 EU members** must agree before each chapter can be opened, and then again for it to be closed.
  प्रत्येक अध्याय खोलने और बंद करने से पहले **यूरोपीय संघ के सभी 27 सदस्य देशों** की सहमति आवश्यक होती है।
- **Ukraine** and **Moldova** are also among about **10 countries** aspiring to join the bloc.
  यूक्रेन और **मोल्दोवा** भी संघ में शामिल होने की इच्छा रखने वाले लगभग **10 देशों** में शामिल हैं।
- He pointed to **Ukraine's accession bid** as well as nations in the **Western Balkans** like **Serbia** and **Kosovo**.
  उन्होंने **यूक्रेन की सदस्यता बोली** तथा **सर्बिया** और **कोसोवो** जैसे **पश्चिमी बाल्कन** देशों का उदाहरण दिया।

GS Paper III: Economy	06 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
06J6	Growing cracks in the granite trade ग्रेनाइट व्यापार में बढ़ती दरारें

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Stone under strain: A worker oversees a granite block being cut at a processing unit in Khammam, where many factories are operating below capacity amid an industry downturn. NAGARA GOPAL

Growing cracks in the granite trade

Telangana's once-thriving granite industry is showing signs of stress as export markets shrink and input costs soar. In Karimnagar and Khammam districts, quarry owners, factory operators and migrant workers are all feeling the impact of a prolonged downturn, report **P. Sridhar and P. Laxma Reddy**

GS III: Economy

For years, Rajendra Mohanty believed granite would guarantee him a steady livelihood. Today, cooking over a firewood stove outside his room on a factory campus in Kamanpur near Karimnagar, the 42-year-old migrant worker from Odisha is unsure what lies ahead. A slowdown triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia, rising fuel costs and weakening export demand has begun to ripple through Telangana's granite industry, affecting everyone from quarry owners and factory operators to truck drivers and migrant labourers.

Karimnagar, often referred to as the 'city of granites', has long been a key driver of industrial activity in north Telangana. Home to around 250 quarries and over 290 granite cutting and polishing units, the district built its reputation on strong international demand for its signature Tan Brown variety. Today, however, the industry is struggling with supply-chain disruptions, escalating transportation costs and a slump in demand from key markets such as China and the Middle East.

According to official sources, only around 25% of the licensed quarries are currently fully functional. "We faced hard times during the COVID-induced lockdown in 2020 and are now experiencing a crisis-like situation," says Mohanty, who has worked in Kamanpur for the past 12 years after migrating from Balasore in Odisha.

"Rising fuel prices have pushed up transportation costs while demand in international markets has slowed," he adds, pointing to stacks of unsold granite slabs.

The crisis has seeped into everyday life. Mohanty says workers have switched to the *chulha* (firewood stove) due to LPG shortages and rising prices. Of the 30 migrant workers employed at the factory where he is employed, 13 have already returned to their native States since the latest downturn gripped the industry, he explains.

Factory owners are grappling with rising production costs due to the increase in prices of imported raw materials, even as demand for granite blocks and polished slabs weakens. Across Telangana's granite belt spanning Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam districts, many units have scaled down production and even reduced manpower, leaving thousands of workers facing an uncertain future.

Telangana is one of India's leading granite-producing States, with Karimnagar renowned for globally recognised varieties such as Tan Brown, Coffee Brown, Maple Red, Red Rose and Blue Brown while Khammam and Warangal are known for premium black granite deposits, including the sought-after Jet Black variety. The wide range of commercially valuable granite found across the State has supported a vast network of quarries, processing units and export-oriented industries, with processed granite shipped to markets including China, Japan, Taiwan, the UAE, USA and Europe.

Karimnagar's granite industry is heavily dependent on overseas markets. The district's signature Tan Brown granite, once buoyed by strong international demand, is now facing demand volatility amid the fallout of the West Asia conflict.

According to industry figures, Karimnagar exported 56,730 cubic metres of granite blocks between April 1 and May 31, 2026, compared to a little over 3.35 lakh cubic metres during the whole of 2025-26. Demand for Tan Brown granite peaked in the late 2000s, especially around the Beijing Olympics, and it remains popular among buyers in China because of its affordability, availability and durability. Industry stakeholders, however, say current market conditions have impacted exports.

> While 170 units have completely shut down and 200 are running in a single shift, only around 100 are functioning at full capacity. Lack of availability of the raw material is the main cause behind the decline of business.
>
> **PATIBANDLA YUGANDHAR,** President, Khammam Granite Factory Owners Association

An industry in retreat

For decades, the deep black granite quarried from Khammam's rocky landscape symbolised prosperity. Renowned for its uniform colour, durability and premium finish, Khammam Black Granite found its way into luxury homes, commercial complexes, hotels and monuments across India and overseas markets. The industry once generated an annual business volume of nearly ₹1,000 crore and provided direct and indirect employment to around one lakh people. Today, however, it is struggling for survival.

Across the industrial belts of Khanapuram Haveli, Mudigonda, Arempula, Pallegudem, Gopalapuram and Nelakondapalli, where granite processing units once buzzed with activity, silence has replaced the hum of cutting and polishing machines. Industry representatives say the downturn began around 2018-19 and deepened during the pandemic, driven by a combination of policy changes, rising costs, shrinking quarry activity and weakening international demand.

According to Khammam Granite Factory Owners Association president Patibandla Yugandhar, only a fraction of the industry remains fully operational. "While 170 units have completely shut down and 200 are running in a single shift, only around 100 are functioning at full capacity," he says, referring to the nearly 470 slab units located within a 20-km radius of Khammam city. The shortage of raw granite blocks remains the biggest challenge. "Non-availability of the raw material is the main cause behind the decline of business," Yugandhar adds.

Industry estimates suggest that around 3,000 workers have already lost their jobs due to unit closures and downsizing.

Entrepreneurs also point to changes in quarry lease allotment policies. The earlier system, Yugandhar says, encouraged exploration by allowing prospectors to identify deposits and obtain leases through a phased process: "But now open auction is in implementation for the sanction of leases. This is hurting prospective miners."

Industry leaders contend that auction-based allotments and stricter eligibility norms have discouraged exploration and reduced the number of operational quarries. The district, which once had more than 200 quarries, now has fewer than 100 active operations. Government officials, however, maintain that lease allotments are governed by prescribed regulations and environmental safeguards.

For many entrepreneurs, the granite business has become financially unsustainable. Nallamothu Venkat Babu, who shut down his polishing unit two years ago, says the shortage of raw material forced him to exit the industry. "Since I am an agriculturist, I am now focussing on commercial crops," he adds.

The impact extends beyond unit owners. A polishing unit equipped with four cutters can employ around 10 semi-skilled and unskilled workers, and closures have sharply reduced employment opportunities.

> We can use the waste blocks of granite, slurry and earth for different by-products. But the government is collecting taxes on the waste.
>
> **K. VENKAT REDDY,** Owner of a granite quarry

K. Venkat Reddy, who operates a unit exporting granite tiles to the US and Europe, says prolonged uncertainty has discouraged the younger generation from entering the business. "Our next generation is not showing interest to take up the reins from us due to losses mainly caused by the non-availability of raw material in sufficient quantities," he rues.

Industry participants say financial distress is becoming widespread. Paramesh Reddy, treasurer of the association, points to rising diesel prices triggered by West Asia tensions as a major challenge. "Since quarrying, transportation and processing depend heavily on fuel, higher diesel costs have increased operational expenses for both quarry owners and polishing units, further eroding already thin margins," he explains.

The crisis has also affected thousands of workers, particularly migrants who form the backbone of the polishing industry. According to Yugandhar, most workers in polishing units come from West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha and Jharkhand while quarry labour is largely local.

A worker pointing to a black granite quarry at Pindiprolu village in Khammam district. NAGARA GOPAL

The cost of decline

Workers in quarries and polishing units generally earn between ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 a month, but shrinking operations have reduced employment opportunities. "A fellow villager returned home due to non-availability of work," says Sandip Mandal, a 21-year-old polishing machine operator from a village near Bishnupur in West Bengal.

Industry veterans say the sector is caught between rising input costs and weakening demand. While the price of raw granite has increased over the past 15 years, demand in some export markets has softened. At the same time, unit owners continue to bear fixed expenses regardless of production levels. "Whether you run the factory or not, the owner must pay the minimum power bill and prescribed fees," says senior industry leader Narender. Some entrepreneurs argue that intermediaries and brokers often earn more than manufacturers, further squeezing profit margins.

Industry representatives believe one avenue for revival lies in better utilisation of granite waste. Quarrying generates large quantities of rejected blocks, slurry and earth, much of which is discarded despite its potential to be converted into value-added products.

Venkat Reddy advocates greater investment in research and development. "We can use the waste blocks of granite, slurry and earth for different by-products. But the government is collecting taxes on the waste," he says.

Experts say granite waste can be processed into manufactured sand and other construction materials. One enterprise in Khanapuram Haveli has already demonstrated its commercial potential by producing artefacts, premium tiles, sanitaryware and bath fittings from discarded granite blocks. Despite the industry's troubles, Khammam Black Granite continues to enjoy demand in domestic markets, particularly north India. However, that demand has also spawned regulatory challenges. Recently, authorities uncovered an alleged tax-evasion network involving the transportation of black granite through fake firms and fabricated e-Way bills. Investigations are continuing.

China demand dries up

Telangana Small Scale Granite Industries Association president Rayala Nageswara Rao says the sector has suffered huge losses following the disruption of exports to China since the COVID-19 pandemic. He notes that nearly 70% of quarries in the erstwhile Karimnagar district have shut down due to lack of demand from China.

Rao says applicants are now required to pay around ₹25 lakh per hectare to secure quarry leases. Black granite has a recovery rate of only about 10%, compared with more than 50% for coloured varieties such as Tan Brown, he adds.

According to him, Khammam district has around 700 slab and tile units, of which nearly 200 have closed. Welcoming the release of ₹20 crore towards pending subsidies and the revival of the old measurement method, he urges the government to liberalise lease rules and provide further support to the sector.

Government officials acknowledge the industry's difficulties. Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Khammam, R. Sainath says polishing units are under severe stress due to sluggish market conditions, rising production costs and inadequate availability of granite blocks. He estimates that around 130 polishing units in the district have shut down, but notes that the government has refrained from increasing royalty and seigniorage charges in an effort to support the industry. For Amit, a polishing worker from Betul in Madhya Pradesh employed at a granite factory near Bavpet in Karimnagar, rising fuel prices and reduced production have taken a direct toll on household finances. "Earlier, I used to send ₹15,000 to my family. Now, I hardly send ₹10,000 back home," he says, adding that even firewood has become costlier amid LPG shortages that have forced many workers to return to the traditional *chulha*.

"We pray that the geopolitical tensions ease so that supply chains are restored and our factory runs at full capacity," he says.

The crisis reflects the export-dependent nature of Karimnagar's granite industry. Raw granite blocks are largely shipped to China while polished slabs are exported to markets in the Middle East through Kakinada port in Andhra Pradesh. Industry stakeholders say bottlenecks in shipping routes and cargo delays linked to the West Asia conflict have led to increased freight costs and disrupted exports.

J. Praneeth Rao, president of the Karimnagar District Granite Industries Association, says rising shipping charges, a stronger US dollar and higher prices of imported cutting and polishing tools have forced many units to scale down operations. "The increase in transport charges due to fuel price hikes is taking a toll on our business, compelling us to operate only a single shift," he says. Road transport costs have risen from around ₹2,800-₹2,900 per tonne to ₹3,300-₹3,600 per tonne while unit owners continue to struggle with bank loan repayments and electricity charges. Praneeth Rao says the industry directly and indirectly supports 30,000 to 40,000 families and argues that the 18% GST on granite places it at a disadvantage compared to tiles, which attract 5% GST.

Assistant Director of Mines and Geology, Karimnagar, S. Venkat Reddy says inflated ocean freight costs arising from the West Asia conflict have adversely affected granite exports from the district. A quarry owner from Bavpet, requesting anonymity, says the price of taper bits and other imported inputs used in drilling operations had increased three-fold, pushing up production costs by 10-15%. He also calls for improved rail-based logistics between Karimnagar and Kakinada port to reduce transportation costs.

Industry representatives have urged the government to encourage the use of locally produced Tan Brown granite in public infrastructure projects to support the sector's revival.

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06J6. Growing cracks in the granite trade
ग्रेनाइट व्यापार में बढ़ती दरारें

- **Telangana's** once-thriving granite industry is showing signs of stress as export markets shrink and input costs soar.
  तेलंगाना का कभी फलता-फूलता ग्रेनाइट उद्योग अब दबाव के संकेत दिखा रहा है क्योंकि निर्यात बाजार सिकुड़ रहे हैं और उत्पादन लागत तेजी से बढ़ रही है।
- In **Karimnagar** and **Khammam** districts, quarry owners, factory operators and migrant workers are all feeling the impact of a prolonged downturn, report P. Sridhar and P. Laxma Reddy.
  करीमनगर और **खम्मम** जिलों में खदान मालिक, फैक्ट्री संचालक और प्रवासी मजदूर सभी लंबे समय से जारी मंदी का प्रभाव महसूस कर रहे हैं।
- Karimnagar is renowned for globally recognised varieties such as **Tan Brown, Coffee Brown, Maple Red, Red Rose and Blue Brown**.
  करीमनगर **टैन ब्राउन, कॉफी ब्राउन, मेपल रेड, रेड रोज और ब्लू ब्राउन** जैसी विश्व प्रसिद्ध किस्मों के लिए जाना जाता है।
- **Khammam** and **Warangal** are known for premium black granite deposits, including the sought-after **Jet Black** variety.
  खम्मम और **वारंगल** प्रीमियम ब्लैक ग्रेनाइट भंडारों के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं, जिनमें लोकप्रिय **जेट ब्लैक** किस्म शामिल है।
- Processed granite is shipped to markets including **China, Japan, Taiwan, UAE, USA and Europe**.
  प्रसंस्कृत ग्रेनाइट **चीन, जापान, ताइवान, यूएई, अमेरिका और यूरोप** जैसे बाजारों में भेजा जाता है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	06 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
06J6	On a slow charging mode धीमी चार्जिंग मोड पर
06J6	'Two leaks found on International Space Station, no threat to crew' 'अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर दो रिसाव पाए गए, चालक दल को कोई खतरा नहीं'

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On a slow charging mode

While Bengaluru leads the transition towards electric mobility, vehicle owners say inadequate infrastructure, long charging times, and high purchase cost pose challenges for wider adoption. **Darshan Devaiah B.P.** and **Mini Tejaswi** take an overview of the EV scenario on World Environment Day

Current scenario: Electric vehicles being charged at a station in Bengaluru on Thursday. India's overall EV market penetration is expected to reach approximately 10% in FY 2026-27. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Buying an electric car has been a great decision for my daily commute in Bengaluru. It is comfortable to drive, and has reduced my fuel expenses. But whenever I travel to my hometown Mangaluru, I have to stop after around 220 km, and spend nearly an hour charging before continuing the journey, says Ramya Kumari, an IT professional from Bellandur. "While EVs are excellent for city driving, long-distance travel requires careful planning around charging stations, which can be frustrating."

Her experience mirrors that of thousands of electric vehicle (EV) owners across Karnataka, where the shift towards cleaner mobility is accelerating, but infrastructure continues to lag behind demand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently urged citizens to reduce dependence on petrol and diesel, citing the need to conserve foreign exchange and strengthen India's energy security amid global uncertainties in fuel markets. Electric vehicles have emerged as a key pillar in India's strategy to reduce oil imports and lower emissions.

India's overall EV market penetration is expected to reach approximately 10% in FY 2026-27, led by robust two-wheeler sales from major manufacturers and growing four-wheeler adoption. While national public charging infrastructure has grown to over 29,000 units, deployment remains urban-centric with a high EV-to-charger ratio (235:1). Karnataka spearheads this deployment, housing 23% of the nation's chargers, though 75% of these are deployed in Bengaluru, say industry observers.

Indeed, for Bengaluru residents, EVs have become increasingly attractive due to soaring fuel prices, rising environmental awareness and government incentives. Yet, once drivers venture beyond the city limits, concerns over charging infrastructure often overshadow the benefits, like in the case of Ramya.

Says Ramya, "Whenever I drive to Mangaluru, I usually stop around Sakleshpur, where a limited number of charging points are available. During weekends or holiday periods, there can be queues. Even though the number of charging stations is increasing, it is still nowhere near sufficient for the growing number of EV users. The biggest challenge is range anxiety, constantly worrying about whether the next charging station will be available and operational before the battery runs low."

The Bengaluru-Mangaluru route, one of Karnataka's busiest inter-city corridors, illustrates the challenge. Drivers often have to plan journeys around available charging points rather than choosing the most convenient route or schedule.

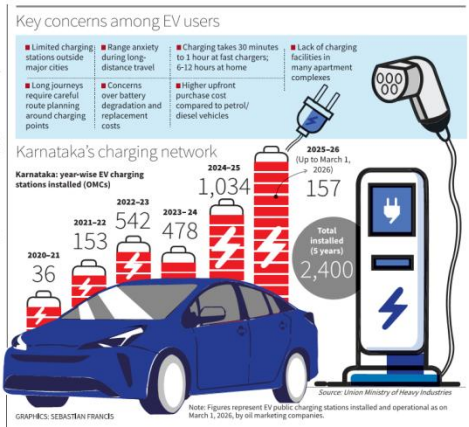
> The biggest challenge is range anxiety, constantly worrying about whether the next charging station will be available and operational before the battery runs low
> **RAMYA KUMARI**
> IT professional

Charging duration

Apart from the availability of charging stations, charging duration remains a major concern. Unlike conventional fuel vehicles that can be refuelled within minutes, EVs require significantly more time. Depending on battery size and charging capacity, a standard home charger can take anywhere between six and 12 hours to fully charge a vehicle. Fast chargers can reduce charging times to between 30 minutes and one hour for a substantial battery refill, but such facilities remain limited, especially outside cities.

For apartment dwellers in Bengaluru, even home charging is not always straightforward. Praveen S., a resident of J.P. Nagar who owns an electric vehicle, said that access to charging infrastructure within residential complexes remains a challenge.

"Many people assume that EV owners can simply charge their vehicles at home. In reality, several apartment complexes were designed long before electric vehicles became common. Residents do not have dedicated parking slots or access to electrical connections required for installing personal chargers. Getting approvals from apartment associations can be time-consuming. Unless residential infrastructure evolves alongside EV adoption, many urban residents will continue facing practical difficulties," he said.



On-road price

Another hurdle for many contemplating to buy EVs is the higher upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle. While operating costs are generally lower than those of petrol and diesel vehicles due to cheaper energy and reduced maintenance requirements, the initial investment remains substantial.

Sukesh Hegde, a resident of Yelahanka, spent months researching electric vehicles before ultimately deciding to purchase a diesel car. "Everyone talks about the benefits of EVs, and I agree they make sense in many situations, especially two-wheelers are good. But when I compared prices, I realised that a good electric SUV costs significantly more than a comparable fuel-powered vehicle. For many middle-class families, that difference matters," he said.

Hegde also pointed to uncertainty about battery life. "Lithium-ion batteries degrade over time, and replacing them can be expensive. I was concerned about what the vehicle would be worth after several years and whether battery replacement costs would offset the savings from lower running expenses."

Infrastructure growth

According to data available on the VAHAN dashboard, Karnataka registered more than 54,000 electric vehicles between January and March 2026. At the same time, the State has emerged as the second-largest hub for public EV charging stations installed by oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the country.

Data accessed by *The Hindu* shows that 2,039 EV public charging stations installed by OMCs are currently operational across the State. Karnataka had only 36 charging stations in 2020-21. The number increased to 153 in 2021-22 before rising sharply to 542 in 2022-23 amid growing EV adoption.

Although installations dipped slightly to 478 stations in 2023-24, the overall growth trajectory remained positive. The biggest expansion occurred in 2024-25, when 1,034 charging stations were added in a single year.

In the previous financial year up to March 1, 2026, another 157 charging stations have been installed. This has taken the total installations over five years to approximately 2,400 stations, of which 2,039 are operational.

OMCs comprising Indian Oil (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) have already installed close to 30,000 charging sites across their fuel retail networks and fast-charging infrastructure on highways in India. BPCL has set up EV fast-charging corridors along busy routes like Bengaluru-Tirupati. Indian Oil in partnership with Sun Mobility deployed battery swapping stations to offer quick charging to commercial fleets and three-wheelers.

IOCL is planning 608 EV charging stations across all 31 districts in Karnataka, of which 304 stations have already been onboarded. Siddharth Agarwal, executive director and State head, Karnataka State Office, Indian Oil, said all of these are fast DC chargers, enabling efficient and convenient charging. "We are planning 240 KW charging stations, which will cater to the heavy vehicles segment. Feasibility studies are being conducted and rollout is expected in the current financial year." Currently, 124 chargers are already integrated with Indian Oil's e-Charge platform. The remaining chargers are under various stages of onboarding.

HPCL's flagship brand HPeCharge, leveraging its extensive fuel retail network, has built one of the most expansive public EV charging infrastructures in the country, including Karnataka, according to the oil PSU.

Private players

EV vehicle manufacturers and infrastructure developers say Karnataka has made important strides in this segment.

Karnataka is one of the strongest examples of EV adoption, according to Ravneet S. Phokela, chief business officer at Ather Energy of Hero MotoCorp. The State was already seeing some of the highest electric two-wheeler penetration levels in the country, with EVs accounting for 13.1% of new two-wheeler registrations in FY26, supported by a strong ecosystem of startups, suppliers, manufacturers and charge point operators. More importantly, consumer behaviour has evolved, he observed, adding that concerns around range, battery life, and charging accessibility are reducing as products become more reliable and the supporting ecosystem matures.

Phokela said his company has invested extensively in battery technology, safety systems, and validation for Indian conditions. On charging accessibility, Ather claims to have over 6,000 LECCS-powered fast-charging points across India, including more than 500 in Karnataka. Bengaluru alone has over 200 fast-charging points, with charging stations typically located within 2 kilometres of one another.

Chetan Maini, co-founder and chairperson of SUN Mobility, said Karnataka, in particular, is among the States most prepared for EV transition, having been an early mover in EV policy and ecosystem development.

Investment flow

Karnataka has attracted over ₹25,000 crore in EV-related investment across manufacturing, batteries, charging infrastructure, and R&D, while also building one of the country's largest charging networks with more than 5,000 charging stations. Over the years, SUN Mobility has established a network of more than 1,700 battery swapping stations across 23 cities, supporting over 95,000 vehicles and enabling more than 60 million battery swaps, claimed the company. The company also collaborates with Indian Oil Corporation, Bescom and the Indian Railways.

A spokesperson of Tata Power, an integrated power company, said Bengaluru's technology-driven ecosystem and sustainability focused businesses have played an important role in accelerating this shift. Tata Power's EZ Charge energised over 5,500 public charging points in over 700 cities across the country, including 320 in Karnataka.

Karnataka government officials, meanwhile, say substantial investments are already under way. A senior official from the Transport Department in Bengaluru said that both the Centre and State governments are actively working to strengthen charging infrastructure.

Another official pointed to major Central government initiatives aimed at accelerating deployment. "Under the FAME-II scheme, ₹912.5 crore has been sanctioned for EV charging infrastructure across the country. Of this, ₹895.48 crore has already been released, while ₹655.43 crore has been utilised. In addition, ₹2,000 crore has been earmarked under the PM E-DRIVE scheme specifically for expanding charging infrastructure nationwide."

He added that the focus is shifting from merely increasing number of charging stations to improving reliability and accessibility. "We are encouraging deployment of fast-charging networks, supporting private sector participation and working with oil marketing companies and urban local bodies," the official said.

Ecosystem at a critical stage

Despite this progress, experts argue that infrastructure growth has not kept pace with the rapid increase in vehicle registration. Traffic and mobility expert M.N. Sreehari says, "Karnataka may have emerged as one of India's very fast growing areas of electric mobility, but the next phase of growth will depend on user confidence. The challenge is no longer convincing consumers to buy EVs. It is ensuring they can use them conveniently across the State. A driver should never have to worry about finding a charging station within a reasonable distance."

Sreehari feels that charging technology and grid integration also require attention. "The government should encourage ultra-fast charging corridors along major highways connecting Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi and Belagavi. Apartment charging regulations need to be simplified, and incentives should be provided to housing societies that install common charging facilities," he added. According to him, consumers need reliable information about battery life, operating costs and charging options.

Legal, regulatory issues

Drawing attention to another oft-ignored but key factor, Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates, emphasised the importance of the legal and regulatory ecosystem in accelerating EV transition. While policies such as FAME, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, State-level EV policies, and renewable energy initiatives have created momentum, implementation remains fragmented.

Land acquisition for charging stations, power connectivity approvals, environmental clearances, battery waste management obligations under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022, and compliance with electricity and urban development regulations continue to present practical challenges.

The next phase of India's EV journey would require greater regulatory harmonisation between the Central and State governments, municipal authorities, electricity distribution companies, and private sector participants.

"The EV transition is often viewed as a technological revolution, but it is equally a legal and regulatory transformation. Technology can create the vehicle, but laws, contracts, compliance frameworks, financing structures, and investor protections create the ecosystem within which that vehicle can operate at scale," Chandwani said.

06J6.On a slow charging mode
धीमी चार्जिंग मोड पर

- While national public charging infrastructure has grown to over **29,000 units**, deployment remains urban-centric with a high **EV-to-charger ratio (235:1)**.

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हालाँकि राष्ट्रीय सार्वजनिक चार्जिंग अवसंरचना बढ़कर **29,000 से अधिक इकाइयों** तक पहुँच गई है, फिर भी इसकी तैनाती मुख्यतः शहरी क्षेत्रों में केंद्रित है और **ईवी-टू-चार्जर अनुपात (235:1)** बहुत अधिक है।

Charging duration
चार्जिंग अवधि

- Depending on battery size and charging capacity, a standard home charger can take anywhere between **six and 12 hours** to fully charge a vehicle.
  बैटरी के आकार और चार्जिंग क्षमता के अनुसार, एक सामान्य घरेलू चार्जर किसी वाहन को पूरी तरह चार्ज करने में **6 से 12 घंटे** तक ले सकता है।
- Fast chargers can reduce charging times to between **30 minutes and one hour** for a substantial battery refill, but such facilities remain limited, especially outside cities.
  फास्ट चार्जर चार्जिंग समय को **30 मिनट से 1 घंटे** तक कम कर सकते हैं, लेकिन ऐसी सुविधाएँ विशेषकर शहरों के बाहर सीमित हैं।

On-road price
ऑन-रोड कीमत

- Another hurdle for many contemplating to buy EVs is the higher upfront cost of purchasing an electric vehicle.
  ईवी खरीदने पर विचार करने वालों के लिए एक और बड़ी बाधा इसकी शुरुआती अधिक कीमत है।
- Land acquisition for charging stations, power connectivity approvals, environmental clearances, battery waste management obligations under the **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**, and compliance with electricity and urban development regulations continue to present practical challenges.
  चार्जिंग स्टेशनों के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहण, बिजली कनेक्शन की स्वीकृति, पर्यावरणीय मंजूरी, **बैटरी अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2022** के तहत दायित्व तथा बिजली एवं शहरी विकास नियमों का अनुपालन अभी भी व्यावहारिक चुनौतियाँ प्रस्तुत करते हैं।
- "Technology can create the vehicle, but laws, contracts, compliance frameworks, financing structures, and investor protections create the ecosystem within which that vehicle can operate at scale," Chandwani said.
  चंदवानी ने कहा, "तकनीक वाहन बना सकती है, लेकिन कानून, अनुबंध, अनुपालन ढाँचे, वित्तीय संरचनाएँ और निवेशकों की सुरक्षा वह पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र तैयार करती हैं, जिसमें वह वाहन बड़े पैमाने पर संचालित हो सकता है।"

'Two leaks found on International Space Station, no threat to crew'

AP

GS III: S&T

Russian state space agency Roscosmos said on Friday that its experts had detected two leaks aboard the International Space Station (ISS) but that there was no immediate threat to the crew. The first leak was fixed with a hermetic compound while preparations are under way to seal the second leak, it said. REUTERS

06J6. 'Two leaks found on International Space Station, no threat to crew'
'अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन पर दो रिसाव पाए गए, चालक दल को कोई खतरा नहीं'

- **Russian state space agency Roscosmos** said on Friday that its experts had detected **two leaks** aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)** but that there was no immediate threat to the crew.

रूसी सरकारी अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी रोस्कोस्मोस ने शुक्रवार को कहा कि उसके विशेषज्ञों ने **अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (ISS)** पर **दो रिसाव** का पता लगाया है, लेकिन चालक दल के लिए कोई तत्काल खतरा नहीं है।

GS Paper III: Environment	06 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	

PELICAN

Pelicans at Amber Cheruvu in Hyderabad on Friday. The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency's efforts to restore the lake appear to be working. HYDRAA has removed sludge and installed fences to curb pollution and protect biodiversity. NAGARA GOPAL

- **Pelicans** at Amber Cheruvu in Hyderabad on Friday.
- The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency's efforts to restore the lake appears to be working.
- HYDRA has removed sludge and installed fences to curb pollution and protect biodiversity.

- **Pelicans** are large water birds belonging to the family **Pelecanidae**.
- They are famous for their **long bills and large throat pouches**, which they use to catch fish.
- Pelicans are found on every continent except Antarctica.
- They usually inhabit coastal regions, lakes, rivers, estuaries, lagoons, and wetlands.

Scientific Classification
• Kingdom: Animalia
• Phylum: Chordata
• Class: Aves (Birds)
• Order: Pelecaniformes
• Family: Pelecanidae
• Genus: Pelecanus

Key Physical Features
Large Throat Pouch
• The most distinctive feature of pelicans is the expandable pouch beneath their beak.
• The pouch is used primarily for catching fish rather than storing food.
Large Wingspan
• Pelicans are among the largest flying birds.
• Some species have a wingspan exceeding **3 metres**.
Excellent Swimmers
• Their webbed feet help them swim efficiently.

In India
Pelicans are commonly seen in:
• Andhra Pradesh
• Tamil Nadu
• Karnataka
• Kerala
• Odisha
• Gujarat

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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

05 JUNE 2026

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PCS Special:	05 June 2026
05J6	Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away पूर्व लोकसभा महासचिव सुभाष कश्यप का निधन
05J6	QUIZ
05J6	Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car मारुति सुजुकी ने 'भारत की पहली' फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल कार का अनावरण किया
05J6	Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56 प्रख्यात ईरानी-फ्रांसीसी कार्टूनिस्ट, फिल्म निर्माता मार्जाने सात्रापी का 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन
05J6	French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title फ्रेंच ओपन: एरानी-वावासोरी जोड़ी ने मिश्रित युगल खिताब बरकरार रखा

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Rescue-ready

Firefighting drill: A **Canadair CL-415 aircraft** drops water during a demonstration at the launch of France's national wildfire prevention campaign in Nîmes, southern France, on Thursday.

Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away

PCS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former Lok Sabha Secretary General and constitutional expert Subhash C. Kashyap passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness. He was 97.

Mr. Kashyap was part of the high-level committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind to prepare a legal framework on simultaneous elections. Author of over 100 books, he served as the Secretary General of Lok Sabha from 1983 to 1990.

He served Parliament for over 37 years from the time of Jawaharlal Nehru's first Lok Sabha to the 9th Lok Sabha.

Born in 1929 in a family of freedom fighters in Bijnor in the then United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh), he actively took part in the struggle for Independence as a teenager.

Subhash C. Kashyap

He received his higher education and professional training at Allahabad, New Delhi, Washington DC, London and Geneva.

He was also awarded the Padma Bhushan.

President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said the demise of Mr. Kashyap is extremely sad and offered condolences to his family. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla condoled his demise and said it is a profound loss to Indian parliamentary democracy, constitutional discourse and public life.

05J6. Former LS Secretary General Subhash Kashyap passes away
पूर्व लोकसभा महासचिव सुभाष कश्यप का निधन

- Former **Lok Sabha Secretary General** and constitutional expert **Subhash C. Kashyap** passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness.

पूर्व **लोकसभा महासचिव** एवं संवैधानिक विशेषज्ञ **सुभाष सी. कश्यप** का गुरुवार को लंबी बीमारी के बाद निधन हो गया।

- He was **97**.

वे **97 वर्ष** के थे।

- Mr. Kashyap was part of the **high-level committee** headed by former President **Ram Nath Kovind** to prepare a legal framework on **simultaneous elections**.

श्री कश्यप **पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद** की अध्यक्षता वाली **उच्चस्तरीय समिति** के सदस्य थे, जिसका गठन **एक साथ चुनाव (Simultaneous Elections)** के लिए कानूनी ढाँचा तैयार करने हेतु किया गया था।

- Author of over **100 books**, he served as the **Secretary General of Lok Sabha** from **1983 to 1990**.

100 से अधिक पुस्तकों के लेखक श्री कश्यप ने **1983 से 1990** तक **लोकसभा महासचिव** के रूप में कार्य किया।

- He served Parliament for over **37 years** from the time of **Jawaharlal Nehru's first Lok Sabha** to the **9th Lok Sabha**.

उन्होंने **जवाहरलाल नेहरू की प्रथम लोकसभा** से लेकर **नौवीं लोकसभा** तक **37 वर्षों से अधिक** समय तक संसद की सेवा की।

- Born in **1929** in a family of **freedom fighters** in **Bijnor** in the then **United Provinces** (now **Uttar Pradesh**), he actively took part in the struggle for Independence as a teenager.

उनका जन्म **1929** में तत्कालीन **यूनाइटेड प्रोविंसेज़** (वर्तमान **उत्तर प्रदेश**) के **बिजनौर** में एक **स्वतंत्रता सेनानी परिवार** में हुआ था और उन्होंने किशोरावस्था में ही स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन में सक्रिय भागीदारी की थी।

- He received his **higher education** and professional training at **Allahabad**, **New Delhi**, **Washington DC**, **London** and **Geneva**.

उन्होंने अपनी **उच्च शिक्षा** तथा व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण **इलाहाबाद**, **नई दिल्ली**, **वॉशिंगटन डी.सी.**, **लंदन** तथा **जेनेवा** में प्राप्त किया।

- He was also awarded the **Padma Bhushan**.
  उन्हें **पद्म भूषण** से भी सम्मानित किया गया था।

Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car

PCS
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. unveiled 'India's first' flex-fuel car giving flexibility to clients to operate on any blend of ethanol and petrol from E20 to E100.

Maruti said it was introducing the technology in Wagon R which long pioneered alternative fuel vehicles in India, including CNG and LPG. In addition to a significant reduction in oil imports, flex-fuel vehicles can help boost farmers' income, Maruti said.

Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, said India imported a large quantity of crude every year. Biofuels such as ethanol were an important pathway towards reducing this dependence.

05J6. QUIZ

5. This island country, which is part of Oceania, achieved independence within the British Commonwealth on this day in 1970? **Ans: Tonga**

05J6.Maruti Suzuki unveils 'India's first' flex-fuel car
मारुति सुजुकी ने 'भारत की पहली' फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल कार का अनावरण किया

- **Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.** unveiled 'India's first' **flex-fuel car** giving flexibility to clients to operate on any blend of **ethanol** and **petrol** from **E20 to E100**.

मारुति सुजुकी इंडिया लिमिटेड ने 'भारत की पहली' **फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल कार** का अनावरण किया, जो ग्राहकों को **E20 से E100** तक **एथेनॉल** और **पेट्रोल** के किसी भी मिश्रण पर वाहन चलाने की सुविधा प्रदान करती है।

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56

PCS
Associated Press
PARIS

Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist and filmmaker Marjane Satrapi, a prominent advocate for women's rights and author of *Persepolis*, has died at 56, the French presidency said on Thursday.

"Her passing marks the loss of a leading figure of French culture and an artist devoted to freedom, whose work carried a universal message and earned her immense international acclaim," the French presidency said.

President Emmanuel Macron and his wife "pay tribute to a remarkable artist who transformed an Iranian childhood into a universal fable," the statement said.

Marjane Satrapi

News broadcaster *BFM TV* and other French media reported Satrapi has "died of sadness" a little over a year after the death of her husband, Swedish film producer and actor Mattias Ripa, according to a statement from people close to the artist.

The French Academy of Fine Arts, of which she was a member, expressed its deep sadness paying tribute to "a passionate advocate for cinema and film education" who earlier this year created a foundation to help international students come to Paris to study film.

Satrapi is best-known for her monochrome autobiographical comic book and film *Persepolis*, a coming-of-age tale set against the Islamic Revolution in her native Iran.

Persepolis won the Film Critics Grand Prix at the Cannes Festival in 2007 and the César Award for Best Adapted Screenplay in 2008, in addition to being nominated for Best Animated Feature at the 2008 Oscars.

Her graphic novels also include *Broderies* (*Embroideries*) and *Poulet aux prunes* (*Chicken with plums*), which also was adapted into a film. As a filmmaker, she has directed several works including *La Bande des Jotas* (*The Gang of Jotas*) and *Radioactive* (*Madame Curie*), a biography about the Polish physicist Marie Curie.

Satrapi also 2023 coordinated the book *Femme, vie, liberté* (*Woman, Life, Freedom*) together with a group of artists and academics to illustrate the revolts that occurred in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022 at the hands of "morality police".

05J6.Acclaimed Iranian-French cartoonist, filmmaker Marjane Satrapi dies at 56
प्रख्यात ईरानी-फ्रांसीसी कार्टूनिस्ट, फिल्म निर्माता मार्जाने सात्रापी का 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- Acclaimed **Iranian-French** cartoonist and filmmaker **Marjane Satrapi**, a prominent advocate for **women's rights** and author of **Persepolis**, has died at 56, the French presidency said on Thursday.
  प्रख्यात **ईरानी-फ्रांसीसी** कार्टूनिस्ट और फिल्म निर्माता **मार्जाने सात्रापी**, जो **महिला अधिकारों** की प्रमुख समर्थक और **Persepolis** की लेखिका थीं, का 56 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया, फ्रांसीसी राष्ट्रपति कार्यालय ने गुरुवार को कहा।

French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title

AP

Italy's Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori retained the French Open mixed doubles title on Thursday, defeating American Evan King and Canadian Gabriela Dabrowski 4-6, 6-3, [10-4]. The duo is the first to defend the title since Ivan Dodig and Latisha Chan (2018, 2019). It was the pair's fourth mixed doubles trophy in the last seven Slams.

05J6. French Open: Errani-Vavassori pair retains mixed doubles title
फ्रेंच ओपन: एरानी-वावासोरी जोड़ी ने मिश्रित युगल खिताब बरकरार रखा

- Italy's **Sara Errani** and **Andrea Vavassori** retained the **French Open mixed doubles title** on Thursday, defeating American **Evan King** and Canadian **Gabriela Dabrowski** 4-6, 6-3, [10-4].
  इटली की **सारा एरानी** और **आंद्रेआ वावासोरी** ने गुरुवार को **फ्रेंच ओपन मिश्रित युगल खिताब** बरकरार रखते हुए अमेरिका के **इवान किंग** और कनाडा की **गेब्रिएला डाब्रोव्स्की** को 4-6, 6-3, [10-4] से हराया।
- The duo is the first to defend the title since **Ivan Dodig** and **Latisha Chan** (2018, 2019).
  यह जोड़ी **इवान डोडिग** और **लतीशा चान** (2018, 2019) के बाद इस खिताब का सफलतापूर्वक बचाव करने वाली पहली जोड़ी बनी है।
- It was the pair's **fourth mixed doubles trophy** in the last **seven Slams**.
  यह पिछले **सात ग्रैंड स्लैम** में इस जोड़ी की **चौथी मिश्रित युगल ट्रॉफी** थी।

GS Paper II: Polity	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling उच्चतम न्यायालय के मसौदा नियम न्यायिक निर्णयों और गवाह प्रोफाइलिंग के लिए एआई के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हैं

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Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling

They underline that AI systems used in court processes must 'function solely in an assistive capacity' and remain 'strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority'; comments and suggestions invited from the public till June 20

GS II: Polity

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

Prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to determine judicial outcomes, the Supreme Court AI committee has proposed draft regulations that bar AI-assisted sentencing without mandatory human oversight, prevent AI systems from profiling parties or witnesses, and disallow the use of "opaque" or "unexplainable" AI systems in any court process.

The proposed regulations come amid concerns expressed by the top court in recent months over the growing reliance on AI by courts in rendering judgments. In March, a Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha chided a trial court for relying on non-existent judgments generated with the help of AI, observing that it was not merely "an error in decision-making" but amounted to judicial "misconduct".

The preliminary draft of the 'Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026', made public on Wednesday, underlines that AI systems used in court processes must "function solely in an assistive capacity" and remain "strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority".

The draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case listing and scheduling. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The committee, chaired by Supreme Court judge Justice P.S. Narasimha and comprising Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V., Anoop Chitkara and Suraj Govindaraj, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders as well as members of the public on the draft regulations before they are finalised.

The deadline for submitting responses is June 20. Under the draft regulations, the processing of personal data through AI systems shall be governed by the provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. It also underlines that AI systems must not "perpetuate, amplify, or introduce bias" on grounds of race, religion, caste, sex, gender, disability, language, economic status, or any other ground prohibited under the Constitution.

'Human-in-the-loop'

"Applications involving higher levels of risk to personal liberty, any lawful right of a person, or the integrity of judicial outcomes shall be subject to correspondingly heightened safeguards, including mandatory human-in-the-loop requirements and independent oversight," the draft states.

It further cautions that AI-assisted judicial systems should not "widen digital divides" and must remain accessible to all stakeholders, including those from rural, economically disadvantaged, or linguistically diverse communities.

While the draft regulations permit the use of AI for administrative functions such as case management, preparation of cause lists, scheduling of hearings, transcription of court proceedings and translation of judgments, they make it clear that AI systems cannot be used for "risk scoring" in court processes. This includes assessing flight risk, predicting recidivism, evaluating bail eligibility, or determining the credibility of parties or witnesses.

It also bars authorities from using AI systems for the surveillance or continuous monitoring of judicial officers, advocates, litigants and other stakeholders, "except as may be specifically authorised by applicable law for the time being in force".

'Apex body'

To supervise the adoption of AI in the judiciary and steer standard-setting and policy development, the draft regulations propose the creation of a full-time "apex body" at the Supreme Court.

The apex body, it recommends, would comprise two Supreme Court judges nominated by the Chief Justice of India (CJI), one of whom shall serve as the ex-officio chairperson; two High Court Chief Justices and two High Court judges nominated by the CJI; one member from an institution of national importance or any institution of repute, as nominated by the CJI; an officer not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; a finance expert and a cybersecurity expert nominated by the CJI; among others.

05J6. Draft SC rules prohibit use of AI for judicial outcomes, witness profiling
उच्चतम न्यायालय के मसौदा नियम न्यायिक निर्णयों और गवाह प्रोफाइलिंग के लिए एआई के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हैं

- Prohibiting the use of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to determine judicial outcomes, the **Supreme Court AI Committee** has proposed draft regulations that bar **AI-assisted sentencing** without mandatory human oversight, prevent AI systems from profiling parties or witnesses, and disallow the use of **"opaque"** or **"unexplainable" AI systems** in any court process.
  न्यायिक परिणामों के निर्धारण के लिए **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** के उपयोग पर रोक लगाते हुए **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय एआई समिति** ने ऐसे प्रारूप विनियम प्रस्तावित किए हैं, जो अनिवार्य मानवीय निगरानी के बिना **एआई-सहायता प्राप्त दंड निर्धारण** पर प्रतिबंध लगाते हैं, पक्षकारों अथवा गवाहों की प्रोफाइलिंग को रोकते हैं तथा किसी भी न्यायिक प्रक्रिया में **"अस्पष्ट" (Opaque)** अथवा **"अव्याख्येय" (Unexplainable)** एआई प्रणालियों के उपयोग की अनुमति नहीं देते।
- The proposed regulations come amid concerns expressed by the top court in recent months over the growing reliance on **AI** by courts in rendering judgments.
  ये प्रस्तावित विनियम हाल के महीनों में न्यायालयों द्वारा निर्णय देने की प्रक्रिया में **एआई** पर बढ़ती निर्भरता को लेकर सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा व्यक्त चिंताओं की पृष्ठभूमि में सामने आए हैं।
- In **March**, a Bench headed by **Justice P.S. Narasimha** chided a trial court for relying on non-existent judgments generated with the help of AI, observing that it was not merely **"an error in decision-making"** but amounted to judicial **"misconduct"**.

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मार्च में **न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा** की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने एआई की सहायता से उत्पन्न अस्तित्वहीन निर्णयों पर भरोसा करने के लिए एक निचली अदालत को फटकार लगाई थी और कहा था कि यह केवल **"निर्णय लेने में त्रुटि"** नहीं बल्कि न्यायिक **"कदाचार"** के समान है।

- The preliminary draft of the **'Regulations for Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Courts, 2026'**, made public on Wednesday, underlines that AI systems used in court processes must **"function solely in an assistive capacity"** and remain **"strictly subservient to human judgment and judicial authority"**.
  बुधवार को सार्वजनिक किए गए **'न्यायालयों में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) के उपयोग हेतु विनियम, 2026'** के प्रारंभिक मसौदे में स्पष्ट किया गया है कि न्यायालयी प्रक्रियाओं में प्रयुक्त एआई प्रणालियाँ **"केवल सहायक भूमिका"** में कार्य करेंगी और **"मानवीय निर्णय तथा न्यायिक प्राधिकार के अधीन"** रहेंगी।
- The committee, chaired by **Justice P.S. Narasimha** and comprising **Justices Sanjeev Sachdeva, Raja Vijayaraghavan V., Anoop Chitkara and Suraj Govindaraj**, has invited comments and suggestions from stakeholders as well as members of the public on the draft regulations before they are finalised.
  न्यायमूर्ति पी.एस. नरसिम्हा की अध्यक्षता वाली समिति, जिसमें **न्यायमूर्ति संजीव सचदेवा, राजा विजयराघवन वी., अनूप चितकारा तथा सूरज गोविंदराज** शामिल हैं, ने विनियमों को अंतिम रूप देने से पूर्व हितधारकों और आम जनता से सुझाव एवं टिप्पणियाँ आमंत्रित की हैं।
- The deadline for submitting responses is **June 20**.
  प्रतिक्रियाएँ प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि **20 जून** निर्धारित की गई है।
- Under the draft regulations, the processing of **personal data** through AI systems shall be governed by the provisions of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023**.
  प्रारूप विनियमों के अनुसार एआई प्रणालियों के माध्यम से **व्यक्तिगत डेटा** के प्रसंस्करण को **डिजिटल व्यक्तिगत डेटा संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2023** के प्रावधानों द्वारा नियंत्रित किया जाएगा।
- This includes assessing **flight risk**, predicting **recidivism**, evaluating **bail eligibility**, or determining the credibility of parties or witnesses.
  इसमें **फरार होने की संभावना**, **पुनः अपराध करने की संभावना**, **जमानत पात्रता का मूल्यांकन**, अथवा पक्षकारों और गवाहों की विश्वसनीयता का निर्धारण शामिल है।
- It also bars authorities from using AI systems for the **surveillance** or continuous monitoring of judicial officers, advocates, litigants and other stakeholders, **"except as may be specifically authorised by applicable law for the time being in force"**.
  यह न्यायिक अधिकारियों, अधिवक्ताओं, वादकारियों तथा अन्य हितधारकों की **निगरानी (Surveillance)** अथवा सतत पर्यवेक्षण के लिए एआई प्रणालियों के उपयोग पर भी प्रतिबंध लगाता है, सिवाय उन परिस्थितियों के जहाँ प्रचलित कानून द्वारा विशेष रूप से इसकी अनुमति दी गई हो।

'Apex body'
'शीर्ष निकाय'

- To supervise the adoption of AI in the judiciary and steer standard-setting and policy development, the draft regulations propose the creation of a full-time **"apex body"** at the **Supreme Court**.
  न्यायपालिका में एआई के उपयोग की निगरानी तथा मानक निर्धारण एवं नीतिगत विकास का मार्गदर्शन करने हेतु मसौदा विनियम **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** में एक पूर्णकालिक **"शीर्ष निकाय"** के गठन का प्रस्ताव रखते हैं।
- The apex body, it recommends, would comprise **two Supreme Court judges** nominated by the **Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, one of whom shall serve as the **ex-officio chairperson**.
  सिफारिश के अनुसार इस शीर्ष निकाय में **भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI)** द्वारा नामित **दो सर्वोच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश** होंगे, जिनमें से एक **पदेन अध्यक्ष (Ex-officio Chairperson)** के रूप में कार्य करेगा।
- It would also include **two High Court Chief Justices** and **two High Court judges** nominated by the CJI.

इसमें **दो उच्च न्यायालयों के मुख्य न्यायाधीश** तथा **दो उच्च न्यायालय न्यायाधीश** भी शामिल होंगे, जिन्हें मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित किया जाएगा।

- One member from an **institution of national importance** or any institution of repute, as nominated by the CJI, would also be part of the body.
  राष्ट्रीय महत्व के संस्थान अथवा किसी प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान से मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित एक सदस्य भी इस निकाय का हिस्सा होगा।
- An officer not below the rank of **Joint Secretary** in the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology**, a **finance expert**, and a **cybersecurity expert** nominated by the CJI would also be included, among others.
  इसके अतिरिक्त **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय** का **संयुक्त सचिव स्तर से कम नहीं** का एक अधिकारी, एक **वित्त विशेषज्ञ**, तथा मुख्य न्यायाधीश द्वारा नामित एक **साइबर सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ** भी इस निकाय में शामिल होंगे।

GS Paper II: Governance	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijiju भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों को पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त है, वे अपने धर्म का पालन करने में सक्षम हैं: रिजिजू
05J6	Data hygiene डेटा स्वच्छता

PATRIOTIC IAS

Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijiju

GS II: Governance

Ishita Mishra
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said minorities in India enjoy full freedom and are able to practise their faith and way of life without hindrance. He said efforts were being made from outside the country to project a false narrative of persecution.

"No individual had been compelled to leave the country because of religious identity... Criticise government policies if you wish, but do not spread falsehoods," he said while attacking the Opposition. Speaking at the Ministry's 'Reforms Utsav' to mark 12 years of the Narendra Modi government, Mr. Rijiju highlighted technology-driven initiatives but said that details of nearly 45% of Waqf properties are yet to be uploaded on the UMEED portal and that issues on scholarship remain unresolved.

UMEED is a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties. It was launched on June 6, 2025, with an initial six-month deadline to register around nine lakh such properties spread across India.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju at the Reforms Utsav event organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

'Labour-heavy process'

"There are so many shortcomings in different State Waqf boards... the documents of properties are faulty... in some places, thousands of acres are recorded on paper, but the land on ground tells a different story. We are continuously organising workshops and sessions to help Mutawallis register the Waqf properties. It is a labour-intensive process and will take some time," he said.

The Minister admitted that scholarship delivery, one of the Ministry's largest welfare initiatives, remained affected by investigations into alleged fraud in several States. Referring to cases where scholarships were reportedly claimed in the names of fictitious students, Mr. Rijiju said he hoped that ongoing CBI inquiries would conclude soon and the programme could resume.

'Wait for probe to finish'

"We cannot start the scholarships by excluding those institutions which are being investigated for fraud. So we will have to wait until the investigation is finished," he added.

Mr. Rijiju said the Ministry's annual budget has increased from ₹1,949 crore in 2014 to ₹4,115 crore at present, a 111% jump. But government outreach efforts received limited attention and negative developments attracted disproportionate coverage, he said.

During the event, which was attended by beneficiaries of various schemes, the Ministry featured demos for an AI-enabled helpline for hajj pilgrims.

"The chatbot will be accessible through an app that pilgrims will be able to place phone calls with, in addition to being available on WhatsApp. The voice chatbot is only available on its own app since WhatsApp calls are banned by the Saudi government," an official said.

There will be an escalation bot to handle complex queries where human assistance is required, a Gnani.ai representative said at the event. The firm's chatbot will be rolled out in the coming months on the Ministry's behalf and will support queries in 12 languages.

05J6. Minorities enjoy full freedom in India, are able to practise their faith: Rijiju

भारत में अल्पसंख्यकों को पूर्ण स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त है, वे अपने धर्म का पालन करने में सक्षम हैं: रिजिजू

- But he said that details of nearly **45% of Waqf properties** are yet to be uploaded on the **UMEED portal** and that issues on **scholarship** remain unresolved.
  किन्तु उन्होंने कहा कि लगभग **45% वक्फ संपत्तियों** का विवरण अभी भी **UMEED पोर्टल** पर अपलोड किया जाना शेष है तथा **छात्रवृत्ति** से संबंधित समस्याएँ अभी तक हल नहीं हुई हैं।

- **UMEED** is a centralised digital platform for **real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties**.

UMEED वक्फ संपत्तियों के **रियल-टाइम अपलोडिंग, सत्यापन और निगरानी** हेतु एक केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल मंच है।

- It was launched on **June 6, 2025**, with an initial **six-month deadline** to register around **nine lakh properties** spread across India.

इसे **6 जून 2025** को प्रारम्भ किया गया था और पूरे भारत में फैली लगभग **नौ लाख संपत्तियों** के पंजीकरण के लिए प्रारम्भिक **छह माह की समय-सीमा** निर्धारित की गई थी।

'Labour-heavy process'
'अत्यधिक श्रम-सघन प्रक्रिया'

- "We are continuously organising workshops and sessions to help **Mutawallis** register the Waqf properties."

"हम **मुतवल्लियों** को वक्फ संपत्तियों का पंजीकरण कराने में सहायता देने के लिए निरंतर कार्यशालाएँ और प्रशिक्षण सत्र आयोजित कर रहे हैं।"

GS II: Governance

Data hygiene

Census enumerators should not face difficulties in the name of re-verification

It is disturbing that some Census 2027 enumerators in States such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are facing issues for extremely unusual reasons. In these two States where the first phase of the Census – Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) – is under way, they have been advised to "revisit households and correct the data discrepancies" and "not to select options that may show the government in a poor light". Re-verification is a legitimate part of any study or survey but this must be done to reflect reality accurately, not to manage perceptions. In Rajasthan, the issue arises from a circular of the Director of Census Operations to district-level officials regarding discrepancies identified in field data. Apparently, the objective is to ensure that data are accurately recorded, using appropriate options in the questionnaire. However, in some cases, enumerators have been told to record data based on assumptions. For example, if some households do not have toilets, enumerators have been told to check whether toilets are available nearby, on the basis of which the entry can be changed from "open defecation" to "[having] access to latrine". In Uttar Pradesh, the message seems to be not to present facts as they are, raising concerns about data integrity and reliability for a crucial and sensitive exercise.

The present episode brings to the fore the efficacy of programmes such as the country's long-running campaign against open defecation. While many States have made tangible progress, it would be unrealistic to conclude that the problem has been eliminated. For administrative purposes, including funding, it is reasonable to classify cities and villages on the basis of certain parameters as Open Defecation Free (ODF), ODF Plus and ODF Plus Model. But, the critical question is whether such a classification reflects reality and comes into conflict with the enumerators' work. It is the responsibility of policymakers to ensure that Census data are accurate and credible. They must also sensitise people to provide correct information, as public policies and welfare schemes are formulated on the basis of these data and ultimately benefit them. The authorities must recognise and resolve the legitimate difficulties faced by enumerators. As the significance of the Census hardly needs any reiteration, the Union government should be quite liberal in enhancing allowances for enumerators to ensure efficient and timely work. It should not only be conscious of the financial outlay involved – about ₹11,718 crore for the entire country – but also of the need to make reliable data publicly available for purposes such as targeted and inclusive policymaking. The government should send a clear message that data sanitisation must not be undertaken under the guise of re-verification.

05J6. Data hygiene
डेटा स्वच्छता

- It is disturbing that some **Census 2027 enumerators** in States such as **Rajasthan** and **Uttar Pradesh** are facing issues for extremely unusual reasons.

यह चिंताजनक है कि **राजस्थान** और **उत्तर प्रदेश** जैसे राज्यों में कुछ **जनगणना 2027 प्रगणक (Enumerators)** अत्यंत असामान्य कारणों से समस्याओं का सामना कर रहे हैं।

- In these two States where the first phase of the Census — **Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO)** — is under way, they have been advised to "revisit households and correct the data discrepancies" and "not to select options that may show the government in a poor light".

इन दोनों राज्यों में, जहाँ जनगणना का प्रथम चरण — **गृह-सूचीकरण एवं आवास जनगणना (HLO)** — चल रहा है, प्रगणकों को "परिवारों का पुनः दौरा कर आँकड़ों में पाई गई विसंगतियों को सुधारने" तथा "ऐसे विकल्पों का चयन न करने" की सलाह दी गई है जो सरकार को नकारात्मक रूप में प्रस्तुत कर सकते हों।

- **Reverification** is a legitimate part of any study or survey but this must be done to reflect reality accurately, not to manage perceptions.

पुनः सत्यापन (Reverification) किसी भी अध्ययन अथवा सर्वेक्षण का वैध भाग है, किन्तु इसका उद्देश्य वास्तविकता को सही रूप में प्रतिबिंबित करना होना चाहिए, न कि धारणाओं का प्रबंधन करना।

- In **Rajasthan**, the issue arises from a circular of the **Director of Census Operations** to district-level officials regarding discrepancies identified in field data.

राजस्थान में यह मुद्दा **जनगणना संचालन निदेशक** द्वारा जिला स्तरीय अधिकारियों को जारी उस परिपत्र से उत्पन्न हुआ है, जिसमें क्षेत्रीय आँकड़ों में पाई गई विसंगतियों का उल्लेख किया गया है।

- Apparently, the objective is to ensure that data are accurately recorded, using appropriate options in the questionnaire.

प्रतीत होता है कि इसका उद्देश्य प्रश्नावली में उपयुक्त विकल्पों का उपयोग करते हुए आँकड़ों का सटीक अभिलेखन सुनिश्चित करना है।

- However, in some cases, enumerators have been told to record data based on assumptions.
  हालाँकि, कुछ मामलों में प्रगणकों को अनुमानों के आधार पर आँकड़े दर्ज करने के लिए कहा गया है।
- For example, if some households do not have toilets, enumerators have been told to check whether toilets are available nearby, on the basis of which the entry can be changed from "**open defecation**" to "[having] **access to latrine**".
  उदाहरण के लिए, यदि कुछ परिवारों के पास शौचालय नहीं हैं, तो प्रगणकों से यह जाँच करने को कहा गया है कि क्या आसपास शौचालय उपलब्ध हैं, जिसके आधार पर प्रविष्टि को "**खुले में शौच**" से बदलकर "**शौचालय तक पहुँच उपलब्ध**" किया जा सकता है।
- In **Uttar Pradesh**, the message seems to be not to present facts as they are, raising concerns about **data integrity** and **reliability** for a crucial and sensitive exercise.
  उत्तर प्रदेश में संदेश यह प्रतीत होता है कि तथ्यों को उनके वास्तविक स्वरूप में प्रस्तुत न किया जाए, जिससे इस महत्वपूर्ण और संवेदनशील प्रक्रिया की **आँकड़ों की सत्यनिष्ठा** तथा **विश्वसनीयता** को लेकर चिंताएँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- The present episode brings to the fore the efficacy of programmes such as the country's long-running campaign against **open defecation**.
  वर्तमान प्रकरण **खुले में शौच** के विरुद्ध देश में लंबे समय से चलाए जा रहे अभियानों जैसे कार्यक्रमों की प्रभावशीलता को सामने लाता है।
- For administrative purposes, including funding, it is reasonable to classify cities and villages on the basis of certain parameters as **Open Defecation Free (ODF)**, **ODF Plus** and **ODF Plus Model**.
  प्रशासनिक उद्देश्यों, जिनमें वित्तपोषण भी शामिल है, के लिए नगरों और गाँवों को कुछ मानकों के आधार पर **ओपन डिफेकेशन फ्री (ODF)**, **ODF प्लस** तथा **ODF प्लस मॉडल** के रूप में वर्गीकृत करना उचित है।
- It is the responsibility of policymakers to ensure that **Census data** are accurate and credible.
  यह नीति-निर्माताओं की जिम्मेदारी है कि वे सुनिश्चित करें कि **जनगणना के आँकड़े** सटीक और विश्वसनीय हों।
- They must also sensitise people to provide correct information, as **public policies** and **welfare schemes** are formulated on the basis of these data and ultimately benefit them.
  उन्हें लोगों को सही जानकारी प्रदान करने के लिए भी जागरूक करना चाहिए, क्योंकि **सार्वजनिक नीतियाँ** और **कल्याणकारी योजनाएँ** इन्हीं आँकड़ों के आधार पर बनाई जाती हैं और अंततः उन्हीं को लाभ पहुँचाती हैं।
- It should not only be conscious of the financial outlay involved — about **₹11,718 crore** for the entire country — but also of the need to make reliable data publicly available for purposes such as **targeted** and **inclusive policymaking**.
  उसे न केवल इसमें होने वाले वित्तीय व्यय — पूरे देश के लिए लगभग **₹11,718 करोड़** — के प्रति सजग रहना चाहिए, बल्कि **लक्षित** तथा **समावेशी नीति-निर्माण** जैसे उद्देश्यों के लिए विश्वसनीय आँकड़ों को सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध कराने की आवश्यकता को भी समझना चाहिए।
- The government should send a clear message that **data sanitisation** must not be undertaken under the guise of **re-verification**.
  सरकार को स्पष्ट संदेश देना चाहिए कि **आँकड़ों के कृत्रिम परिशोधन (Data Sanitisation)** को **पुनः सत्यापन** के नाम पर नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- An ODF Plus village is defined as a village which sustain its Open Defecation Free (ODF) Status, ensures solid and liquid waste management and is visually clean. There are 3 progressive stages of ODF Plus villages:

- **ODF Plus Aspiring**: A Village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for Solid Waste Management OR Liquid Waste Management
- **ODF Plus Rising**: A village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for BOTH Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management
- **ODF Plus Model**: A village which is sustaining its ODF status and has arrangements for both

Solid Waste Management and Liquid Waste Management; observes visual cleanliness, i.e., minimal litter, minimal stagnant wastewater, no plastic waste dump in public places; and displays ODF Plus Information, Education & Communication (IEC) messages

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TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy मोदी और डेल्सी की मुलाकात में ऊर्जा साझेदारी द्विपक्षीय एजेंडे में सबसे प्रमुख रही
05J6	BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञों ने परिसंपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की
05J6	Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas माली ने प्रमुख शहरों और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बाहर मोटरसाइकिलों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया
05J6	Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies राज्य के गोपनीय रहस्य हासिल करने के लिए भर्तीकर्ताओं के रूप में सामने आ रहे चीनी जासूस, एजेंसियों ने दी चेतावनी
05J6	'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises' 'सूडान, डीआर कांगो और कोलंबिया उपेक्षित विस्थापन संकटों की सूची में शीर्ष पर'
05J6	How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin अफ्रीका के लेक चाड बेसिन में ISWAP कैसे प्रमुख जिहादी शक्ति बनकर उभरा

Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy

PM holds discussions with Venezuela's Acting President on also expanding cooperation in critical minerals, technology, agriculture and health; importance of Global South solidarity emphasised

GS II: IR

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India's partnership with Venezuela is of "immense importance" for the Global South, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, welcoming Delcy Rodriguez, the Acting President of Venezuela, even as the South American country called "energy security a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Venezuela is still dealing with the aftermath of the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro by the U.S. military in January. Officials said Ms. Rodriguez, whose country is dealing with 'political transition' and 'fundamental economic transformation', described India as a "trusted partner". The leader, who arrived here on Wednesday, is on a five-day visit.

"We had extensive discussions on expanding our cooperation in energy, critical minerals, technology, agriculture, health and people-to-people ties. As a valued partner in Latin America, our close cooperation with Venezuela holds immense importance for the Global South. We will continue to work together for the mutual benefit of the people of our nations," said Mr. Modi after the meeting.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Venezuelan Acting President Delcy Rodriguez in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

A press release from the Venezuelan government said the meeting was aimed at "strengthening the role of both nations in the geopolitical context of the Global South and on boosting mutually beneficial macroeconomic agreements". It described India as "one of the main destinations for the Nation's energy exports, making energy security a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship".

Ms. Rodriguez, who was accompanied by Ministers of Economy, Foreign Affairs, Science and Technology, and Transport and Communications, conducted a "comprehensive review of the mutual cooperation map", the press note said, adding that the bilateral relation is in an "excellent state".

Officials revealed that Ms. Rodriguez discussed the political situation in Venezuela in a "frank conversation" with Mr. Modi during official-level talks and over the working lunch that followed. "We all know there was a transition in Venezuela, and we are working with a government that is friendly and that wants partnership with India. We want to reciprocate that," said Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East) of the External Affairs Ministry, while briefing the media.

05J6. Energy tie-up tops bilateral agenda as Modi meets Delcy
मोदी और डेल्सी की मुलाकात में ऊर्जा साझेदारी द्विपक्षीय एजेंडे में सबसे प्रमुख रही

India–Venezuela Partnership and Global South Cooperation
भारत–वेनेज़ुएला साझेदारी और वैश्विक दक्षिण सहयोग

- India's partnership with **Venezuela** is of **"immense importance"** for the **Global South**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** said on Thursday, welcoming **Delcy Rodriguez**, the Acting President of Venezuela, even as the South American country called **"energy security"** a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेन्द्र मोदी** ने गुरुवार को कहा कि **वेनेज़ुएला** के साथ भारत की साझेदारी **"वैश्विक दक्षिण (Global South)"** के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है। उन्होंने वेनेज़ुएला की कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति **डेल्सी रोड्रिगेज़** का स्वागत किया, जबकि दक्षिण अमेरिकी देश ने **"ऊर्जा सुरक्षा"** को द्विपक्षीय संबंधों का एक मूलभूत स्तंभ बताया।
- The leader, who arrived here on Wednesday, is on a **five-day visit**.
  बुधवार को भारत पहुँची यह नेता **पाँच दिवसीय यात्रा** पर हैं।
- "We had extensive discussions on expanding our cooperation in **energy**, **critical minerals**, **technology**, **agriculture**, **health** and **people-to-people ties**."
  "हमने **ऊर्जा**, **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों**, **प्रौद्योगिकी**, **कृषि**, **स्वास्थ्य** तथा **जन-से-जन संपर्कों** में सहयोग के विस्तार पर व्यापक चर्चा की।"
- Ms. Rodriguez, who was accompanied by Ministers of **Economy**, **Foreign Affairs**, **Science and Technology**, and **Transport and Communications**, conducted a **"comprehensive review of the mutual cooperation map"**, the press note said.
  प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, **अर्थव्यवस्था**, **विदेश मामलों**, **विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी**, तथा **परिवहन एवं संचार** मंत्रियों के साथ आईं सुश्री रोड्रिगेज़ ने **"पारस्परिक सहयोग के समग्र ढाँचे की व्यापक समीक्षा"** की।

GS II: IR

BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 2 organised the inaugural meeting on the BRICS's expert network on asset recovery, marking a significant milestone within the Anti-Corruption Working Group under India's 2026 BRICS presidency, the agency said on Thursday. Asset recovery is the central pillar of modern anti-corruption and financial crime enforcement, Rahul Navin, Director, ED, said, welcoming global delegates. The Chair called for stricter alignment with the Financial Action Task Force's guidance for asset recovery and inter-agency cooperation. Deliberations included mutual operational challenges among member countries.

05J6. BRICS experts discuss asset recovery challenges
ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञों ने परिसंपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति की चुनौतियों पर चर्चा की

- The **Enforcement Directorate (ED)** on **June 2** organised the inaugural meeting of the **BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery**, marking a significant milestone within the **Anti-Corruption Working Group** under **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency**, the agency said on Thursday.
  प्रवर्तन निदेशालय (ED) ने **2 जून** को **संपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति पर ब्रिक्स विशेषज्ञ नेटवर्क (BRICS Expert Network on Asset Recovery)** की उद्घाटन बैठक आयोजित की, जो **भारत की 2026 ब्रिक्स अध्यक्षता** के अंतर्गत **भ्रष्टाचार-रोधी कार्य समूह (Anti-Corruption Working Group)** में एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि है। एजेंसी ने गुरुवार को यह जानकारी दी।
- The Chair called for stricter alignment with the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** guidance for **asset recovery** and **inter-agency cooperation**.
  अध्यक्ष ने **संपत्ति पुनर्प्राप्ति** तथा **विभिन्न एजेंसियों के बीच सहयोग (Inter-Agency Cooperation)** के संबंध में **वित्तीय कार्रवाई कार्यबल (FATF)** के दिशानिर्देशों के साथ अधिक सख्त सामंजस्य स्थापित करने का आह्वान किया।

Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas

GS II: IR

AFP

Mali has banned the use of motorcycles with engines of 125 cc or above outside of major cities and urban locales as the country battles a jihadist insurgency, according to a government order. Motorcycles are the preferred means of transport for jihadist groups in Mali, which has been plunged into a security crisis. AFP

05J6. Mali bans the use of motorcycles outside major cities, urban areas

माली ने प्रमुख शहरों और शहरी क्षेत्रों के बाहर मोटरसाइकिलों के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाया

- **Mali** has banned the use of **motorcycles** with engines of **125 cc or above** outside of **major cities** and **urban locales** as the country battles a **jihadist insurgency**, according to a government order.

माली ने **125 सीसी या उससे अधिक** इंजन वाली **मोटरसाइकिलों** के **प्रमुख शहरों** और **शहरी क्षेत्रों** के बाहर उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है, क्योंकि देश **जिहादी विद्रोह** से जूझ रहा है। यह एक सरकारी आदेश के अनुसार किया गया है।

- **Motorcycles** are the preferred means of transport for **jihadist groups** in **Mali**, which has been plunged into a **security crisis**.

मोटरसाइकिलें, **माली** में **जिहादी समूहों** के लिए परिवहन का पसंदीदा साधन हैं, जो एक गंभीर **सुरक्षा संकट** में फँस गया है।

Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies

GS II: IR

ISTOCKPHOTO

Chinese spies are posing as job recruiters to trick staff in western governments into disclosing sensitive information, the Five Eyes alliance of security agencies has warned. People with security clearance, military personnel, journalists and academics are among those targeted, the Five Eyes added. AFP

05J6. Chinese spies pose as recruiters to glean state secrets, warn agencies

राज्य के गोपनीय रहस्य हासिल करने के लिए भर्तीकर्ताओं के रूप में सामने आ रहे चीनी जासूस, एजेंसियों ने दी चेतावनी

- **Chinese spies** are posing as **job recruiters** to trick staff in **western governments** into disclosing **sensitive information**, the **Five Eyes alliance** of security agencies has warned.

चीनी जासूस, **नौकरी भर्तीकर्ताओं** के रूप में सामने आकर **पश्चिमी सरकारों** के कर्मचारियों को **संवेदनशील जानकारी** उजागर करने के लिए धोखा दे रहे हैं, ऐसा **फाइव आइज़ गठबंधन** की सुरक्षा एजेंसियों ने चेतावनी देते हुए कहा है।

'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises'

GS II: IR

REUTERS

Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Colombia top the list of the world's most neglected displacement crises, Norwegian Refugee Council, a prominent Norwegian aid group said on Thursday, noting that nationalism and rearmament campaigns grabbed attention in wealthy countries. AFP

05J6. 'Sudan, DR Congo, Colombia top in neglected displacement crises'

'सूडान, डीआर कांगो और कोलंबिया उपेक्षित विस्थापन संकटों की सूची में शीर्ष पर'

- **Sudan**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo** and **Colombia** top the list of the world's most neglected **displacement crises**, **Norwegian Refugee Council**, a prominent **Norwegian aid group** said on Thursday, noting that **nationalism** and **rearmament campaigns** grabbed attention in wealthy countries.

सूडान, **डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो** और **कोलंबिया** दुनिया के सबसे अधिक उपेक्षित **विस्थापन संकटों** की सूची में शीर्ष पर हैं। यह बात **नॉर्वेजियन रिफ्यूजी काउंसिल**, जो एक प्रमुख **नॉर्वेजियन सहायता संगठन** है, ने गुरुवार को कही। संगठन ने यह भी उल्लेख किया कि समृद्ध देशों में **राष्ट्रवाद** और **पुनः शस्त्रीकरण अभियानों** ने लोगों का

ध्यान अधिक आकर्षित किया है।

How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin

The Islamic State West Africa Province steadily eclipsed Boko Haram to become the most powerful militant organisation in the region; with a structured command system and strong territorial presence, what began as a local insurgency in Nigeria is now one of Africa's major transnational security threats

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

R. Tejaswini

A joint operation by Nigerian forces and U.S. African Command that killed 175 Islamic militants has drawn attention to the complex security situation in Lake Chad basin. The operation has renewed the focus on Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), which has steadily eclipsed Boko Haram to become the most powerful jihadist organisation operating in the basin.

In recent months, Washington has expanded military and intelligence support to Nigeria as part of broader efforts to counter Islamic State affiliates operating across West Africa.

The strikes carried out on May 16 and 18 killed Abu-Bilal al-Minuki, a senior ISIS-linked commander associated with ISWAP – the Islamic State's affiliate in West Africa. They also destroyed checkpoints and weapons used by the group, dealing a temporary setback to its operations. Abu al-Minuki was killed along with his lieutenants on his compound in a helicopter-borne assault.

He was a key figure in providing guidance for facilitating ISIL- linked operations across the Lake Chad basin. He was part of the Boko Haram group until the splinter and joined ISWAP which pledged allegiance to ISIS. Abu al-Minuki was described by U.S. President Donald Trump as the "second in command of ISIS globally" and "the most active terrorist in the world".

ISWAP traces its origin to Boko Haram, popularly translated as Western education is forbidden, a militant Islamic movement that emerged in the early 2000s in northeastern Nigeria under the leadership of Mohammad Yusuf. The movement's primary objective was to establish an Islamist regime and oppose western education and democracy.

Following the death of Mohammed Yusuf in the wake of clashes between Boko Haram and Nigerian forces in 2009, Abubakar Shekau assumed leadership. Under his leadership, the network's operational capabilities expanded, frequently attacking security and police forces. It subsequently evolved into a violent insurgent movement.

It was the 2014 Chibok incident where 276 school girls were abducted that brought global attention to the insurgency. The U.S. State Department designated Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Deep fissures develop

Differences over ideological and strategic matters intensified divisions within the network, despite its growing influence.

Soldiers aboard a Multinational Joint Task Force boat in Lake Chad, where the regional force coordinates counter-terrorism efforts. AFP

Increasing disagreements over Shekau's leadership led to many commanders breaking away to form Ansaru, a new jihadist faction closely linked to the al-Qaeda. The organisation under Shekau's leadership not only sanctioned attacks against the Nigerian state and Christians but also against state-aligned Muslims.

Shekau was accused of ignoring the organisation's consultative structure and making decisions independently, drawing criticism from senior commanders.

Divisions deepened within the group as Boko Haram pledged loyalty to the Islamic state in 2015.

The ISIS was concerned about the faction's conduct under Shekau, particularly his violence against Muslims and use of women and children in suicide bombing. According to the UNICEF, between 2014 and 2016, nearly 20% of Boko Haram's suicide bombers were children, three quarters of whom were girls.

Amid growing disagreements, ISIS appointed Abu Musab-Al-Barnawi as the head of its West African affiliate, sidelining Shekau. This decision led to a split within Boko Haram.

This split was a major turning point, as it introduced another armed group – ISWAP – which aligned with ISIS in the Lake Chad region, while Shekau's faction remained Boko Haram.

ISWAP and Boko Haram differed in their operational conduct, despite sharing jihadist roots and the objective of establishing governments based on Islamic law. ISWAP presented itself as more focused on military and state forces and restrained towards Muslim civilians than Boko Haram under Shekau.

Stronger structure

Unlike Boko Haram under Shekau, ISWAP developed a more structured command system and a stronger territorial presence. It relies on the consultative structure (*shura*) supported by regional commanders rather than centring authority on a single leader. By taxing residents and economic activities including fishing and farming zones, the group developed a structured revenue system around the Lake Chad basin rather than depending on looting and kidnappings like Boko Haram. The group has exploited the region's fragile socio-economic conditions and weak governance, to recruit members from local communities.

ISWAP's organisational structure, established revenue system and influence over communities marginalised by the states helped it emerge as a dominant jihadist force. Ideological legitimacy and strategic guidance by ISIS has also benefited the network's operation.

ISWAP does not operate in Nigeria alone, but has a significant presence in neighbouring states, resulting in a regional security challenge. Porous borders, weak governance and gaps in intelligence sharing among affected states have contributed to its growing influence in the basin. Military operations face challenges due to porous borders around the Lake Chad basin which facilitates the movement of fighters and weapons across national borders.

In response Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin have formed the Multinational Joint Task Force to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.

Rivalry within the jihadist movement has also shaped the conflict.

Frequent clashes between ISWAP and Shekau's Boko Haram faction reflected a broader struggle for territory, recruits and influence across the basin.

Weakening of Boko Haram, following the death of Shekau in 2021 during these clashes, consolidated ISWAP's position as the dominant jihadist force in the region. They leveraged the porous borders between Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon as well as gaps in regional security cooperation to operate across national boundaries.

To overcome its conventional military disadvantages, ISWAP fights asymmetrically through ambushes, improvised explosive devices and influence over communities marginalised by the state. Still, ISWAP's expansion has transformed what began as a localised insurgency in Nigeria into one of Africa's most resilient transnational security challenges.

05J6. How ISWAP emerged as the dominant jihadist force in Africa's Lake Chad basin

अफ्रीका के लेक चाड बेसिन में ISWAP कैसे प्रमुख जिहादी शक्ति बनकर उभरा

- The **Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP)** steadily eclipsed **Boko Haram** to become the most powerful militant organisation in the region; with a structured command system and strong territorial presence, what began as a local insurgency in Nigeria is now one of Africa's major transnational security threats.

  इस्लामिक स्टेट वेस्ट अफ्रीका प्रोविंस (ISWAP) ने धीरे-धीरे **बोको हराम** को पीछे छोड़ते हुए क्षेत्र का सबसे शक्तिशाली उग्रवादी संगठन बनने का स्थान हासिल किया; संगठित कमांड प्रणाली और मजबूत क्षेत्रीय

उपस्थिति के साथ, जो नाइजीरिया में एक स्थानीय विद्रोह के रूप में शुरू हुआ था, वह अब अफ्रीका के प्रमुख अंतरराष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा खतरों में से एक बन गया है।

- A joint operation by **Nigerian forces** and **U.S. African Command** that killed 175 Islamic militants has drawn attention to the complex security situation in **Lake Chad basin**.
  नाइजीरियाई बलों और **अमेरिकी अफ्रीकी कमांड** के संयुक्त अभियान, जिसमें 175 इस्लामी उग्रवादी मारे गए, ने **लेक चाड बेसिन** की जटिल सुरक्षा स्थिति की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।
- According to the **UNICEF**, between 2014 and 2016, nearly 20% of Boko Haram's suicide bombers were children, three quarters of whom were girls.
  यूनिसेफ के अनुसार, 2014 से 2016 के बीच बोको हराम के लगभग 20% आत्मघाती हमलावर बच्चे थे, जिनमें से तीन-चौथाई लड़कियाँ थीं।
- Amid growing disagreements, ISIS appointed **Abu Musab-Al-Barnawi** as the head of its West African affiliate, sidelining Shekau.
  बढ़ते मतभेदों के बीच ISIS ने **अबू मुसाब-अल-बरनावी** को अपने पश्चिम अफ्रीकी सहयोगी संगठन का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया, जिससे शेकाऊ को किनारे कर दिया गया।
- In response **Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin** have formed the **Multinational Joint Task Force** to coordinate counter-terrorism efforts.
  इसके जवाब में **नाइजीरिया, नाइजर, चाड, कैमरून और बेनिन** ने आतंकवाद-रोधी प्रयासों के समन्वय हेतु **मल्टीनेशनल जॉइंट टास्क फोर्स** का गठन किया है।
- They leveraged the porous borders between **Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon** as well as gaps in regional security cooperation to operate across national boundaries.
  उन्होंने **नाइजीरिया, नाइजर, चाड और कैमरून** के बीच की छिद्रपूर्ण सीमाओं तथा क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा सहयोग की कमियों का लाभ उठाकर अंतरराष्ट्रीय सीमाओं के पार अपनी गतिविधियाँ संचालित कीं।

- The **Lake Chad** is freshwater lakes.
- The basin is shared by four main countries: **Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Cameroon**.

GS Paper III: Economy	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals' केंद्र की निवेश संस्था ने निकोबार बंदरगाह को 'रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों' से वंचित बताया
05J6	India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership भारत और ब्रिटेन ने महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज साझेदारी के विस्तार हेतु ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की शुरुआत की
05J6	House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme संसदीय समिति ने सीएजी रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम पर सरकार को फटकार लगाई
05J6	India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए सरकारी बॉन्ड पर पूंजीगत लाभ कर हटाएगा भारत

Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals'

GS III: Economy

EXCLUSIVE

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Public Investment Board (PIB), a Finance Ministry body that appraises large public investments, had on August 2024 termed the proposed International Container Transhipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island as lacking in "strategic objectives".

Following the August meeting, it had advised the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) to include a strategic case in its proposal. A little over a year later, the same project was formally notified as a "strategic project" by the Ministry of Defence, according to records of a March 2026 meeting viewed by *The Hindu*.

The "strategic" nature of the proposed ₹81,000-crore Great Nicobar Project, which consists of the ICTP, a township, airport, a gas-powered power plant, and a tourism zone, has been the Centre's excuse, since at least 2022, for not making public the contents of a report by a High Powered Committee (HPC) on the cumulative environmental impact of the project.

It has also denied Right To Information requests on environmental clearances for the project on the same grounds.

The PIB's view surfaces in records of meetings held on March 17 and 19, 2026, by another Finance Ministry body – the Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) – tasked with vetting project proposals worth ₹500 crore and above involving a partnership with private players.

The Hindu has viewed the PPPAC meeting records and reached out to the Finance Ministry for comment, but has not received one till press time.

The proposal, sponsored by the MoPSW with the Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL) in Chennai as the implementing agency, sought PPPAC clearance to build the port in two phases and, crucially, approval for ₹12,230 crore as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to make the commercially marginal project bankable.

VGF is a one-time grant given to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of commercial (financial) viability.

Shift in narrative

The PPPAC cleared the proposal "unanimously" though it refused the VGF, recommending instead that the MoPSW use its internal budget for the same.

Earlier this week, Congress MP Jairam Ramesh wrote to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav that "...the narrative on the Great Nicobar Island Project has suddenly shifted... faced with incontrovertible evidence of its hugely adverse ecological impacts, the Union Government is now emphasizing its supposed strategic rationale."

He added that "...the Great Nicobar Island Project as presently conceived is overwhelmingly a commercial enterprise".

"Until the environment clearance [accorded in November 2022] there was no real reference by the Government of it being a strategic project... and even then it was only the airport [with civilian and military use]," researcher and author Pankaj Sekhsaria, who has extensively documented the project's environmental threat, told *The Hindu*.

The ICTP is a significant component of the much bigger Great Nicobar Island Development Project and is a Ministry of Home Affairs initiative, with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO) as the proponent of the overall project and holder of environmental clearance.

The 2021 documents that conceived the Great Nicobar programme and the January 2023 Expression of Interest for the port described it as a means of capturing transhipment cargo currently routed through Colombo, Singapore, and Port Klang, with the government estimating annual foreign exchange savings of about $200 million, cumulatively reaching around $1 billion by 2047.

In the last year or so, the project has volubly been cast in a maritime security lens, centred around the threat from China.

The Nicobar question

The "strategic" nature of the project has been the Centre's excuse for not making public the contents of a report by a High Powered Committee on the environmental impact of the project

The Public Investment Board, a Finance Ministry body, termed the port-component of the Nicobar project as "lacking strategic objectives" in August 2024

A year later, the Ministry of Defence labels it as a "strategic project"

In the last year or so, the ₹81,000-crore project is being cast in a maritime security lens, centred around the threat from China

05J6. Centre's investment body flagged Nicobar port as lacking in 'strategic goals'

केंद्र की निवेश संस्था ने निकोबार बंदरगाह को 'रणनीतिक लक्ष्यों' से वंचित बताया

Great Nicobar Project and Strategic Status
ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना और सामरिक दर्जा

- The **Public Investment Board (PIB)**, a **Finance Ministry** body that appraises large public investments, had in **August 2024** termed the proposed **International Container Transhipment Port (ICTP)** at **Galathea Bay** in **Great Nicobar Island** as lacking in **"strategic objectives"**.

लोक निवेश बोर्ड (PIB), जो **वित्त मंत्रालय** की एक संस्था है और बड़े सार्वजनिक निवेशों का मूल्यांकन करती है, ने **अगस्त 2024** में **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप** के **गलाथिया खाड़ी** में प्रस्तावित **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कंटेनर ट्रांसशिपमेंट पोर्ट (ICTP)** को **"सामरिक उद्देश्यों"** से रहित बताया था।

- Following the August meeting, it had advised the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** to include a strategic case in its proposal.

अगस्त की बैठक के बाद, उसने **पत्तन, पोत परिवहन एवं जलमार्ग मंत्रालय (MoPSW)** को अपने प्रस्ताव में सामरिक औचित्य शामिल करने की सलाह दी थी।

- The PIB's view surfaces in records of meetings held on **March 17 and 19, 2026**, by another **Finance Ministry** body — the **Public-Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC)** — tasked with vetting project proposals worth **₹500 crore and above** involving a partnership with private players.

PIB का दृष्टिकोण **17 और 19 मार्च 2026** को आयोजित बैठकों के अभिलेखों में सामने आया, जिन्हें **वित्त मंत्रालय** की एक अन्य संस्था **पब्लिक-प्राइवेट पार्टनरशिप मूल्यांकन समिति (PPPAC)** ने आयोजित किया था, जिसका कार्य **₹500 करोड़ या उससे अधिक** मूल्य की सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी वाली परियोजनाओं का परीक्षण करना है।

- The proposal, sponsored by the **MoPSW** with **Kamarajar Port Limited (KPL)** in Chennai as the implementing agency, sought PPPAC clearance to build the port in two phases and, crucially, approval for **₹12,230 crore** as **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to make the commercially marginal project bankable.

यह प्रस्ताव, जिसे **MoPSW** ने प्रस्तुत किया था तथा जिसमें **चेन्नई स्थित कामराजर पोर्ट लिमिटेड (KPL)** कार्यान्वयन एजेंसी थी, बंदरगाह को दो चरणों में विकसित करने और परियोजना को वित्तीय रूप से व्यवहार्य बनाने हेतु **₹12,230 करोड़** की **वायबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग (VGF)** की स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने के उद्देश्य से PPPAC के समक्ष रखा गया था।

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- The **ICTP** is a significant component of the much bigger **Great Nicobar Island Development Project** and is a **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** initiative, with the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation Limited (ANIIDCO)** as the proponent of the overall project and holder of environmental clearance.
  ICTP, व्यापक **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप विकास परियोजना** का एक महत्वपूर्ण घटक है और यह **गृह मंत्रालय (MHA)** की एक पहल है, जिसमें **अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह समेकित विकास निगम लिमिटेड (ANIIDCO)** परियोजना का प्रस्तावक तथा पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति धारक है।
- The **2021 documents** that conceived the Great Nicobar programme and the **January 2023 Expression of Interest** for the port described it as a means of capturing **transhipment cargo** currently routed through **Colombo**, **Singapore**, and **Port Klang**, with the government estimating annual foreign exchange savings of about **$200 million**, cumulatively reaching around **$1 billion by 2047**.
  2021 में तैयार किए गए ग्रेट निकोबार कार्यक्रम के दस्तावेजों तथा **जनवरी 2023 की अभिरुचि अभिव्यक्ति (Expression of Interest)** में इस बंदरगाह को **कोलंबो**, **सिंगापुर** और **पोर्ट क्लैंग** के माध्यम से वर्तमान में संचालित **ट्रांसशिपमेंट कार्गो** को आकर्षित करने के साधन के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया गया था। सरकार ने इससे प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **200 मिलियन डॉलर** की विदेशी मुद्रा बचत तथा **2047 तक लगभग 1 बिलियन डॉलर** की संचयी बचत का अनुमान लगाया था।

PATRIOTIC IAS

India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of critical minerals, India and the United Kingdom on Thursday formally launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO).

The observatory was first announced during U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit to India in October last year with an objective to "expand mineral coverage, further integrate advanced technologies and unlock new bilateral investment opportunities".

The platform – to be jointly operated by India's Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN), Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad and U.K.'s University of Cambridge – will institute a data-driven platform to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.

In a social media post, Union Minister for Mines and Minerals G. Kishan Reddy wrote, "This is a major step towards strengthening critical mineral supply chains, supporting clean energy transitions, and building resilient global supply chains through the India-U.K. partnership."

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy and U.K. Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper launching the critical minerals observatory. ANI

Minister meets official

Meanwhile, during a meeting with visiting British Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper on Thursday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India and the U.K. were well-positioned to construct a new future-oriented and mutually beneficial partnership on the back of their newly firmed-up comprehensive trade deal and the defence industrial road map. Mr. Jaishankar said both sides "reviewed ongoing progress in our cooperation focusing on trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people to people ties. Also spoke about new opportunities in clean energy, AI and critical minerals".

The two sides also exchanged views on global developments including in Ukraine, West Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

In his remarks, Mr. Jaishankar also highlighted the "remarkable developments" in the bilateral ties in recent months while pointing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.K. last July, followed by U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's trip to India in October.

Ms. Cooper also met Mr. Modi. "Appreciated the deepening of the India-UK partnership in recent times that has unlocked unprecedented growth opportunities for both our countries," Mr. Modi said on social media.

Ms. Cooper emphasised greater access to critical minerals and improved information-sharing would be mutually beneficial to both countries. According to the announcement readout, Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve "as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries."

(With PTI inputs)

05J6. India, U.K. launch observatory to expand critical minerals partnership
भारत और ब्रिटेन ने महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज साझेदारी के विस्तार हेतु ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की शुरुआत की

- Seeking to expand cooperation and technology-sharing in the realm of **critical minerals**, **India** and the **United Kingdom** on Thursday formally launched the **Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO)**.
  महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिजों (Critical Minerals) के क्षेत्र में सहयोग और प्रौद्योगिकी साझेदारी का विस्तार करने के उद्देश्य से **भारत** और **यूनाइटेड किंगडम** ने गुरुवार को औपचारिक रूप से **क्रिटिकल मिनरल्स ग्लोबल सप्लाई चेन ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी (GSCO)** की शुरुआत की।
- The observatory was first announced during **U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer's** visit to India in **October last year** with an objective to **"expand mineral coverage, further integrate advanced technologies and unlock new bilateral investment opportunities"**.

इस ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी की पहली घोषणा **ब्रिटेन के प्रधानमंत्री कीर स्टार्मर** की **पिछले वर्ष अक्टूबर** में भारत यात्रा के दौरान की गई थी, जिसका उद्देश्य **"खनिज कवरेज का विस्तार करना, उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों का और अधिक एकीकरण करना तथा नए द्विपक्षीय निवेश अवसरों को खोलना"** था।

- The platform — to be jointly operated by India's **Technology Innovation in Exploration & Mining Foundation (TEXMiN)**, **Indian Institute of Technology (ISM) Dhanbad** and U.K.'s **University of Cambridge** — will institute a **data-driven platform** to monitor and analyse global critical mineral supply chains.
  यह मंच भारत की **टेक्नोलॉजी इनोवेशन इन एक्सप्लोरेशन एंड माइनिंग फाउंडेशन (TEXMiN)**, **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईएसएम) धनबाद** तथा ब्रिटेन के **कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय** द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से संचालित किया जाएगा और वैश्विक महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं की निगरानी एवं विश्लेषण हेतु एक **डेटा-आधारित मंच** स्थापित करेगा।
- In a social media post, **Union Minister for Mines and Minerals G. Kishan Reddy** wrote, "This is a major step towards strengthening **critical mineral supply chains**, supporting **clean energy transitions**, and building **resilient global supply chains** through the India–U.K. partnership."
  सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में **केंद्रीय खान एवं खनिज मंत्री जी. किशन रेड्डी** ने लिखा, "यह **महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं** को सुदृढ़ करने, **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा संक्रमण** को समर्थन देने तथा भारत–ब्रिटेन साझेदारी के माध्यम से **लचीली वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं** के निर्माण की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।"

Minister meets official
मंत्री की वरिष्ठ अधिकारी से भेंट

- Mr. Jaishankar said both sides **"reviewed ongoing progress in our cooperation focusing on trade, technology, supply chains, defence, climate, education and people-to-people ties."**
  श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने **"व्यापार, प्रौद्योगिकी, आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं, रक्षा, जलवायु, शिक्षा और जन-से-जन संबंधों पर केंद्रित सहयोग की प्रगति की समीक्षा की।"**
- "Also spoke about new opportunities in **clean energy**, **AI** and **critical minerals**."
  "इसके साथ ही **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा**, **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** तथा **महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिजों** में नए अवसरों पर भी चर्चा की गई।"
- The two sides also exchanged views on global developments including in **Ukraine**, **West Asia** and the **Indo-Pacific**.
  दोनों पक्षों ने **यूक्रेन**, **पश्चिम एशिया** तथा **हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र** से संबंधित वैश्विक घटनाक्रमों पर भी विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया।
- Ms. Cooper emphasised greater access to **critical minerals** and improved **information-sharing** would be mutually beneficial to both countries.
  सुश्री कूपर ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि **महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिजों** तक अधिक पहुँच और बेहतर **सूचना-साझाकरण** दोनों देशों के लिए पारस्परिक रूप से लाभकारी होगा।
- According to the announcement readout, Ms. Cooper stated the observatory could also serve **"as a foundation for broader cooperation across the critical minerals sector and related strategic industries."**
  घोषणा के आधिकारिक विवरण के अनुसार, सुश्री कूपर ने कहा कि यह ऑब्ज़र्वेटरी **"महत्त्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्र तथा उससे संबंधित सामरिक उद्योगों में व्यापक सहयोग की आधारशिला के रूप में कार्य कर सकती है।"**

House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, pulled up the government over its flagship skilling programme, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

Citing the audit report tabled by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the panel said the scheme disproportionately focused on skilling for jobs with low demand, such as retail.

The PMKVY is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched in July 2015 with the objective of enabling a large number of youths to take up industry-relevant skill training.

Citing the findings of the report, panel members noted during the deliberations that there was a mismatch between training and demand. They said the skilling efforts were heavily focused on sectors with low demand, such as apparel, electronics, and retail, which together accounted for 40% of trainees. In contrast, sectors such as food processing, which require more trained personnel, accounted for only 0.48% of trainees. Similarly, only 3.8% of trainees were skilled for the tourism sector.

K.C. Venugopal

Lack of planning

Panel members from both the Opposition and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party questioned the lack of planning, despite the programme being in operation since 2015. According to sources, many members said the government did not seem to have learnt from the scheme's shortcomings. It was also pointed out that only 41% of trainees were placed. The programme has also been hit by repeated instances of fraudulent appointment letters.

The CAG report cited multiple examples. In one instance, Neelima Moving Pictures was awarded skill certifications to 33,493 participants for 21 job roles across eight States between January and November 2020. However, the company was found to be non-existent. The audit report noted that no responsibility had been fixed for such fraudulent claims.

Defending the scheme and its implementation, the government blamed State governments, which, it said, were the implementing agencies.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Venugopal said unemployment remained the biggest threat facing the country.

05J6. House Committee cites CAG report, pulls up govt. over skilling programme

संसदीय समिति ने सीएजी रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए कौशल विकास कार्यक्रम पर सरकार को फटकार लगाई

- **Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC)**, headed by senior **Congress** leader **K.C. Venugopal**, pulled up the government over its flagship skilling programme, the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**.

वरिष्ठ **कांग्रेस** नेता **के.सी. वेणुगोपाल** की अध्यक्षता वाली **संसद की लोक लेखा समिति (PAC)** ने सरकार की प्रमुख कौशल विकास योजना **प्रधानमंत्री कौशल विकास योजना (PMKVY)** को लेकर सरकार की आलोचना की।

- Citing the audit report tabled by the **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)**, the panel said the scheme disproportionately focused on skilling for jobs with **low demand**, such as **retail**.

भारत के नियंत्रक एवं महालेखा परीक्षक (CAG) की लेखा-परीक्षण रिपोर्ट का हवाला देते हुए समिति ने कहा कि इस योजना में **रिटेल** जैसे **कम मांग वाले रोजगार क्षेत्रों** के लिए कौशल प्रशिक्षण पर असंगत रूप से अधिक ध्यान दिया गया।

- The **PMKVY** is the flagship scheme of the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**, launched in **July 2015** with the objective of enabling a large number of youths to take up **industry-relevant skill training**.
PMKVY, **कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता मंत्रालय (MSDE)** की प्रमुख योजना है, जिसे **जुलाई 2015** में बड़ी संख्या में युवाओं को **उद्योग-संबंधित कौशल प्रशिक्षण** प्रदान करने के उद्देश्य से प्रारम्भ किया गया था।
- Citing the findings of the report, panel members noted during the deliberations that there was a **mismatch between training and demand**.
रिपोर्ट के निष्कर्षों का उल्लेख करते हुए समिति के सदस्यों ने विचार-विमर्श के दौरान कहा कि **प्रशिक्षण और बाजार की मांग के बीच असंगति** विद्यमान है।
- They said the skilling efforts were heavily focused on sectors with low demand, such as **apparel**, **electronics**, and **retail**, which together accounted for **40% of trainees**.
उन्होंने कहा कि कौशल विकास प्रयास मुख्यतः **परिधान (Apparel)**, **इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स** और **रिटेल** जैसे कम मांग वाले क्षेत्रों पर केंद्रित रहे, जिनमें कुल **40% प्रशिक्षार्थी** शामिल थे।
- In contrast, sectors such as **food processing**, which require more trained personnel, accounted for only **0.48% of trainees**.
इसके विपरीत, अधिक प्रशिक्षित मानव संसाधन की आवश्यकता वाले **खाद्य प्रसंस्करण (Food Processing)** क्षेत्र में केवल **0.48% प्रशिक्षार्थियों** को प्रशिक्षण दिया गया।
- Similarly, only **3.8% of trainees** were skilled for the **tourism sector**.
इसी प्रकार, **पर्यटन क्षेत्र** के लिए केवल **3.8% प्रशिक्षार्थियों** को कौशल प्रशिक्षण प्रदान किया गया।

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India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds

GS III: Economy

Reuters

MUMBAI

India plans to scrap capital gains tax on foreign portfolio investments in government securities, which could help boost such inflows, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

The South Asian nation is looking to attract foreign capital to counteract pressure on its rupee currency, which has weakened more than 5% since the start of the year, squeezed by higher oil prices and foreign portfolio outflows in equities. The finance ministry did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* email seeking comment.

India's benchmark bond yield eased one basis point to 7.01% in opening trade, although it was not immediately clear when the plan would take effect.

Any tax easing should help flows at the margin, said Madhavi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global Financial Services.

"It won't be a magic bullet in the current context," she cautioned, but added it could prove positive in the medium term.

Foreign investors are subject to a long-term capital gains tax of 12.5% on listed shares and bonds held longer than 12 months.

A withholding tax of 20% they pay on interest earned in government bonds may also be removed, the source said.

Lack of Planning

योजनागत कमी

- It was also pointed out that only **41% of trainees** were placed.

यह भी उल्लेख किया गया कि केवल **41% प्रशिक्षार्थियों** को ही रोजगार उपलब्ध कराया जा सका।

05J6. India to drop capital gains tax for foreign investors in govt. bonds

विदेशी निवेशकों के लिए सरकारी बॉन्ड पर पूंजीगत लाभ कर हटाएगा भारत

- India plans to scrap **capital gains tax** on **foreign portfolio investments** in **government securities**, which could help boost such inflows, a source familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

भारत **सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों** में **विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेश** पर **पूंजीगत लाभ कर (Capital Gains Tax)** समाप्त करने की योजना बना रहा है, जिससे ऐसे निवेश प्रवाह को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है, ऐसा इस मामले से परिचित एक स्रोत ने गुरुवार को कहा।

- **Foreign investors** are subject to a **long-term capital gains tax** of **12.5%** on listed shares and bonds held longer than **12 months**.

विदेशी निवेशकों को सूचीबद्ध शेयरों और बॉन्डों पर, जिन्हें **12 महीने** से अधिक समय तक रखा गया हो, **12.5% दीर्घकालिक पूंजीगत लाभ कर (Long-Term Capital Gains Tax)** देना पड़ता है।

- A **withholding tax** of **20%** they pay on interest earned in **government bonds** may also be removed, the source said.

स्रोत के अनुसार, **सरकारी बॉन्डों** पर अर्जित ब्याज पर विदेशी निवेशकों द्वारा दिया जाने वाला **20% विदहोल्डिंग टैक्स (Withholding Tax)** भी हटाया जा सकता है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	**Union govt. to train BDOs in planning systems** **केंद्र सरकार योजना प्रणालियों में बीडीओ को प्रशिक्षण देगी**
05J6	**Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured** **सनस्क्रीन लोशन पर SPF संख्या को समझना और इसका मापन कैसे किया जाता है**
05J6	**'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching'** **वीडियो देखने में ग्रामीण और शहरी भारत लगभग समान'**

05J6.Union govt. to train BDOs in planning systems

केंद्र सरकार योजना प्रणालियों में बीडीओ को प्रशिक्षण देगी

- In an effort to strengthen **grassroots governance**, the **Ministry of Rural Development** is planning to train **2,000 Block Development Officers (BDOs)**, focusing the training on **decentralised planning**.

जमीनी स्तर के शासन (Grassroots Governance) को सुदृढ़ करने के प्रयास के तहत **ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय 2,000 खंड विकास अधिकारियों (BDOs)** को प्रशिक्षण देने की योजना बना रहा है, जिसमें विशेष ध्यान **विकेन्द्रीकृत नियोजन (Decentralised Planning)** पर केंद्रित होगा।

- The officers will be trained in the use of **Geographic Information Systems (GIS)** and **Management Information Systems (MIS)**, which have become crucial especially with the new rural employment law — **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission**.

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इन अधिकारियों को **भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली (GIS)** तथा **प्रबंधन सूचना प्रणाली (MIS)** के उपयोग का प्रशिक्षण दिया जाएगा, जो विशेष रूप से नए ग्रामीण रोजगार कानून — **विकसित भारत–रोजगार एवं आजीविका गारंटी मिशन** — के संदर्भ में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हो गए हैं।

- **Rural Development Secretary Rohit Kansal** said that training modules such as this are aimed at strengthening the **"last-mile delivery architecture"**.
  ग्रामीण विकास सचिव रोहित कंसल ने कहा कि इस प्रकार के प्रशिक्षण मॉड्यूल का उद्देश्य **"अंतिम छोर तक सेवा पहुँचाने वाली व्यवस्था (Last-Mile Delivery Architecture)"** को और अधिक सशक्त बनाना है।

Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured

Athira [redacted]
CHENNAI

Sun Protection Factor, or SPF, is designed to measure protection against ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation, the part of sunlight primarily responsible for sunburns. But it does not tell the whole story about sun protection, nor does a higher SPF automatically mean better protection. Understanding what SPF measures, and what it does not, can help in making more informed decisions about skin protection.

In standard testing, sunscreen is applied to the skin and researchers compare how much ultraviolet exposure is needed to produce redness, or erythema, on protected skin versus unprotected skin, says Katheeja Nasika, consultant dermatologist, Rela Hospital, Chennai. "If an SPF is 30, theoretically the amount of UV exposure needed to cause minimal erythema on sunscreen-applied skin would be 30 times higher than on unprotected skin," she explains.

Narayanan A., consultant dermatologist at SRM Prime Hospital, Chennai, points out however that "the testing is conducted under controlled conditions using a specified amount of sunscreen. In real life, most people apply far less sunscreen than is used during laboratory testing, meaning actual protection may be lower than the SPF listed on the label."

What do SPF numbers mean?

One of the most common misconceptions is that SPF values increase protection in a straight line. According to K.R. Sharmatha, senior consultant dermatologist, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, SPF 30 blocks about 95-97% of UVB radiation, SPF 50 blocks roughly 97-98%, and SPF 80 blocks close to 99%. The difference is one roughly one percentage point, with protection gains becoming progressively smaller at higher SPF values

While higher SPF provides somewhat greater protection, the difference between SPF 30 and SPF 50 is far smaller than most people imagine.

Shield and defence: Experts and dermatologists say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. GETTY IMAGES

A sunscreen's SPF value only measures protection against UVB radiation. Pushpa Gnanaraj, senior consultant dermatologist, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram, Chennai, notes that UVA penetrates more deeply. UVA radiation is strongly linked to pigmentation, photoageing, wrinkles and loss of skin elasticity. For this reason, experts emphasise that SPF alone should not determine sunscreen choice. They recommend choosing a broad-spectrum sunscreen with PA+++ protection, which indicates protection against UVA rays as well as products that provide protection against both UVA and UVB radiation rather than focusing solely on the SPF number.

Experts also say that SPF 30 provides adequate protection for most people when applied correctly. "Anything above SPF 30 is okay for Indian skin," says Dr. Nasika. She recommends SPF 30 as a minimum, while SPF 50 or higher for outdoor sports, extended sun exposure, or individuals with photosensitive skin conditions.

Application matters

Many tend to overlook correct application. Experts recommend applying sunscreen 15 to 20 minutes before sun exposure and ensuring that exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands and forearms are covered. Reapplication is essential every two to three hours during outdoor exposure, especially after washing the face or if the product is not water-resistant. And for people working outdoors, and in sports, experts recommend waterproof formulations. High-SPF sunscreens also require regular reapplication because sunscreen do not block 100% of UV radiation. A properly applied SPF 30 sunscreen may offer better protection than an SPF 100 product applied inadequately.

The difference between the benefits that SPF 30 and SPF 50 offer is small. The more important factors are choosing a broad-spectrum product, applying it correctly, and reapplying it regularly. This summer, stay safe under the sun. Understanding SPF is less about finding the highest number and more about using sunscreen effectively and consistently.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

05J6. Understanding SPF number on sunscreen lotion and how it is measured
सनस्क्रीन लोशन पर SPF संख्या को समझना और इसका मापन कैसे किया जाता है

- **Sun Protection Factor (SPF)**, or SPF, is designed to measure protection against **ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation**, the part of sunlight primarily responsible for **sunburns**.
  सन प्रोटेक्शन फैक्टर (SPF) को **अल्ट्रावायलेट-बी (UVB) विकिरण** से सुरक्षा को मापने के लिए विकसित किया गया है, जो सूर्य के प्रकाश का वह भाग है जो मुख्य रूप से **सनबर्न (त्वचा झुलसने)** के लिए उत्तरदायी होता है।
- In standard testing, **sunscreen** is applied to the skin and researchers compare how much ultraviolet exposure is needed to produce redness, or **erythema**, on protected skin versus unprotected skin, says **Katheeja Nasika**, consultant dermatologist, Rela Hospital, Chennai.
  चेन्नई के रेला अस्पताल की परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ **कथीजा नासिका** के अनुसार, मानक परीक्षण में त्वचा पर **सनस्क्रीन** लगाया जाता है और शोधकर्ता यह तुलना करते हैं कि संरक्षित तथा असंरक्षित त्वचा पर लालिमा अथवा **एरिथेमा** उत्पन्न करने के लिए कितने पराबैंगनी विकिरण की आवश्यकता होती है।
- "If an **SPF** is 30, theoretically the amount of UV exposure needed to cause minimal erythema on sunscreen-applied skin would be 30 times higher than on unprotected skin," she explains.
  वे बताती हैं, "यदि **SPF** 30 है, तो सैद्धांतिक रूप से सनस्क्रीन लगी त्वचा पर न्यूनतम एरिथेमा उत्पन्न करने के लिए आवश्यक UV विकिरण की मात्रा असंरक्षित त्वचा की तुलना में 30 गुना अधिक होगी।"

What do SPF numbers mean?
SPF संख्याओं का क्या अर्थ है?

- According to **K.R. Sharmatha**, senior consultant dermatologist, **SIMS Hospital**, Chennai, **SPF 30** blocks about **95-97%** of **UVB radiation**, **SPF 50** blocks roughly **97-98%**, and **SPF 80** blocks close to **99%**.

चेन्नई के **SIMS अस्पताल** की वरिष्ठ परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ **के.आर. शर्मथा** के अनुसार, **SPF 30** लगभग **95-97% UVB विकिरण** को रोकता है, **SPF 50** लगभग **97-98%** को रोकता है और **SPF 80** लगभग **99%** तक सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है।

- While higher **SPF** provides somewhat greater protection, the difference between **SPF 30** and **SPF 50** is far smaller than most people imagine.
  यद्यपि अधिक **SPF** कुछ अतिरिक्त सुरक्षा प्रदान करता है, किन्तु **SPF 30** और **SPF 50** के बीच का अंतर उतना अधिक नहीं है जितना अधिकांश लोग समझते हैं।
- A sunscreen's **SPF value** only measures protection against **UVB radiation**.
  किसी सनस्क्रीन का **SPF मान** केवल **UVB विकिरण** के विरुद्ध सुरक्षा को मापता है।
- **Pushpa Gnanaraj**, senior consultant dermatologist, **Apollo Speciality Hospitals**, Vanagaram, Chennai, notes that **UVA** penetrates more deeply.
  चेन्नई के वनगरम स्थित **अपोलो स्पेशलिटी हॉस्पिटल्स** की वरिष्ठ परामर्शदाता त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ **पुष्पा ज्ञानराज** बताती हैं कि **UVA विकिरण** त्वचा में अधिक गहराई तक प्रवेश करता है।
- **UVA radiation** is strongly linked to **pigmentation**, **photoageing**, **wrinkles** and loss of **skin elasticity**.
  UVA विकिरण का संबंध **त्वचा के वर्णक परिवर्तन**, **फोटोएजिंग**, **झुर्रियों** तथा **त्वचा की लोच में कमी** से गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है।
- For this reason, experts emphasise that **SPF** alone should not determine sunscreen choice.
  इसी कारण विशेषज्ञ इस बात पर बल देते हैं कि केवल **SPF** के आधार पर सनस्क्रीन का चयन नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
- They recommend choosing a **broad-spectrum sunscreen** with **PA+++ protection**, which indicates protection against **UVA rays** as well as products that provide protection against both **UVA** and **UVB radiation** rather than focusing solely on the SPF number.
  वे **PA+++ सुरक्षा** वाले **ब्रॉड-स्पेक्ट्रम सनस्क्रीन** का चयन करने की सलाह देते हैं, जो **UVA किरणों** से सुरक्षा का संकेत देता है तथा ऐसे उत्पादों को प्राथमिकता देने की अनुशंसा करते हैं जो **UVA** और **UVB विकिरण** दोनों से सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हों।
- She recommends **SPF 30** as a minimum, while **SPF 50** or higher for outdoor sports, extended sun exposure, or individuals with **photosensitive skin conditions**.
  वे न्यूनतम **SPF 30** की अनुशंसा करती हैं, जबकि बाहरी खेल गतिविधियों, लंबे समय तक धूप में रहने अथवा **प्रकाश-संवेदनशील त्वचा संबंधी स्थितियों** वाले व्यक्तियों के लिए **SPF 50** या उससे अधिक उपयुक्त मानती हैं।

Application matters
उपयोग की सही विधि का महत्व

- Many tend to overlook correct application.
  अनेक लोग सही तरीके से लगाने के महत्व की उपेक्षा कर देते हैं।
- Experts recommend applying **sunscreen** 15 to 20 minutes before sun exposure and ensuring that exposed areas such as the face, neck, hands and forearms are covered.
  विशेषज्ञ धूप में जाने से 15 से 20 मिनट पहले **सनस्क्रीन** लगाने तथा चेहरे, गर्दन, हाथों और अग्रबाहुओं जैसे खुले हिस्सों को अच्छी तरह ढकने की सलाह देते हैं।
- Reapplication is essential every two to three hours during outdoor exposure, especially after washing the face or if the product is not **water-resistant**.
  बाहरी वातावरण में रहने के दौरान प्रत्येक दो से तीन घंटे में पुनः लगाना आवश्यक है, विशेषकर चेहरे को धोने के बाद अथवा यदि उत्पाद **जल-प्रतिरोधी** न हो।
- And for people working outdoors, and in sports, experts recommend **waterproof formulations**.
  बाहरी कार्य करने वाले लोगों तथा खिलाड़ियों के लिए विशेषज्ञ **वाटरप्रूफ फॉर्मूलेशन** की अनुशंसा करते हैं।

- High-**SPF** sunscreens also require regular reapplication because sunscreen do not block **100%** of **UV radiation**.
  उच्च **SPF** वाले सनस्क्रीन को भी नियमित रूप से पुनः लगाना आवश्यक है क्योंकि कोई भी सनस्क्रीन **UV विकिरण** का **100%** अवरोध नहीं कर सकता।
- A properly applied **SPF 30** sunscreen may offer better protection than an **SPF 100** product applied inadequately.
  सही प्रकार से लगाया गया **SPF 30** सनस्क्रीन, अपर्याप्त रूप से लगाए गए **SPF 100** उत्पाद की तुलना में बेहतर सुरक्षा प्रदान कर सकता है।
- The more important factors are choosing a **broad-spectrum product**, applying it correctly, and reapplying it regularly.
  अधिक महत्वपूर्ण कारक हैं—एक **ब्रॉड-स्पेक्ट्रम उत्पाद** का चयन करना, उसे सही प्रकार से लगाना तथा नियमित रूप से पुनः लगाना।
- Understanding **SPF** is less about finding the highest number and more about using **sunscreen** effectively and consistently.
  SPF को समझने का अर्थ सबसे अधिक संख्या ढूँढना नहीं, बल्कि **सनस्क्रीन** का प्रभावी तथा नियमित उपयोग करना है।

UVA Radiation

- **UVA rays** have a longer wavelength and can penetrate deep into the skin.
- They are present throughout the day and can even pass through clouds and window glass.
- UVA rays are mainly responsible for:
  - Skin ageing and wrinkles
  - Loss of skin elasticity
  - Pigmentation and tanning
  - Long-term skin damage
- UVA rays slowly age skin over time.

UVB Radiation

- **UVB rays have a shorter wavelength** and affect the outer layers of the skin.
- They are strongest between about 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- UVB rays are mainly responsible for:
  - Sunburn
  - Skin redness
  - DNA damage in skin cells
  - Increased risk of skin cancer
- UVB rays burn skin when stay in the sun too long.

SPF (Sun Protection Factor)

- **SPF (Sun Protection Factor)** is a measure of how well a sunscreen protects the skin from **UVB rays**.
- SPF 15 blocks about 93% of UVB rays.
- SPF 30 blocks about 97% of UVB rays.
- SPF 50 blocks about 98% of UVB rays.
- Skin normally starts to burn after 10 minutes in the sun. With SPF 30 sunscreen, skin could theoretically stay about 30 times longer before burning.

'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching'

GS III: S&T

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India's transition into a video-first economy is no longer restricted to metropolitan cities as daily video consumption on Meta platforms is reaching 98% in cities and 94% in rural areas, according to a Meta-commissioned study by IPSOS.

The study, comprising over 4,000 participants across metro, tier-2 and 3 cities and rural India, found 97% of users consume video content daily, highlighting video content had become the primary source of digital engagement.

Also, the study found Reels had become the primary destination for content, culture and influence with 89% of Gen-Z users engaging with it every day. The engagement is particularly strong among women (85%) and NCCS audiences (88%). The study also found 84% of Gen-Z users and 73% of rural users discovered products through Meta Platforms.

Beauty, make-up, fashion, lifestyle, wellness, fitness, comedy, sports, and travel emerged as the most engaged genres. Among it beauty, makeup, and fashion recorded the highest engagement with 52% of the users engaging in these genres followed by lifestyle, fitness, and wellness at 42%; comedy and humor at 39%; sports at 38%; and travel at 37%.

The study emphasised the role of content creators in shaping storytelling, conversations, trends, and brand discovery. Reels generated 60% higher creator engagement than other surveyed short-video platforms and highlighted the platform's influence on high-intent sectors such as e-commerce, automobiles, and financial services.

05J6. 'Rural, urban India almost same in video watching'
'वीडियो देखने में ग्रामीण और शहरी भारत लगभग समान'

- India's transition into a **video-first economy** is no longer restricted to **metropolitan cities** as daily video consumption on **Meta platforms** is reaching **98% in cities** and **94% in rural areas**, according to a **Meta-commissioned study** by **IPSOS**.
  वीडियो-प्रथम अर्थव्यवस्था की ओर भारत का संक्रमण अब केवल **महानगरीय शहरों** तक सीमित नहीं रह गया है, क्योंकि **मेटा प्लेटफॉर्म्स** पर दैनिक वीडियो उपभोग **शहरों में 98%** और **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में 94%** तक पहुँच रहा है। यह जानकारी **IPSOS** द्वारा किए गए **मेटा-प्रायोजित अध्ययन** के अनुसार है।
- The study, comprising over **4,000 participants** across **metro, tier-2 and 3 cities and rural India**, found **97% of users** consume video content daily, highlighting video content had become the primary source of **digital engagement**.
  मेट्रो, टियर-2 और टियर-3 शहरों तथा ग्रामीण भारत के **4,000 से अधिक प्रतिभागियों** पर आधारित इस अध्ययन में पाया गया कि **97% उपयोगकर्ता** प्रतिदिन वीडियो सामग्री का उपभोग करते हैं, जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि वीडियो सामग्री **डिजिटल सहभागिता** का प्रमुख स्रोत बन चुकी है।
- Also, the study found **Reels** had become the primary destination for content, culture and influence with **89% of Gen-Z users** engaging with it every day.
  अध्ययन में यह भी पाया गया कि **रील्स** सामग्री, संस्कृति और प्रभाव का प्रमुख माध्यम बन चुका है, जहाँ **89% जेन-ज़ी उपयोगकर्ता** प्रतिदिन इससे जुड़ते हैं।

- **Beauty, make-up, fashion, lifestyle, wellness, fitness, comedy, sports, and travel** emerged as the most engaged genres.
  ब्यूटी, मेक-अप, फैशन, लाइफस्टाइल, वेलनेस, फिटनेस, कॉमेडी, खेल और यात्रा सबसे अधिक सहभागिता वाले विषयों के रूप में उभरे।
- Among it **beauty, makeup, and fashion** recorded the highest engagement with **52% of the users** engaging in these genres followed by **lifestyle, fitness, and wellness** at **42%**; **comedy and humor** at **39%**; **sports** at **38%**; and **travel** at **37%**.
  इनमें **ब्यूटी, मेकअप और फैशन** ने सबसे अधिक सहभागिता दर्ज की, जहाँ **52% उपयोगकर्ता** इन विषयों से जुड़े रहे। इसके बाद **लाइफस्टाइल, फिटनेस और वेलनेस** में **42%**, **कॉमेडी और हास्य** में **39%**, **खेल** में **38%** तथा **यात्रा** में **37%** सहभागिता दर्ज की गई।
- The study emphasised the role of **content creators** in shaping storytelling, conversations, trends, and brand discovery.
  अध्ययन ने **कंटेंट क्रिएटर्स** की भूमिका पर जोर दिया, जो कहानी कहने, संवादों, रुझानों और ब्रांड खोज को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- **Reels** generated **60% higher creator engagement** than other surveyed **short-video platforms** and highlighted the platform's influence on high-intent sectors such as **e-commerce, automobiles, and financial services**.
  रील्स ने अन्य सर्वेक्षित **शॉर्ट-वीडियो प्लेटफॉर्म्स** की तुलना में **60% अधिक क्रिएटर सहभागिता** उत्पन्न की और **ई-कॉमर्स, ऑटोमोबाइल तथा वित्तीय सेवाओं** जैसे उच्च-रुचि वाले क्षेत्रों पर प्लेटफॉर्म के प्रभाव को रेखांकित किया।

GS Paper III: Environment	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question भारत के जलवायु भविष्य के वित्तपोषण का प्रश्न: एक ट्रिलियन डॉलर की चुनौती
05J6	A national environmental survey whose time came एक राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरणीय सर्वेक्षण जिसकी आवश्यकता का समय आ चुका है

PATRIOTIC IAS

Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question

GS III: Environment

Balakrishna Pisupati

Head of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) office in India

There is one figure that should command the attention of every policymaker, banker, and financial expert in India. India will require ₹162.5 trillion – roughly $2.5 trillion – by 2030 to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions. Over the longer term, the cost of achieving net-zero emissions by 2070 is estimated at $10.1 trillion, nearly three times India's current GDP.

This is not a counsel of despair. India has more tools to bridge this gap than it has deployed so far. But doing so requires a clear financing strategy and the institutional resolve to build mechanisms that can mobilise capital at scale.

The financing gap

Decarbonising just four sectors – steel, cement, power, and road transport, which together account for more than half of India's carbon emissions – will require $467 billion in additional capital expenditure between 2022 and 2030, roughly $54 billion annually, or 1.3% of GDP. These are sectors where the private sector will not lead without strong regulatory incentives, because the economics of green steel and green cement simply do not yet work without policy support.

By 2030, developing economies are estimated to need $5 trillion to $6 trillion for climate action. The developed world promised $100 billion annually at Paris – and missed it. The Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) commits $300 billion by 2035 – which India rightly considers insufficient. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s own Report on Currency and Finance estimates that India needs an additional annual investment of at least 2.5% of GDP for green financing until 2030.

The international community will not fill this gap on India's behalf. The honest answer is that India must mobilise most of it from within.

India is not starting from zero. By the end of 2024, India had issued $55.9 billion in green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked debt – a 186% rise since 2021. Green debt leads, making up 83% of the total, with most funds directed to clean energy and transport. Sovereign green bonds worth ₹477 billion have helped set benchmarks and boost investor confidence. This is genuinely impressive.

The instruments exist. The challenge is deploying them at scale. India already has green bonds, sovereign green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds, blended finance structures, transition finance instruments and infrastructure investment trusts. What is missing is the connective tissue: a taxonomy, a guarantee architecture, a liquidity mechanism, and the regulatory incentives that make green finance cheaper than brown finance.

The most significant shift in India's climate-finance landscape in 2025 did not occur at a climate conference but in Mint Street. In 2025, the RBI's Climate Finance and Management of Climate Change Risks Directions for Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks established a comprehensive framework requiring banks to integrate climate risks into their lending and risk-management practices. Importantly, eligible green activities can qualify as priority sector lending (PSL), while investments in sovereign green bonds are also recognised under the framework.

This is a bigger deal than it looks. PSL requirements are one of the most powerful levers that the RBI holds over bank behaviour. Currently, for every ₹10,000 crore in loans, banks must ensure ₹4,000 crore of PSL.

The RBI can and must go further. It has proposed accepting sovereign green bonds as collateral with more flexibility in margin requirements and adjusting reserve requirements to support credit flows to green sectors. The next frontier is differentiated capital requirements based on climate risk – essentially, making brown lending more capital-intensive and green lending less so.

The RBI's Climate Risk Information System on climate-related financial risks for commercial banks, and its inclusion of sustainable finance in its regulatory sandbox, are steps in the right direction.

The next critical step is a comprehensive climate stress-testing framework for Indian banks – one that assesses the flood risk of a loan portfolio in Bihar as rigorously as it evaluates credit risk.

The taxonomy unlocks everything else

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25 that India would develop a climate-finance taxonomy. This is the foundation of the entire ecosystem. Without a clear legal definition of what counts as "green", green bonds cannot be credibly verified, PSL classifications remain questionable, international investors cannot make compliance claims, and regulators cannot effectively curb greenwashing.

The Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Taxonomy and the Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy will facilitate standardised sustainable investments and boost investor confidence.

The international climate finance system has one instrument that India has chronically underused: blended finance – the strategic use of public or concessional funds to de-risk private investment. Financial instruments such as green bonds, climate funds, and blended finance models are important in mobilising capital for sustainability initiatives, and unlocking investment at scale will help drive long-term resilience in India's most climate-sensitive sectors.

Here is the arithmetic that makes blended finance so compelling. A first loss guarantee of $100 million from a public source can unlock $500 million to $1 billion in private co-investment in solar, offshore wind, green hydrogen, or climate-resilient agriculture, because it absorbs the risk that private capital finds unacceptable. It needs a capitalisation injection and an expanded mandate to get there.

India's bottleneck is not funding, but the institutional architecture needed to move it where it is needed

Where the finance gap is most acute

One dimension of India's climate finance challenge that receives almost no attention is its federally disaggregated nature. Climate adaptation – the kind of finance that protects coastal villages in Odisha, drought-proofing in Vidarbha, or spring rejuvenation in the Himalayas – is delivered at the State level. But States have neither the borrowing capacity nor the institutional infrastructure to access international climate finance. Tamil Nadu and Kerala have shown that ambitious State-level climate programming is possible. The financing architecture needs to catch up with the ambition.

There are four things that India must do now. First, finalise and enact the Climate Finance Taxonomy without further delay. It is the single most leveraged action available.

Second, the RBI must move from enabling green finance to mandating it – through differentiated capital requirements, mandatory climate stress testing for banks, and expanded PSL targets that include climate adaptation alongside mitigation.

Third, establish a State Climate Finance Facility, capitalised for example, by the Union, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and international sources, to give States and municipalities genuine access to green debt markets.

Fourth, scale sovereign green bond issuances rapidly and embed them in the SLR framework to deepen the domestic market and attract foreign capital.

India's climate-finance challenge is large and urgent, but not insurmountable. The instruments exist, the regulatory framework is taking shape, and capital is available. What is missing is not money, but the institutional capacity to deploy it at scale. Fixing that is the work of the Budget cycles. The country that solves this challenge fastest will shape the future of climate finance in the developing world.

The views expressed are personal

05J6. Funding India's climate future, a trillion-dollar question
भारत के जलवायु भविष्य के वित्तपोषण का प्रश्न: एक ट्रिलियन डॉलर की चुनौती

Climate Finance and India's Net-Zero Transition
जलवायु वित्त और भारत का नेट-ज़ीरो संक्रमण

- India will require **₹162.5 trillion** — roughly **$2.5 trillion** — by **2030** to meet its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**.
  भारत को अपनी **राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDCs)** संबंधी प्रतिबद्धताओं को पूरा करने के लिए वर्ष **2030** तक **₹162.5 ट्रिलियन** अर्थात लगभग **2.5 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** की आवश्यकता होगी।

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- Over the longer term, the cost of achieving **net-zero emissions** by **2070** is estimated at **$10.1 trillion**, nearly three times India's current GDP.
  दीर्घकालिक दृष्टि से, वर्ष **2070** तक **शुद्ध-शून्य उत्सर्जन (Net-Zero Emissions)** प्राप्त करने की लागत लगभग **10.1 ट्रिलियन डॉलर** आंकी गई है, जो भारत की वर्तमान GDP का लगभग तीन गुना है।

वित्तपोषण अंतराल

- Decarbonising just four sectors — **steel**, **cement**, **power**, and **road transport**, which together account for more than half of India's carbon emissions — will require **$467 billion** in additional capital expenditure between **2022 and 2030**, roughly **$54 billion annually**, or **1.3% of GDP**.
  केवल चार क्षेत्रों — **इस्पात**, **सीमेंट**, **विद्युत** और **सड़क परिवहन**, जो संयुक्त रूप से भारत के आधे से अधिक कार्बन उत्सर्जन के लिए उत्तरदायी हैं — का डीकार्बोनाइजेशन करने के लिए वर्ष **2022 से 2030** के बीच अतिरिक्त **467 अरब डॉलर** के पूंजीगत व्यय की आवश्यकता होगी, जो प्रतिवर्ष लगभग **54 अरब डॉलर** अथवा **GDP का 1.3%** है।
- These are sectors where the **private sector** will not lead without strong regulatory incentives, because the economics of **green steel** and **green cement** simply do not yet work without policy support.
  ये ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ **निजी क्षेत्र** मजबूत नियामकीय प्रोत्साहनों के बिना नेतृत्व नहीं करेगा, क्योंकि **हरित इस्पात** और **हरित सीमेंट** की आर्थिक व्यवहार्यता अभी भी नीतिगत समर्थन के बिना प्रभावी नहीं है।
- The developed world promised **$100 billion annually** at **Paris** — and missed it.
  विकसित देशों ने **पेरिस** में प्रतिवर्ष **100 अरब डॉलर** देने का वादा किया था, किंतु वे इसे पूरा करने में विफल रहे।
- The **Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** commits **$300 billion by 2035** — which India rightly considers insufficient.
  बाकू न्यू कलेक्टिव क्वांटिफाइड गोल (NCQG) के अंतर्गत वर्ष **2035** तक **300 अरब डॉलर** उपलब्ध कराने की प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त की गई है, जिसे भारत उचित रूप से अपर्याप्त मानता है।
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**'s own **Report on Currency and Finance** estimates that India needs an additional annual investment of at least **2.5% of GDP** for **green financing** until **2030**.
  भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) की **मुद्रा एवं वित्त रिपोर्ट** के अनुसार, भारत को वर्ष **2030** तक **हरित वित्तपोषण** के लिए प्रतिवर्ष कम-से-कम **GDP का 2.5%** अतिरिक्त निवेश करना होगा।
- India already has **green bonds**, **sovereign green bonds**, **sustainability-linked bonds**, **blended finance structures**, **transition finance instruments** and **infrastructure investment trusts**.
  भारत के पास पहले से ही **ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स**, **सॉवरेन ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स**, **सस्टेनेबिलिटी-लिंक्ड बॉण्ड्स**, **ब्लेंडेड फाइनेंस संरचनाएँ**, **ट्रांज़िशन फाइनेंस उपकरण** तथा **इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर इन्वेस्टमेंट ट्रस्ट्स** उपलब्ध हैं।
- What is missing is the connective tissue: a **taxonomy**, a **guarantee architecture**, a **liquidity mechanism**, and the regulatory incentives that make **green finance** cheaper than **brown finance**.
  जिसकी कमी है वह है इन सबको जोड़ने वाला ढाँचा—एक **वर्गीकरण प्रणाली (Taxonomy)**, **गारंटी संरचना**, **तरलता तंत्र (Liquidity Mechanism)** तथा ऐसे नियामकीय प्रोत्साहन जो **हरित वित्त** को **परंपरागत प्रदूषणकारी वित्त (Brown Finance)** की तुलना में सस्ता बनाएँ।
- Importantly, eligible **green activities** can qualify as **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)**, while investments in **sovereign green bonds** are also recognised under the framework.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, पात्र **हरित गतिविधियाँ प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र ऋण (PSL)** के अंतर्गत आ सकती हैं, जबकि **सॉवरेन ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स** में किए गए निवेश को भी इस ढाँचे के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्रदान की गई है।

Strengthening Climate Finance Mechanisms
जलवायु वित्त तंत्र को सुदृढ़ बनाना

- The **RBI's Climate Risk Information System** on climate-related financial risks for commercial banks, and its inclusion of **sustainable finance** in its regulatory sandbox, are steps in the right direction.
  वाणिज्यिक बैंकों के लिए जलवायु-संबंधी वित्तीय जोखिमों पर आधारित **RBI का क्लाइमेट रिस्क इन्फॉर्मेशन सिस्टम** तथा उसके नियामकीय सैंडबॉक्स में **सतत वित्त (Sustainable Finance)** को शामिल करना सही दिशा में उठाए गए कदम हैं।
- Without a clear legal definition of what counts as "**green**", **green bonds** cannot be credibly verified, **PSL classifications** remain questionable, international investors cannot make compliance claims, and regulators cannot effectively curb **greenwashing**.
  "**ग्रीन**" की स्पष्ट कानूनी परिभाषा के अभाव में **ग्रीन बॉण्ड्स** का विश्वसनीय सत्यापन नहीं किया जा सकता, **PSL वर्गीकरण** संदिग्ध बने रहते हैं, अंतरराष्ट्रीय निवेशक अनुपालन संबंधी दावे नहीं कर सकते तथा नियामक **ग्रीनवॉशिंग** पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण नहीं कर सकते।
- The **Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Taxonomy** and the **Ministry of Steel's Green Steel Taxonomy** will facilitate standardised sustainable investments and boost investor confidence.
  वित्त मंत्रालय की क्लाइमेट फाइनेंस टैक्सोनॉमी तथा **इस्पात मंत्रालय की ग्रीन स्टील टैक्सोनॉमी** मानकीकृत सतत निवेशों को सुगम बनाएगी तथा निवेशकों का विश्वास बढ़ाएगी।
- **Climate adaptation** — the kind of finance that protects coastal villages in **Odisha**, drought-proofing in **Vidarbha**, or spring rejuvenation in the **Himalayas** — is delivered at the **State level**.
  जलवायु अनुकूलन (Climate Adaptation) — अर्थात वह वित्तीय सहायता जो **ओडिशा** के तटीय गाँवों की सुरक्षा, **विदर्भ** में सूखा-प्रतिरोधी उपायों अथवा **हिमालय** में जलस्रोतों के पुनर्जीवन के लिए आवश्यक होती है — का कार्यान्वयन **राज्य स्तर** पर किया जाता है।
- But States have neither the borrowing capacity nor the institutional infrastructure to access international **climate finance**.
  किन्तु राज्यों के पास न तो पर्याप्त ऋण लेने की क्षमता है और न ही ऐसा संस्थागत ढाँचा, जिससे वे अंतरराष्ट्रीय **जलवायु वित्त** तक प्रभावी पहुँच बना सकें।
- Third, establish a **State Climate Finance Facility**, capitalised for example, by the **Union**, **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**, and international sources, to give States and municipalities genuine access to **green debt markets**.
  तीसरा, एक **राज्य जलवायु वित्त सुविधा (State Climate Finance Facility)** की स्थापना की जाए, जिसे उदाहरणस्वरूप **केंद्र सरकार**, **राष्ट्रीय कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (NABARD)** तथा अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्रोतों द्वारा वित्तपोषित किया जाए, ताकि राज्यों और नगर निकायों को **हरित ऋण बाजारों (Green Debt Markets)** तक वास्तविक पहुँच मिल सके।

Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

- The **Baku New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** is a new global climate finance target adopted at the climate conference COP29 held in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- It replaces the earlier goal under which developed countries were expected to mobilize **$100 billion annually** for developing nations to tackle climate change.
- Under the NCQG, developed countries are expected to take the lead in mobilizing at least **$300 billion per year by 2035** for developing countries.
- The broader ambition is to scale up climate-related finance from all public and private sources to around **$1.3 trillion annually by 2035**.

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A national environmental survey whose time came

GS III: Environment

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Anthropologist Anna Tsing writes, "Anthropocene, <is> the epoch in which human disturbance outranks other geological forces.....although some interpreters see the name as implying the triumph of humans, the opposite seems more accurate: without planning or intention,humans have made a mess of our planet." It is in this precise predicament that India finds itself: environmental damage has slipped beyond intention and control, belonging to no one entirely and to everyone at once.

An unfolding crisis

A survey by the Yale School of the Environment of 10,751 Indians (December 2024-February 2025) found that most respondents had experienced at least one extreme event, including heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (60%), power outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and air pollution (52%). Based on Indian meteorological department and State of India's Environment findings, nearly half of the 37% of 870 river-monitoring stations recorded alarming levels of toxic heavy metals. Air pollution in 2022 reduced average life expectancy by about three years, while some parts of the country experienced extreme weather for nearly 88% of the year. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India estimates that 29.7% of the country's land is degraded. Yet, despite this mounting environmental crisis, India still lacks a comprehensive understanding of the state of its environment.

In India, the environment sits on the back bench – starved of funds, with only 0.07% of the annual budget allocated to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), understaffed, and intellectually neglected. Its custodians often work in silos with overlapping jurisdictions. The result is ignorance masquerading as knowledge. The MoEFCC's annual reports outline forest-restoration initiatives such as the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries '+' additional forest-related activities that protect the climate), yet say little about the scale of State-wise deforestation, its impact on biodiversity and livelihoods, or the country's preparedness for future environmental challenges. Beyond these omissions, the reports often obscure the nuances behind impressive plantation figures, sidestep scrutiny of fund utilisation and environmental compliance, and overlook findings from global assessments.

A credible environmental survey is essential for informed policymaking

The case for EnvSI

Much of this information is already measured by governments, think tanks, educational institutions and private actors, but it remains fragmented. What is missing is not data, but a system that brings it together. The remedy is to have an Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI): a unified platform that aggregates evidence, conducts independent audits, issues actionable assessments and grades performance. EnvSI must provide an unsparing account of environmental reality – however uncomfortable. The objective is not merely to document what has been lost, but to identify what can still be protected.

Drafting an EnvSI would require a clear statutory mandate, functional autonomy and protected tenure for an expert-led body. It should integrate data from government agencies, independent researchers, the private sector and field-based evidence. Its methodology must combine quantitative indicators with livelihood assessments, using cross-verified datasets and rigorous analysis. Some may question the cost.

The answer is simple: the cost of not doing it is far greater, and doing it would bring some reason to the redundancy of surveying efforts. An EnvSI could deliver four key benefits. First, it would help prevent further environmental degradation, temper climate-driven disasters, and build resilient responses through coordinated action and better resource use. Second, it would support the timely achievement of climate targets, enhance credibility and unlock climate finance. Third, it would better align economic development with conservation, while protecting tribal rights, traditional livelihoods and the interests of displaced communities. Finally, it would strengthen the commons by recognising and safeguarding the interdependence between ecosystems, species and human societies.

Finally, the template for an EnvSI already exists. The Economic Survey of India offers the Environment Ministry its clearest model: an integrated report prepared by experts under the Chief Economic Adviser, independent enough to present inconvenient truths. It draws on multiple sources, rigorously scrutinises evidence, rejects comforting narratives, and alerts policymakers to emerging challenges and necessary reforms. India constantly faces difficult trade-offs between development and conservation.

Keeping nature in sight

Home to one-sixth of humanity on just 4% of the earth's land area, India must pursue growth while meeting climate commitments. In such circumstances, environmental concerns are often pushed to the margins. An independent and audacious EnvSI can help balance growth, sustainability, livelihoods and justice. Without India's full commitment, global climate goals will remain elusive. More importantly, an EnvSI can make visible the environmental changes that have become normalised, helping build the awareness needed to protect what remains.

05J6. A national environmental survey whose time came
एक राष्ट्रीय पर्यावरणीय सर्वेक्षण जिसकी आवश्यकता का समय आ चुका है

- **Anthropologist Anna Tsing** writes, "**Anthropocene**, the epoch in which human disturbance outranks other geological forces.....although some interpreters see the name as implying the triumph of humans, the opposite seems more accurate: without planning or intention, humans have made a mess of our planet."
  मानवविज्ञानी अन्ना त्सिंग लिखती हैं, "**एंथ्रोपोसीन** वह युग है जिसमें मानवजनित व्यवधान अन्य भूवैज्ञानिक शक्तियों से अधिक प्रभावशाली हो गया है.....यद्यपि कुछ व्याख्याकार इस नाम को मानव की विजय के रूप में देखते हैं, परंतु वास्तविकता इसके विपरीत प्रतीत होती है: बिना किसी योजना या उद्देश्य के, मनुष्यों ने हमारे ग्रह को अव्यवस्थित कर दिया है।"

- A survey by the **Yale School of the Environment** of **10,751 Indians** (December 2024-February 2025) found that most respondents had experienced at least one **extreme event**, including **heat waves (71%)**, **agricultural pests and diseases (60%)**, **power outages (59%)**, **water pollution (53%)**, **droughts and water shortages (52%)**, and **air pollution (52%)**.
  येल स्कूल ऑफ द एनवायरनमेंट द्वारा **10,751 भारतीयों** पर (दिसंबर 2024 से फरवरी 2025 के बीच) किए गए एक सर्वेक्षण में पाया गया कि अधिकांश उत्तरदाताओं ने कम-से-कम एक **चरम पर्यावरणीय घटना** का अनुभव किया था, जिनमें **लू (71%)**, **कृषि कीट एवं रोग (60%)**, **बिजली कटौती (59%)**, **जल प्रदूषण (53%)**, **सूखा एवं जल की कमी (52%)**, तथा **वायु प्रदूषण (52%)** शामिल थे।

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- The **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** estimates that **29.7%** of the country's land is degraded.
  डेजर्टिफिकेशन एंड लैंड डिग्रेडेशन एटलस ऑफ इंडिया के अनुसार, देश की लगभग **29.7% भूमि** अवनत अथवा क्षरित हो चुकी है।
- The **MoEFCC's annual reports** outline forest-restoration initiatives such as the **National Afforestation Programme (NAP)** and **REDD+** (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries '+' additional forest-related activities that protect the climate), yet say little about the scale of **State-wise deforestation**, its impact on **biodiversity** and **livelihoods**, or the country's preparedness for future environmental challenges.
  MoEFCC की वार्षिक रिपोर्टें राष्ट्रीय वनीकरण कार्यक्रम (NAP) तथा **REDD+** (विकासशील देशों में वनों की कटाई एवं वन क्षरण से होने वाले उत्सर्जन में कमी तथा जलवायु संरक्षण से संबंधित अतिरिक्त वन गतिविधियाँ) जैसी वन-पुनर्स्थापन पहलों का उल्लेख करती हैं, किंतु **राज्यवार वनों की कटाई**, उसके **जैव विविधता** एवं **आजीविकाओं** पर प्रभाव, अथवा भविष्य की पर्यावरणीय चुनौतियों के लिए देश की तैयारी के विषय में बहुत कम जानकारी प्रदान करती हैं।
- The remedy is to have an **Annual Environmental Survey of India (EnvSI)**: a unified platform that aggregates evidence, conducts independent audits, issues actionable assessments and grades performance.
  इसका समाधान **भारत का वार्षिक पर्यावरण सर्वेक्षण (EnvSI)** है—एक ऐसा एकीकृत मंच जो प्रमाणों को समेकित करे, स्वतंत्र लेखा-परीक्षण संचालित करे, क्रियान्वयन योग्य मूल्यांकन प्रस्तुत करे तथा प्रदर्शन का आकलन करे।
- **EnvSI** must provide an unsparing account of environmental reality — however uncomfortable.
  EnvSI को पर्यावरणीय वास्तविकता का निष्पक्ष और स्पष्ट विवरण प्रस्तुत करना चाहिए, चाहे वह कितना भी असुविधाजनक क्यों न हो।

GS Paper III: Disaster Management		05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
05J6	Fire and furore आग और आक्रोश	

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GS III: Disaster Management

Fire and furore

Poor compliance and weak enforcement have led to deaths in fires

Indian cities rely on an economic ecosystem in which businesses often operate beyond the approved limits while enforcement remains sporadic. A fire *per se* is not odd, but a slew of deadly fires in urban areas, from the Uphaar Cinema fire in 1997 to the Arpora nightclub fire in 2025, has involved the same vulnerabilities: overcrowding, blocked escape routes, unapproved modifications to interior spaces, poor compliance, and weak enforcement. Prior inquiries, court rulings, and promises of reform have not prevented similar safety failures from recurring. Many of the victims of the B&B fire in Delhi on June 3 were medical tourists, lodged there due to the proximity to South Delhi's hospitals. Many were also infirm and could not act quickly to escape heat or suffocation – a situation that likely prevailed in the ICU fire at a Muzaffarpur hospital on June 4, which claimed four lives, including two elderly individuals. According to the Delhi Fire Services and the Municipal Corporation, the B&B lacked a fire department clearance, violated fire safety norms, and had more than thrice as many rooms as allowed for B&Bs. These bodies are also answerable to how the facility operated in this way, especially since the Delhi High Court had directed the municipality in January to audit the city's hospitality hubs. The building had been rebuilt in 2013 and reportedly exploited land-use exemptions to bypass municipal bylaws that required wider roads for fire tenders.

The tolerance of hazardous conditions with a high fire risk persists because cost-cutting entities, whether establishments or governments, overlook the value of safety measures when there is no fire, even if the measures prevented a fire. The state must inculcate fire safety using principled inspections, incentives, and sanctions, and sustain a culture in urban centres to practise it as a matter of course. Local authorities often blame owners for 'clandestine' modifications; the Delhi police have charged the B&B's owner with culpable homicide not amounting to murder. But the implication that long-standing negligence was the distal cause must extend to the absence of enforcement. The particular charge also results inconsistently in convictions, undermining the penal system's ability to deter such incidents. The misuse of provisions for B&Bs finally points to failures that the Tourism Department should investigate; the city's decision to rescind them is not adequate as an answer. Political blame-games are a red herring: a deadly fire is a product of the incidental causes on that day and systemic factors that preserved the risk. In the same vein, the government's response must encompass these factors or they may amount, once more, to little.

05J6. Fire and furore
आग और आक्रोश

- Poor **compliance** and weak **enforcement** have led to deaths in **fires**.

कमज़ोर **अनुपालन** और कमजोर **प्रवर्तन** के कारण **आगजनी की घटनाओं** में लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है।

- A **fire** per se is not odd, but a slew of deadly fires in urban areas, from the **Uphaar Cinema fire** in 1997 to the **Arpora nightclub fire** in 2025, has involved the same vulnerabilities: **overcrowding**, blocked escape routes, unapproved modifications to interior spaces, poor compliance, and weak enforcement.

स्वयं में **आग लगना** कोई असामान्य घटना नहीं है, किंतु वर्ष 1997 की **उपहार सिनेमा अग्निकांड** से लेकर वर्ष 2025 की **अर्पोरा नाइटक्लब अग्निकांड** तक शहरी क्षेत्रों में हुई अनेक घातक आग की घटनाओं में समान कमजोरियाँ दिखाई देती हैं—**अत्यधिक भीड़**, अवरुद्ध निकास मार्ग, आंतरिक संरचनाओं में अनधिकृत परिवर्तन, नियमों का अपर्याप्त अनुपालन तथा कमजोर प्रवर्तन।

- Prior inquiries, court rulings, and promises of reform have not prevented similar **safety failures** from recurring.

पूर्व की जाँचों, न्यायालयों के निर्णयों तथा सुधारों के आश्वासनों के बावजूद ऐसी **सुरक्षा विफलताओं** की पुनरावृत्ति को रोका नहीं जा सका है।

- According to the **Delhi Fire Services** and the **Municipal Corporation**, the B&B lacked a fire department clearance, violated **fire safety norms**, and had more than thrice as many rooms as allowed for B&Bs.

दिल्ली अग्निशमन सेवा और **नगर निगम** के अनुसार, उक्त बी एंड बी के पास अग्निशमन विभाग की स्वीकृति नहीं थी, उसने **अग्नि सुरक्षा मानकों** का उल्लंघन किया था तथा उसमें बी एंड बी के लिए अनुमत संख्या से तीन गुना अधिक कमरे थे।

- These bodies are also answerable to how the facility operated in this way, especially since the **Delhi High Court** had directed the municipality in January to audit the city's hospitality hubs.

ये संस्थाएँ इस बात के लिए भी उत्तरदायी हैं कि यह सुविधा इस प्रकार संचालित कैसे होती रही, विशेषकर तब जबकि **दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय** ने जनवरी में नगर निगम को शहर के आतिथ्य केंद्रों का लेखा-परीक्षण करने का निर्देश दिया था।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era' नए युग की धोखाधड़ी: 'डिजिटल युग में विश्वास को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है'

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New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era'

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

At a time when AI-generated deepfakes, digital arrests, cyber-enabled financial frauds and crypto-powered crime networks have become increasingly sophisticated, combating these next generation of fraud would require a fundamental shift towards advanced forensic technologies, real-time intelligence sharing and stronger collaboration between regulators, businesses and law enforcement agencies said experts at the FICCI Conference on Next-Gen Forensics: The New Age of Fraud Investigation.

Brijesh Singh, IPS, Principal Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, said cybercrime has evolved into a highly organised and industrialised ecosystem where specialised actors perform functions ranging from data theft and identity creation to mule networks, deepfake generation and crypto-enabled money laundering.

"Today, fraud has become an industrial-scale enterprise. By the time the first call reaches a victim, fraudsters may already know their personal details, behavioural patterns and psychological vulnerabilities. The entire chain, from data acquisition to money movement through crypto networks an be completed in less than 30 minutes, making traditional investigative approaches increasingly ineffective," said Mr. Singh.

Too fast: Entire chain from data acquisition to money movement via crypto networks can be completed in under 30 minutes.

He said rise of AI, deepfakes and digital evidence needed complete shift in probing methodologies.

"Trust is being weaponised in the digital era. With voice cloning, deepfake technologies and fraud-as-a-service platforms becoming easily accessible, investigators need integrated forensic platforms, real-time intelligence sharing and new evidentiary frameworks to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute digital crimes," he added.

Govindayapalli Ram Mohan Rao, ED, Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department, SEBI, stated market regulator's efforts to strengthen investor protection and digital trust via technology-driven governance steps is the cornerstone of capital markets.

05J. New-age fraud: 'trust is being weaponised in the digital era'
नए युग की धोखाधड़ी: 'डिजिटल युग में विश्वास को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है'

- At a time when **AI-generated deepfakes**, **digital arrests**, **cyber-enabled financial frauds** and **crypto-powered crime networks** have become increasingly sophisticated, combating these **next generation of fraud** would require a fundamental shift towards **advanced forensic technologies**, **real-time intelligence sharing** and stronger collaboration between **regulators**, **businesses** and **law enforcement agencies** said experts at the **FICCI Conference on Next-Gen Forensics: The New Age of Fraud Investigation**.
  ऐसे समय में जब **AI-जनित डीपफेक**, **डिजिटल गिरफ्तारियाँ**, **साइबर-सक्षम वित्तीय धोखाधड़ी** और **क्रिप्टो-संचालित अपराध नेटवर्क** लगातार अधिक परिष्कृत हो गए हैं, तब इस **नई पीढ़ी की धोखाधड़ी** से निपटने के लिए **उन्नत फॉरेंसिक तकनीकों**, **रियल-टाइम इंटेलिजेंस साझा करने** तथा **नियामकों**, **व्यवसायों** और **कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों** के बीच मजबूत सहयोग की दिशा में एक मौलिक बदलाव की आवश्यकता होगी, ऐसा **FICCI कॉन्फ्रेंस ऑन नेक्स्ट-जनरेशन फॉरेंसिक्स: द न्यू एज ऑफ फ्रॉड इन्वेस्टिगेशन** में विशेषज्ञों ने कहा।
- **Brijesh Singh**, IPS, **Principal Secretary**, Government of Maharashtra, said cybercrime has evolved into a highly organised and industrialised ecosystem where specialised actors perform functions ranging from **data theft** and **identity creation** to **mule networks**, **deepfake generation** and **crypto-enabled money laundering**.
  बृजेश सिंह, IPS, **प्रधान सचिव**, महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने कहा कि **साइबर अपराध** एक अत्यधिक संगठित और औद्योगिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में विकसित हो गया है, जहाँ विशेषीकृत तत्व **डेटा चोरी** और **पहचान निर्माण** से लेकर **म्यूल नेटवर्क**, **डीपफेक निर्माण** तथा **क्रिप्टो-सक्षम मनी लॉन्ड्रिंग** तक की गतिविधियाँ संचालित करते हैं।

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- "Today, fraud has become an **industrial-scale enterprise**. By the time the first call reaches a victim, fraudsters may already know their **personal details**, **behavioural patterns** and **psychological vulnerabilities**. The entire chain, from **data acquisition** to **money movement through crypto networks** can be completed in less than **30 minutes**, making traditional investigative approaches increasingly ineffective," said Mr. Singh.
"आज, धोखाधड़ी एक **औद्योगिक स्तर का कारोबार** बन चुकी है। जब तक पहला कॉल किसी पीड़ित तक पहुँचता है, तब तक ठग उसके **व्यक्तिगत विवरण**, **व्यवहारिक पैटर्न** और **मनोवैज्ञानिक कमजोरियों** के बारे में जान चुके हो सकते हैं। **डेटा प्राप्ति** से लेकर **क्रिप्टो नेटवर्क के माध्यम से धन के हस्तांतरण** तक की पूरी श्रृंखला **30 मिनट** से भी कम समय में पूरी की जा सकती है, जिससे पारंपरिक जांच पद्धतियाँ लगातार अप्रभावी होती जा रही हैं," श्री सिंह ने कहा।
- "**Trust** is being weaponised in the digital era. With **voice cloning**, **deepfake technologies** and **fraud-as-a-service platforms** becoming easily accessible, investigators need **integrated forensic platforms**, **real-time intelligence sharing** and new **evidentiary frameworks** to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute digital crimes," he added.
"डिजिटल युग में **विश्वास** को हथियार बनाया जा रहा है। **वॉयस क्लोनिंग**, **डीपफेक तकनीकों** और **फ्रॉड-एज़-ए-सर्विस प्लेटफॉर्म्स** के आसानी से उपलब्ध होने के कारण, जांचकर्ताओं को **एकीकृत फॉरेंसिक प्लेटफॉर्म**, **रियल-टाइम इंटेलिजेंस साझा करने की व्यवस्था** तथा नए **साक्ष्यात्मक ढाँचों** की आवश्यकता है ताकि डिजिटल अपराधों का प्रभावी ढंग से पता लगाया जा सके, उनकी जांच की जा सके और अपराधियों पर मुकदमा चलाया जा सके," उन्होंने आगे कहा।
- **Govindayapalli Ram Mohan Rao**, ED, **Market Intermediaries Regulation and Supervision Department**, **SEBI**, stated market regulator's efforts to strengthen **investor protection** and **digital trust** via **technology-driven governance steps** is the cornerstone of **capital markets**.
गोविंदायापल्ली राम मोहन राव, ED, **मार्केट इंटरमीडियरीज़ रेगुलेशन एंड सुपरविजन विभाग**, **SEBI**, ने कहा कि **निवेशक संरक्षण** और **डिजिटल विश्वास** को मजबूत करने के लिए **प्रौद्योगिकी-आधारित शासन उपायों** के माध्यम से बाजार नियामक के प्रयास **पूंजी बाजारों** की आधारशिला हैं।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	05 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
05J6	Robin Hood' burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison चोरी किए गए सोने से परोपकारी कार्यों को वित्तपोषित करने वाला 'रॉबिन हुड' चोर जेल पहुँचा

'Robin Hood' burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison

Double life of Vikas Singh Takoor unravels after the latest break-in at a house in Telangana's Vikarabad; the accused told police during interrogation that he had committed 27 burglaries since coming out of jail in 2024 and had stolen huge quantities of gold ornaments, silver, and cash, which were used to run an NGO that helped schoolchildren

GS IV: Ethics

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

To the residents of his native village in Uttar Pradesh, Vikas Singh Takoor was a generous benefactor – the man behind the NGO 'Helping Hands' who distributed school bags to children and sponsored luxury vacations for his friends. But to the Telangana Police, he was one of the State's most prolific and elusive burglars.

The dramatic double life of Takoor, alias Teja Singh, came crashing down following investigation into a recent break-in at Manikanta Nagar Colony in Vikarabad, where gold ornaments weighing 15 grams and ₹2.1 lakh in cash were stolen on May 1.

Posing as a daily wage labourer by day to scout for locked houses, the accused allegedly used the massive proceeds from dozens of night-time burglaries to fund a lavish lifestyle of air travel, luxury hotels, and his local charitable activities. Vikarabad Superintendent of Police Sneha Mehra revealed that a special team tracked down Takoor through a combination of technical evidence, surveillance inputs, and CCTV footage, finally apprehending him near Vikarabad railway station.

During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed to a staggering 27 burglaries committed since his release from prison in June 2024 across Vikarabad, Medak, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri Commissionerate limits. Police said he admitted to stealing 1.57 kg gold, 2.56 kg silver, and ₹8.22 lakh in cash. Investigators said Takoor began committing burglaries at the age of 16 and had already been arrested in 34 cases earlier. With the latest confessions, the number of cases linked to him has risen to 61.

"The accused spent part of the proceeds on air travel, luxury hotel stays and leisure trips. He also allegedly created a charitable image in his native village through an NGO called 'Helping Hands', distributing school bags and notebooks to students and sponsoring trips for friends to Chennai, Goa, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Rajasthan and Dehradun," said the SP.

The investigation also uncovered the involvement of four gold traders from Sultanpur district in Uttar Pradesh. Police said the accused sold stolen gold through his mother to the traders, who allegedly encouraged him to continue committing burglaries and provided advance money whenever he faced financial difficulties.

Investigators further alleged that when the accused considered giving up crime, the traders collectively gave him ₹40,000 and encouraged him to purchase an illegal firearm.

A 5 mm pistol and the stolen gold ornaments have been recovered.

"The accused now faces a total of 61 criminal cases, including 34 previous cases and 27 offences he confessed to committing after his release from prison," the officer added.

05J6. 'Robin Hood' burglar, who funded charity with stolen gold, lands in prison

चोरी किए गए सोने से परोपकारी कार्यों को वित्तपोषित करने वाला 'रॉबिन हुड' चोर जेल पहुँचा

- Posing as a **daily wage labourer** by day to scout for locked houses, the accused allegedly used the massive proceeds from dozens of night-time burglaries to fund a lavish lifestyle of air travel, luxury hotels, and his local charitable activities.
  आरोपी दिन में **दैनिक मजदूर** बनकर बंद घरों की तलाश करता था और कथित रूप से रात में की गई दर्जनों चोरियों से प्राप्त धन का उपयोग हवाई यात्राओं, आलीशान होटलों और स्थानीय परोपकारी गतिविधियों पर करता था।
- "The accused spent part of the proceeds on **air travel**, **luxury hotel stays** and leisure trips."
  "आरोपी ने चोरी से प्राप्त धन का एक हिस्सा **हवाई यात्राओं**, **आलीशान होटलों में ठहरने** तथा मनोरंजन यात्राओं पर खर्च किया।"
- "He also allegedly created a charitable image in his native village through an NGO called **'Helping Hands'**, distributing school bags and notebooks to students and sponsoring trips for friends to **Chennai**, **Goa**, **Vijayawada**, **Visakhapatnam**, **Bengaluru**, **Rajasthan** and **Dehradun**," said the SP.
  पुलिस अधीक्षक ने कहा, "उसने कथित रूप से **'हेल्पिंग हैंड्स'** नामक संगठन के माध्यम से अपने गाँव में परोपकारी छवि बनाई, छात्रों को स्कूल बैग और नोटबुक वितरित किए तथा अपने मित्रों की **चेन्नई**, **गोवा**, **विजयवाड़ा**, **विशाखापत्तनम**, **बेंगलुरु**, **राजस्थान** और **देहरादून** यात्राओं का प्रायोजन किया।"

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04 JUNE 2026

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PCS Special:	04 June 2026
04J6	28 lakh women to get monthly dole as Bengal govt. rolls out Annapurna Bhandar scheme अन्नपूर्णा भंडार योजना लागू होने पर बंगाल सरकार 28 लाख महिलाओं को मासिक सहायता देगी
04J6	Japan's fertility rate falls to a record low जापान की प्रजनन दर रिकॉर्ड निम्न स्तर पर पहुँची
04J6	QUIZ
04J6	Denmark PM presents new govt., with majority of women Ministers डेनमार्क की प्रधानमंत्री ने नई सरकार प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें महिला मंत्रियों का बहुमत है
04J6	Praggnanandhaa does the double over Carlsen प्रज्ञानानंदा ने कार्लसन पर दूसरी बार भी जीत दर्ज की

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28 lakh women to get monthly dole as Bengal govt. rolls out Annapurna Bhandar scheme

PCS [redacted]

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

CM Suvendu Adhikari (right) handing over cheques to beneficiaries at the launch of the Annapurna Bhandar scheme on Wednesday. PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday rolled out the Annapurna Bhandar scheme that will provide monthly aid of ₹3,000 to eligible women in the 25 to 60 age group in the State.

Mr. Adhikari handed over cheques to five beneficiaries at the State Secretariat to mark the launch of the direct benefit transfer scheme. He said 28,25,769 women have been approved to receive aid.

Beneficiaries have been given 90 days to register under the scheme.

Doubling the aid of ₹1,500 provided by the previous Trinamool Congress government under its Lakshmir Bhandar scheme to ₹3,000 was one of the promises made by the BJP during the campaign for the Assembly poll.

Women and Child Development Minister Agnimitra Paul said fresh applications are being considered due to "corruption" in the implementation of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme under which 2.2 crore women received aid.

Chief Secretary Manoj Agarwal said the list of beneficiaries of the new scheme will be made public and people can file objections if non-deserving persons are receiving aid.

The newly elected BJP government had come under Opposition attack over the introduction of a "tedious" 11-page application form for the Annapurna Bhandar scheme and the declaration that existing beneficiaries of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme will have to apply afresh.

04J6. 28 lakh women to get monthly dole as Bengal govt. rolls out Annapurna Bhandar scheme

अन्नपूर्णा भंडार योजना लागू होने पर बंगाल सरकार 28 लाख महिलाओं को मासिक सहायता देगी

- **West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari** on Wednesday rolled out the **Annapurna Bhandar scheme** that will provide monthly aid of **₹3,000** to eligible women in the **25 to 60 age group** in the State.
  पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्यमंत्री सुवेंदु अधिकारी ने बुधवार को **अन्नपूर्णा भंडार योजना** शुरू की, जिसके तहत राज्य की **25 से 60 वर्ष आयु वर्ग** की पात्र महिलाओं को प्रति माह **₹3,000** की सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी।
- Mr. **Adhikari** handed over cheques to five beneficiaries at the **State Secretariat** to mark the launch of the **direct benefit transfer scheme**.
  श्री **अधिकारी** ने **प्रत्यक्ष लाभ अंतरण (DBT) योजना** के शुभारंभ के अवसर पर **राज्य सचिवालय** में पाँच लाभार्थियों को चेक सौंपे।
- Doubling the aid of **₹1,500** provided by the previous **Trinamool Congress government** under its **Lakshmir Bhandar scheme** to **₹3,000** was one of the promises made by the **BJP**

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during the campaign for the **Assembly poll**.

पूर्व **तृणमूल कांग्रेस सरकार** द्वारा **लक्ष्मीर भंडार योजना** के तहत दी जाने वाली **₹1,500** की सहायता को बढ़ाकर **₹3,000** करना **भाजपा** द्वारा **विधानसभा चुनाव** प्रचार के दौरान किए गए प्रमुख वादों में से एक था।

Japan's fertility rate falls to a record low

PCS

1.14 Japan's fertility rate fell again last year to a record low, official data showed. Japan has one of the world's lowest birth rates, as well as a falling and ageing population, leading to labour shortages, a ballooning social security bill and a shrinking tax base. The number of babies born in the country fell by nearly 15,000. PTI

04J6. Japan's fertility rate falls to a record low
जापान की प्रजनन दर रिकॉर्ड निम्न स्तर पर पहुँची

- Japan's **fertility rate** fell again last year to a **record low**, official data showed.

आधिकारिक आँकड़ों के अनुसार, पिछले वर्ष जापान की **प्रजनन दर (Fertility Rate)** फिर घटकर **रिकॉर्ड निम्न स्तर** पर पहुँच गई।

- Japan has one of the world's **lowest birth rates**, as well as a **falling and ageing population**, leading to **labour shortages**, a ballooning **social security bill** and a shrinking **tax base**.

जापान में दुनिया की सबसे कम **जन्म दरों** में से एक है, साथ ही वहाँ की **जनसंख्या घट रही है और वृद्ध हो रही है**, जिसके कारण **श्रमिकों की कमी**, बढ़ता हुआ **सामाजिक सुरक्षा व्यय** तथा घटता हुआ **कर आधार (Tax Base)** जैसी समस्याएँ उत्पन्न हो रही हैं।

Top 5 Countries/Regions with the Lowest Fertility Rates

Rank	Country/Region	Fertility Rate*
1	South Korea	~0.8
2	Singapore	~0.97
3	Hong Kong	~1.0
4	Macau	~1.03
5	Taiwan	~1.06

Top 5 Countries with the Highest Fertility Rates

Rank	Country	Fertility Rate*
1	Niger	~6.6
2	Chad	~6.2
3	Somalia	~6.1
4	Democratic Republic of the Congo	~6.0
5	Central African Republic	~5.9

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Indian diplomat's speech at the Security Council across three meetings over two days in 1957 lasted more than eight hours. **Ans: V.K. Krishna Menon**
2. Who was Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez referring to when he said "Yesterday, the devil came here — right here. And it smells of sulphur still today." **Ans: George W. Bush**
3. Which Spanish artist painted the original 1937 masterpiece "Guernica"? **Ans: Pablo Picasso**
4. "I have come with a freedom fighter's gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand". Who said this? **Ans: Yasser Arafat**
5. This Zimbabwean President, during his General Assembly speech in 2015, declared "We are not gays". **Ans: Robert Mugabe**
6. Visual: This Soviet leader is said to have banged his shoe on his desk during a heated UN discussion in 1960. **Ans: Nikita Khrushchev**

04J6. QUIZ: PCS Special

1. V.K. Krishna Menon – The Longest Speech in UN History

- **V.K. Krishna Menon**, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and later Defence Minister, delivered one of the most remarkable speeches in diplomatic history during the **UN Security Council debates on Kashmir in January 1957**.
- Spread across three meetings over two days, the speech lasted for more than **eight hours**, setting a record recognized by the United Nations and Guinness World Records.
- Menon meticulously defended India's legal and constitutional position on Jammu and Kashmir, making the speech a landmark in India's diplomatic history and earning him the title **"Hero of Kashmir."**

3. Pablo Picasso and Guernica

- **Pablo Picasso**, one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, painted **"Guernica"** in 1937.
- The masterpiece was inspired by the bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica during the **Spanish Civil War**.
- Created in black, white and grey tones, the painting depicts human suffering, destruction and the horrors of war.
- Today, *Guernica* is regarded as a universal symbol of peace and resistance against violence.
- It remains one of the most celebrated anti-war artworks and is displayed at the **Museo Reina Sofía in Madrid, Spain**.

4. Yasser Arafat's Olive Branch Speech

- The famous statement, **"I have come with a freedom fighter's gun in one hand and an olive branch in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand,"** was delivered by **Yasser Arafat** at the **United Nations General Assembly on 13 November 1974**.
- As Chairman of the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)**, Arafat used the speech to seek international recognition of Palestinian aspirations and statehood.
- The olive branch symbolized peace, while the gun represented resistance.

5. Robert Mugabe's "We Are Not Gays" Statement

- During his speech at the **UN General Assembly in September 2015**, Zimbabwean President **Robert Mugabe** declared, "We are not gays," while criticizing Western countries for linking aid and international cooperation to LGBTQ+ rights.
- Mugabe had long been known for his opposition to same-sex marriage and LGBTQ+ rights, which he argued were inconsistent with Zimbabwe's cultural values.
- The remark generated significant international debate and criticism, highlighting the broader global divide over human rights, cultural sovereignty and social values in international politics.

PATRIOTIC IAS

Denmark PM presents new govt., with majority of women Ministers

REUTERS

PCS

Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen on Wednesday presented her new Cabinet, which for the first time in Danish history included more women than men. Eleven out of the 21 Ministers were women and the list also included familiar names from Ms. Frederiksen's former government. AFP

04J6. Denmark PM presents new govt., with majority of women Ministers

डेनमार्क की प्रधानमंत्री ने नई सरकार प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें महिला मंत्रियों का बहुमत है

- **Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen** on Wednesday presented her new Cabinet, which for the first time in Danish history included more women than men.

डेनमार्क की प्रधानमंत्री मेटे फ्रेडरिक्सेन ने बुधवार को अपनी नई कैबिनेट प्रस्तुत की, जिसमें डेनमार्क के इतिहास में पहली बार पुरुषों की तुलना में अधिक महिलाएँ शामिल हैं।

- **Eleven** out of the **21 Ministers** were women and the list also included familiar names from Ms. Frederiksen's former government.

21 मंत्रियों में से **11 महिलाएँ** हैं और इस सूची में सुश्री फ्रेडरिक्सेन की पूर्व सरकार के परिचित नाम भी शामिल हैं।

Praggnanandhaa does the double over Carlsen

Victory with black pieces takes the Indian GM to the third spot; So outsmarts Keymer to stay on top; Firouzja gets the better of Gukesh; Assaubayeva beats Divya to move closer to the title

PCS

C. Shyam Sundar
OSLO

Rare feat: Pragg became one of the very few players to have beaten Carlsen thrice in classical chess. NORWAY CHESS

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa did it again. He beat the World No.1 Magnus Carlsen for a second time in the same tournament, outwitting him in the eighth round of Norway Chess, in the classical game, to close in on the leader Wesley So.

The stunning victory with black pieces on Tuesday at Deichman Bjorvika gave Praggnanandhaa three points and took him to third spot with 12 points, two behind So.

Frenchman Alireza Firouzja occupied the second place with 13 points, after he handed World champion D. Gukesh his third defeat of the tournament.

So pulled away from the field by outsmarting Vincent Keymer in the Armageddon after the classical match ended in a stalemate.

"It's more important for the tournament that I get this win than thinking that it's Magnus. Of course, it's great to do it against Magnus, but I think winning any game at this stage of the tournament is good," a delighted Praggnanandhaa said after making it two out of two (in classical games) in the tournament, which Carlsen has dominated like no other winning it seven times.

The 20-year-old Indian GM had beaten the Norwegian ace in the third round, before doing the double.

With this win, Praggnanandhaa became one of the very few players to have beaten the 35-year-old Carlsen thrice in classical chess.

Carlsen had started the tournament with a loss to Firouzja before sinking to defeats against Pragg and So subsequently.

In the women's event, Kazakh GM Bibisara Assaubayeva inched closer to winning the title, pipping Indian GM Divya Deshmukh in a game which she was fighting to survive.

She has opened up a five-point lead over Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk, who fell in the Armageddon to Koneru Humpy.

The matches will resume on Thursday after Wednesday's rest day.

The results: Eighth round:
Open: Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 13) bt D. Gukesh (8), Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 9) lost to R. Praggnanandhaa (12), Wesley So (USA, 14) bt Vincent Keymer (Ger, 10).
Women: Zhu Jiner (Chn, 10) bt Ju Wenjun (Chn, 9), Divya Deshmukh (10) lost to Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz, 15.5), Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 10.5) lost to Koneru Humpy (8) in Armageddon.

(The writer is in Oslo at the invitation of Norway Chess).

04J6. Praggnanandhaa does the double over Carlsen

प्रज्ञानानंदा ने कार्लसन पर दूसरी बार भी जीत दर्ज की

- **Victory with black pieces** takes the Indian GM to the **third spot**.

काले मोहरों से मिली जीत ने भारतीय ग्रैंडमास्टर को **तीसरे स्थान** पर पहुँचा दिया।

- **Firouzja** gets the better of **Gukesh**.

फिरूज़जा ने **गुकेश** को पराजित किया।

- He beat **World No.1 Magnus Carlsen** for a second time in the same tournament.

उन्होंने इसी टूर्नामेंट में दूसरी बार **विश्व नंबर-1 मैग्नस कार्लसन** को हराया।

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GS Paper 1: Geography	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	Cabinet gives its nod for new coastal highway in Odisha कैबिनेट ने ओडिशा में नए तटीय राजमार्ग को मंजूरी दी
04J6	QUIZ
04J6	Iran strikes Kuwait's main airport, Bahrain base after U.S. hits Qeshm अमेरिका द्वारा क़ेश्म पर हमले के बाद ईरान ने कुवैत के मुख्य हवाई अड्डे और बहरीन स्थित अड्डे पर हमला किया
04J6	Romania wants to boost air defence after drone strike blamed on Russia रूस पर आरोपित ड्रोन हमले के बाद रोमानिया वायु रक्षा मजबूत करना चाहता है

Cabinet gives its nod for new coastal highway in Odisha

GS I: Geography

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

It also approved two National Highway widening projects in Telangana at a cost of ₹7,597.16 crore

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the construction of a new coastal highway from Rameshwar to Paradeep in Odisha at a total project cost of ₹8,300.79 crore.

The new coastal highway will be constructed on a hybrid annuity model, in two packages, with a combined total length of 160.18 km, an official statement said. It will pass through Khurda, Puri, Kendrapada and Jagatsinghpur districts of Odisha. The project will enhance regional mobility and promote socio-economic development, the statement said, while also leading to substantial reductions in fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and vehicle operating costs.

The project was among the announcements made by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Wednesday.

The Union Cabinet also gave the green signal for two major National Highway widening projects in Telangana spanning a total length of 190.76 km at a cost of ₹7,597.16 crore.

The widening of the Armoor-Jagtial-Mancherial Section of NH-63 will be on a hybrid annuity model and the Jagtial-Karimnagar Section of NH-563 will be carried out on a build-operate-transfer model to the four-lane standard in Telangana.

Upon completion, the official statement said, travel time is expected to reduce by about an hour and 30 minutes between Armoor and Mancherial and by about 45 minutes between Jagtial and Karimnagar, while providing safe, fast, and uninterrupted connectivity for both passenger and freight traffic.

04J6. Cabinet gives its nod for new coastal highway in Odisha
कैबिनेट ने ओडिशा में नए तटीय राजमार्ग को मंजूरी दी

- The **Union Cabinet** on Wednesday approved the construction of a new **coastal highway** from **Rameshwar to Paradeep** in **Odisha** at a total project cost of **₹8,300.79 crore**.

बुधवार को **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** ने **ओडिशा** में **रामेश्वर से पारादीप** तक एक नए **तटीय राजमार्ग** के निर्माण को **₹8,300.79 करोड़** की कुल परियोजना लागत पर मंजूरी दी।

- The widening of the **Armoor-Jagtial-Mancherial Section of NH-63** will be on a **hybrid annuity model**.

एनएच-63 के आर्मूर-जगतियाल-मंचेरियल खंड का चौड़ीकरण **हाइब्रिड एन्युटी मॉडल** पर किया जाएगा।

- The **Jagtial-Karimnagar Section of NH–563** will be carried out on a **build-operate-transfer model** to the **four-lane standard** in Telangana.

एनएच-563 के जगतियाल-करिमनगर खंड का विकास तेलंगाना में **बिल्ड-ऑपरेट-ट्रांसफर मॉडल** के तहत **चार-लेन मानक** के अनुसार किया जाएगा।

04J6. QUIZ

Answers to to May 28 quiz:

1. Gulf in Arctic Russia at end of longest unobstructed sea route – **Ans: Khatanga**
2. Point on land farthest from any coastline – **Ans: Continental pole of inaccessibility**
3. Most remote island, a South Atlantic Norwegian territory – **Ans: Bouvet Island**
4. Name of underwater channel adept at transmitting sound – **Ans: SOFAR**
5. Line marking belt of highest mean surface temperature – **Ans: Thermal equator**

Visual: **Null Island**

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1. Khatanga Gulf – End of the Longest Unobstructed Sea Route

- **Khatanga Gulf** is located on the northern coast of Siberia in Arctic Russia, where the **Khatanga River** flows into the **Laptev Sea**, a marginal sea of the Arctic Ocean.
- It gained attention in geographical studies because it lies near one end of the world's longest theoretically unobstructed straight-line sea route, stretching across vast oceanic expanses without intersecting land.
- The region is characterized by extreme Arctic conditions, seasonal sea ice, and strategic importance for Russia's Northern Sea Route, which is becoming increasingly significant due to Arctic warming and expanding maritime navigation opportunities.

2. Continental Pole of Inaccessibility – Farthest Point from Any Coastline

- The **Continental Pole of Inaccessibility** refers to the location on Earth that is farthest from any ocean or coastline.
- It is situated in northwestern China, near the border region of the **Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region** and Kazakhstan.
- This point lies approximately 2,645 kilometres from the nearest coastline, making it the most inland location on the planet.
- The concept is widely used in geography to study continentality, climate, and remoteness.
- Due to its great distance from oceans, the region experiences extreme temperature variations and a highly continental climate.

3. Bouvet Island – The World's Most Remote Island

- **Bouvet Island** is an uninhabited volcanic island located in the South Atlantic Ocean and is administered as a dependent territory of **Norway**.
- Situated roughly midway between Antarctica and southern Africa, it is often regarded as the **most remote island in the world because no permanently inhabited landmass exists within thousands of kilometres.**
- About 93 percent of the island is covered by glaciers, making human settlement extremely difficult.
- Owing to its ecological significance and pristine environment, Bouvet Island has been designated as a protected nature reserve by Norway.

4. SOFAR Channel – Nature's Underwater Sound Highway

- The **SOFAR (Sound Fixing and Ranging) Channel** is a **horizontal layer in the ocean** where sound waves can travel extremely long distances with minimal energy loss.
- This phenomenon occurs **because variations in water temperature and pressure** create **a zone of minimum sound velocity, causing sound waves to refract back toward the channel's centre**.
- The SOFAR Channel plays a crucial role in oceanographic research, submarine communication, marine mammal studies, and underwater monitoring systems.
- Scientists use it to track underwater events, including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and whale migrations across vast ocean basins.

5. Thermal Equator – Belt of Highest Mean Surface Temperature

- The **Thermal Equator** is an imaginary line connecting places that experience the highest average annual temperatures on Earth.

- Unlike the geographic equator, it shifts northward and southward with seasonal changes in solar heating and land–sea distribution.
- It generally lies north of the geographic equator because the Northern Hemisphere contains larger landmasses that heat more rapidly than oceans.
- The thermal equator explains global temperature patterns, pressure belts, monsoon circulation, and the seasonal migration of climatic zones.

Iran strikes Kuwait's main airport, Bahrain base after U.S. hits Qeshm

Embassy of India in Kuwait says an Indian national was killed in the strike; 63 others wounded; the attack occurred soon after the airport had reopened following a months-long closure; U.S. targeted Iran's ground control station on Qeshm Island

GS I: Geography

Associated Press
DUBAI

Kuwait briefly shut its main airport on Wednesday after Iranian drones heavily damaged a passenger terminal, killed one person and wounded dozens – the latest in back-and-forth attacks by Iran and the U.S. that test a fragile ceasefire.

The strike reinforced the risks to residents and travellers in Gulf countries that had considered themselves relative havens before the war, now in its fourth month.

A spokesperson for Kuwait's Defence Ministry, Brig. Gen. Saud Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, said "a number of hostile drones" targeted a passenger building at Kuwait International Airport. It had opened only on Monday after a months-long closure because of the war.

Unsafe haven: Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Abdullah al-Sabah inspecting the Kuwaiti airport after an attack on Wednesday. AFP

India's embassy said the person killed was an Indian national. In a post on X, the Embassy of India in Kuwait said it is "closely coordinating" with the Kuwaiti authorities to extend all possible support to the bereaved family.

Authorities said 63 people were wounded, including passengers and workers, and some suffered serious injuries.

Kuwait's Defence Ministry said it destroyed over a dozen missiles and a similar number of drones from Iran. The airport partially reopened later, with Kuwait Airways flights resuming at a different terminal, according to civil aviation authorities.

The Foreign Ministry said Kuwait will "neither accept nor tolerate" the attacks and was kicking out two Iranian diplomats.

The U.S. military said U.S. and Bahraini forces intercepted missiles aimed at the Gulf kingdom, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th fleet.

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard acknowledged that it targeted the headquarters of the 5th Fleet and U.S. military facilities in another country, but did not name Kuwait.

The U.S. military also said it launched strikes on an Iranian military ground control station on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the U.S. strikes on the island.

04J6. Iran strikes Kuwait's main airport, Bahrain base after U.S. hits Qeshm
अमेरिका द्वारा क़ेश्म पर हमले के बाद ईरान ने कुवैत के मुख्य हवाई अड्डे और बहरीन स्थित अड्डे पर हमला किया

- The **U.S.** targeted Iran's ground control station on **Qeshm Island**.
  अमेरिका ने **क़ेश्म द्वीप** पर ईरान के ग्राउंड कंट्रोल स्टेशन को निशाना बनाया।

Romania wants to boost air defence after drone strike blamed on Russia

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Romania's Foreign Minister said on Wednesday her country needed to bolster its air defences with the help of its allies, days after two people were wounded in a drone strike on an apartment block close to the Ukraine border that was blamed on Russia.

Oana Toiu said there was no suggestion yet that Russia had intentionally targeted the 10-storey block in Galati last Friday, but Moscow bore "responsibility" for the strike over four years into the invasion of its neighbour.

"It is quite clear that we need to increase air monitoring and air defence capabilities throughout the eastern flank (of NATO)," she told reporters in Paris.

Romania's Foreign Minister Oana Toiu says Bucharest is in talks with NATO on boosting its capabilities in the short term. REUTERS

"But for us the pressure is even higher," she said, adding that NATO and EU member Romania had had a long border with Ukraine that stretched along the Danube river and out into the Black Sea.

Ms. Toiu said it would be one to two more years before new equipment arrived from Romania's own defence procurement.

But she added Bucharest was in talks with NATO on boosting its capabilities in the short term, as well as working with Kyiv on a joint anti-drone air defence project.

She said Romania had been aware of an incoming drone on May 29 but air force pilots decided not to shoot it down out of concern that an air defence missile could itself cause damage on the ground.

While this was the first such incident to cause casualties inside Romania, Ms. Toiu said there had been more than 40 instances of drone incursions inside the territory.

"There is a common understanding that we need to have better air defence of the eastern flank and not just Romania," she said.

04J6. Romania wants to boost air defence after drone strike blamed on Russia
रूस पर आरोपित ड्रोन हमले के बाद रोमानिया वायु रक्षा मजबूत करना चाहता है

- She added that **NATO** and **EU** member Romania had a long border with **Ukraine** that stretched along the **Danube River** and out into the **Black Sea**.
  उन्होंने कहा कि **नाटो** और **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** का सदस्य रोमानिया, **यूक्रेन** के साथ लंबी सीमा साझा करता है, जो **डेन्यूब नदी** के साथ-साथ **काला सागर** तक फैली हुई है।

GS Paper II: Polity	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	Why judicial holidays are necessary न्यायिक अवकाश क्यों आवश्यक हैं

Why judicial holidays are necessary

GS II: Polity

Kapil Sibal

Senior lawyer and Member of the Rajya Sabha

The debate over judicial holidays has resurfaced in recent weeks, with critics questioning why courts observe extended breaks. The assumption is that judges, like most professionals, step away from work during these periods. That assumption is largely wrong.

For most judges, a holiday is rarely a holiday in any conventional sense.

The public sees only the visible part of the work: judges presiding over courtrooms, hearing arguments, questioning lawyers and delivering orders. What they do not see is the considerably longer phase that begins after court hours, when judges return home to write judgments. This work often stretches past midnight. Each judgment requires close analysis of facts, application of legal principles, reference to precedent, and precision in language, since every word carries legal weight.

A single decision can affect lives, businesses, reputations and personal liberty.

A time for uninterrupted work

This pattern is not unique to India.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who was a judge of the United States Supreme Court for 27 years, was known to arrive at her chambers shortly after lunch and work late into the night. Her former law clerk Goodwin Liu, now a Justice of the California Supreme Court, has spoken of receiving voicemails from her at two or three in the morning, when she was at the height of her writing. From oral argument to majority opinion, she averaged 60 days, the fastest pace on her Bench. When she underwent surgery for colon cancer in 1999, and again for pancreatic cancer in 2009, she scheduled her procedures so as not to miss a single day on the Bench.

In India, the workload is no less demanding. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, during his eight-year tenure in the Supreme Court, authored over 600 judgments and sat on more than 1,200 Benches before retiring as the 50th Chief Justice of India in November 2024. Few professions outside the Bench demand such sustained intellectual output year after year, and that too with little public recognition of the labour involved.

A judge's duty does not pause when courts close. It continues through late night drafting, early morning preparation, and constant engagement with the law

The mornings begin no easier. Long before court assembles, judges are reading voluminous case files, studying precedents and preparing for the day's hearings. By the time proceedings open, hours of unseen work have already gone in.

Judicial breaks, then, are not periods of rest but working windows. During these breaks, judges complete pending judgments, study lengthy case records and prepare for matters of constitutional importance. With case backlogs continuing to rise across courts, these are often the only stretches available for uninterrupted work.

Families bear much of the strain. Spouses and children of judges describe a familiar pattern: even on holidays, judges are occupied with their laptops, files or video calls with law clerks. The time supposed to be shared in company with their family is regularly interrupted by judicial work. Thus, judicial service is not only an individual commitment. It becomes a shared one for the household.

Not as lucrative

The economic side of the Bench is also not discussed often. While judges receive a structured and respectable salary, it is not comparable to what senior lawyers earn at the top end of the bar. A senior advocate may earn in a single hearing what a judge earns over several months. Judges, in turn, carry the greater burden of decision-making and accountability.

Many take the Bench after giving up lucrative practices, choosing service to the nation over personal financial gain.

The pressures do not end with the workload. Judicial decisions are scrutinised publicly and legally. Judges must remain neutral and detached, even when the cost of doing so is high.

The unseen cost

In his autobiography, *Neither Roses Nor Thorns*, Justice H.R. Khanna recalled the night before he delivered his lone dissent in the *ADM Jabalpur* case during the Emergency. Sitting in the moonlight in his compound with the Ganges flowing in front of them, he turned to his younger sister and said, "I have prepared a judgment which is going to cost me the Chief Justiceship of India." He was right. The following year he was superseded for the top post by Justice M.H. Beg, who had ruled with the majority, and resigned soon after.

His dissent, eventually vindicated when the Supreme Court overruled *ADM Jabalpur* in the *Puttaswamy* verdict of 2017, is now remembered as one of the bravest decisions in Indian judicial history.

The dedication asked of a judge does not end with retirement either. Lord Denning, whom Margaret Thatcher described as probably the greatest English judge of modern times, served on the Bench for 38 years and delivered around 2,000 reported judgments before retiring at 83. He continued writing books on the law till his 100th birthday.

Closer home, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer kept producing books, articles and lectures on jurisprudence long after his retirement from the Supreme Court, almost until his death at 99 in 2014.

The debate on judicial holidays deserves a more informed footing. A judge's duty does not pause when courts close. It continues through late night drafting, early morning preparation, and constant engagement with the law.

Before questioning the system, it may help to first understand what it actually asks of those who serve in it.

04J6. Why judicial holidays are necessary
न्यायिक अवकाश क्यों आवश्यक हैं

- In his autobiography, **Neither Roses Nor Thorns**, Justice **H.R. Khanna** recalled the night before he delivered his lone dissent in the **ADM Jabalpur case** during the Emergency.
  अपनी आत्मकथा **Neither Roses Nor Thorns** में न्यायमूर्ति **एच.आर. खन्ना** ने उस रात का उल्लेख किया है जब उन्होंने आपातकाल के दौरान **एडीएम जबलपुर मामले** में अपना एकमात्र असहमति निर्णय देने से पूर्व समय बिताया था।

- The following year he was **superseded for the top post by Justice M.H. Beg**, who had ruled with the majority, and resigned soon after.
  अगले वर्ष बहुमत के पक्ष में निर्णय देने वाले न्यायमूर्ति **एम.एच. बेग** को उनसे ऊपर नियुक्त कर दिया गया और उसके तुरंत बाद उन्होंने इस्तीफा दे दिया।
- His dissent, eventually vindicated when the Supreme Court overruled **ADM Jabalpur** in the **Puttaswamy verdict of 2017**, is now remembered as one of the bravest decisions in Indian judicial history.
  उनकी असहमति, जिसे अंततः **2017 के पुट्टास्वामी निर्णय** में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा **एडीएम जबलपुर** निर्णय को निरस्त किए जाने पर मान्यता मिली, आज भारतीय न्यायिक इतिहास के सबसे साहसिक निर्णयों में से एक मानी जाती है।
- Closer home, Justice **V.R. Krishna Iyer** kept producing books, articles and lectures on jurisprudence long after his retirement from the Supreme Court, almost until his death at **99** in 2014.
  भारत में न्यायमूर्ति **वी.आर. कृष्ण अय्यर** ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय से सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी विधिशास्त्र पर पुस्तकें, लेख और व्याख्यान लिखना जारी रखा, लगभग अपनी **99 वर्ष** की आयु में 2014 में मृत्यु तक।

GS Paper II: Governance	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	After a long wait, Tamil Nadu gets a regular DGP लंबे इंतजार के बाद तमिलनाडु को नियमित डीजीपी मिला
04J6	Is shoot-to-disable the new normal? क्या निष्क्रिय करने के लिए गोली चलाना नया सामान्य बन गया है?

PATRIOTIC IAS

After a long wait, Tamil Nadu gets a regular DGP

GS II: Governance

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

After months of delay caused by litigation and repeated postponements, Tamil Nadu finally has a regular Director-General of Police and Head of the Police Force (DGP/HoPF).

On Wednesday, Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, a 1994-batch IPS officer, assumed charge as the DGP, nearly 10 months after the vacancy arose.

Dr. Aggarwal was given a guard of honour at the DGP's office in Chennai. Later, he met Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Lok Bhavan, and Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay at the Secretariat.

Dr. Aggarwal was on Central government deputation, and was serving as Special Director-General of the Border Security Force. He had served in several important positions, including that of Chennai City Police Commissioner.

Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal

Prime focus

After assuming charge as the DGP, Dr. Aggarwal told the media that prime importance would be given to curbing the drug menace, preventing crimes against women and children, and maintaining law and order.

Dr. Aggarwal succeeds Sandeep Rai Rathore, who was appointed to the post by the Election Commission of India (EC) in the run-up to the Assembly election in April.

With about six years of service left, Dr. Aggarwal is the youngest police officer to occupy the top post, and will have a minimum tenure of two years under the Supreme Court's guidelines in the Prakash Singh case. There is, however, no bar on his continuing in the post until superannuation.

Protracted process

The appointment brings to a close a protracted process marked by administrative delays, legal challenges, and disagreements between the State government and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

The post should have ideally been filled on September 1, 2025, following the retirement of the then DGP, Shankar Jiwal. However, the process was delayed for multiple reasons.

Going by the Supreme Court guidelines, the State government is required to initiate the selection process well in advance, and forward a list of eligible DGP-rank officers to the UPSC at least six months before the vacancy arises. In this case, the proposal was reportedly sent only a few days before Mr. Jiwal's retirement in the last week of August 2025.

04J6. After a long wait, Tamil Nadu gets a regular DGP

लंबे इंतजार के बाद तमिलनाडु को नियमित डीजीपी मिला

- With about **six years of service** left, Dr. **Aggarwal** is the youngest police officer to occupy the top post, and will have a minimum tenure of **two years** under the **Supreme Court's guidelines** in the **Prakash Singh case**.

लगभग **छह वर्ष की सेवा** शेष होने के साथ, डॉ. **अग्रवाल** इस शीर्ष पद पर पहुंचने वाले सबसे युवा पुलिस अधिकारी हैं और **प्रकाश सिंह मामले** में **सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशानिर्देशों** के अनुसार उनका न्यूनतम कार्यकाल **दो वर्ष** होगा।

- There is, however, no bar on his continuing in the post until **superannuation**.

हालाँकि, उनके **सेवानिवृत्ति** तक इस पद पर बने रहने पर कोई रोक नहीं है।

- Going by the **Supreme Court guidelines**, the State government is required to initiate the selection process well in advance, and forward a list of eligible **DGP-rank officers** to the **UPSC** at least six months before the vacancy arises.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के दिशानिर्देशों के अनुसार, राज्य सरकार को चयन प्रक्रिया काफी पहले शुरू करनी होती है और रिक्ति उत्पन्न होने से कम से कम छह महीने पहले पात्र **डीजीपी रैंक अधिकारियों** की सूची **UPSC** को भेजनी होती है।

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Is shoot-to-disable the new normal?

Why is Operation Langda a pragmatic strategy? Has a sporadic enforcement tactic become a routine practice? What makes it legally defensible? To what extent does the State endorse half-encounters? Is it a self-sustaining system? Why are piecemeal reforms insufficient?

GS II: Governance

EXPLAINER

G.S. Bajpai
Vibhuti Sharma

The story so far:

The "leg-shot" doctrine appears to have become the new normal in Uttar Pradesh, emerging as a genuine crime-control model that Herbert Packer advocated in 1968, in his work – *The Limits of the Criminal Sanction*. Between 2017 and 2025, the State Police recorded over 16,000 encounter operations. In about 97% of cases, the accused survived with a bullet wound to the leg. At this scale, the question is no longer whether something unusual happened, but what it means when the unusual becomes routine.

What is Operation Langda?

A motorcycle is intercepted on a highway. The accused attempts to flee. Shots are fired. He is injured, typically in the leg, and taken into custody. This sequence, which now recurs across the State, is now known as "Operation Langda", or "half-encounters", from the Hindi word *langda* (lame), a policing methodology cultivated by the Uttar Pradesh Police since 2017 under its "zero-tolerance" framework. What may initially have appeared as a sporadic enforcement tactic has, over time, acquired the characteristics of a routine practice governed by a dual logic of incapacitation and punishment.

Refined through repetition, encounters have evolved into a recognisable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardised reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic.

How are half-encounters structured?

A study by the Centre for Criminology and Victimology at National Law University Delhi, based on official U.P. Police data and 100 verified encounter cases (January 2025-May 2026), found that these incidents follow a near-identical sequence: intelligence received, suspect intercepted, alleged attempt to flee or fire, police response in self-defence, gunshot to the leg, arrest, and recovery of a locally made pistol. This seven-step sequence is the standardised operational template of Operation Langda, repeated across more than 30 districts over nearly a decade.

What distinguishes the practice is its focus on incapacitation rather than lethality. By visibly disabling accused persons, it functions as both a disciplinary mechanism and an assertion of state authority. The standardised language of police reports further normalises this extra-procedural punishment by presenting it as routine law enforcement. Nearly 80% of 100 cases in the micro-level dataset used either "retaliation" or "self-defence" as the major justificatory framing, no matter what the alleged offence is.

The consistency of this framing across widely different offences suggests a standardised narrative template rather than case-specific accounts. This helps reproduce the practice across districts as a recognisable policing methodology.

In most of the 100 cases examined, media reports reproduced the police version without critical scrutiny. Critical coverage emerged only when direct counter-evidence challenged the official narrative. As a result, these incidents entered the news cycle largely as routine law-and-order events, that functioned as transmission rather than scrutiny.

The emergence of this methodology must be understood against the institutional constraints faced by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Prior to 2017, conviction rates in several categories of violent crimes were below 20%, while investigative capacity lagged far behind caseloads. In this environment, 'half-encounters' present a pragmatic alternative.

Crucially, shooting to disable rather than kill makes the practice more legally defensible. The accused survives to be produced in court, the officer can claim self-defence, and the state records an arrest rather than a death. This distinguishes the U.P. model from the typical "fake encounter" tradition. It is also a reason why the practice continues to enjoy official support. State data show declines in crimes such as dacoity and robbery, but these gains do not address concerns over due process and the erosion of the rule of law.

Uttar Pradesh publicly treats encounter statistics as indicators of law-and-order achievements. Through official recognition and accelerated promotions, an exceptional tactic has become an accepted metric of policing performance. The incentive structure is reflected in the data: 2,739 encounter operations were recorded in 2025 alone – the highest annual figure in the dataset.

This official endorsement contrasts sharply with established judicial standards. In *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. State of Maharashtra (2014)*, the Supreme Court laid down sixteen principles and mandated an independent inquiry in every case. While these remain the legal benchmark, they have not been systematically applied in the State.

In January 2026, the Allahabad High Court observed that "half-encounter" practices were often driven by official rewards and promotions. The court reiterated that the power to punish belongs exclusively to the judiciary.

What makes reform so difficult?

The central problem is that "Operation Langda" is that it operates as a self-sustaining system. Political endorsement, professional incentives, media transmission and the chronic weaknesses of the criminal justice process do not merely tolerate the practice, they reproduce it. Piecemeal reforms will not be enough. What is most striking is how a practice that sits outside legal norms has, through routine and reward, become part of how the state governs. Any durable reform must dismantle the interlocking incentives and channels that produce it.

G.S. Bajpai is the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University, Delhi. Vibhuti Sharma is an Academic Fellow, NLU Delhi. Views are personal.

In Uttar Pradesh, encounters have evolved into a recognisable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardised reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic. PTI

THE GIST

- Encounters have evolved into a recognisable policing pattern marked by targeted leg injury, standardised reporting, official endorsement and overt punitive logic.
- The consistency of this framing across widely different offences suggests a standardised narrative template rather than case-specific accounts.
- The emergence of this methodology must be understood against the institutional constraints faced by the Uttar Pradesh Police.
- The central problem is that 'Operation Langda' it operates as a self-sustaining system.

04J6. Is shoot-to-disable the new normal?

क्या निष्क्रिय करने के लिए गोली चलाना नया सामान्य बन गया है?

- Between **2017 and 2025**, the State Police recorded over **16,000 encounter operations**.
  2017 से 2025 के बीच राज्य पुलिस ने **16,000 से अधिक मुठभेड़ अभियानों** का अभिलेखन किया।
- In about **97% of cases**, the accused survived with a bullet wound to the leg.
  लगभग **97 प्रतिशत मामलों** में आरोपी पैर में गोली लगने के बावजूद जीवित बच गए।
- At this scale, the question is no longer whether something unusual happened, but what it means when the unusual becomes routine.
  इस स्तर पर प्रश्न यह नहीं रह जाता कि कोई असामान्य घटना हुई या नहीं, बल्कि यह कि जब असामान्य घटनाएँ नियमित हो जाएँ तो उसका क्या अर्थ है।

What is Operation Langda?

ऑपरेशन लंगड़ा क्या है?

- Prior to **2017**, conviction rates in several categories of violent crimes were below **20%**, while investigative capacity lagged far behind caseloads.
  2017 से पूर्व अनेक प्रकार के हिंसक अपराधों में दोषसिद्धि दर **20 प्रतिशत** से कम थी, जबकि जाँच क्षमता मामलों की संख्या की तुलना में बहुत पीछे थी।
- In this environment, **'half-encounters'** present a pragmatic alternative.
  ऐसे वातावरण में **'हाफ-एनकाउंटर'** एक व्यावहारिक विकल्प के रूप में प्रस्तुत किए जाते हैं।

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- Crucially, shooting to disable rather than kill makes the practice more legally defensible.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, मृत्यु कारित करने के बजाय आरोपी को अक्षम बनाने हेतु गोली चलाना इस पद्धति को विधिक दृष्टि से अधिक बचावयोग्य बनाता है।
- The accused survives to be produced in court, the officer can claim **self-defence**, and the state records an arrest rather than a death.
  आरोपी जीवित रहता है और उसे न्यायालय में प्रस्तुत किया जा सकता है, अधिकारी **आत्मरक्षा** का दावा कर सकता है तथा राज्य मृत्यु के बजाय गिरफ्तारी का अभिलेखन करता है।
- State data show declines in crimes such as **dacoity** and **robbery**, but these gains do not address concerns over **due process** and the erosion of the **rule of law**.
  राज्य के आँकड़े **डकैती** और **लूट** जैसे अपराधों में कमी दर्शाते हैं, किन्तु ये उपलब्धियाँ **विधिक प्रक्रिया** तथा **कानून के शासन** के क्षरण से संबंधित चिंताओं का समाधान नहीं करतीं।

Policing performance and judicial standards
पुलिस प्रदर्शन और न्यायिक मानदंड

- Uttar Pradesh publicly treats encounter statistics as indicators of law-and-order achievements.
  उत्तर प्रदेश सार्वजनिक रूप से मुठभेड़ संबंधी आँकड़ों को कानून-व्यवस्था की उपलब्धियों के संकेतक के रूप में प्रस्तुत करता है।
- In **People's Union for Civil Liberties v. State of Maharashtra (2014)**, the Supreme Court laid down **sixteen principles** and mandated an independent inquiry in every case.
  पीपुल्स यूनियन फॉर सिविल लिबर्टीज बनाम महाराष्ट्र राज्य (2014) मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **सोलह सिद्धांत** निर्धारित किए तथा प्रत्येक मामले में स्वतंत्र जाँच को अनिवार्य बनाया।
- While these remain the legal benchmark, they have not been systematically applied in the State.
  यद्यपि ये सिद्धांत अभी भी विधिक मानक बने हुए हैं, किन्तु राज्य में उनका व्यवस्थित रूप से अनुप्रयोग नहीं किया गया है।

GS Paper III: Economy	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	U.S. moots 12.5% tariff on India for failure to enforce 'forced labour' regulations भारत द्वारा 'जबरन श्रम' नियमों को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू न करने पर अमेरिका ने 12.5% टैरिफ का प्रस्ताव रखा
04J6	Base and framework आधार और रूपरेखा
04J6	How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025 भारत ने 2016 से 2025 के बीच अपने स्टार्टअप उद्योग का विस्तार कैसे किया
04J6	Cabinet approves ₹10,000 cr. ATF price stabilisation fund कैबिनेट ने ₹10,000 करोड़ के ATF मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष को मंजूरी दी
04J6	Wheat procurement surges 17% to 35 million tonnes, exceeds 2026-27 season goal गेहूं खरीद 17% बढ़कर 35 मिलियन टन पहुँची, 2026-27 सीजन का लक्ष्य पार
04J6	RBI debunks reports on gold sale, says reserves are 'steady at 880.52 tonnes' आरबीआई ने सोना बेचने की खबरों का खंडन किया, कहा भंडार '880.52 टन पर स्थिर' है

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04J6	S. America's stealthy ascent to key crude oil swing supplier कच्चे तेल के प्रमुख संतुलनकारी आपूर्तिकर्ता के रूप में दक्षिण अमेरिका का शांत उदय
04J6	AI unlikely to be the demand booster that copper bulls expect एआई तांबा समर्थकों की अपेक्षा के अनुसार मांग बढ़ाने वाला कारक बनने की संभावना नहीं
04J6	Brazil takes a historic HDI leap with focused planning and public spending केंद्रित योजना और सार्वजनिक व्यय के साथ ब्राज़ील ने HDI में ऐतिहासिक छलांग लगाई

U.S. moots 12.5% tariff on India for failure to enforce 'forced labour' regulations

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
WASHINGTON

The U.S. government has proposed to levy a tariff of 12.5% on imports from 54 countries, including India, that it says have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using forced labour.

In response, the Indian government has said it "remains engaged" with the U.S. government regarding this development as well as the finalisation of an Interim Agreement on trade.

The office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) had, in March this year, launched an investigation under Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974 to look into whether its trade partners were taking enough steps to stop the import of goods made using forced labour.

The latest tariff announcements, as part of this investigation, are not final as yet.

Countries, including India, can submit requests to take part in public hearings by June 22, submit written comments by July 6, and participate in the public hearings on July 7.

Tool to impose tariff

According to trade experts, investigations under Section 301 was seen as a tool for the U.S. to impose tariffs on its imports after the country's Supreme Court in February struck down the reciprocal tariffs – including the 50% levied on India – that had been imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The results of this investigation indicate that the acts, policies and practices of India related to the failure to impose and effectively enforce a forced labour import prohibition are unreasonable and burden or restrict U.S. commerce," the USTR report said.

The proposed tariffs put India in the same tariff bracket as several of its competitors, including Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The proposal by the USTR also includes a separate mechanism for textile and apparel products, under which a certain volume of imports from selected economies would be allowed to enter the U.S. at lower tariff rates.

According to Agneshwar Sen, trade policy leader at EY India, the impact of these tariffs on India could be multidimensional.

"In the near term, exporters in labour-intensive industries such as textiles, garments, carpets, leather products, and brassware could face at least an additional 10% levy under Section 301, adding to their existing tariff exposure," Mr. Sen said. "India should therefore submit detailed written representations by July 6 and participate proactively in the July 7 public hearing to challenge these conclusions," he added.

Govt. response

"India remains engaged with the U.S. on the matter as a part of Section 301 proceedings," the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a statement on Wednesday. "India is also parallelly engaged with the U.S. for finalisation of a framework agreement as was announced on February 2, 2026, and in accordance with the joint statement released on February 7, 2026," it added.

A negotiating team from the U.S. is currently in India on a three-day visit that will conclude on June 4.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the purpose of the trip is to "finalise the details" pertaining to the Interim Agreement between the two countries and take forward the negotiations on a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

Blow-by-blow | A timeline of U.S. tariff-related events

- **Feb. 20, 2026:** U.S. Supreme Court scraps reciprocal tariffs. Trump imposes 10% 150-day tariffs on all imports
- **March 2026:** U.S. Trade Representative launches investigations on partners
- **June 1-4:** U.S. negotiators visit India to finalise trade deal
- **June 2:** USTR announces findings of investigtions related to forced labour

- **June 22:** Deadline to submit requests to take part in public hearings on the case
- **July 6:** Deadline to submit written comments
- **July 7:** Date of public hearings related to the investigation
- **July 24:** Expiry of 10% U.S. tariffs

04J6. U.S. moots 12.5% tariff on India for failure to enforce 'forced labour' regulations

भारत द्वारा 'जबरन श्रम' नियमों को प्रभावी ढंग से लागू न करने पर अमेरिका ने 12.5% टैरिफ का प्रस्ताव रखा

- The **U.S. government** has proposed to levy a **tariff of 12.5%** on imports from **54 countries**, including **India**, that it says have "failed to impose and effectively enforce" prohibitions on the import of goods produced using **forced labour**.

अमेरिकी सरकार ने **भारत** सहित **54 देशों** से आयात पर **12.5% टैरिफ** लगाने का प्रस्ताव दिया है, जिनके बारे में उसका कहना है कि वे **जबरन श्रम (Forced Labour)** से बने उत्पादों के आयात पर प्रतिबंधों को लागू करने और प्रभावी रूप से प्रवर्तित करने में विफल रहे हैं।

- The office of the **U.S. Trade Representative (USTR)** had, in **March** this year, launched an investigation under **Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974** to look into whether its trade partners were taking enough steps to stop the import of goods made using **forced labour**.

यू.एस. ट्रेड रिप्रेजेंटेटिव (USTR) के कार्यालय ने इस वर्ष **मार्च** में **यू.एस. ट्रेड एक्ट, 1974 की धारा 301** के तहत यह जांच शुरू की थी कि उसके व्यापारिक साझेदार **जबरन श्रम** से बने उत्पादों के आयात को रोकने के लिए पर्याप्त कदम उठा रहे हैं या नहीं।

- According to trade experts, investigations under **Section 301** were seen

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as a tool for the U.S. to impose tariffs on its imports after the country's **Supreme Court** in **February** struck down the reciprocal tariffs — including the **50%** levied on India — that had been imposed by **U.S. President Donald Trump**.

व्यापार विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार, **धारा 301** के तहत जांच को अमेरिका द्वारा आयात पर टैरिफ लगाने के एक साधन के रूप में देखा गया, क्योंकि देश के **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने **फरवरी** में **भारत पर लगाए गए 50% टैरिफ** सहित **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** द्वारा लगाए गए पारस्परिक टैरिफ को निरस्त कर दिया था।

- The proposed tariffs put **India** in the same tariff bracket as several of its competitors, including **Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam**.

प्रस्तावित टैरिफ **भारत** को उसके कई प्रतिस्पर्धी देशों जैसे **बांग्लादेश, चीन, मलेशिया, थाईलैंड और वियतनाम** के समान टैरिफ श्रेणी में रखता है।

- "In the near term, exporters in labour-intensive industries such as **textiles, garments, carpets, leather products, and brassware** could face at least an additional **10% levy** under Section 301, adding to their existing tariff exposure," Mr. Sen said.

श्री सेन ने कहा कि निकट भविष्य में **वस्त्र, परिधान, कालीन, चमड़ा उत्पाद और पीतल उद्योग** जैसे श्रम-प्रधान क्षेत्रों के निर्यातकों को धारा 301 के तहत कम से कम **10% अतिरिक्त शुल्क** का सामना करना पड़ सकता है, जिससे उनका वर्तमान टैरिफ बोझ और बढ़ जाएगा।

GS III: Economy

Base and framework

Industrial fundamentals have remained resilient, but are not broad-based

Earlier this week, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the latest Index of Industrial Production (IIP), a key barometer of India's industrial health. The April 2026 print assumes added significance as it is the first release under the new 2022-23 base series and the second full month following the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Industrial output grew 4.9% year-on-year in April. While direct comparisons with earlier data should be treated with caution given the extensive revisions to the index's basket, weights and methodology, the numbers suggest that India's industrial fundamentals have remained relatively resilient despite disruptions to global oil and gas supply chains. A granular reading, however, reveals that this resilience is far from broad-based. Capital goods output expanded by a robust 16% year-on-year, reflecting the continuing effects of elevated public capital expenditure and infrastructure spending. By contrast, consumer durables output grew only 4.3%, while consumer non-durables expanded by a modest 2.8%, suggesting that rising fuel and energy costs may be exerting pressure on household consumption.

More significant than the headline growth number, however, is the extensive overhaul of the IIP itself. The revised series seeks to better reflect the structure of a rapidly changing economy. New products and sectors have been incorporated and several obsolete items dropped. A fourth major sector – water supply, sewerage and waste management – has been introduced with a weight of 2.02%. The electricity category has been expanded into Electricity and Gas Supply, with its weight rising to 10.87% from 7.99% earlier. Manufacturing remains the dominant component of the index, though its weight has declined marginally to 76.06% from 77.63%. More notable is the reduction in the weight of mining and quarrying to 11.05% from 14.37%. These shifts suggest that the importance of value-added infrastructure and utility services in gauging industrial activity has expanded, while the relative significance of primary resource extraction has diminished. Together, these changes better capture India's emergence as a components and value-added manufacturing hub integrated into global supply chains. Most importantly, the government has indicated its intention to move towards a chain-linked framework with more frequent updates to sectoral weights. Such a system would allow official statistics to better keep pace with structural changes in the economy, making the IIP a more accurate and timely gauge of industrial health.

04J6. Base and framework
आधार और रूपरेखा

- Earlier this week, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** released the latest **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**, a key barometer of India's industrial health.

इस सप्ताह के प्रारम्भ में **सांख्यिकी एवं कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय** ने नवीनतम **औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (IIP)** जारी किया, जो भारत के औद्योगिक स्वास्थ्य का एक प्रमुख संकेतक है।

- The April 2026 print assumes added significance as it is the first release under the new **2022-23 base series** and the second full month following the **U.S.-Israeli war on Iran**.

अप्रैल 2026 का आँकड़ा विशेष महत्व रखता है क्योंकि यह नई **2022-23 आधार श्रृंखला** के अंतर्गत पहला प्रकाशन है तथा **ईरान पर अमेरिका-इज़राइल युद्ध** के बाद का दूसरा पूर्ण माह भी है।

- **Capital goods** output expanded by a robust **16% year-on-year**, reflecting the continuing effects of elevated public capital expenditure and infrastructure spending.

पूँजीगत वस्तुओं के उत्पादन में **वर्ष-दर-वर्ष 16%** की मजबूत वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जो उच्च सार्वजनिक पूँजीगत व्यय तथा अवसंरचना निवेश के निरंतर प्रभाव को दर्शाती है।

- By contrast, **consumer durables** output grew only **4.3%**, while **consumer non-durables** expanded by a modest **2.8%**, suggesting that rising fuel and energy costs may be exerting pressure on household consumption.

इसके विपरीत, **उपभोक्ता टिकाऊ वस्तुओं** के उत्पादन में केवल **4.3%** की वृद्धि हुई, जबकि **उपभोक्ता गैर-टिकाऊ वस्तुओं** में मात्र **2.8%** की वृद्धि

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दर्ज की गई, जो यह संकेत देती है कि ईंधन एवं ऊर्जा लागत में वृद्धि घरेलू उपभोग पर दबाव डाल रही हो सकती है।

- New products and sectors have been incorporated and several obsolete items dropped.
  नई वस्तुओं और क्षेत्रों को इसमें सम्मिलित किया गया है तथा कई अप्रासंगिक मदों को हटा दिया गया है।
- A fourth major sector — **water supply, sewerage and waste management** — has been introduced with a weight of **2.02%**.
  एक चौथा प्रमुख क्षेत्र — **जलापूर्ति, सीवरेज एवं अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन** — को **2.02%** भार के साथ सम्मिलित किया गया है।
- The electricity category has been expanded into **Electricity and Gas Supply**, with its weight rising to **10.87%** from **7.99%** earlier.
  विद्युत श्रेणी का विस्तार कर उसे **विद्युत एवं गैस आपूर्ति** के रूप में शामिल किया गया है, जिसका भार पूर्व के **7.99%** से बढ़कर **10.87%** हो गया है।
- **Manufacturing** remains the dominant component of the index, though its weight has declined marginally to **76.06%** from **77.63%**.
  विनिर्माण क्षेत्र अभी भी सूचकांक का प्रमुख घटक बना हुआ है, यद्यपि इसका भार **77.63%** से घटकर **76.06%** हो गया है।
- More notable is the reduction in the weight of **mining and quarrying** to **11.05%** from **14.37%**.
  इससे भी अधिक उल्लेखनीय **खनन एवं उत्खनन** क्षेत्र के भार में कमी है, जो **14.37%** से घटकर **11.05%** हो गया है।
- These shifts suggest that the importance of value-added infrastructure and utility services in gauging industrial activity has expanded, while the relative significance of primary resource extraction has diminished.
  ये परिवर्तन संकेत देते हैं कि औद्योगिक गतिविधियों के आकलन में मूल्य-वर्धित अवसंरचना एवं उपयोगिता सेवाओं का महत्व बढ़ा है, जबकि प्राथमिक संसाधन निष्कर्षण का सापेक्ष महत्व घटा है।
- Together, these changes better capture India's emergence as a components and value-added manufacturing hub integrated into global supply chains.
  सामूहिक रूप से ये परिवर्तन भारत के वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं से एकीकृत घटक एवं मूल्य-वर्धित विनिर्माण केंद्र के रूप में उभरने को अधिक प्रभावी ढंग से प्रतिबिंबित करते हैं।
- Most importantly, the government has indicated its intention to move towards a **chain-linked framework** with more frequent updates to sectoral weights.
  सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि सरकार ने क्षेत्रीय भारों के अधिक नियमित अद्यतन के साथ **शृंखला-संबद्ध ढाँचे (Chain-linked Framework)** की ओर बढ़ने की अपनी मंशा व्यक्त की है।
- Such a system would allow official statistics to better keep pace with structural changes in the economy, making the IIP a more accurate and timely gauge of industrial health.
  ऐसी प्रणाली आधिकारिक आँकड़ों को अर्थव्यवस्था में होने वाले संरचनात्मक परिवर्तनों के साथ बेहतर सामंजस्य स्थापित करने में सक्षम बनाएगी, जिससे **IIP** औद्योगिक स्वास्थ्य का अधिक सटीक एवं समयोचित संकेतक बन सकेगा।

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How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025

The Startup India scheme has been a success due to a supportive policy environment, robust startup growth, and a positive investment climate

GS III: Economy

DATA POINT

Thillai Rajan A.
Chinni Chaitanya
Vamika Perumal

The Indian startup economy has truly come of age in the 10 years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave the clarion call during his Independence Day address on August 15, 2015, to make India the "Number 1" country in startups, and thereby sowed the seeds of significant directional change.

The three traits that make startups different from conventional businesses are an emphasis on innovation, the use of technology, and market opportunity. To distinguish startups from other businesses, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) started recognising companies that aligned with government guidelines as startups. Despite DPIIT recognition not being mandatory for startups to operate, there has been a significant growth in startups applying for its recognition. From 288 in 2016, which was just 3% of the total startups functioning then, the DPIIT's coverage has increased to 77% in 2025. The growing willingness to join the formal startup ecosystem has been an important measure of success for India's startup story.

Another indicator of success has been the penetration of startup culture across the length and breadth of the country. There has been a remarkable shift in startup formation from Tier 1 cities to Tier 3 towns. In 2016, Tier 1 cities dominated the startup landscape, accounting for about 65% of the total startups set up that year, while Tier 3 towns accounted for only about 15%. In 2020, these shares changed to 49% and 27%, respectively. However, the biggest change happened in 2025, when Tier 1 cities accounted for just 18% of new startups, whereas Tier 3 towns made up for 71%. This shift highlights the spread of innovation beyond major urban hubs.

The age and gender distributions of startup founders reveal a strong presence of the youth. A substantial portion of founders across both genders (approximately 66% are male founders and 59% female founders) are under 40. The embrace of entrepreneurship early in one's career signals a favourable and supportive ecosystem for startups. The data shows that women embark on their entrepreneurial journeys relatively later and their proportion increases notably with age. While women account for about 21% of the founders in the under-30 age group, they account for 33% in the 50-plus age group. Creating a supportive environment for women to pursue entrepreneurship has been an important policy imperative. The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of women founders stood at 20%, compared with 14% for men, underlining the strong trend of women increasingly pursuing entrepreneurship.

The funding landscape

A surge in the confidence to invest in Indian startups has been yet another defining feature of the 2016-25 period. In 2016, India had 10,000 startups, of which 2,000 were funded ventures. The numbers have increased dramatically in 2025 with a total of 2,50,000 startups, of which 75,000 are funded ventures. This is an increase of 25-fold and 38-fold respectively.

Trends indicate that a supportive policy environment, robust startup growth, and a positive investment climate in the first 10 years of the Startup India scheme have created several moments of success. The decade from 2016 to 2025 has firmly placed India among the top four in the league of startup nations.

Thillai Rajan A., Chinni Chaitanya and Dr. Vamika Perumal, the Centre for Research on Startups, Indian Institute of Technology Madras

Startup surge | The data were sourced from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), and YNOS Venture Engine

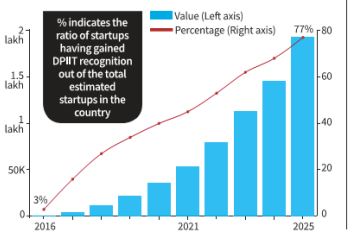

Chart 1: The growth in the number of DPIIT-recognised startups between 2016 and 2025

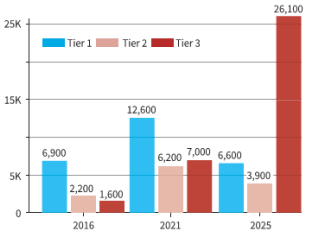

Chart 2: The number of startups set up in Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 cities and towns in 2016, 2020, and 2025

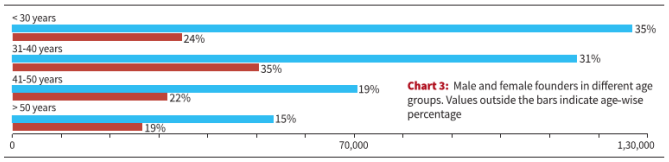

Chart 3: Male and female founders in different age groups. Values outside the bars indicate age-wise percentage

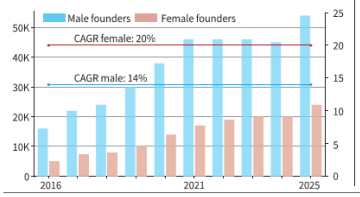

Chart 4: The growth in male and female founders between 2016 and 2025

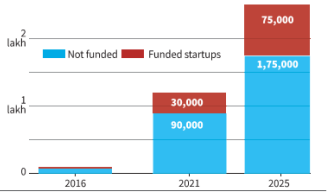

Chart 5: The growth in startup formation and funded startups between 2016 and 2025

04J6. How India scaled its startup industry from 2016 to 2025
भारत ने 2016 से 2025 के बीच अपने स्टार्टअप उद्योग का विस्तार कैसे किया

- The **Startup India** scheme has been a success due to a supportive **policy environment**, robust **startup growth**, and a positive **investment climate**.
- **स्टार्टअप इंडिया** योजना सहायक **नीतिगत वातावरण**, मजबूत **स्टार्टअप वृद्धि** तथा अनुकूल **निवेश माहौल** के कारण सफल रही है।
- The three traits that make startups different from conventional businesses are an emphasis on **innovation**, the use of **technology**, and **market opportunity**.
  स्टार्टअप्स को पारंपरिक व्यवसायों से अलग बनाने वाली तीन प्रमुख विशेषताएँ हैं — **नवाचार**, **प्रौद्योगिकी का उपयोग**, और **बाज़ार अवसरों** पर विशेष ध्यान।
- To distinguish startups from other businesses, the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** started recognising companies that aligned with government guidelines as startups.
  स्टार्टअप्स को अन्य व्यवसायों से अलग पहचान देने के लिए **उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT)** ने सरकारी दिशानिर्देशों के अनुरूप कंपनियों को स्टार्टअप के रूप में मान्यता देना प्रारम्भ किया।
- From **288 in 2016**, which was just **3%** of the total startups functioning then, the DPIIT's coverage has increased to **77% in 2025**.

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वर्ष **2016 में 288** स्टार्टअप्स, जो उस समय कुल कार्यरत स्टार्टअप्स का केवल **3 प्रतिशत** थे, DPIIT से मान्यता प्राप्त थे, जबकि वर्ष **2025 में यह कवरेज बढ़कर 77 प्रतिशत** हो गया।

- However, the biggest change happened in 2025, when Tier 1 cities accounted for just **18%** of new startups, whereas Tier 3 towns made up for **71%**.
  हालाँकि, सबसे बड़ा परिवर्तन वर्ष 2025 में हुआ, जब टियर-1 शहरों की हिस्सेदारी घटकर केवल **18 प्रतिशत** रह गई, जबकि टियर-3 कस्बों की हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर **71 प्रतिशत** हो गई।
- A substantial portion of founders across both genders (approximately **66% male founders** and **59% female founders**) are under 40.
  दोनों लिंगों के संस्थापकों का एक बड़ा भाग (लगभग **66 प्रतिशत पुरुष संस्थापक** और **59 प्रतिशत महिला संस्थापक**) 40 वर्ष से कम आयु का है।
- While women account for about **21%** of the founders in the under-30 age group, they account for **33%** in the 50-plus age group.
  जहाँ 30 वर्ष से कम आयु वर्ग में महिलाओं की हिस्सेदारी लगभग **21 प्रतिशत** है, वहीं 50 वर्ष से अधिक आयु वर्ग में यह बढ़कर **33 प्रतिशत** हो जाती है।
- The **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)** of women founders stood at **20%**, compared with **14%** for men, underlining the strong trend of women increasingly pursuing entrepreneurship.
  महिला संस्थापकों की **चक्रवृद्धि वार्षिक वृद्धि दर (CAGR) 20 प्रतिशत** रही, जबकि पुरुषों के लिए यह **14 प्रतिशत** थी, जो महिलाओं द्वारा बढ़ते स्तर पर उद्यमिता अपनाने की प्रवृत्ति को रेखांकित करती है।

The funding landscape
वित्तपोषण का परिदृश्य

- In 2016, India had **10,000 startups**, of which **2,000 were funded ventures**.
  वर्ष 2016 में भारत में **10,000 स्टार्टअप्स** थे, जिनमें से **2,000 को वित्तपोषण प्राप्त था**।
- The numbers have increased dramatically in 2025 with a total of **2,50,000 startups**, of which **75,000 are funded ventures**.
  वर्ष 2025 में यह संख्या उल्लेखनीय रूप से बढ़कर **2,50,000 स्टार्टअप्स** हो गई, जिनमें से **75,000 को वित्तपोषण प्राप्त है**।
- The decade from **2016 to 2025** has firmly placed India among the **top four startup nations** in the world.
  2016 से 2025 का दशक भारत को विश्व के **शीर्ष चार स्टार्टअप देशों** में स्थापित करने में सफल रहा है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Cabinet approves ₹10,000 cr. ATF price stabilisation fund

One-time budgetary support to oil companies is aimed at backing airlines in the backdrop of escalating jet fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict; fund to be offered as interest-free advances

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Seeking to cushion airlines in the backdrop of escalating jet fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support of ₹10,000 crore to oil-marketing companies (OMCs) towards a price stabilisation fund.

The budgetary support would be made available to scheduled airlines in India for both domestic and international operations and would be provided in the form of interest-free advances to OMCs.

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said that the price stabilisation fund would help stabilise (aviation turbine fuel) ATF prices in the backdrop of the West Asia conflict.

"The fund will help stabilise ATF prices for scheduled Indian carriers and will prevent disruption of airline operations while protecting air passengers from fare spikes driven by the geopolitical conflict involving several energy producers," read his social media post.

The budgetary support would function like a self-sustaining revolving fund.

The Cabinet has sought that once the international ATF prices moderate, the differential amount shall be recovered from the oil-marketing companies (OMCs) and returned to the government exchequer.

It would be implemented through an MoU between OMCs and participating airlines and would mandate the latter to procure ATF only from OMCs - either for up to three years or until the advance amount is fully recovered.

Under-recovery

Officials at the Union Petroleum Ministry had informed on Monday that State-run OMCs were presently incurring an under-recovery of ₹30 on every litre of ATF meant for domestic scheduled carriers.

Further, the government observed that international ATF prices surged nearly 2.5 times from ₹60.5 per litre in March to ₹142 per litre in May.

ATF prices for domestic scheduled carriers were hiked 9% April 1 this year and have been kept unaltered since then.

In fact, Air India, along with its low-cost subsidiary Air India Express and Indigo, together cut down 250 daily domestic flights from June amid rising prices of jet fuel. The move was expected to further escalate airfares.

The government informed that to protect air commuters from a potential sudden price shock, it had capped the ATF prices at ₹75.6 per litre.

'No adequate cushion'

However, the continuing crisis did not offer adequate cushion.

"ATF accounts for nearly 40% of airline operating costs and during periods of extreme fuel volatility, can constitute up to 60% of total operating expenditure," it said.

Cushioning effect

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri says the price stabilisation fund will prevent disruption of airline operations and protect air passengers from fare spikes

- The scheme will be implemented via an MoU between OMCs and participating airlines
- Airlines can procure ATF only from those OMCs — either for up to three years or until advance amount is fully recovered
- Once international ATF prices moderate, differential amount will be recovered from OMCs and returned to govt. exchequer
- The budgetary support would function like a self-sustaining revolving fund

Crude oil futures hit record high of ₹9,260 per barrel

NEW DELHI

Crude oil prices surged by ₹310 to a fresh record high of ₹9,260 per barrel in futures trade on Wednesday, tracking strong gains in global benchmarks amid the escalating tensions in West Asia. On the MCX, the most-active June crude oil contract climbed by ₹310, or 3.46%, to an all-time high of ₹9,260 per barrel. "Crude oil extended its rally for a third consecutive session on Wednesday as regional escalation intensified overnight," brokerage firm Kotak Neo said. PTI

Refined fuel exports fall to lowest since 2022

NEW DELHI

India's exports of refined petroleum products fell to about 9,30,000 bpd in May, their lowest level since October 2022, as refinery maintenance, changing production priorities and stronger domestic demand curtailed overseas shipments. Exports declined to around 9,30,000 bpd, down to levels last seen when shipments averaged 9,26,000 bpd in October 2022, reflecting a combination of lower refinery throughput and growing focus on supply to the domestic market, according to data analytics firm Kpler. PTI

04J6. Cabinet approves ₹10,000 cr. ATF price stabilisation fund
कैबिनेट ने ₹10,000 करोड़ के ATF मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष को मंजूरी दी

- **One-time budgetary support to oil companies is aimed at backing airlines in the backdrop of escalating jet fuel prices due to the West Asia conflict; fund to be offered**

as interest-free advances.

तेल कंपनियों को एकमुश्त बजटीय सहायता का उद्देश्य पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के कारण बढ़ती जेट ईंधन कीमतों की पृष्ठभूमि में एयरलाइनों को समर्थन देना है; यह कोष ब्याज-मुक्त अग्रिम के रूप में प्रदान किया जाएगा।

- Seeking to cushion airlines in the backdrop of escalating **jet fuel prices** due to the **West Asia conflict**, the **Union Cabinet** on Wednesday approved a one-time budgetary support of **₹10,000 crore** to oil-marketing companies (**OMCs**) towards a **price stabilisation fund**.
  पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष के कारण बढ़ती **जेट ईंधन कीमतों** के बीच एयरलाइनों को राहत देने के लिए **केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल** ने बुधवार को तेल विपणन कंपनियों (**OMCs**) को **मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष** हेतु **₹10,000 करोड़** की एकमुश्त बजटीय सहायता को मंजूरी दी।
- Union Petroleum Minister **Hardeep Singh Puri** said that the **price stabilisation fund** would help stabilise **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** prices in the backdrop of the **West Asia conflict**.
  केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम मंत्री **हरदीप सिंह पुरी** ने कहा कि **मूल्य स्थिरीकरण कोष पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष** की पृष्ठभूमि में **एविएशन टरबाइन फ्यूल (ATF)** की कीमतों को स्थिर रखने में मदद करेगा।
- The budgetary support would function like a **self-sustaining revolving fund**.
  यह बजटीय सहायता एक **स्व-निर्वाहक रिवॉल्विंग फंड** की तरह कार्य करेगी।
- The Cabinet has sought that once the international **ATF prices** moderate, the differential amount shall be recovered from the **oil-marketing companies (OMCs)** and returned to the government exchequer.
  मंत्रिमंडल ने निर्देश दिया है कि जब अंतरराष्ट्रीय **ATF कीमतें** सामान्य होंगी, तब अंतर की राशि **तेल विपणन कंपनियों (OMCs)** से वसूलकर सरकारी खजाने में वापस जमा की जाएगी।

Wheat procurement surges 17% to 35 million tonnes, exceeds 2026-27 season goal

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The government's wheat procurement rose 17% to over 35 million tonnes (MT) in the 2026-27 rabi marketing season, surpassing both the target of 34.5 MT and the previous year's procurement of 30 MT, a senior Food Ministry official said on Wednesday.

"Wheat procurement crossed 35 million tonnes so far this season. We have exceeded the target. Procurement in major producing states has been completed," the official said.

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State agencies procure wheat at the minimum support price (MSP) to meet the National Food Security Act and other welfare schemes' needs.

Bumper harvest: Procurement in major producing states has been completed, says a Food Ministry official. PTI

Lower mandi rates

Higher procurement was aided by mandi rates ruling below the MSP on robust domestic production of 120.65 MT, sustained despite localised crop damage from unseasonal rainfall and hailstorms.

State-wise, Punjab led procurement at 12.1 MT, up from 11.9 MT in the previous season. Madhya Pradesh showed a sharp jump to 10.4 MT from 7.8 MT. While wheat procurement season runs from April through March, much of the procurement is done in the first few months itself.

04J6.Wheat procurement surges 17% to 35 million tonnes, exceeds 2026-27 season goal

गेहूं खरीद 17% बढ़कर 35 मिलियन टन पहुँची, 2026-27 सीजन का लक्ष्य पार

- "**Wheat procurement** crossed **35 million tonnes** so far this season. We have exceeded the target. Procurement in major producing states has been completed," the official said.
  अधिकारी ने कहा, "इस सीजन में अब तक **गेहूं खरीद 35 मिलियन टन** को पार कर चुकी है। हमने लक्ष्य से अधिक खरीद की है। प्रमुख उत्पादक राज्यों में खरीद प्रक्रिया पूरी हो चुकी है।"
- The **Food Corporation of India (FCI)** and **State agencies** procure wheat at the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** to meet the **National Food Security Act** and other welfare schemes' needs.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI) और **राज्य एजेंसियाँ न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP)** पर गेहूं खरीदती हैं ताकि **राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम** तथा अन्य कल्याणकारी योजनाओं की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा किया जा सके।

Lower mandi rates
कम मंडी दरें

- While the **wheat procurement season** runs from **April through March**, much of the procurement is done in the **first few months** itself.
  हालाँकि **गेहूं खरीद सीजन अप्रैल से मार्च** तक चलता है, लेकिन अधिकांश खरीद शुरुआती **कुछ महीनों** में ही पूरी कर ली जाती है।

RBI debunks reports on gold sale, says reserves are 'steady at 880.52 tonnes'

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

Debunking reports of gold sale, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said there is no change in the physical stock of gold, which remains unchanged at 880.52 tonne.

The clarification from the RBI comes following reports it may have sold gold amounting to approximately $12 billion to shield foreign-currency reserves from the impact of the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

"The RBI emphasises that these reports are not correct," the central bank said in a statement.

Members of the public are, therefore, advised to rely on official information published by the RBI from time to time in such matters, it said.

Clearing the air: The clarification comes amid reports that RBI may have sold gold worth $12 billion. REUTERS

Once considered among Asia's more stable currencies, the rupee has now become one of the worst-performing emerging market currencies this year, pressured by a toxic mix of expensive oil, capital outflows, widening trade deficits and a surging U.S. dollar. It has depreciated about 7% so far in 2026 and is down roughly 6% since the outbreak of the Iran conflict in late February.

India's forex reserves dropped $7.511 billion to $681.384 billion during the week ended May 22. India's forex reserve stood at $686.801 billion in the week to January 2, 2026.

04J6. RBI debunks reports on gold sale, says reserves are 'steady at 880.52 tonnes'

आरबीआई ने सोना बेचने की खबरों का खंडन किया, कहा भंडार '880.52 टन पर स्थिर' है

- Debunking reports of **gold sale**, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said there is no change in the physical stock of **gold**, which remains unchanged at **880.52 tonne**.
  सोना बेचने की खबरों का खंडन करते हुए **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI)** ने कहा कि **सोने** के भौतिक भंडार में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है और यह **880.52 टन** पर स्थिर है।
- Once considered among Asia's more stable currencies, the **rupee** has now become one of the worst-performing **emerging market currencies** this year, pressured by a toxic mix of expensive oil, capital outflows, widening trade deficits and a surging **U.S. dollar**.
  कभी एशिया की अधिक स्थिर मुद्राओं में गिने जाने वाला **रुपया**, इस वर्ष महंगे तेल, पूंजी निकासी, बढ़ते व्यापार घाटे और मजबूत होते **अमेरिकी डॉलर** के दबाव के कारण सबसे खराब प्रदर्शन करने वाली **उभरते बाजारों की मुद्राओं** में शामिल हो गया है।

S. America's stealthy ascent to key crude oil swing supplier

Beyond barriers: The region has delivered the largest increase in oil exports of any producing bloc. REUTERS

GS III: Economy

Reuters

LITTLETON, COLORADO

While oil markets fixate on the disruptions to West Asia exports and surging U.S. supply in 2026, South America is quietly emerging as a key new source of global crude flows.

Led by Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela, the region has delivered the largest increase in oil exports of any producing bloc so far this year, reshaping global trade patterns and reinforcing the Atlantic basin's role in global supply.

The shift has been gradual, dispersed and largely uncoordinated. But in aggregate, it is turning South America into a de facto swing supplier hiding in plain sight.

The collapse in crude exports from the Middle East so far this year has rightly dominated oil market attention. Producers in the region have accounted for around 43% of all seaborne oil exports over the past decade, data from commodities intelligence firm Kpler shows, anchoring global crude trade.

But the near-total closure of the Strait of Hormuz since March has slashed shipments from the region by more than a quarter during January to May compared to the year before,leaving a supply shortfall of roughly 675 million barrels.

That gap is too large for any single producer to quickly replace, forcing markets to lean heavily on inventories. It has also amplified the importance of rising supply elsewhere-notably from South America. Several exporters have lifted shipments this year, helping to offset part of the disruption. But nowhere has the increase been more pronounced than in South America, where total exports have posted their largest ever year-over-year gain, rising by around 155 million barrels to eclipse the growth of all other regions combined.

Rapid rise

Among the 10 nations to increase crude oil exports the most so far in 2026, the United States ranks top, registering a nearly 112-million-barrel increase during January to May compared to the same months in 2025, according to Kpler.

However, South America's contribution has been both broader and more structurally significant. Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela have posted the next largest annual increases in crude shipments this year, collectively adding around 145 million barrels.

Including a further 12 million barrels from Argentina, gains from those key nations exceed 157 million barrels compared to the year before.

Some small export volume declines this year from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru have curbed South America's total expansion to155 million barrels, but the total shipped out from the region from January to May remains a record 787 million barrels.

That compares to around 430 million barrels for the same period in 2021, and so marks an 84% increase over the past five years.

Two nations have been key drivers of that regional expansion: Brazil and Guyana.

- India's **forex reserve** stood at **$686.801 billion** in the week to **January 2, 2026**.

2 जनवरी 2026 को समाप्त सप्ताह में भारत का **विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 686.801 अरब डॉलर** था।

04J6. S. America's stealthy ascent to key crude oil swing supplier

कच्चे तेल के प्रमुख संतुलनकारी आपूर्तिकर्ता के रूप में दक्षिण अमेरिका का शांत उदय

- Led by **Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela**, the region has delivered the largest increase in **oil exports** of any producing bloc so far this year, reshaping global trade patterns and reinforcing the **Atlantic basin's** role in global supply.

ब्राज़ील, गुयाना और वेनेजुएला के नेतृत्व में इस क्षेत्र ने इस वर्ष अब तक किसी भी उत्पादक समूह की तुलना में **तेल निर्यात** में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि दर्ज की है, जिससे वैश्विक व्यापार पैटर्न बदल रहे हैं और वैश्विक आपूर्ति में **अटलांटिक बेसिन** की भूमिका मजबूत हो रही है।

- But in aggregate, it is turning **South America** into a de facto **swing supplier** hiding in plain sight.

लेकिन समग्र रूप से यह **दक्षिण अमेरिका** को एक वास्तविक **संतुलनकारी आपूर्तिकर्ता (Swing Supplier)** में बदल रहा है।

- Among the 10 nations to increase **crude oil exports** the most so far in **2026**, the **United States** ranks top, registering a nearly **112-million-barrel increase** during January to May compared to the same months in **2025**, according to **Kpler**.

Kpler के अनुसार, **2026** में अब तक **कच्चे तेल के निर्यात** में सबसे अधिक वृद्धि करने वाले 10 देशों में **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** शीर्ष पर है, जिसने **2025** की समान अवधि की तुलना में जनवरी से मई के दौरान लगभग **112 मिलियन बैरल** की वृद्धि दर्ज की।

- **Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela** have posted the next largest annual increases in crude shipments this year, collectively adding around **145 million barrels**.

ब्राज़ील, गुयाना और वेनेजुएला ने इस वर्ष कच्चे तेल की आपूर्ति में अगली सबसे बड़ी वार्षिक वृद्धि दर्ज की है, और संयुक्त रूप से लगभग **145 मिलियन बैरल** जोड़े हैं।

- Including a further **12 million barrels** from **Argentina**, gains from those key nations exceed **157 million barrels** compared to the year before.

अर्जेंटीना से अतिरिक्त **12 मिलियन बैरल** जोड़ने पर, इन प्रमुख देशों की कुल वृद्धि पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में **157 मिलियन बैरल** से अधिक हो जाती है।

- Some small export volume declines this year from **Colombia, Ecuador and Peru** have curbed South America's total expansion to **155 million barrels**, but the total shipped out from the region from January to May remains a record **787 million barrels**.

कोलंबिया, इक्वाडोर और पेरू से निर्यात में कुछ कमी ने दक्षिण अमेरिका की कुल वृद्धि को **155 मिलियन बैरल** तक सीमित किया है, फिर भी जनवरी से मई के बीच क्षेत्र का कुल निर्यात रिकॉर्ड **787 मिलियन बैरल** रहा।

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AI unlikely to be the demand booster that copper bulls expect

GS III: Economy

Reuters
LONDON

From the Bronze Age to the AIage, copper is again at the heart of the latest big investment craze.

The rationale is simple. Data centers need a lot of wiring,cooling and power, which means they need a lot of copper. AI data centers need even more.

A crypto data center requires 21 metric tons of copper per megawatt installed, while an AI training data center in China has a copper intensity of 47 tons, according to S&P Global Market Intelligence.

The escalating global AI arms race will undoubtedly boost demand for copper. But by how much?

S&P Global forecasts usage in data centers and associated infrastructure will rise from 1.1 million tons in 2025 to 2.5million tons in 2040. There are, though, a lot of "buts" lurking in that forecast.

Demand could be as high as 2.7 million tons or as low as 1.7million, depending on the interaction of multiple fast-changing variables. As the authors of "Copper in the Age of AI" put it, the "wide span underscores both the uncertainty and the scale of the challenge ahead."

The delivery gap

One key variable in assessing likely copper demand is thescale of AI data center expansion. Many of the new megawatts of announced AI computing capacity are "bragawatts", according to a study released by the Oxford Smith School and financial broker Marex Group.

Wide span: Raw copper from Zambia awaits export in a warehouse at Newlyn Terminal at Bayhead at the port in Durban. REUTERS

While media and markets are expecting and pricing a rapid exponential ramp-up in AI infrastructure, the outcome is likely to be "a roll-out that is delayed, lumpy, and constrained by physical realities." The biggest hurdle is grid connectivity. A data center can be built in 18 to 24 months but the average U.S. waiting time for a grid connection was four years between 2018 and 2023.

That assumes there is enough power in the first place. Ireland built so many data centers that by 2021 the sector's share of national energy consumption had risen to over 20%,threatening to overwhelm the country's energy system.

The Irish grid operator imposed a de facto four-year moratorium on new applications, which has only just been lifted,albeit with strict new conditions.

Throw into the mix long lead times for essential equipment such as transformers and a shortage of specialized labour and there is a growing gap between announced and delivered AI computing capacity, according to the Smith study. Copper, it warns, is in danger of falling down that gap. Quantifying how much copper is used in data centers is also a fast-moving target.

The battle for AI supremacy is one of computing power, and as chips evolve, so must the architecture of rack design and wiring.

S&P Global notes there is already a shift underway from copper to fiber optics in the interconnect cabling between processor racks.

This could result in copper intensity in data centers falling by 4 or 5 tons per megawatt installed, not a trivial change given the overall 30- to 40-ton range deployed in non-crypto data centers.

More fundamentally, though, chip company Nvidia argues that even copper will be challenged to deliver the low latency and high bandwidth of next-generation AI centers.

Using traditional low voltages would necessitate "an unsustainable volume of copper cabling."

Nvidia is proposing a transition to 800 volts, which means the same wire gauge can carry 157% more power. A simpler set-up also means fewer copper conductors and smaller connectors.

Reducing copper usage is both a cost consideration and, the company argues, a critical pathway to ever-increasing rack power.

Material wars

Ardent copper bulls argue that such is the looming deficit in copper that the metal could itself become a bottleneck in the roll-out of AI capacity. That may be more true of some of the other metals that go into connecting physical and virtual worlds.

Data centers are a sink for all sorts of minerals, 60 to 70 tons of them per megawatt installed, according to the World Economic Forum.

There's copper, but also aluminium, cobalt, nickel, tin, gold, silver, germanium and gallium and, of course, a smattering of the increasingly ubiquitous rare earth metals.

Germanium and gallium are more likely to pose a materials bottleneck than copper. Western supply of both metals is acutely tight after China imposed export restrictions in 2023.

Big Tech is competing for limited supply with both the U.S. Pentagon and the EU, which is looking to build a strategic metals stockpile. It's by no means certain it will win.

04J6. AI unlikely to be the demand booster that copper bulls expect
एआई तांबा समर्थकों की अपेक्षा के अनुसार मांग बढ़ाने वाला कारक बनने की संभावना नहीं

- From the **Bronze Age** to the **AI age**, **copper** is again at the heart of the latest big investment craze.
  कांस्य युग (Bronze Age) से लेकर **एआई युग (AI Age)** तक, **तांबा (Copper)** एक बार फिर नवीनतम बड़े निवेश आकर्षण के केंद्र में है।
- **Data centers** need a lot of wiring, cooling and power, which means they need a lot of **copper**.
  डेटा सेंटरों को बहुत अधिक वायरिंग, कूलिंग और बिजली की आवश्यकता होती है, जिसका अर्थ है कि उन्हें बड़ी मात्रा में **तांबे** की जरूरत होती है।
- A crypto data center requires **21 metric tons of copper per megawatt installed**, while an AI training data center in China has a copper intensity of **47 tons**, according to **S&P Global Market Intelligence**.
  S&P Global Market Intelligence के अनुसार, एक क्रिप्टो डेटा सेंटर को प्रति मेगावाट स्थापित क्षमता पर **21 मीट्रिक टन तांबा** चाहिए, जबकि चीन के एआई प्रशिक्षण डेटा सेंटर में तांबे की तीव्रता **47 टन** है।
- The biggest hurdle is **grid connectivity**.
  सबसे बड़ी बाधा **ग्रिड कनेक्टिविटी** है।
- A data center can be built in **18 to 24 months** but the average U.S. waiting time for a grid connection was **four years** between **2018 and 2023**.
  एक डेटा सेंटर **18 से 24 महीनों** में बनाया जा सकता है, लेकिन **2018 से 2023** के बीच अमेरिका में ग्रिड कनेक्शन के लिए औसत प्रतीक्षा अवधि **चार वर्ष** थी।
- **Ireland** built so many data centers that by **2021** the sector's share of national energy consumption had risen to over **20%**, threatening to overwhelm the country's energy system.
  आयरलैंड ने इतने अधिक डेटा सेंटर बनाए कि **2021** तक राष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा खपत में इस क्षेत्र की हिस्सेदारी **20%** से अधिक हो गई, जिससे देश की ऊर्जा व्यवस्था पर दबाव बढ़ गया।
- **S&P Global** notes there is already a shift underway from copper to **fiber optics** in the interconnect cabling between processor racks.
  S&P Global के अनुसार, प्रोसेसर रैक के बीच इंटरकनेक्ट केबलिंग में तांबे से **फाइबर ऑप्टिक्स** की ओर बदलाव शुरू हो चुका है।

Material wars
सामग्री युद्ध

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- There's copper, but also **aluminium, cobalt, nickel, tin, gold, silver, germanium and gallium** and, of course, a smattering of the increasingly ubiquitous **rare earth metals**.
  इनमें **तांबा, एल्युमिनियम, कोबाल्ट, निकल, टिन, सोना, चाँदी, जर्मेनियम, गैलियम** तथा बढ़ते उपयोग वाली **दुर्लभ मृदा धातुएँ (Rare Earth Metals)** शामिल हैं।
- **Germanium** and **gallium** are more likely to pose a materials bottleneck than copper.
  जर्मेनियम और **गैलियम** तांबे की तुलना में अधिक संभावित सामग्री बाधा बन सकते हैं।

Brazil takes a historic HDI leap with focused planning and public spending

UN report reveals the country's cash-transfer scheme has played a key role in raising its Human Development Index score from 0.744 in 2012 to 0.805 in 2024, on a scale from 0 to 1; as Brazil enters election cycle, the far-right narrative that the scheme discourages people from working draws backlash

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Shobhan Saxena
SAO PAULO

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and First Lady Rosângela da Silva take part in an event via videoconference on the 20th anniversary of Bolsa Família programme in Brasilia in October 2023. AFP

Amid a heated debate about Brazil's flagship cash-transfer scheme last week, a United Nations report revealed that the country had made a giant leap on the Human Development Index (HDI) scale. The controversy erupted after a television presenter, Luciano Huck, said that Bolsa Família programme "discourages the poor from working". As Mr. Huck was being fact-checked on social media, the UN Development Programme report revealed that the scheme had played a key role in Brazil raising its HDI score from 0.744 in 2012 to 0.805 in 2024.

On the UN scale, which ranges from 0 to 1, the score of 0.805 places Brazil in the category of "very high human development." Among the Afro-Brazilians, the HDI grew by 10.3% over 12 years, almost twice the rate for the Whites. "Achieving this positive result is not by chance; it is the result of strong public policies and an inclusive national project focused on combating inequalities," said Guilherme Boulos, the Federal Minister for Social Development, at the launch of the report in Brasilia.

The index measures indicators related to health and longevity, education, and income generation, with results broken down by race, gender, and region at the municipal level across all 26 states of Brazil. When the UNDP began calculating the index 30 years ago, Brazil was in the category of low human development. The steady rise, according to the government, has been driven by sustained planning and public spending. "We have made progress in education. We have witnessed success because of an expansion of public healthcare system, income distribution, real increase in the minimum wages and programmes such as Bolsa Família," said the Minister.

Bolsa Família, launched in 2003 during President Lula da Silva's first term, has inspired similar schemes worldwide, including the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India in 2006. Walquiria Rego, a sociologist who has studied the programme for years, says its success stems from providing poor families with a regular income. "As families received money every month, their eating habits improved, hunger declined dramatically and Brazil was taken off the UN hunger map," she says.

Healthcare guarantee

From its launch in 2003 until 2023, Brazil has spent around US$ 81 billion on the scheme which has benefitted 49 million people. Extensive studies conducted by Prof. Rego show that the programme's impact goes beyond nutrition as, with a steady source of income, poor families were able to furnish their homes and live with dignity. "The changes have been profound: people became better nourished, healthier and more integrated into social and economic life," says Prof. Rego, whose book 'Voices from Bolsa Família' is considered a landmark work.

Besides cash assistance, Brazil's unified health system, or SUS, has played a crucial role in its HDI improvement. Brazil spends about 9.7% of its GDP of US$ 2.64 trillion on health, with SUS getting 4% of the amount. Guaranteed by the Constitution, Brazil's free and universal public healthcare system has been a major driver of rising life expectancy. Jorge Félix, a professor of gerontology at the University of São Paulo, says the system focused on child health in the early 1990s and eliminated the diseases like measles that were major causes of illness. "Access to healthcare has expanded across the country through a network of primary health centres. This is important because 75% of Brazilians depend on SUS," he says, adding that vaccination campaigns for children, adults, and access to treatments like cancer have improved life expectancy.

Both Bolsa Família and SUS had come under strain between 2018 and 2022 when the government of President Jair Bolsonaro imposed deep spending cuts. The weakening of the public health system, says Prof. Félix, proved catastrophic during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Beyond financing, strategic areas of SUS were also dismantled. As a result, Brazil entered the pandemic with reduced capacity to respond. Shortages of medicines and declining operational capacity left SUS significantly weakened just as Brazil confronted the biggest public health emergency," says the academic, whose book 'The Economics of Longevity' examines the healthcare challenges in Brazil.

In 2022, the last year of Bolsonaro presidency, the country's HDI had sunk low. In 2023, when Mr. Lula returned to the presidency for his third term, the government restored funding for SUS and Bolsa Família, bringing the momentum back into Brazil's social transformation. The gains have been particularly visible in the historically poorer Northeast region. "Bolsa Família stimulated commerce in small municipalities across the Northeast because the money circulated locally, generating jobs and creating opportunities for small businesses," says Prof. Rego.

A key reason for Bolsa Família's success is that payments are made directly to women, particularly mothers. This policy, says Prof. Rego, has made profound impact on families. "Women are now seen as the people responsible for food and healthcare for their children. It was not simply a cash-transfer plan to alleviate poverty. It also promoted citizenship and dignity for some of the poorest women in Brazil, thus making a significant contribution to human development and social justice," says Prof. Rego.

Election rhetoric

While Brazil's HDI figures are in sync with the country's commitments to the UN's 2030 goals, experts warn against complacency. "If the State stops assisting the vulnerable and investing in SUS, the risk of social regression remains high," says Prof. Felix.

As Brazil enters an election cycle, the far-right circles are spreading false stories about how Bolsa Família discourages people from working. Yet studies show that about 61% of people receiving Bolsa Família in 2014 had left the programme by 2025. Because of its positive impact on human development, Mr. Luciano Huck's remarks triggered a backlash, particularly in the politically-important Northeast, which has benefitted the most from the scheme.

With the UN report giving a timely boost to President Lula, the beneficiaries of social programmes are not in a mood to accept any argument against the policies which have lifted Brazil into the zone of very high human development.

04J6. Brazil takes a historic HDI leap with focused planning and public spending

केंद्रित योजना और सार्वजनिक व्यय के साथ ब्राज़ील ने HDI में ऐतिहासिक छलांग लगाई

- **A UN report** reveals the country's **cash-transfer scheme** has played a key role in raising its **Human Development Index (HDI)** score from **0.744 in 2012** to **0.805 in 2024**.
  संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) की रिपोर्ट से पता चला है कि देश की **नकद हस्तांतरण योजना (Cash-Transfer**

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Scheme) ने उसके **मानव विकास सूचकांक (HDI)** को **2012 में 0.744** से बढ़ाकर **2024 में 0.805** करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।

- On a scale from **0 to 1**, the score of **0.805** places Brazil in the category of **"very high human development."**
  0 से 1 के पैमाने पर **0.805** का स्कोर ब्राज़ील को **"बहुत उच्च मानव विकास"** की श्रेणी में रखता है।
- The index measures indicators related to **health and longevity, education, and income generation**, with results broken down by race, gender, and region at the municipal level across all **26 states of Brazil**.
  यह सूचकांक **स्वास्थ्य और दीर्घायु, शिक्षा तथा आय सृजन** से जुड़े संकेतकों को मापता है और परिणामों को ब्राज़ील के **26 राज्यों** में नस्ल, लिंग और क्षेत्र के आधार पर विभाजित करता है।
- When the **UNDP** began calculating the index 30 years ago, Brazil was in the category of **low human development**.
  जब **UNDP** ने 30 वर्ष पहले इस सूचकांक की गणना शुरू की थी, तब ब्राज़ील **निम्न मानव विकास** की श्रेणी में था।
- **Bolsa Família**, launched in **2003** during President **Lula da Silva's** first term, has inspired similar schemes worldwide, including the **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme** in India in **2006**.
  राष्ट्रपति **लूला दा सिल्वा** के पहले कार्यकाल में **2003** में शुरू की गई **बोल्सा फेमिलिया** योजना ने विश्वभर में कई समान योजनाओं को प्रेरित किया, जिनमें भारत की **राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना** भी शामिल है।
- **Walquiria Rego**, a sociologist who has studied the programme for years, says its success stems from providing poor families with a regular income.
  वर्षों से इस कार्यक्रम का अध्ययन कर रहीं समाजशास्त्री **वालकिरिया रेगो** कहती हैं कि इसकी सफलता गरीब परिवारों को नियमित आय प्रदान करने में निहित है।
- "As families received money every month, their eating habits improved, hunger declined dramatically and Brazil was taken off the **UN hunger map**," she says.
  वह कहती हैं, "जैसे-जैसे परिवारों को हर महीने धन मिलने लगा, उनकी भोजन संबंधी आदतों में सुधार हुआ, भूख में भारी कमी आई और ब्राज़ील **यूएन भूख मानचित्र** से बाहर हो गया।"

Healthcare guarantee
स्वास्थ्य सुरक्षा

- With a steady source of income, poor families were able to furnish their homes and live with dignity.
  आय का स्थायी स्रोत मिलने से गरीब परिवार अपने घरों को बेहतर बना सके और सम्मानजनक जीवन जी सके।
- Besides cash assistance, Brazil's unified health system, or **SUS**, has played a crucial role in its HDI improvement.
  नकद सहायता के अलावा, ब्राज़ील की एकीकृत स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली **SUS** ने भी HDI सुधार में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- Brazil spends about **9.7% of its GDP** of **US$ 2.64 trillion** on health, with **SUS** getting **4%** of the amount.
  ब्राज़ील अपने **2.64 ट्रिलियन डॉलर GDP** का लगभग **9.7%** स्वास्थ्य पर खर्च करता है, जिसमें से **SUS** को **4%** प्राप्त होता है।
- Guaranteed by the Constitution, Brazil's free and universal public healthcare system has been a major driver of rising life expectancy.
  संविधान द्वारा सुनिश्चित ब्राज़ील की निःशुल्क और सार्वभौमिक सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली जीवन प्रत्याशा बढ़ाने का प्रमुख कारण रही है।
- **Jorge Félix**, a professor of gerontology at the **University of São Paulo**, says the system focused on child health in the early 1990s and eliminated **diseases like measles**.

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साओ पाउलो विश्वविद्यालय के जेरोन्टोलॉजी प्रोफेसर **जॉर्ज फेलिक्स** कहते हैं कि 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में इस प्रणाली ने बाल स्वास्थ्य पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया और खसरा जैसी बीमारियों को समाप्त कर दिया।

- He added that vaccination campaigns for children and adults, and access to treatments like cancer have improved life expectancy.
  उन्होंने कहा कि बच्चों और वयस्कों के टीकाकरण अभियान तथा कैंसर जैसे उपचारों की उपलब्धता ने जीवन प्रत्याशा बढ़ाई है।
- Both **Bolsa Família** and **SUS** had come under strain between **2018 and 2022** when the government of President **Jair Bolsonaro** imposed deep spending cuts.
  2018 से 2022 के बीच राष्ट्रपति **जायर बोल्सोनारो** की सरकार द्वारा खर्च में भारी कटौती किए जाने पर **बोल्सा फेमिलिया** और **SUS** दोनों दबाव में आ गए थे।
- In **2023**, when **Lula** returned to the presidency for his third term, the government restored funding for **SUS** and **Bolsa Família**.
  2023 में जब **लूला** तीसरी बार राष्ट्रपति बने, तब सरकार ने **SUS** और **बोल्सा फेमिलिया** के लिए वित्तपोषण बहाल किया।
- A key reason for **Bolsa Família's** success is that payments are made directly to women, particularly mothers.
  बोल्सा फेमिलिया की सफलता का एक प्रमुख कारण यह है कि भुगतान सीधे महिलाओं, विशेषकर माताओं, को किया जाता है।
- "Women are now seen as the people responsible for food and healthcare for their children."
  "अब महिलाओं को अपने बच्चों के भोजन और स्वास्थ्य देखभाल की जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति के रूप में देखा जाता है।"
- "It also promoted citizenship and dignity for some of the poorest women in Brazil."
  "इसने ब्राज़ील की सबसे गरीब महिलाओं में नागरिकता की भावना और गरिमा को भी बढ़ावा दिया।"

Election rhetoric
चुनावी बयानबाज़ी

- Yet studies show that about **61%** of people receiving **Bolsa Família** in **2014** had left the programme by **2025**.
  फिर भी अध्ययनों से पता चलता है कि **2014** में **बोल्सा फेमिलिया** प्राप्त करने वाले लगभग **61%** लोग **2025** तक इस योजना से बाहर निकल चुके थे।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	A liver protein triggered by exercise reversed memory loss in mice व्यायाम से सक्रिय हुआ एक यकृत प्रोटीन चूहों में स्मृति हानि को उलटने में सफल रहा
04J6	New result pushes bounds of how small a liquid can be नया परिणाम इस सीमा को आगे बढ़ाता है कि कोई द्रव कितना छोटा हो सकता है
04J6	Is climate research being held back by local instrumentation? क्या स्थानीय उपकरणों की कमी जलवायु अनुसंधान को पीछे रोक रही है?
04J6	What Delhi HC's pathbreaking ruling on Google keyword advertising means गूगल कीवर्ड विज्ञापन पर दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट के ऐतिहासिक फैसले का क्या अर्थ है

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A liver protein triggered by exercise reversed memory loss in mice

After exercise, small molecules called exerkines are released by the liver, skeletal muscles, heart, and brain into the bloodstream; these include peptides, lipids, and hormones and mediate the beneficial effects of exercise, promoting cardiovascular fitness and improving metabolism

GS III: S&T

Sheetal Potdar

Exercise affects different parts of the body simultaneously. STEVEN LELHAM/UNSPLASH

As we grow older, our cognitive abilities begin to wane. We forget names and places, lose trains of thought, and become creatures of habit. A key to overcoming these ageing-induced cognitive deficits may be exercise.

"Exercise improves cardiovascular fitness, glucose metabolism, insulin sensitivity, blood pressure, lipid profiles, sleep, mood, and immune function," Atefe Tari, a researcher studying exercise and brain health at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and St. Olav's University Hospital, said.

"While all of these can influence brain health, exercise also affects the brain more directly by many different processes, including changes in signaling molecules."

A new study published in *Cell* has reported how a signal released by the liver after exercise reduces cognitive decline due to ageing and Alzheimer's disease in mice.

Exerkines to the rescue

After exercise, small molecules called exerkines are released by the liver, skeletal muscles, heart, and brain into the bloodstream. These include peptides, lipids, hormones, and nucleic acids. These exerkines mediate the beneficial effects of exercise, including promoting cardiovascular fitness and improving metabolism, throughout the body.

In the study, Gregor Bieri and colleagues at the University of California, San Francisco, examined the mechanism of action of one such exerkine produced by the liver: GPLD1.

The researchers increased the levels of GPLD1 in the livers of older mice that had exercised – voluntarily running on wheels, like a treadmill. Old mice that could not exercise because their wheels had been locked had lower levels of GPLD1 in their livers.

Next, the researchers tested the cognitive abilities of young and old mice. Young mice performed better at a spatial memory test compared to old mice. The test was to find a platform hidden in a pool of water. Young mice made fewer errors and found the platform sooner compared to their older peers. The young mice also preferred novel objects instead of familiar ones and would readily explore novel locations, while old mice showed no such preferences.

Importantly, these cognitive deficits were reduced in old mice whose livers were injected with GPLD1, showing that GPLD1 could mitigate ageing-induced cognitive decline.

Protective barrier

GPLD1 is an enzyme that breaks down hundreds of proteins on cell surfaces. Based on this function, the authors focused on the blood-brain barrier in mice - a network of blood vessels and specialised cells that surround the brain.

"The blood-brain barrier tightly regulates the signals and nutrients that get shuttled between the brain and blood," Dr. Bieri, the lead author of the study, explained.

As we age, the barrier accumulates proteins that make it leaky. The authors found one such protein, called TNAP, to be highly enriched in the blood-brain barriers of old mice, notably even around the hippocampus, the learning and memory centre of the brain.

"While we do not fully understand its role, we observed that TNAP drives inflammation and impairs the transport of factors from blood to brain," Dr. Bieri said.

He and his colleagues performed three experiments to tie the roles of TNAP and GPLD1. First, the scientists found that old mice that have more TNAP in their barriers also had leaky blood vessels. Next, young mice in which TNAP levels were artificially increased in the barrier surrounding the hippocampus showed leaky blood vessels and cognitive defects similar to old mice. Third, injecting GPLD1 in the livers of old mice, while also artificially increasing TNAP in the blood-brain barrier, nullified the beneficial effects of GPLD1 on cognitive function.

"A strength of this study is the combination of approaches that provides mechanistic evidence that TNAP is functionally involved in blood-brain barrier dysfunction and cognitive decline," Dr. Tari said.

Overall, these experiments showed that TNAP, which accumulates on the blood-brain barrier due to ageing, is broken down by GPLD1, an enzyme released by the liver after exercise.

Therapeutic potential for Alzheimer's

Given that ageing is a risk factor for neurodegenerative disorders like Alzheimer's disease and dementia, the authors next tested whether the GPLD1 intervention could reduce cognitive decline in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Tari, who was not involved in the study, exercised caution on this count, noting that "mouse models of Alzheimer's do not fully reproduce the complexity of the disease in humans, which develops over decades and involves vascular dysfunction, inflammation, metabolism, genetics, and lifestyle factors."

"When the blood-brain barrier becomes leaky, several things can happen that are relevant to Alzheimer's development," Dr. Tari said. "First, inflammatory molecules and other blood-derived factors can enter the brain more easily and activate immune responses. This causes chronic inflammation in the nerve cells which can accelerate disease processes."

"Secondly, if the blood-brain barrier function is impaired, the brain may become less efficient at clearing toxic proteins and maintaining its internal environment." Alzheimer's disease is characterised by the accumulation of toxic amyloid protein, which clump together to form plaques, leading to neurodegeneration and cognitive decline. These features are modelled in genetically modified mice by expressing human genes with multiple mutations that force the rapid buildup of amyloid protein.

The team allowed the Alzheimer's-modelled mice to run on wheels voluntarily for three months, after which their GPLD1 levels were higher, and their cognitive performance was notably improved, compared to Alzheimer's-modelled mice that did not exercise.

In another experiment, GPLD1 was injected into the livers of Alzheimer's-modelled mice. In these mice, TNAP levels in the blood-brain barrier were lower, the blood vessels were less leaky, there were fewer amyloid plaques, and cognitive dysfunction was reduced.

Experts said these results are encouraging and have clinical implications for Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Bieri noted that "while a lot of research and potential therapeutic strategies have focused on the brain, recent antibody-based interventions are associated with side effects resulting from a breakdown of the blood-brain barrier. Thus, improving blood-brain barrier function could also improve the treatment efficacy of other therapeutic interventions."

"This study identifies a promising pathway that may become relevant for drug development or biomarker work," Dr. Tari added. "But it does not mean we are close to replacing exercise with a pill yet."

Parallel and convergent pathways

Exercise affects different parts of the body simultaneously. Brain function is also influenced by multiple factors. Recently, in another study, researchers from Seoul National University and the Korea Brain Research Institute found that exerkines secreted by skeletal muscles could improve cognitive performance by crossing the blood-brain barrier, unlike GPLD1. This exerkine was found to boost new neuron formation within the hippocampus. "The benefits of exercise are unlikely to be explained by a single molecule or pathway alone," Dr. Tari noted, adding that "the strength of exercise likely lies in its ability to trigger a coordinated, whole-body response."

Dr. Bieri said he sees clinical opportunity in the possibility of multiple exerkines working in tandem: "As potential new therapeutic strategies keep expanding, [the] discovery of complementary mechanisms will allow for a more personalised medicine approach. Future treatments will likely be combinatorial, tackling different cell types and hallmarks of ageing and disease."

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04J6. A liver protein triggered by exercise reversed memory loss in mice
व्यायाम से सक्रिय हुआ एक यकृत प्रोटीन चूहों में स्मृति हानि को उलटने में सफल रहा

- After **exercise**, small molecules called **exerkines** are released by the **liver**, **skeletal muscles**, **heart**, and **brain** into the bloodstream; these include **peptides**, **lipids**, and **hormones** and mediate the beneficial effects of exercise, promoting **cardiovascular fitness** and improving **metabolism**.

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- **व्यायाम** के बाद **एक्सरकाइन्स (Exerkines)** कहलाने वाले छोटे अणु **यकृत (Liver)**, **कंकालीय मांसपेशियों (Skeletal Muscles)**, **हृदय (Heart)** और **मस्तिष्क (Brain)** द्वारा रक्तप्रवाह में मुक्त किए जाते हैं; इनमें **पेप्टाइड्स (Peptides)**, **लिपिड्स (Lipids)** और **हार्मोन्स (Hormones)** शामिल होते हैं तथा ये व्यायाम के लाभकारी प्रभावों का मध्यस्थन करते हैं, **हृदय-रक्तवाहिका स्वास्थ्य (Cardiovascular Fitness)** को बढ़ावा देते हैं और **उपापचय (Metabolism)** में सुधार करते हैं।
- **As we grow older, our cognitive abilities begin to wane.**
  जैसे-जैसे हम आयु में वृद्धि करते हैं, हमारी **संज्ञानात्मक क्षमताएँ** क्षीण होने लगती हैं।
- A key to overcoming these **ageing-induced cognitive deficits** may be **exercise**.
  इन **वृद्धावस्था-जनित संज्ञानात्मक कमियों** पर विजय पाने की एक महत्वपूर्ण कुंजी **व्यायाम** हो सकती है।
- "**Exercise** improves **cardiovascular fitness, glucose metabolism, insulin sensitivity, blood pressure, lipid profiles, sleep, mood, and immune function**," Atefe Tari, a researcher studying exercise and brain health at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and St. Olav's University Hospital, said.
  "**व्यायाम हृदय-वाहिका स्वास्थ्य, ग्लूकोज़ उपापचय, इंसुलिन संवेदनशीलता, रक्तचाप, लिपिड प्रोफ़ाइल, नींद, मनोदशा तथा प्रतिरक्षा कार्य** में सुधार करता है," नॉर्वेजियन यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी तथा सेंट ओलाव्स यूनिवर्सिटी हॉस्पिटल में व्यायाम एवं मस्तिष्क स्वास्थ्य का अध्ययन करने वाली शोधकर्ता एटेफे तारी ने कहा।
- These exerkines mediate the beneficial effects of exercise, including promoting cardiovascular fitness and improving metabolism, throughout the body.
  ये एक्सरकाइन्स शरीर में व्यायाम के लाभकारी प्रभावों का संचालन करते हैं, जिनमें हृदय-वाहिका स्वास्थ्य को बढ़ावा देना और उपापचय में सुधार करना शामिल है।
- In the study, Gregor Bieri and colleagues at the University of California, San Francisco, examined the mechanism of action of one such exerkine produced by the liver: **GPLD1**.
  अध्ययन में, यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफोर्निया, सैन फ्रांसिस्को के ग्रेगर बिएरी और उनके सहयोगियों ने यकृत द्वारा उत्पादित ऐसे ही एक एक्सरकाइन **GPLD1** की कार्यप्रणाली का परीक्षण किया।
- Old mice that could not exercise because their wheels had been locked had lower levels of GPLD1 in their livers.
  जिन वृद्ध चूहों के पहिए बंद कर दिए गए थे और जो व्यायाम नहीं कर सकते थे, उनके यकृत में GPLD1 का स्तर कम पाया गया।

Protective barrier
संरक्षक अवरोध

- GPLD1 is an enzyme that breaks down hundreds of proteins on cell surfaces.
  GPLD1 एक एंजाइम है जो कोशिकीय सतहों पर उपस्थित सैकड़ों प्रोटीनों को विघटित करता है।
- Based on this function, the authors focused on the **blood-brain barrier** in mice – a network of blood vessels and specialised cells that surround the brain.
  इस कार्य के आधार पर लेखकों ने चूहों में **रक्त-मस्तिष्क अवरोध** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया, जो रक्त वाहिकाओं और विशेषीकृत कोशिकाओं का एक जाल है जो मस्तिष्क को घेरे रहता है।
- "The blood-brain barrier tightly regulates the signals and nutrients that get shuttled between the brain and blood," Dr. Bieri, the lead author of the study, explained.
  अध्ययन के प्रमुख लेखक डॉ. बिएरी ने बताया, "रक्त-मस्तिष्क अवरोध मस्तिष्क और रक्त के बीच स्थानांतरित होने वाले संकेतों और पोषक तत्वों को अत्यंत नियंत्रित रूप से संचालित करता है।"
- The authors found one such protein, called **TNAP**, to be highly enriched in the blood-brain barriers of old mice, notably even around the hippocampus, the learning and memory centre of the brain.
  लेखकों ने पाया कि **TNAP** नामक ऐसा ही एक प्रोटीन वृद्ध चूहों के रक्त-मस्तिष्क अवरोध में अत्यधिक मात्रा में उपस्थित था, विशेष रूप से मस्तिष्क के सीखने और स्मृति केंद्र **हिप्पोकैम्पस** के आसपास।

Therapeutic potential for Alzheimer's
अल्ज़ाइमर रोग के लिए चिकित्सीय संभावनाएँ

- Given that ageing is a risk factor for **neurodegenerative disorders** like **Alzheimer's disease** and **dementia**, the authors next tested whether the GPLD1 intervention could reduce cognitive decline in a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease.
  चूँकि वृद्धावस्था **अल्ज़ाइमर रोग** और **मनोभ्रंश (डिमेंशिया)** जैसे **तंत्रिका-अपक्षयी विकारों** के लिए एक जोखिम कारक है, इसलिए लेखकों ने आगे यह परीक्षण किया कि क्या GPLD1 हस्तक्षेप अल्ज़ाइमर रोग के चूहे मॉडल में संज्ञानात्मक गिरावट को कम कर सकता है।
- Dr. Tari, who was not involved in the study, exercised caution on this count, noting that "mouse models of Alzheimer's do not fully reproduce the complexity of the disease in humans, which develops over decades and involves vascular dysfunction, inflammation, metabolism, genetics, and lifestyle factors."
  डॉ. तारी, जो इस अध्ययन में शामिल नहीं थे, ने इस विषय पर सावधानी बरतने की सलाह देते हुए कहा कि "अल्ज़ाइमर के चूहे मॉडल मनुष्यों में पाए जाने वाले रोग की जटिलता को पूरी तरह पुनः प्रस्तुत नहीं करते, जो दशकों में विकसित होता है तथा जिसमें रक्तवाहिकीय विकार, सूजन, उपापचय, आनुवंशिकी और जीवनशैली संबंधी कारक शामिल होते हैं।"
- "This causes chronic inflammation in the nerve cells which can accelerate disease processes."
  "इसके परिणामस्वरूप तंत्रिका कोशिकाओं में दीर्घकालिक सूजन उत्पन्न होती है, जो रोग की प्रक्रियाओं को तीव्र कर सकती है।"
- **Alzheimer's disease** is characterised by the accumulation of toxic **amyloid protein**, which clump together to form plaques, leading to neurodegeneration and cognitive decline.
  अल्ज़ाइमर रोग की विशेषता विषैले **अमाइलॉइड प्रोटीन** के संचय से होती है, जो एकत्रित होकर प्लाक बनाते हैं और तंत्रिका-अपक्षय तथा संज्ञानात्मक गिरावट का कारण बनते हैं।
- This exerkine was found to boost new neuron formation within the **hippocampus**.
  यह पाया गया कि यह एक्सरकाइन हिप्पोकैम्पस में नई तंत्रिका कोशिकाओं के निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करता है।

PATRIOTIC IAS

New result pushes bounds of how small a liquid can be

GS III: S&T [redacted]

Vasudevan Mukunth

Physicists have spent more than two decades studying one of the strangest forms of matter ever created in a laboratory: the quark-gluon plasma (QGP). Quarks and gluons are the smallest pieces of matter. A QGP existed in the first few millionths of a second after the Big Bang, before the quarks bound together to form the first protons and neutrons. Researchers routinely create small droplets of QGP by colliding heavy atomic nuclei at extremely high energies. These droplets are extraordinarily hot, reaching trillions of degrees centigrade. Their behaviour, however, has been more surprising: instead of acting like a gas, the QGP behaves like a fluid.

A new study in *Physical Review Letters* has now reported a new 'boundary' in this field. By smashing together oxygen nuclei at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC),

The new study addresses a different question: how small can a droplet of matter be and still have fluid-like behaviour

researchers have found the smallest dollop of QGP – so far – that still behaves like a fluid. Physicists have known for decades now that energising and colliding lead nuclei, which are much heavier than oxygen nuclei, produces QGP. The new study addresses a different question: how small can a droplet of matter be and still have fluid-like behaviour? The LHC usually smashes together protons. The researchers picked oxygen ions because they occupy a middle ground between the tiny clumps of energy and matter created by smushed protons and the massive ones formed by lead ions. A middle ground that could reveal the tipping point where subatomic matter starts to resemble a fluid. The research team analysed collisions between oxygen nuclei at the LHC, looking for fast-moving particles that emerged from the collision, and compared their numbers with what would be expected if no dense medium had formed. If no dense medium forms, physicists can predict how many such particles should appear. But if a medium is present, some of the energetic quarks and gluons should lose energy before they escape, reducing the number of energetic particles eventually reaching the detector.

The researchers have reported signs of such a suppression. It was less pronounced in collisions involving the oxygen ions, but it was noticeable. The finding suggests that oxygen-oxygen collisions can create a medium large enough to affect the motion of energetic quarks and gluons. The data "are also in better agreement with theoretical models that include quark-gluon energy loss than they are with models that omit it," *Physical Review Letters* associate editor Nikhil Karthik wrote in *Physics*. Properties like viscosity and flow are associated with fluids, and these fluids usually have an enormous number of particles. A droplet of water sliding down a wall has quadrillions of water molecules. A glob of honey big enough to show how slowly it slides has roughly a quintillion sugar molecules. Yet the QGP is much, much smaller – it has maybe thousands of quarks and gluons – but it is still a fluid. According to the new finding, a strongly interacting medium can emerge even in collisions involving relatively light nuclei. At the same time, it makes the mystery of where exactly the transition between a fluid-like medium and a gas of largely independent particles emerges more intriguing.

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04J6. New result pushes bounds of how small a liquid can be

नया परिणाम इस सीमा को आगे बढ़ाता है कि कोई द्रव कितना छोटा हो सकता है

Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP)
क्वार्क-ग्लूऑन प्लाज़्मा (QGP)

- Physicists have spent more than two decades studying one of the strangest forms of matter ever created in a laboratory: the **quark-gluon plasma (QGP)**.

भौतिकविदों ने प्रयोगशाला में अब तक निर्मित पदार्थ के सबसे विचित्र रूपों में से एक, **क्वार्क-ग्लूऑन प्लाज़्मा (QGP)**, का अध्ययन करने में दो दशकों से अधिक समय व्यतीत किया है।

- Quarks and gluons are the smallest pieces of matter.

क्वार्क और **ग्लूऑन** पदार्थ के सबसे छोटे घटक हैं।

- A QGP existed in the first few millionths of a second after the **Big Bang**, before the quarks bound together to form the first protons and neutrons.

बिग बैंग के बाद के प्रारम्भिक कुछ मिलियनवें सेकंड में QGP विद्यमान था, इससे पहले कि क्वार्क आपस में बंधकर प्रथम प्रोटॉन और न्यूट्रॉन का निर्माण करते।

- Researchers routinely create small droplets of QGP by colliding heavy atomic nuclei at extremely high energies.

शोधकर्ता अत्यधिक उच्च ऊर्जा पर भारी परमाणु नाभिकों की टक्कर कराकर नियमित रूप से QGP की छोटी बूंदों का निर्माण करते हैं।

- These droplets are extraordinarily hot, reaching trillions of degrees centigrade.

ये बूंदें अत्यंत गर्म होती हैं और इनका तापमान खरबों डिग्री सेल्सियस तक पहुँच जाता है।

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- Their behaviour, however, has been more surprising: instead of acting like a gas, the QGP behaves like a fluid.
  हालाँकि, इनका व्यवहार अधिक आश्चर्यजनक रहा है; गैस की तरह व्यवहार करने के बजाय QGP एक **द्रव** की भाँति व्यवहार करता है।
- By smashing together oxygen nuclei at the **Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**, researchers have found the smallest dollop of QGP — so far — that still behaves like a fluid.
  लार्ज हैड्रॉन कोलाइडर (LHC) में ऑक्सीजन नाभिकों की टक्कर कराकर शोधकर्ताओं ने अब तक का सबसे छोटा QGP समूह खोजा है, जो अभी भी द्रव की तरह व्यवहार करता है।
- The new study addresses a different question: how small can a droplet of matter be and still have fluid-like behaviour?
  यह नया अध्ययन एक भिन्न प्रश्न का उत्तर खोजता है: पदार्थ की एक बूंद कितनी छोटी हो सकती है और फिर भी द्रव-सदृश व्यवहार प्रदर्शित कर सकती है?
- The LHC usually smashes together protons.
  LHC सामान्यतः प्रोटॉनों की टक्कर कराता है।
- The researchers picked oxygen ions because they occupy a middle ground between the tiny clumps of energy and matter created by smushed protons and the massive ones formed by lead ions.
  शोधकर्ताओं ने ऑक्सीजन आयनों का चयन इसलिए किया क्योंकि वे प्रोटॉनों की टक्कर से बनने वाले अत्यंत छोटे ऊर्जा-पदार्थ समूहों और सीसा आयनों से बनने वाले विशाल समूहों के बीच की स्थिति का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं।
- A middle ground that could reveal the tipping point where subatomic matter starts to resemble a fluid.
  यह एक ऐसी मध्यवर्ती अवस्था है जो उस निर्णायक बिंदु को उजागर कर सकती है जहाँ उप-परमाण्विक पदार्थ द्रव जैसा दिखाई देने लगता है।
- Properties like **viscosity** and **flow** are associated with fluids, and these fluids usually have an enormous number of particles.
  श्यानता (Viscosity) और **प्रवाह (Flow)** जैसे गुण द्रवों से संबंधित होते हैं, और ऐसे द्रवों में सामान्यतः अत्यधिक संख्या में कण होते हैं।
- A droplet of water sliding down a wall has quadrillions of water molecules.
  दीवार पर फिसलती हुई जल की एक बूंद में क्वाड्रिलियन संख्या में जल अणु होते हैं।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Is climate research being held back by local instrumentation?

What are India's biggest gaps in climate research? Why do prototypes fail to become products?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:
A Mega Science Vision-2035 report on Climate Research is a roadmap prepared by the Indian climate research community with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, as the nodal institution, and submitted to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, was made public this week.

What is its central message?
The central message of the report is that India has effectively lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments. "Today, virtually no company in India manufactures quality scientific instruments for climate research," it states, adding that "billions of rupees have been spent and continue to be spent on procuring instruments manufactured elsewhere." Worse, imported instruments are often used "without knowing the principle of operation, the built-in assumptions... and their limitations," and left uncalibrated for years – producing, in the report's words, "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science."

What is the Mega Science Vision exercise?
The Mega Science Vision exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and facilitated by the PSA's office under Prof. Ajay K. Sood. A working group chaired by Prof. S.K. Satheesh, with former Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) director Dr. S.S.C. Shenoi, as member-secretary, drew on consultations with over 3,000 researchers. Crucially, the document calls itself "a Climate Research community document" of "hopes and aspirations" whose projects are "indicative" – it is neither a mandatory prescription nor a statement of government policy or funding.

Hasn't India built any of its own climate instruments?
It has built prototypes, but rarely products. The report notes that Indian engineers can design and demonstrate instruments, "some of which have already been demonstrated successfully," yet "they are not often translated into final industrial products." Examples include automatic profiling floats developed at the National Institute of Ocean Technologyfor ocean observation, and automatic weather stations by the India Meteorological Department and ISRO. Although transferred to industry, "most of them have not reached the market yet." Tellingly, the first phase of the proposed sensor programme is an audit to identify why such technologies fail to scale to production. The suggested remedy – mandating that most instruments be made in India, backed by assured procurement and pricing – sits uneasily with recent experience: the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, made mandatory to support domestic vendors, was rolled back for scientific institutions in June 2025 after scientists found it hindered access to customised, high-quality equipment.

Why study uncontrolled renewables?
Although renewable energy seems to be the right solution to replace polluting sources, the report cautions that studies are needed to assess the long-term effects of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources – even as it insists renewables must remain a priority to sustain recent momentum. India, which has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030, crossed the halfway mark in installed capacity in 2025. The report also calls for scientific methods to estimate the social cost of carbon, a "polluter pays" mechanism to prevent the atmosphere from becoming a dumping ground, and measures to offset the burden of carbon taxation on the poor.

What else in the report is of importance?
The report proposes a pan-India Climate and Health Observatory under a mega project on adaptation and resilience, reflecting how thinly India tracks climate-related health impacts. It outlines eight mega projects spanning observational networks, indigenous sensors, satellites, two strands of climate modelling, field campaigns, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science, to be overseen by a high-level apex committee. On science, it enters contested ground, backing a dense Black Carbon observatory network despite disputed claims about its relative role in global warming. It flags India's thin paleoclimate networks as a gap in understanding the monsoon's deep past, and the risk of crossing tipping points such as ice-sheet collapse and shifts in ocean circulation. It also warns of limited trained manpower, including in environmental epidemiology.

04J6. Is climate research being held back by local instrumentation?
क्या स्थानीय उपकरणों की कमी जलवायु अनुसंधान को पीछे रोक रही है?

- A **Mega Science Vision-2035** report on **Climate Research** is a roadmap prepared by the Indian climate research community with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, as the nodal institution, and submitted to the **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India, was made public this week.
  जलवायु अनुसंधान पर **मेगा साइंस विज़न-2035** रिपोर्ट भारतीय जलवायु अनुसंधान समुदाय द्वारा **भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (IISc), बेंगलुरु** को नोडल संस्था बनाकर तैयार किया गया एक रोडमैप है, जिसे भारत सरकार के **प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार (PSA) कार्यालय** को प्रस्तुत किया गया था और इसे इस सप्ताह सार्वजनिक किया गया।

What is its central message?
इसका केंद्रीय संदेश क्या है?

- The central message of the report is that India has effectively lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments.
  रिपोर्ट का केंद्रीय संदेश यह है कि भारत प्रभावी रूप से अपने स्वयं के वैज्ञानिक उपकरण बनाने की क्षमता खो चुका है।
- "Today, virtually no company in India manufactures quality scientific instruments for climate research," it states, adding that "billions of rupees have been spent and continue to be spent on procuring instruments manufactured elsewhere."
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि "आज भारत में लगभग कोई भी कंपनी जलवायु अनुसंधान के लिए गुणवत्तापूर्ण वैज्ञानिक उपकरणों का निर्माण नहीं करती," और यह भी जोड़ा गया है कि "विदेशों में निर्मित उपकरणों की खरीद पर अरबों रुपये खर्च किए जा चुके हैं और अब भी किए जा रहे हैं।"
- Worse, imported instruments are often used "without knowing the principle of operation, the built-in assumptions… and their limitations," and left uncalibrated for years — producing, in the report's words, "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science."
  इससे भी अधिक गंभीर बात यह है कि आयातित उपकरणों का उपयोग अक्सर "उनके संचालन सिद्धांत, अंतर्निहित मान्यताओं तथा सीमाओं को जाने बिना" किया जाता है और उन्हें वर्षों तक अंशांकित (कैलिब्रेट) नहीं किया जाता, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप रिपोर्ट के शब्दों में "राष्ट्रीय और अंतरराष्ट्रीय पत्रिकाओं में गलत आँकड़े प्रकाशित होते हैं, जिससे भारतीय विज्ञान की विश्वसनीयता पर प्रश्न उठते हैं।"

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What is the Mega Science Vision exercise?
मेगा साइंस विज़न अभ्यास क्या है?

- The **Mega Science Vision** exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and facilitated by the PSA's office under **Prof. Ajay K. Sood**.
  मेगा साइंस विज़न अभ्यास, जिसका उपयोग ऐतिहासिक रूप से परमाणु और उच्च-ऊर्जा भौतिकी की दीर्घकालिक परियोजनाओं की योजना बनाने के लिए किया जाता था, पहली बार जलवायु अनुसंधान, पारिस्थितिकी और खगोल विज्ञान तक विस्तारित किया गया और इसे **प्रो. अजय के. सूद** के नेतृत्व वाले PSA कार्यालय द्वारा संचालित किया गया।
- A working group chaired by **Prof. S.K. Satheesh**, with former **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** director **Dr. S.S.C. Shenoi** as member-secretary, drew on consultations with over **3,000 researchers**.
  प्रो. एस.के. सतीश की अध्यक्षता वाले कार्य समूह तथा पूर्व **भारतीय राष्ट्रीय महासागर सूचना सेवा केंद्र (INCOIS)** के निदेशक **डॉ. एस.एस.सी. शेनॉय** के सदस्य-सचिवत्व में, **3,000 से अधिक शोधकर्ताओं** के साथ परामर्श किया गया।
- Crucially, the document calls itself "a Climate Research community document" of "hopes and aspirations" whose projects are "indicative" — it is neither a mandatory prescription nor a statement of government policy or funding.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, यह दस्तावेज़ स्वयं को "आशाओं और आकांक्षाओं" का "जलवायु अनुसंधान समुदाय दस्तावेज़" कहता है, जिसकी परियोजनाएँ केवल "संकेतात्मक" हैं; यह न तो अनिवार्य निर्देश है और न ही सरकारी नीति अथवा वित्तपोषण का आधिकारिक वक्तव्य।

Hasn't India built any of its own climate instruments?
क्या भारत ने अपने स्वयं के जलवायु उपकरण विकसित नहीं किए हैं?

- The report notes that Indian engineers can design and demonstrate instruments, "some of which have already been demonstrated successfully," yet "they are not often translated into final industrial products."
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि भारतीय अभियंता उपकरणों का डिज़ाइन और प्रदर्शन करने में सक्षम हैं, "जिनमें से कुछ का सफल प्रदर्शन भी हो चुका है," किंतु "उन्हें प्रायः अंतिम औद्योगिक उत्पादों में परिवर्तित नहीं किया जाता।"
- Examples include **automatic profiling floats** developed at the **National Institute of Ocean Technology** for ocean observation, and **automatic weather stations** by the **India Meteorological Department** and **ISRO**.
  उदाहरणों में महासागरीय अवलोकन हेतु **राष्ट्रीय महासागर प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान** द्वारा विकसित **स्वचालित प्रोफाइलिंग फ्लोट्स**, तथा **भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग** और **इसरो** द्वारा विकसित **स्वचालित मौसम केंद्र** शामिल हैं।
- Although transferred to industry, "most of them have not reached the market yet."
  यद्यपि इन तकनीकों को उद्योगों को हस्तांतरित किया गया है, फिर भी "इनमें से अधिकांश अभी तक बाज़ार तक नहीं पहुँच पाए हैं।"
- Tellingly, the first phase of the proposed sensor programme is an audit to identify why such technologies fail to scale to production.
  महत्वपूर्ण रूप से, प्रस्तावित सेंसर कार्यक्रम का पहला चरण यह जाँच करना है कि ऐसी प्रौद्योगिकियाँ बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन तक क्यों नहीं पहुँच पातीं।
- The suggested remedy — mandating that most instruments be made in India, backed by assured procurement and pricing — sits uneasily with recent experience.
  प्रस्तावित समाधान — अधिकांश उपकरणों का भारत में निर्माण सुनिश्चित करना तथा उन्हें गारंटीकृत खरीद और मूल्य समर्थन देना — हाल के अनुभवों के साथ पूरी तरह मेल नहीं खाता।

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- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal, made mandatory to support domestic vendors, was rolled back for scientific institutions in **June 2025** after scientists found it hindered access to customised, high-quality equipment.
  घरेलू विक्रेताओं को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए अनिवार्य बनाया गया **गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM)** पोर्टल **जून 2025** में वैज्ञानिक संस्थानों के लिए वापस ले लिया गया, क्योंकि वैज्ञानिकों ने पाया कि इससे अनुकूलित और उच्च गुणवत्ता वाले उपकरणों तक पहुँच बाधित हो रही थी।

Why study uncontrolled renewables?
अनियंत्रित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का अध्ययन क्यों आवश्यक है?

- Although **renewable energy** seems to be the right solution to replace polluting sources, the report cautions that studies are needed to assess the long-term effects of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources.
  यद्यपि **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** प्रदूषणकारी स्रोतों का उचित विकल्प प्रतीत होती है, रिपोर्ट चेतावनी देती है कि प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के अनियंत्रित दोहन के दीर्घकालिक प्रभावों का अध्ययन आवश्यक है।
- India, which has pledged **500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030**, crossed the halfway mark in installed capacity in **2025**.
  भारत, जिसने **2030 तक 500 गीगावाट गैर-जीवाश्म ऊर्जा क्षमता** स्थापित करने का संकल्प लिया है, **2025** में इस लक्ष्य के आधे से अधिक स्तर तक पहुँच चुका था।
- The report also calls for scientific methods to estimate the **social cost of carbon**, a **"polluter pays" mechanism** to prevent the atmosphere from becoming a dumping ground, and measures to offset the burden of carbon taxation on the poor.
  रिपोर्ट **कार्बन की सामाजिक लागत** का आकलन करने के लिए वैज्ञानिक विधियों, वातावरण को अपशिष्ट-स्थल बनने से रोकने हेतु **"प्रदूषक भुगतान करे" तंत्र**, तथा गरीबों पर कार्बन कर के बोझ को कम करने के उपायों की भी सिफारिश करती है।

What else in the report is of importance?
रिपोर्ट में और क्या महत्वपूर्ण है?

- The report proposes a pan-India **Climate and Health Observatory** under a mega project on adaptation and resilience, reflecting how thinly India tracks climate-related health impacts.
  रिपोर्ट अनुकूलन और लचीलापन विषयक एक मेगा परियोजना के अंतर्गत अखिल भारतीय **जलवायु एवं स्वास्थ्य वेधशाला** स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव रखती है, जो यह दर्शाती है कि भारत जलवायु-जनित स्वास्थ्य प्रभावों की निगरानी कितनी सीमित रूप से करता है।
- It outlines **eight mega projects** spanning observational networks, indigenous sensors, satellites, two strands of climate modelling, field campaigns, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science, to be overseen by a high-level apex committee.
  रिपोर्ट में **आठ मेगा परियोजनाओं** की रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत की गई है, जिनमें अवलोकन नेटवर्क, स्वदेशी सेंसर, उपग्रह, जलवायु मॉडलिंग की दो धाराएँ, क्षेत्रीय अभियान, कार्बन-तटस्थता अनुसंधान तथा अनुकूलन विज्ञान शामिल हैं, जिनकी निगरानी एक उच्चस्तरीय शीर्ष समिति द्वारा की जाएगी।
- On science, it enters contested ground, backing a dense **Black Carbon** observatory network despite disputed claims about its relative role in global warming.
  वैज्ञानिक दृष्टि से रिपोर्ट एक विवादास्पद क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करती है और वैश्विक तापन में इसकी भूमिका को लेकर मतभेद होने के बावजूद घने **ब्लैक कार्बन वेधशाला नेटवर्क** का समर्थन करती है।
- It flags India's thin **paleoclimate networks** as a gap in understanding the monsoon's deep past, and the risk of crossing **tipping points** such as ice-sheet collapse and shifts in ocean circulation.
  रिपोर्ट भारत के सीमित **पैलियोक्लाइमेट नेटवर्क** को मानसून के प्राचीन इतिहास को समझने में एक प्रमुख कमी

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के रूप में चिह्नित करती है तथा हिमचादरों के पतन और महासागरीय परिसंचरण में परिवर्तन जैसे **टिपिंग पॉइंट्स** को पार करने के जोखिम की ओर भी संकेत करती है।

- It also warns of limited trained manpower, including in **environmental epidemiology**. रिपोर्ट **पर्यावरणीय महामारी विज्ञान** सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में प्रशिक्षित मानव संसाधन की कमी के प्रति भी चेतावनी देती है।

What Delhi HC's pathbreaking ruling on Google keyword advertising means

Justice Mini Pushkarna assessed if a company can buy another's registered trademark as a keyword on Google Ads to have their ads appear first in searches for that trademark; in 2013, Hindware Ltd. discovered that its rival companies had purchased the trademark 'Hindware' in such a manner

GS III: S&T

EXPLAINER

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

A recent ruling of the Delhi High Court in a long-running trademark dispute initiated by Hindware Limited could shape how Google handles keyword advertising, especially when trademarks are used in sponsored search results.

In a 163-page judgment delivered on May 22, Justice Mini Pushkarna examined whether a company can purchase another company's registered trademark as a keyword under Google Ads so that their advertisements appear on top of the list when users search for that trademark.

Word power: Google runs a programme 'Google AdWords', a form of keyword advertising that allows advertisers to place advertisements along with search results in their search engine. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

The dispute

In early 2013, Hindware Limited, which is in the business of sanitaryware products, discovered that its rival sanitaryware companies, Grohe India Private Limited and Cera Sanitaryware Limited, had purchased the trademark 'Hindware' as a keyword through Google's AdWords programme.

The result was that whenever a consumer searched for the word 'Hindware' on the Google search engine, the first result that appeared was for the website of Cera. Also, when someone searched 'Hindware Sanitary' or 'Hindware Sanitaryware', the first result came from the website of Grohe.

Hindware argued that its registered and well-known trademark is being used by Google by offering or suggesting it to competitors or any other entity for the generation of advertisements. Hindware said this was being done without their prior consent or approval.

Subsequently, Cera and Grohe settled with Hindware, leaving the core legal battle to continue against Google India and Google LLC.

Keyword advertising

Google runs a programme known as 'Google AdWords', which is a form of keyword advertising that allows advertisers to place advertisements along with search results in their search engine, www.google.com.

Under Google AdWords, advertisers bid for words or phrases called 'keywords' that trigger or generate a sponsored advertisement when a user enters those terms into Google Search.

For example, if someone specifically searches for Nokia or Sony, another company could purchase the keywords 'Nokia' or 'Sony' in return for a fee earned by Google, so that instead of the organic result, i.e., websites of Nokia or Sony, the user would be shown the advertisement or websites of the ad purchaser.

> On our Ads policy on trademark keywords, we have a clear and stated policy that doesn't allow competitor advertisers to use trademarked terms in the ad-text

Hindware's objection

Hindware claimed that 'HINDWARE' is a registered and well-known trademark with substantial goodwill built over decades.

The company contended that the use of its trademark as a keyword for the display of advertisements clearly amounts to use of the trademark "in advertising" within the meaning of Section 29(6) of the Trade Marks Act.

It argued that if a consumer specifically searches the term 'Hindware', it is clear that he is specifically looking for their products. The fact that the first search result of another company is shown to the consumer is bound to cause confusion and divert potential customers to rival brands.

Until 2009, Google did not permit the use of trademarks as keywords in India, but the policy was changed post the year 2009. It said that the policy applicable in India is a deviation from the policy of Google followed for countries in the European Union (EU) and European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

Google's defence

Google argued keywords act as a backend trigger for displaying the advertisements in response to the search query entered by a user. Since users cannot see the keywords provided by the advertiser, such use of trademarks as keywords cannot be said to amount to 'use' under the Trade Marks Act.

When multiple advertisers seek to choose the same word as a keyword, including a trademarked term, Google conducts an auction or bidding on the trademarked term and earns a Cost-Per-Click amount as revenue.

On the question of confusion among users, Google argued that the inorganic or sponsored search results are labelled with a prefix 'ad' to distinguish them from organic search results, eliminating the likelihood of confusion among the users.

Judgment's importance

The case touches upon a growing global conflict between trademark law and digital advertising models.

Search engines earn revenue through keyword advertising systems. By auctioning the registered trademark to rivals, Google generates revenue from multiple competitors of the trademark owner.

The court ruled in favour of Hindware restraining Google from using the name 'Hindware' or any combination of related words as part of advertising keywords.

It observed that Google's conduct amounts to "free-riding" as it monetises the investments made by the trademark owner over the years. By actively suggesting, prompting and auctioning trademarks to third parties, the court said Google rides on the goodwill of the trademark's reputation, selling off the power of the mark in attracting consumers to other rivals in order to increase enrolment in its own AdWords Policy and earn more profits.

"In doing so, Google has attempted to sell something that it simply does not own."

Beyond the case

The decision is likely to influence trademark disputes involving online advertising in India. It could affect how freely companies can use competitors' brand names in online advertisements and search results.

"We duly respect and operate in accordance with all local laws, and in instances where the orders are overbroad or inconsistent with our policies, we work to explain our position as per the legal process in the country," Google said in a statement to *The Hindu*.

"Specifically on our Ads policy on trademark keywords, we have a clear and stated policy that does not allow competitor advertisers to use trademarked terms in the ad-text of an ad. This policy is consistently applied globally and is in accordance with the Indian trademark law."

The company has held that so-called backend use of a trademark keyword is permissible to allow for small firms to compete with established incumbents, and said that it therefore only bans the deceptive use of competing trademark keywords in the actual text of ads, and not in the bidding process.

04J6. What Delhi HC's pathbreaking ruling on Google keyword advertising means

गूगल कीवर्ड विज्ञापन पर दिल्ली हाईकोर्ट के ऐतिहासिक फैसले का क्या अर्थ है

- **Justice Mini Pushkarna** assessed if a company can buy another's registered trademark as a keyword on **Google Ads** to have their ads appear first in searches for that trademark.
  न्यायमूर्ति मिनी पुष्कर्णा ने यह जांच की कि क्या कोई कंपनी **Google Ads** पर किसी अन्य कंपनी के पंजीकृत ट्रेडमार्क को कीवर्ड के रूप में खरीद सकती है ताकि उस ट्रेडमार्क की खोज होने पर उसका विज्ञापन सबसे पहले दिखाई दे।

- In **2013**, **Hindware Ltd.** discovered that its rival companies had purchased the trademark **'Hindware'** in such a manner.
  2013 में **हिंदवेयर लिमिटेड** ने पाया कि उसकी प्रतिस्पर्धी कंपनियों ने **'Hindware'** ट्रेडमार्क को इसी प्रकार खरीदा था।

The dispute
विवाद

- In early **2013**, **Hindware Limited**, which is in the business of sanitaryware products, discovered that its rival sanitaryware companies, **Grohe India Private Limited** and **Cera Sanitaryware Limited**, had purchased the trademark **'Hindware'** as a keyword through Google's **AdWords** programme.
  2013 की शुरुआत में, सैनिटरीवेयर उत्पादों के व्यवसाय में लगी **हिंदवेयर लिमिटेड** ने पाया कि उसकी प्रतिद्वंद्वी कंपनियों **Grohe India Private Limited** और **Cera Sanitaryware Limited** ने गूगल के **AdWords** कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से **'Hindware'** ट्रेडमार्क को कीवर्ड के रूप में खरीदा था।
- The result was that whenever a consumer searched for the word **'Hindware'** on the Google search engine, the first result that appeared was for the website of **Cera**.
  परिणामस्वरूप, जब भी कोई उपभोक्ता गूगल सर्च इंजन पर **'Hindware'** शब्द खोजता था, तो सबसे पहला परिणाम **Cera** की वेबसाइट का दिखाई देता था।
- Also, when someone searched **'Hindware Sanitary'** or **'Hindware Sanitaryware'**, the first result came from the website of **Grohe**.
  इसी प्रकार, जब कोई **'Hindware Sanitary'** या **'Hindware Sanitaryware'** खोजता था, तो पहला परिणाम **Grohe** की वेबसाइट से आता था।
- Hindware argued that its registered and well-known trademark is being used by Google by offering or suggesting it to competitors or any other entity for the generation of advertisements.
  हिंदवेयर ने तर्क दिया कि उसके पंजीकृत और प्रसिद्ध ट्रेडमार्क का उपयोग गूगल द्वारा प्रतिस्पर्धियों या अन्य संस्थाओं को विज्ञापन उत्पन्न करने के लिए उपलब्ध कराकर किया जा रहा है।
- Hindware said this was being done without their prior consent or approval.
  हिंदवेयर ने कहा कि यह कार्य उनकी पूर्व अनुमति या स्वीकृति के बिना किया जा रहा था।
- Subsequently, **Cera** and **Grohe** settled with Hindware, leaving the core legal battle to continue against **Google India** and **Google LLC**.
  बाद में **Cera** और **Grohe** ने हिंदवेयर के साथ समझौता कर लिया, जिससे मुख्य कानूनी लड़ाई **Google India** और **Google LLC** के विरुद्ध जारी रही।

Keyword advertising
कीवर्ड विज्ञापन

- Google runs a programme known as **'Google AdWords'**, which is a form of keyword advertising that allows advertisers to place advertisements along with search results in their search engine, www.google.com.
  गूगल **'Google AdWords'** नामक एक कार्यक्रम चलाता है, जो कीवर्ड विज्ञापन का एक रूप है और विज्ञापनदाताओं को www.google.com पर खोज परिणामों के साथ अपने विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करने की अनुमति देता है।
- Under Google AdWords, advertisers bid for words or phrases called **'keywords'** that trigger or generate a sponsored advertisement when a user enters those terms into Google Search.
  Google AdWords के अंतर्गत विज्ञापनदाता **'कीवर्ड्स'** कहलाने वाले शब्दों या वाक्यांशों पर बोली लगाते हैं, जो उपयोगकर्ता द्वारा गूगल सर्च में दर्ज किए जाने पर प्रायोजित विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करते हैं।

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- For example, if someone specifically searches for **Nokia** or **Sony**, another company could purchase the keywords **'Nokia'** or **'Sony'** in return for a fee earned by Google, so that instead of the organic result, i.e., websites of Nokia or Sony, the user would be shown the advertisement or websites of the ad purchaser.
  उदाहरण के लिए, यदि कोई व्यक्ति **Nokia** या **Sony** खोजता है, तो कोई अन्य कंपनी **'Nokia'** या **'Sony'** कीवर्ड खरीद सकती है, जिसके बदले गूगल शुल्क प्राप्त करता है, और तब उपयोगकर्ता को Nokia या Sony की वेबसाइटों के बजाय विज्ञापन खरीदने वाली कंपनी का विज्ञापन या वेबसाइट दिखाई जाएगी।

Hindware's objection
हिंदवेयर की आपत्ति

- Hindware claimed that **'HINDWARE'** is a registered and well-known trademark with substantial goodwill built over decades.
  हिंदवेयर ने दावा किया कि **'HINDWARE'** एक पंजीकृत और प्रसिद्ध ट्रेडमार्क है, जिसकी प्रतिष्ठा कई दशकों में निर्मित हुई है।
- The company contended that the use of its trademark as a keyword for the display of advertisements clearly amounts to use of the trademark "in advertising" within the meaning of **Section 29(6) of the Trade Marks Act**.
  कंपनी ने तर्क दिया कि विज्ञापनों के प्रदर्शन हेतु उसके ट्रेडमार्क का कीवर्ड के रूप में उपयोग **Trade Marks Act की धारा 29(6)** के अंतर्गत "विज्ञापन में ट्रेडमार्क के उपयोग" के समान है।
- It argued that if a consumer specifically searches the term **'Hindware'**, it is clear that he is specifically looking for their products.
  कंपनी ने कहा कि यदि कोई उपभोक्ता विशेष रूप से **'Hindware'** खोजता है, तो स्पष्ट है कि वह हिंदवेयर के उत्पादों की तलाश कर रहा है।
- The fact that the first search result of another company is shown to the consumer is bound to cause confusion and divert potential customers to rival brands.
  ऐसी स्थिति में किसी अन्य कंपनी का पहला परिणाम दिखाया जाना उपभोक्ताओं में भ्रम उत्पन्न करेगा और संभावित ग्राहकों को प्रतिस्पर्धी ब्रांडों की ओर मोड़ देगा।
- Until **2009**, Google did not permit the use of trademarks as keywords in India, but the policy was changed post the year **2009**.
  2009 तक गूगल भारत में ट्रेडमार्क को कीवर्ड के रूप में उपयोग करने की अनुमति नहीं देता था, लेकिन **2009** के बाद यह नीति बदल दी गई।
- It said that the policy applicable in India is a deviation from the policy of Google followed for countries in the **European Union (EU)** and **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**.
  हिंदवेयर ने कहा कि भारत में लागू नीति, **यूरोपीय संघ (EU)** और **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)** देशों में लागू गूगल की नीति से भिन्न है।

Google's defence
गूगल का पक्ष

- Google argued keywords act as a backend trigger for display of the advertisements in response to the search query entered by a user.
  गूगल ने तर्क दिया कि कीवर्ड केवल बैकएंड ट्रिगर के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, जो उपयोगकर्ता द्वारा दर्ज खोज प्रश्न के उत्तर में विज्ञापन प्रदर्शित करते हैं।
- Since users cannot see the keywords provided by the advertiser, such use of trademarks as keywords cannot be said to amount to 'use' under the **Trade Marks Act**.
  चूँकि उपयोगकर्ता विज्ञापनदाता द्वारा चुने गए कीवर्ड नहीं देख सकते, इसलिए ट्रेडमार्क का इस प्रकार उपयोग **Trade Marks Act** के अंतर्गत 'उपयोग' नहीं माना जा सकता।

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- When multiple advertisers seek to choose the same word as a keyword, including a trademarked term, Google conducts an auction or bidding on the trademarked term and earns a **Cost-Per-Click** amount as revenue.
  जब कई विज्ञापनदाता एक ही शब्द या ट्रेडमार्क वाले शब्द को कीवर्ड बनाना चाहते हैं, तो गूगल उस पर नीलामी या बोली प्रक्रिया संचालित करता है और **Cost-Per-Click** के रूप में राजस्व अर्जित करता है।
- On the question of confusion among users, Google argued that the inorganic or sponsored search results are labelled with a prefix **'ad'** to distinguish them from organic search results, eliminating the likelihood of confusion among the users.
  उपयोगकर्ताओं में भ्रम की संभावना के प्रश्न पर गूगल ने कहा कि प्रायोजित परिणामों के साथ **'ad'** लिखा होता है, जिससे वे सामान्य खोज परिणामों से अलग पहचाने जा सकते हैं और भ्रम की संभावना समाप्त हो जाती है।

Judgment's importance
निर्णय का महत्व

- The case touches upon a growing global conflict between **trademark law** and **digital advertising models**.
  यह मामला **ट्रेडमार्क कानून** और **डिजिटल विज्ञापन मॉडल** के बीच बढ़ते वैश्विक संघर्ष से जुड़ा है।
- Search engines earn revenue through keyword advertising systems.
  सर्च इंजन कीवर्ड विज्ञापन प्रणाली के माध्यम से राजस्व अर्जित करते हैं।
- By auctioning the registered trademark to rivals, Google generates revenue from multiple competitors of the trademark owner.
  पंजीकृत ट्रेडमार्क को प्रतिस्पर्धियों के लिए नीलाम करके गूगल ट्रेडमार्क स्वामी के कई प्रतिस्पर्धियों से राजस्व प्राप्त करता है।
- The court ruled in favour of **Hindware**, restraining Google from using the name **'Hindware'** or any combination of related words as part of advertising keywords.
  अदालत ने **हिंदवेयर** के पक्ष में निर्णय देते हुए गूगल को **'Hindware'** नाम या उससे जुड़े शब्दों के संयोजन को विज्ञापन कीवर्ड के रूप में उपयोग करने से रोक दिया।
- It observed that Google's conduct amounts to **"free-riding"** as it monetises the investments made by the trademark owner over the years.
  अदालत ने कहा कि गूगल का यह व्यवहार **"फ्री-राइडिंग"** है क्योंकि वह ट्रेडमार्क स्वामी द्वारा वर्षों में किए गए निवेश से लाभ कमा रहा है।
- By actively suggesting, prompting and auctioning trademarks to third parties, the court said Google rides on the goodwill of the trademark's reputation, selling off the power of the mark in attracting consumers to other rivals in order to increase enrollment in its own **AdWords Policy** and earn more profits.
  अदालत ने कहा कि गूगल तीसरे पक्षों को ट्रेडमार्क सुझाकर और नीलाम करके उसकी प्रतिष्ठा और सद्भावना का लाभ उठाता है तथा उपभोक्ताओं को प्रतिस्पर्धियों की ओर आकर्षित करने की शक्ति को बेचकर अपनी **AdWords Policy** में अधिक भागीदारी और लाभ अर्जित करता है।
- "In doing so, Google has attempted to sell something that it simply does not own."
  "ऐसा करके गूगल ने ऐसी वस्तु बेचने का प्रयास किया है, जिसका वह स्वामी ही नहीं है।"

Beyond the case
मामले से आगे

- The decision is likely to influence trademark disputes involving online advertising in India.
  यह निर्णय भारत में ऑनलाइन विज्ञापन से जुड़े ट्रेडमार्क विवादों को प्रभावित कर सकता है।
- It could affect how freely companies can use competitors' brand names in online advertisements and search results.

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यह इस बात को प्रभावित करेगा कि कंपनियाँ ऑनलाइन विज्ञापनों और खोज परिणामों में प्रतिस्पर्धियों के ब्रांड नामों का कितनी स्वतंत्रता से उपयोग कर सकती हैं।

- "We duly respect and operate in accordance with all local laws, and in instances where the orders are overbroad or inconsistent with our policies, we work to explain our position as per the legal process in the country," Google said in a statement.
  गूगल ने अपने बयान में कहा, "हम सभी स्थानीय कानूनों का सम्मान करते हैं और उनका पालन करते हैं, तथा जहाँ आदेश अत्यधिक व्यापक हों या हमारी नीतियों से मेल न खाते हों, वहाँ हम कानूनी प्रक्रिया के अनुसार अपना पक्ष स्पष्ट करते हैं।"
- "Specifically on our Ads policy on trademark keywords, we have a clear and stated policy that does not allow competitor advertisers to use trademarked terms in the ad-text of an ad."
  "विशेष रूप से ट्रेडमार्क कीवर्ड से संबंधित हमारी विज्ञापन नीति स्पष्ट है और प्रतिस्पर्धी विज्ञापनदाताओं को विज्ञापन के पाठ में ट्रेडमार्क शब्दों के उपयोग की अनुमति नहीं देती।"
- "This policy is consistently applied globally and is in accordance with the Indian trademark law."
  "यह नीति वैश्विक स्तर पर समान रूप से लागू की जाती है और भारतीय ट्रेडमार्क कानून के अनुरूप है।"
- The company has held that so-called backend use of a trademark keyword is permissible to allow for small firms to compete with established incumbents, and said that it therefore only bans the deceptive use of competing trademark keywords in the actual text of ads, and not in the bidding process.
  कंपनी का मानना है कि ट्रेडमार्क कीवर्ड का तथाकथित बैकएंड उपयोग छोटी कंपनियों को स्थापित कंपनियों से प्रतिस्पर्धा करने का अवसर देता है, इसलिए वह केवल विज्ञापन के वास्तविक पाठ में प्रतिस्पर्धी ट्रेडमार्क के भ्रामक उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध लगाती है, न कि बोली प्रक्रिया में।

GS Paper III: Environment	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	Reading for a warming world: books that rethink nature, development and survival गर्म होती दुनिया को समझने के लिए पठन: ऐसी पुस्तकें जो प्रकृति, विकास और अस्तित्व पर पुनर्विचार करती हैं
04J6	Centre mulls policy to boost E85 fuel uptake केंद्र E85 ईंधन के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नीति पर विचार कर रहा है

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Reading for a warming world: books that rethink nature, development and survival

As heatwaves intensify and climate anxiety grows, a new set of books critiques the belief in technological fixes, highlights projects that risk ecological damage, and reimagines forests as spaces shaped by power, conflict and care, urging readers to rethink their relationship with nature and development

GS III: Environment

Soma Basu

The severe heatwave this year has pushed temperatures beyond normal highs across some regions. The warming caused by human activity is not surprising as scientists have warned about it for decades.

What is more concerning is the lack of adequate collective action to address this crisis. Since human minds tend to focus on immediate threats rather than future ones, it is important to recognise that climate change is impacting us faster than is projected. Therefore, appropriate individual and systemic actions need to be prioritised. World Environment Day reminds us of the responsibility, and this year's theme – "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future. 2026" – is all about focusing on nature-based solutions to combat the climate crisis.

The man who planted trees

Some powerful books deepen our understanding of sustainability. *Ghosts on Peepal Trees: My Journey From Folk Tales to Forests* (Ebury Press, to be released on June 5) is the memoir of environmentalist Peepal Baba alias Swami Prem Parivartan.

The book evokes memories of shade and green spaces, clean rivers, forests and natural resources, singing birds, and fertile soil. It shows how these landscapes teach coexistence and help us understand the architecture of forests, the politics of ecosystem management, the economics of the environment, and even ecotheology. It urges us "to listen to the Earth and believe in our ability to care about the natural world."

For five decades, Peepal Baba worked towards restoring vegetation on 2,70,000 hectares by planting 26 million trees in 226 districts across 21 States in India. While rooted in the idea of individual and community action, his work also points to the need for broader ecological responsibility, where everyday practices – planting trees, composting waste, feeding birds, recycling, developing green patches or rooftop nurseries, and cycling – become part of a larger cultural and environmental shift. He urges others to act in whatever way they can.

Peepal Baba also expresses concern about the modern world's growing reliance on technological solutions – from synthetic DNA and genetic modification to crops that bypass pollinators and livestock that are raised entirely without natural conditions such as sunlight. He warns against government policies lacking courage.

Impacting nature and communities

It is a fact that every city today is a story of concretisation, forgotten rivers, and vanished greens. In his latest book, *Island on Edge: The Great Nicobar Crisis* (2026, Westland), Pankaj Sekhsaria lifts the veil off the ₹82,000 crore mega infrastructure development project planned for the Great Nicobar Island cautioning how it will irreversibly damage not only the fragile biodiversity of the region, but also the culture of indigenous communities and their languages.

The project, which includes the clearing of 130 sq. km of pristine tropical evergreen forest, is one of the many continued betrayals of the island. That is why, the author says, he has compiled this collection of research-based, data-driven articles to help readers understand the legal, ethical, and on-ground realities of Great Nicobar.

Echoing Peepal Baba's concerns about the "strange arrogance attached to development projects" and the belief that technology can overcome every obstacle, Sekhsaria critiques the pitfalls of building an airport, transshipment terminal, power plant, and new township on the island. Both authors point to actions detrimental to the environment and to culture. Instead of aligning with climate sensitivity, such development initiatives heavily deplete nature's ecological balance.

The changing face of forests

India's Forests: Revisiting Nature and History (Vintage Books, 2026), co-edited by Mahesh Rangarajan and Arupjyoti Saikia, is a reappraisal of forests as living contested spaces across the country. The authors refer to forests shaped by power, culture, and society, and redefined through conflict, negotiation, and care, and why they mean different things to different people.

The book is an interesting critique and also a tribute to Ramachandra Guha's 1989 study of colonial and post-colonial forestry, *The Unquiet Woods*, that establishes the centrality of forests in our lives.

The ten essays cover a wide range of forest-related issues, tracing the history of forest management from the past to the present while looking ahead to more just and sustainable uses of natural resources.

At its core, this series connects forests to various constituents of nature and human society and prompts us to ask what forests are for, especially at a time when our cities are gasping for oxygen. If we allow nature to govern half our spaces, the rest will flourish on its own because ecosystems are capable of self-regulation. The book revisits the Chipko movement and other environmental struggles, highlighting the need to balance the use and conservation of nature and to distinguish between necessity and greed. It reiterates that the overexploitation and destruction of natural resources is ultimately self-destructive.

The more forests belong to communities, the greater their protection will be. Afforestation is no longer a luxury or merely a government policy; it is a matter of survival and a way of making amends with nature. The future can be secured only if everyone participates in healing the soil and, in turn, the climate.

04J6. Reading for a warming world: books that rethink nature, development and survival

गर्म होती दुनिया को समझने के लिए पठन: ऐसी पुस्तकें जो प्रकृति, विकास और अस्तित्व पर पुनर्विचार करती हैं

- **World Environment Day** reminds us of the responsibility, and this year's theme — **"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future. 2026"** — is all about focusing on **nature-based solutions** to combat the climate crisis.
  विश्व पर्यावरण दिवस हमें हमारी जिम्मेदारी की याद दिलाता है, और इस वर्ष की थीम — **"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future. 2026"** — जलवायु संकट से निपटने के लिए **प्रकृति-आधारित समाधानों** पर केंद्रित है।

The man who planted trees
वह व्यक्ति जिसने वृक्ष लगाए

- Some powerful books deepen our understanding of **sustainability**.
  कुछ प्रभावशाली पुस्तकें **सततता (सस्टेनेबिलिटी)** के प्रति हमारी समझ को और गहरा बनाती हैं।
- **Ghosts on Peepal Trees: My Journey From Folk Tales to Forests** (Ebury Press, to be released on June 5) is the memoir of environmentalist **Peepal Baba** alias **Swami Prem Parivartan**.
  Ghosts on Peepal Trees: My Journey From Folk Tales to Forests (Ebury Press, 5 जून को प्रकाशित होने वाली) पर्यावरणविद् **पीपल बाबा** उर्फ **स्वामी प्रेम परिवर्तन** का संस्मरण है।
- For five decades, **Peepal Baba** worked towards restoring vegetation on **2,70,000 hectares** by planting **26 million trees** in **226 districts** across **21 States** in India.

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पाँच दशकों तक **पीपल बाबा** ने भारत के **21 राज्यों** के **226 जिलों** में **2.6 करोड़ वृक्ष** लगाकर **2,70,000 हेक्टेयर** क्षेत्र में वनस्पति पुनर्स्थापन का कार्य किया।

- In his latest book, **Island on Edge: The Great Nicobar Crisis** (2026, Westland), **Pankaj Sekhsaria** lifts the veil off the **₹82,000 crore mega infrastructure development project** planned for the **Great Nicobar Island**.
  अपनी नवीनतम पुस्तक **Island on Edge: The Great Nicobar Crisis** (2026, Westland) में **पंकज सेखसरिया** ने **ग्रेट निकोबार द्वीप** के लिए प्रस्तावित **₹82,000 करोड़ की मेगा अवसंरचना विकास परियोजना** के वास्तविक प्रभावों को उजागर किया है।

- The project, which includes the clearing of **130 sq. km of pristine tropical evergreen forest**, is one of the many continued betrayals of the island.
  यह परियोजना, जिसमें **130 वर्ग किलोमीटर के अछूते उष्णकटिबंधीय सदाबहार वन** की कटाई शामिल है, द्वीप के साथ किए जा रहे अनेक निरंतर विश्वासघातों में से एक है।

The changing face of forests
वनों का बदलता स्वरूप

- **India's Forests: Revisiting Nature and History** (Vintage Books, 2026), co-edited by **Mahesh Rangarajan** and **Arupjyoti Saikia**, is a reappraisal of forests as living contested spaces across the country.
  महेश रंगराजन और **अरूपज्योति सैकिया** द्वारा सह-संपादित **India's Forests: Revisiting Nature and History** (Vintage Books, 2026) पूरे देश में वनों को जीवंत और विवादित सामाजिक-पर्यावरणीय स्थलों के रूप में पुनर्मूल्यांकित करती है।

- The book revisits the **Chipko movement** and other environmental struggles, highlighting the need to balance the use and conservation of nature and to distinguish between necessity and greed.

Centre mulls policy to boost E85 fuel uptake

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government is actively examining supportive policy framework to accelerate affordable adoption of E85 fuel, said Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri.

Speaking at the launch of Hero MotoCorp's flex-fuel motorcycles on Wednesday, he said that E85 (85% blending of ethanol with gasoline), fuel would be "substantially cheaper than normal fuel [variant]".

"If 1% of annual petrol vehicle sales in India during ethanol supply year 2026-27 shifts to E85, over four crore litres of ethanol demand would be generated, [and] nearly ₹266 crore estimated payments would be made to distillers," he said, adding that about ₹195 crore would be earned in foreign exchange savings, approximately 0.28 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of crude oil imports would be reduced, net CO_2 reduction of nearly 0.86 LMT will be achieved, and nearly ₹160 crore would go directly to farmers.

Hardeep Singh Puri

04J6. Centre mulls policy to boost E85 fuel uptake

केंद्र E85 ईंधन के उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए नीति पर विचार कर रहा है

- The government is actively examining a supportive **policy framework** to accelerate affordable adoption of **E85 fuel**, said Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Hardeep Singh Puri**.
  केंद्रीय पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री **हरदीप सिंह पुरी** ने कहा कि सरकार **E85 ईंधन** को किफायती रूप से अपनाने में तेजी लाने के लिए सहायक **नीतिगत ढांचे** की सक्रिय रूप से समीक्षा कर रही है।

- Speaking at the launch of **Hero MotoCorp's flex-fuel motorcycles** on Wednesday, he said that **E85** (85% blending of ethanol with gasoline) fuel would be "substantially cheaper than normal fuel [variant]".
  बुधवार को **हीरो मोटोकॉर्प की फ्लेक्स-फ्यूल मोटरसाइकिलों** के लॉन्च के अवसर पर उन्होंने कहा कि **E85** (गैसोलीन में 85% एथेनॉल मिश्रण) ईंधन "सामान्य ईंधन की तुलना में काफी सस्ता" होगा।

- "If **1% of annual petrol vehicle sales** in India during ethanol supply year **2026-27** shifts to **E85**, over **four crore litres of ethanol demand** would be generated, [and] nearly **₹266 crore estimated payments** would be made to distillers," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "यदि **एथेनॉल आपूर्ति वर्ष 2026-27** के दौरान भारत में वार्षिक पेट्रोल वाहन बिक्री का **1% हिस्सा E85** की ओर स्थानांतरित हो जाए, तो **चार करोड़ लीटर से अधिक एथेनॉल की मांग** उत्पन्न होगी और आसवकों (Distillers) को लगभग **₹266 करोड़ का अनुमानित भुगतान** किया जाएगा।"

GS Paper III: Internal Security	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	Sourav Ganguly's security cover downgraded सौरव गांगुली की सुरक्षा श्रेणी घटाई गई

Sourav Ganguly's security cover downgraded

GS III: Internal Security

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The West Bengal government on Wednesday reduced the security cover for Sourav Ganguly, former captain of the Indian cricket team, from the Z-category to the Y-category.

The development was confirmed by officials of the West Bengal Police security wing as part of an "ongoing routine exercise" in reviewing the security cover of various prominent personalities in the State based on their threat assessments.

Under the new arrangement, he is expected to be provided with only three or four security personnel.

04J6. Sourav Ganguly's security cover downgraded
सौरव गांगुली की सुरक्षा श्रेणी घटाई गई

- The **West Bengal government** on Wednesday reduced the security cover for **Sourav Ganguly**, former captain of the **Indian cricket team**, from the **Z-category** to the **Y-category**.

बुधवार को **पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार** ने **भारतीय क्रिकेट टीम** के पूर्व कप्तान **सौरव गांगुली** की सुरक्षा श्रेणी को **Z श्रेणी** से घटाकर **Y श्रेणी** कर दिया।

- The development was confirmed by officials of the **West Bengal Police security wing** as part of an **"ongoing routine exercise"** in reviewing the security cover of various prominent personalities in the State based on their **threat assessments**.

इस घटनाक्रम की पुष्टि **पश्चिम बंगाल पुलिस के सुरक्षा प्रकोष्ठ** के अधिकारियों ने की और बताया कि यह राज्य की विभिन्न प्रमुख हस्तियों की सुरक्षा व्यवस्था की **खतरे के आकलन** के आधार पर की जा रही **"नियमित समीक्षा प्रक्रिया"** का हिस्सा है।

- Under the new arrangement, he is expected to be provided with only **three or four security personnel**.

नई व्यवस्था के तहत उन्हें केवल **तीन या चार सुरक्षा कर्मी** उपलब्ध कराए जाने की संभावना है।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	04 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
04J6	Dharma remains a mystery धर्म एक रहस्य बना हुआ है

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FAITH

GS IV: Ethics

Dharma remains a mystery

It is difficult to understand dharma, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar in a discourse. The meaning of dharma remains hidden. We can understand dharma only partly, not all of it. Just take the rule that we must speak the truth always – *satyam vada*. Is it always practical? Is it wise to always speak the truth? What if, because of our honesty, we hurt someone? In such circumstances, wouldn't a lie be better? Is it wrong to utter a lie to save a life? If a man is chased by someone who wants to murder him, and the villain asks you in which direction the man is running, would it be ethical to reveal the truth to the man with murderous intentions? Will it not lead to a man losing his life? In this case, it would be wrong to be truthful. Even Sita, who had such high ideals in life, had to lie. The occasion was the visit of Hanuman. Hanuman had met Sita with his reassuring message and had departed. The demonesses guarding Sita were curious about the monkey. They asked Sita whether she knew the monkey that had been there. Sita replied wisely that she didn't know who that monkey was.

In Ravana's rajya, demons assumed different forms and the monkey could be some demon, said Sita. If Sita had revealed Hanuman's identity, there might have been more trouble for her. Besides, what purpose would be served by being open about Hanuman's identity? When a truth serves no purpose, but a lie can protect us, isn't it better to conceal truth? So even in the matter of just one command relating to telling truth, there can be so many deviations. There can be deviations from other rules too, and these deviations too might not be *adharmic*. That is why dharma remains a mystery, and is not easily understood.

04J6. Dharma remains a mystery
धर्म एक रहस्य बना हुआ है

- It is difficult to understand **dharma**, said **Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar** in a discourse.
एक प्रवचन में **नावलपक्कम वासुदेवाचारियार** ने कहा कि **धर्म** को समझना कठिन है।
- The meaning of **dharma** remains hidden.
धर्म का अर्थ अब भी छिपा हुआ है।
- We can understand **dharma** only partly, not all of it.
हम **धर्म** को केवल आंशिक रूप से समझ सकते हैं, पूरी तरह नहीं।
- Just take the rule that we must speak the **truth** always — **satyam vada**.
केवल इस नियम को ही लें कि हमें सदैव **सत्य** बोलना चाहिए — **सत्यम् वद**।
- Is it always practical?
क्या यह हमेशा व्यावहारिक है?
- Is it wise to always speak the **truth**?
क्या हमेशा **सत्य** बोलना बुद्धिमानी है?
- What if, because of our honesty, we hurt someone?
यदि हमारी ईमानदारी के कारण किसी को कष्ट पहुँच जाए तो क्या होगा?
- In such circumstances, wouldn't a **lie** be better?
ऐसी परिस्थितियों में क्या **झूठ** बेहतर नहीं होगा?
- Is it wrong to utter a **lie** to save a life?
क्या किसी का जीवन बचाने के लिए **झूठ** बोलना गलत है?
- If a man is chased by someone who wants to murder him, and the villain asks you in which direction the man is running, would it be ethical to reveal the **truth** to the man with murderous intentions?
यदि किसी व्यक्ति का पीछा कोई हत्यारा कर रहा हो और वह आपसे पूछे कि वह व्यक्ति किस दिशा में भागा है, तो क्या उस हत्यारे को **सत्य** बताना नैतिक होगा?
- Will it not lead to a man losing his life?
क्या इससे एक व्यक्ति की जान नहीं चली जाएगी?
- In this case, it would be wrong to be truthful.
इस स्थिति में सत्य बोलना गलत होगा।
- Even **Sita**, who had such high ideals in life, had to lie.
यहाँ तक कि **सीता**, जिनके जीवन में इतने उच्च आदर्श थे, उन्हें भी झूठ बोलना पड़ा।
- The occasion was the visit of **Hanuman**.
यह प्रसंग **हनुमान** के आगमन का था।
- **Hanuman** had met **Sita** with his reassuring message and had departed.
हनुमान ने अपना सांत्वना देने वाला संदेश **सीता** को दिया और फिर वहाँ से चले गए।
- The demonesses guarding **Sita** were curious about the monkey.
सीता की रखवाली कर रही राक्षसियाँ उस वानर के बारे में जानने को उत्सुक थीं।
- They asked **Sita** whether she knew the monkey that had been there.
उन्होंने **सीता** से पूछा कि क्या वह उस वानर को जानती हैं जो वहाँ आया था।

PATRIOTIC IAS

- **Sita** replied wisely that she didn't know who that monkey was.
  सीता ने बुद्धिमानी से उत्तर दिया कि वह नहीं जानतीं कि वह वानर कौन था।
- In **Ravana's rajya**, demons assumed different forms and the monkey could be some demon, said **Sita**.
  सीता ने कहा कि **रावण के राज्य** में राक्षस विभिन्न रूप धारण करते हैं और वह वानर भी कोई राक्षस हो सकता है।
- If **Sita** had revealed **Hanuman's** identity, there might have been more trouble for her.
  यदि **सीता** ने **हनुमान** की पहचान बता दी होती, तो उनके लिए और अधिक परेशानी उत्पन्न हो सकती थी।
- Besides, what purpose would be served by being open about **Hanuman's** identity?
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **हनुमान** की पहचान उजागर करने से क्या उद्देश्य पूरा होता?
- When a **truth** serves no purpose, but a **lie** can protect us, isn't it better to conceal truth?
  जब **सत्य** किसी उद्देश्य की पूर्ति न करे, लेकिन **झूठ** हमारी रक्षा कर सकता हो, तो क्या सत्य को छिपाना बेहतर नहीं है?
- So even in the matter of just one command relating to telling **truth**, there can be so many deviations.
  इस प्रकार केवल **सत्य** बोलने के एक आदेश के विषय में भी अनेक अपवाद हो सकते हैं।
- There can be deviations from other rules too, and these deviations too might not be **adharmic**.
  अन्य नियमों में भी अपवाद हो सकते हैं, और वे अपवाद भी आवश्यक नहीं कि **अधार्मिक** हों।
- That is why **dharma** remains a mystery, and is not easily understood.
  इसीलिए **धर्म** एक रहस्य बना हुआ है और उसे आसानी से समझा नहीं जा सकता।

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PCS Special:	03 June 2026
03J6	Overloading, long ride hours weighed heavy on Gulmarg Gondola अधिक भार और लंबे संचालन समय ने गुलमर्ग गोंडोला पर डाला भारी दबाव
03J6	Brand value ब्रांड मूल्य
03J6	The finish line is still far for Indian sprinting भारतीय स्प्रिंट दौड़ के लिए फिनिश लाइन अभी भी बहुत दूर है
03J6	QUIZ
03J6	Pope picks first lay woman to head communications dept. at Vatican पोप ने वेटिकन के संचार विभाग की प्रमुख के रूप में पहली गैर-पादरी महिला को चुना
03J6	Bahutule is India's spin-bowling coach ahead of Afghanistan Test अफगानिस्तान टेस्ट से पहले बहुतुले बने भारत के स्पिन गेंदबाजी कोच
03J6	India men rout Korea in under-18 Asia Cup अंडर-18 एशिया कप में भारत ने कोरिया को करारी शिकस्त दी
03J6	'Bring in a new format without disrupting the existing system' 'मौजूदा व्यवस्था को बाधित किए बिना नया प्रारूप लाया जाए'
03J6	I know I am not far away from the top

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	मुझे पता है कि मैं शीर्ष से ज्यादा दूर नहीं हूँ

Overloading, long ride hours weighed heavy on Gulmarg Gondola

PCS

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Overloading, extended ride hours, and violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) have made Asia's highest cable car, the Gulmarg Gondola, vulnerable to technical faults, according to officials.

Panic gripped the tourist hotspot in north Kashmir's Baramulla on May 25 after a snag left about 300 tourists stranded mid-air. The rescue operation lasted over six hours.

Set up in 1998, the gondola runs in two phases every day: Gulmarg to Kongdoori (10-minute ride) and Kongdoori to Apharwat (12-minute ride), with the highest point located at an altitude of 4,390 metres (14,403 feet). Official sources said 63 cabins, each with a carrying capacity of six persons, are operated in the first phase.

Efforts under way to rescue tourists stranded in Asia's highest cable car following a snag at Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, on May 25. PTI

According to officials, the J&K Cable Car Corporation, which runs the gondola, started allowing 7,000 to 8,000 tourists to take the ride in the first phase this year against the approved upper limit of 4,000. The second phase, with a carrying capacity of 1,500 people in 33 cabins, started ferrying 3,000 tourists, officials said.

On May 25, about 3,000 tourists had taken the ride in the first phase up to 1 p.m., when the snag occurred. Another batch of about 3,000 could not take the ride. Official sources said if tourists were stranded in the second phase, then the "rescue operation would have been almost impossible, given the terrain and altitude".

While ₹810 is charged per person in the first phase, the price is ₹1,010 in the second. About a million tourists took the gondola in 2024, an average of 2,739 persons per day. The year saw revenue generation of ₹108 crore.

Besides overloading, the corporation also extended the operating time by four hours this year. Official sources said the cable car ran operations from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. last year. However, this year, the ride would start at 7.30 a.m. and close by 8.30 p.m. Officials said running the cable car after sunset "is against the SOPs laid down in 1998 for the Gulmarg Gondola".

'Change in routine'

"The earlier maintenance routine stipulated that the cable car should rest every Monday for technicians to take a look. However, maintenance was shifted to night hours and Monday too was included to ferry tourists," an official said.

At present, there are six stations for the cable car ride and an open-air chair lift in Gulmarg. However, these stations are not manned by mandatory technical staff, which would include electrical and mechanical engineers, another official said.

The corporation has also failed to fill the technical posts that remained vacant after 2012, "significantly decreasing the technical staff", the backbone of the gondola, according to officials. The staff strength in the Electrical Department has fallen from eight to three this year, they said.

Meanwhile, the J&K Cable Car Corporation remains indecisive about reopening the ride. "No date has been fixed for reopening the facility. Refunds for tourists who had booked tickets between May 25 and June 3 are being processed," said Syed Qamar Sajjad, managing director of the corporation.

03J6. Overloading, long ride hours weighed heavy on Gulmarg Gondola
अधिक भार और लंबे संचालन समय ने गुलमर्ग गोंडोला पर डाला भारी दबाव

- Set up in **1998**, the gondola runs in two phases every day: **Gulmarg to Kongdoori** (10-minute ride) and **Kongdoori to Apharwat** (12-minute ride), with the highest point located at an altitude of **4,390 metres (14,403 feet)**.

  1998 में स्थापित यह गोंडोला प्रतिदिन दो चरणों में संचालित होता है: **गुलमर्ग से कोंगडूरी** (10 मिनट की यात्रा) और **कोंगडूरी से अफरवात** (12 मिनट की यात्रा), जिसका उच्चतम बिंदु **4,390 मीटर (14,403 फीट)** की ऊँचाई पर स्थित है।

TOP 5 HIGHEST AND LONGEST CABLE CAR SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD

Highest Cable Car Systems

1. Matterhorn Alpine Crossing

- Highest 3S cableway in the world.
- The system reaches Europe's highest cable-car station at about **3,883 m (12,739 ft)** above sea level.
- It connects Switzerland and Italy across the Alps.

2. Gulmarg Gondola

- Reaches approximately **3,980 m (13,058 ft)** at Apharwat Peak and is widely

recognized as one of the world's highest operating gondolas.

3. Mérida Cable Car

- The famous Mukumbarí system climbs to Pico Espejo in the Andes at around **4,765 m (15,633 ft)**, making it one of the highest cable-car systems ever built.

4. Tianmen Mountain Cableway

- Although not the highest by summit elevation, it rises dramatically over **1,279 m vertically**, one of the greatest elevation gains achieved by a passenger cableway.

5. Mi Teleférico

- The world's largest urban cable-car network operates at elevations exceeding **4,000 m**, making it one of the highest public transit systems on Earth.

Longest Passenger Cable Car Systems

1. Hon Thom Cable Car

- Length: **7.899 km**, Holds the Guinness record for the world's longest non-stop three-rope cable car over the sea.

Quick Comparison

Cable Car	Country	Approx. Length	Maximum Elevation
Hon Thom Cable Car	Vietnam	7.9 km	~175 m
Tochal Telecabin	Iran	7.5 km	~3,740 m
Tianmen Mountain Cableway	China	7.455 km	~1,519 m
Gulmarg Gondola	India	~5 km (two phases)	~3,980 m
Matterhorn Alpine Crossing	Switzerland–Italy	Multi-section	~3,883 m station
Wings of Tatev	Armenia	5.75 km	~320 m above gorge

PATRIOTIC IAS

PCS

Brand value

RCB helped IPL's latest edition build on previous successes

Derided for not matching potential with performance in the past, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) emphatically put those old ghosts to rest. Having won the Indian Premier League (IPL) title last year, RCB did one better this year, and retained the championship. A commanding display over Gujarat Titans in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday ensured that RCB joined the likes of Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians, teams that have won the title for two consecutive years. Ever since the league's inception in 2008, the Bengaluru squad tended to flourish in spurts and then fade away. Three finals were made too prior to 2025, and in all those summit clashes, RCB choked. Last year, however, a turnaround was effected but as Rajat Patidar's men exulted, the moment turned tragic with 11 fans losing their lives in a stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. In the latest edition, RCB maintained remarkable consistency and while Patidar marshalled his resources, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya and Josh Hazlewood chipped in. Fittingly, Patidar dedicated the triumph to the 11 fans who passed away. Meanwhile, Titans led by Shubman Gill, ran into a stronger outfit in the final and could not cash in on the advantage of playing at their home ground.

Having commenced on March 28, the IPL with 10 teams and 74 matches, had a bloated air and at times viewer interest dipped. The cricket, though, was from the top-drawer of T20 cricket as batters muscled sixes. The leading star was Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who belied his 15 summers. The Rajasthan Royals' player is one for the future and there is talk of the selectors fast-tracking him into the national squad. Just as Sachin Tendulkar made his international debut at 16, Sooryavanshi too seems set to join that space of young talent pursuing higher glory. For now, a spot in T20I beckons even as the youngster is keen to play Tests too. Just as RCB, Titans, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals made it to the play-offs, legacy units such as CSK, Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders fell by the wayside. A churn is on the cards and Rishabh Pant has already relinquished his captaincy with the Lucknow Super Giants. India, the reigning T20 champion, has enough talent as was evident through the IPL. The club against country debate too stirred up as England speedster Jofra Archer's IPL contract overlapped with the one that he has with The England and Wales Cricket Board. The IPL is a massive sporting brand but it should not cannibalise traditional cricket.

03J6. Brand value
ब्रांड मूल्य

- A commanding display over **Gujarat Titans** in the final at Ahmedabad's **Narendra Modi Stadium** on Sunday ensured that RCB joined the likes of **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** and **Mumbai Indians**, teams that have won the title for two consecutive years.

रविवार को अहमदाबाद के **नरेंद्र मोदी स्टेडियम** में फाइनल में **गुजरात टाइटंस** पर शानदार प्रदर्शन ने सुनिश्चित किया कि RCB अब **चेन्नई सुपर किंग्स (CSK)** और **मुंबई इंडियंस** जैसी उन टीमों की श्रेणी में शामिल हो जाए, जिन्होंने लगातार दो वर्षों तक खिताब जीता है।

- Ever since the league's inception in **2008**, the Bengaluru squad tended to flourish in spurts and then fade away.

2008 में लीग की शुरुआत से ही बेंगलुरु की टीम बीच-बीच में शानदार प्रदर्शन करती थी, लेकिन बाद में उसका प्रदर्शन कमजोर पड़ जाता था।

- Last year, however, a turnaround was effected but as **Rajat Patidar's** men exulted, the moment turned tragic with 11 fans losing their lives in a stampede outside the **M. Chinnaswamy Stadium** in Bengaluru.

हालाँकि, पिछले वर्ष परिस्थितियाँ बदलीं, लेकिन जब **रजत पाटीदार** की टीम जीत का उत्सव मना रही थी, उसी समय बेंगलुरु के **एम. चिन्नास्वामी स्टेडियम** के बाहर भगदड़ में 11 प्रशंसकों की मृत्यु से यह क्षण दुखद बन गया।

- Having commenced on **March 28**, the IPL with 10 teams and 74 matches, had a bloated air and at times viewer interest dipped.

28 मार्च से शुरू हुए IPL में 10 टीमें और 74 मैच शामिल थे, जिसके कारण यह कुछ अधिक विस्तारित प्रतीत हुआ और कई बार दर्शकों की रुचि भी कम हुई।

- Just as **Sachin Tendulkar** made his international debut at 16, Sooryavanshi too seems set to join that space of young talent pursuing higher glory.

जिस प्रकार **सचिन तेंदुलकर** ने 16 वर्ष की आयु में अंतरराष्ट्रीय पदार्पण किया था, उसी प्रकार सूर्यवंशी भी युवा प्रतिभाओं की उस श्रेणी में शामिल होते दिखाई दे रहे हैं, जो उच्च उपलब्धियों की ओर अग्रसर हैं।

- Just as RCB, Titans, **Sunrisers Hyderabad** and **Rajasthan Royals** made it to the play-offs, legacy units such as CSK, Mumbai Indians and **Kolkata Knight Riders** fell by the wayside.

जहाँ RCB, टाइटंस, **सनराइजर्स हैदराबाद** और **राजस्थान रॉयल्स** प्ले-ऑफ में पहुँचे, वहीं पारंपरिक सफल टीमें जैसे CSK, मुंबई इंडियंस और **कोलकाता नाइट राइडर्स** पीछे रह गईं।

- The IPL is a massive sporting brand but it should not cannibalise traditional cricket.

IPL एक विशाल खेल ब्रांड है, लेकिन इसे पारंपरिक क्रिकेट को नुकसान पहुँचाने वाला नहीं बनना चाहिए।

PATRIOTIC IAS

The finish line is still far for Indian sprinting

Gurindervir Singh's national-record, 10.09s, ranks 524th on the all-time list; only 39 countries have broken the 10-second barrier

PCS

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

By the time the men's 100m final began at the Federation Cup in Ranchi on May 23, 2026, India's national record had already changed hands twice within that tournament – a first in Indian sprinting. A day earlier, Gurindervir Singh had lowered the national record to 10.17 seconds in the first semifinals. Minutes later, Animesh Kujur reclaimed it with 10.15 seconds in the second semi-final. Gurindervir seized the opportunity the final offered. His time of 10.09 seconds not only restored the record to his name but also made him the first Indian to break the 10.1-second barrier.

The achievement marked the latest chapter in a rivalry that is transforming Indian sprinting. Anil Kumar's national record of 10.21 seconds had remained unbeaten since 2000. By clocking 10.18 seconds, Animesh not only broke that in July 2025, but became the first Indian to cross the 10.2-second barrier.

While it took 25 years for Indian men's sprinting to breach the 10.2-second barrier, it has seen a dramatic leap forward since then. With Gurindervir's 10.09 seconds, followed by Animesh's 10.15 and 10.18 seconds, and Manikanta Hoblidhar's 10.19 seconds, four of the five fastest 100m sprints by Indian men have been recorded in the last two seasons. But where does India's fastest-ever sprinter stand in the global arena?

An analysis of World Athletics' all-time men's 100m lists shows both the significance of Gurindervir's breakthrough and how far India remains from sprinting's elite. On the global all-time list, Gurindervir's record ranks only 524th.

At the very top, the sport remains remarkably concentrated. Ten of the top 11 performances belong to sprinters from just two countries – Jamaica and the U.S. Jamaica's Usain Bolt holds the world record at 9.58 seconds. American Tyson Gay shares the second-fastest time in history at 9.69 seconds. The only exception is Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala, whose 9.77-second run shares the 10th place **(Chart 1)**.

The sub-10-second barrier remains one of athletics' most exclusive benchmarks. More than half a century after electronic timing became the standard in 1968, only 39 countries have produced athletes with 100m runs recorded under 10 seconds **(Chart 2)**.

Martin Owens, Animesh's coach, told *The Hindu* that breaking that barrier requires far more than raw speed. "You need natural talent. You need good facilities. You need good recovery and medical backup. You need an intelligent programme," Mr. Owens said, adding that coaching from an early age, financial support and international exposure are also crucial.

When every country's fastest man ever is compared, India sits at around 65th among 182 nations. Several nations with populations under 1.5 crore rank ahead of India, including Trinidad and Tobago, Botswana and Namibia.

It is notable that the fastest sprint performances are usually recorded with a helping breeze. An analysis of the best performances from these 182 nations shows that 139 were achieved with tailwinds between 0.1 and 2 metres per second, while only 17 came while facing headwinds **(Chart 3)**. Even slight wind assistance matters in an event decided by hundredths of a second.

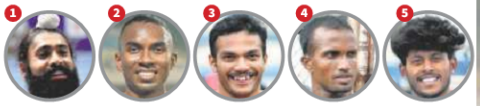
Four of India's top five performances, including Gurindervir's, were recorded with tailwinds. However, his national record came with a relatively modest breeze of 0.3 metres per second, indicating scope for faster performances under more favourable conditions.

Gurindervir, after setting the new record, told the media that the world would soon see Indians running below 10 seconds.

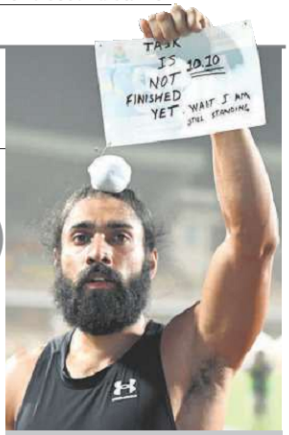
Off and running

The data for the charts were sourced from World Athletics, the international governing body for the sport of athletics

TABLE 1: The top five Indian men's 100m performances



India Rank	World Rank	Competitor	Time (in seconds)	Wind (in m/s)	Date of performance
1	524	Gurindervir Singh	10.09	0.3	May 23, 2026
2	878	Animesh Kujur	10.15	0.3	May 22, 2026
3	1180	Manikanta Hoblidhar	10.19	-0.6	September 28, 2025
4	1362	Anil Kumar	10.21	2	July 5, 2000
5	1480	Tamilarasu Senthilkumar	10.22	0.2	August 20, 2025



During his celebrations, Gurindervir Singh held up the back of his bib, which said, "Task is not finished yet." RITU RAJ KONWAR

CHART 1: The all-time top-700 men's 100m performances

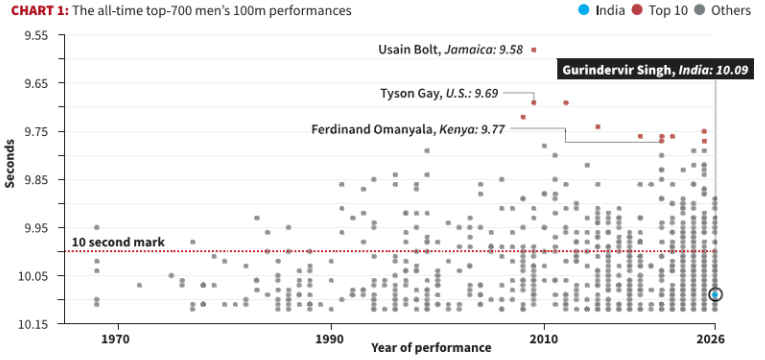


CHART 2: Fastest men's 100m performances of each country, grouped by continent and whether the 10-second barrier has been broken

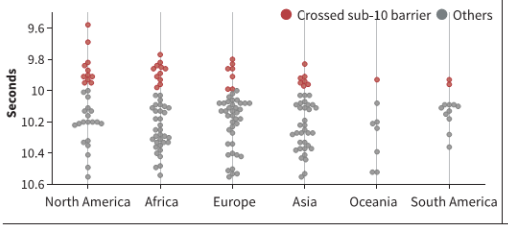
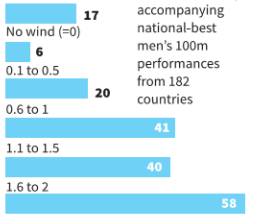


CHART 3: The wind readings accompanying national-best men's 100m performances from 182 countries



03J6.The finish line is still far for Indian sprinting
भारतीय स्प्रिंट दौड़ के लिए फिनिश लाइन अभी भी बहुत दूर है

- **Gurindervir Singh's national-record, 10.09s, ranks 524th on the all-time list; only 39 countries have broken the 10-second barrier.**
  गुरिंदरवीर सिंह का राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड, 10.09 सेकंड, सर्वकालिक सूची में 524वें स्थान पर है; केवल 39 देशों ने 10-सेकंड की बाधा को पार किया है।
- By the time the men's **100m final** began at the **Federation Cup** in **Ranchi** on **May 23, 2026**, India's national record had already changed hands twice within that tournament — a first in Indian sprinting.
  23 मई 2026 को **रांची** में आयोजित **फेडरेशन कप** में पुरुषों की **100 मीटर फाइनल** दौड़ शुरू होने तक भारत का राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड उसी प्रतियोगिता के भीतर दो बार बदल चुका था — जो भारतीय स्प्रिंट इतिहास में पहली बार हुआ।

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Contact Number : 9971932488
Website : patrioticias.in

- A day earlier, **Gurindervir Singh** had lowered the national record to **10.17 seconds** in the first semifinals.
  एक दिन पहले **गुरिंदरवीर सिंह** ने पहले सेमीफाइनल में राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड को घटाकर **10.17 सेकंड** कर दिया था।
- His time of **10.09 seconds** not only restored the record to his name but also made him the first Indian to break the **10.1-second barrier**.
  उनका **10.09 सेकंड** का समय न केवल राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड को पुनः उनके नाम कर गया, बल्कि उन्हें **10.1 सेकंड की बाधा** तोड़ने वाला पहला भारतीय भी बना दिया।
- **Anil Kumar's** national record of **10.21 seconds** had remained unbeaten since **2000**.
  अनिल कुमार का **10.21 सेकंड** का राष्ट्रीय रिकॉर्ड **2000** से अटूट बना हुआ था।
- By clocking **10.18 seconds**, Animesh not only broke that in **July 2025**, but became the first Indian to cross the **10.2-second barrier**.
  10.18 सेकंड का समय निकालकर अनिमेष ने **जुलाई 2025** में न केवल वह रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा, बल्कि **10.2 सेकंड की बाधा** पार करने वाले पहले भारतीय भी बने।
- On the global all-time list, Gurindervir's record ranks only **524th**.
  वैश्विक सर्वकालिक सूची में गुरिंदरवीर का रिकॉर्ड केवल **524वें** स्थान पर है।
- At the very top, the sport remains remarkably concentrated.
  शीर्ष स्तर पर यह खेल अब भी कुछ सीमित देशों के प्रभुत्व में केंद्रित है।
- Ten of the top 11 performances belong to sprinters from just two countries — **Jamaica** and the **U.S.**
  शीर्ष 11 प्रदर्शनों में से 10 केवल दो देशों — **जमैका** और **अमेरिका** — के धावकों के नाम हैं।
- Jamaica's **Usain Bolt** holds the world record at **9.58 seconds**.
  जमैका के **उसैन बोल्ट** के नाम **9.58 सेकंड** का विश्व रिकॉर्ड दर्ज है।
- American **Tyson Gay** shares the second-fastest time in history at **9.69 seconds**.
  अमेरिका के **टायसन गे** के नाम इतिहास का दूसरा सबसे तेज़ समय **9.69 सेकंड** दर्ज है।

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Apart from Royal Challengers Bengaluru, these two teams have defended their crowns. **Ans: Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians**
2. The only batter to have scored two tons. **Ans: CSK's Sanju Samson**
3. The Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium and Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium are located in these State capitals. **Ans: Raipur and Hyderabad**
4. A unique factor about Match 38 played on April 26. **Ans: It was the only one to be decided by a Super Over where KKR prevailed over the host LSG**
5.The first player to win back-to-titles with two different teams. **Ans: Krunal Pandya (MI in 2019 & 20) and RCB (25 & 26)**
6. Teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi won these official awards. **Ans: Most Valuable Player (₹15 lakh), Emerging player (₹10 lakh), Super Striker (Tata Sierra SUV) and Super Sixes (₹10 lakh)**
Visual: Name this bowler who was the only one to take five wickets in a match. **Ans: Mohsin Khan (LSG)**
Early birds: Elango P. | Amit Saxena

03J6. QUIZ: IPL

1. Teams That Successfully Defended Their IPL Titles

- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Mumbai Indians (MI)
- Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) joined a very exclusive group of IPL teams by successfully defending their title in IPL 2026.
- Mumbai Indians defended their title in 2020 after winning in 2019, while Chennai Super Kings retained their crown in 2011 after winning in 2010.

2. The Only Batter to Score Two Centuries

- Sanju Samson emerged as the only batter to score **two centuries in IPL 2026**.
- His second hundred of the season made him the only player to achieve multiple centuries during the tournament.

3. Locations of Two Major IPL Stadiums

- The **Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium** is located in **Raipur**.
- The **Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium** is situated in **Hyderabad**.

4. Unique Feature of Match 38 Played on April 26

- The match was decided by a Super Over, with KKR defeating LSG.
- Match 38 of IPL 2026 became memorable because it was the **only match of the season to be decided through a Super Over**.
- The contest between **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)** ended in a tie after both teams scored identical totals.

5. First Player to Win Back-to-Back IPL Titles with Two Different Teams

- Krunal Pandya created a unique IPL record by winning consecutive IPL titles with **different franchises**. He was part of **Mumbai Indians' championship-winning teams in 2019 and 2020**, and later became a member of **Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning squads in 2025 and 2026**.

6. Awards Won by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

- Teenage sensation **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** enjoyed a breakthrough IPL 2026 season and received multiple official awards. He won the **Most Valuable Player (MVP)** award for his overall impact on matches.
- He was also named the **Emerging Player of the Season**, recognizing his exceptional performances at a young age.
- Additionally, he secured the **Super Striker Award** for maintaining an outstanding strike rate and the **Super Sixes Award** for hitting the highest number of sixes.
- His record-breaking performances established him as one of the brightest young talents in Indian cricket.

Pope picks first lay woman to head communications dept. at Vatican

PCS [redacted] REUTERS

Pope Leo XIV on Tuesday named a Mexico-born news executive to head up the Vatican's powerful communications department — the first lay woman to hold a post in the Roman Curia. Maria Montserrat Alvarado, currently president of the Catholic media outlet *EWTN News*, will take up her post on November 1. AFP

03J6. Pope picks first lay woman to head communications dept. at Vatican

पोप ने वेटिकन के संचार विभाग की प्रमुख के रूप में पहली गैर-पादरी महिला को चुना

- **Pope Leo XIV** on Tuesday named a **Mexico-born** news executive to head up the Vatican's powerful communications department.

पोप लियो XIV ने मंगलवार को **मेक्सिको में जन्मी** एक समाचार अधिकारी को वेटिकन के शक्तिशाली संचार विभाग का प्रमुख नियुक्त किया।

- The first lay woman to hold a post in the **Roman Curia**.

वह **रोमन क्यूरिया** में इस पद पर नियुक्त होने वाली पहली गैर-पादरी महिला हैं।

- **Maria Montserrat Alvarado**, currently president of the Catholic media outlet **EWTN News**, will take up her post in November.

कैथोलिक मीडिया संस्थान **EWTN News** की वर्तमान अध्यक्ष **मारिया मॉन्टसेराट अल्वाराडो** नवंबर में अपना पदभार ग्रहण करेंगी।

NEW CHALLENGE

Bahutule is India's spin-bowling coach ahead of Afghanistan Test

PCS [redacted] FILE PHOTO

Sairaj Bahutule has joined the Indian team as spin-bowling coach ahead of the Test against Afghanistan. The former India leggie will oversee the national team's spin department across formats. He joins the Indian camp after a stint with Punjab Kings in IPL 2026. He was part of the India u-19 and India-A set-up.

03J6. Bahutule is India's spin-bowling coach ahead of Afghanistan Test

अफगानिस्तान टेस्ट से पहले बहुतुले बने भारत के स्पिन गेंदबाजी कोच

- **Sairaj Bahutule** has joined the Indian team as **spin-bowling coach** ahead of the Test against **Afghanistan**.
  सैराज बहुतुले ने **अफगानिस्तान** के खिलाफ टेस्ट मैच से पहले भारतीय टीम के **स्पिन गेंदबाजी कोच** के रूप में टीम से जुड़ गए हैं।
- The former India leggie will oversee the national team's spin department across formats.
  पूर्व भारतीय लेग स्पिनर सभी प्रारूपों में राष्ट्रीय टीम के स्पिन विभाग की देखरेख करेंगे।

03J6.India men rout Korea in under-18 Asia Cup
अंडर-18 एशिया कप में भारत ने कोरिया को करारी शिकस्त दी

- The **Indian men** produced a dominant **4-1 victory** against **Korea** in their third **under-18 Asia Cup 2026** Pool A match here.
  भारतीय पुरुष टीम ने यहां खेले गए अपने तीसरे **अंडर-18 एशिया कप 2026** पूल ए मुकाबले में **कोरिया** के खिलाफ शानदार **4-1 की जीत** दर्ज की।
- India faces **Taiwan** on Wednesday.
  भारत का अगला मुकाबला बुधवार को **ताइवान** से होगा।

India men rout Korea in under-18 Asia Cup

PCS [redacted]
ANI
KAKAMIGAHARA [JAPAN]

The Indian men produced a dominant 4-1 victory against Korea in their third under-18 Asia Cup 2026 Pool A match here. Captain Ketan Kushwaha (3, 36), Varinder Singh (5) and Shahrukh Ali (54) scored for India while Korean captain Yun Jaehyeok (21) pulled one back.

The win puts India level on six points with Korea and Japan.

The top two from each pool will qualify for the semifinals.

India faces Taiwan on Wednesday.

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I know I am not far away from the top

After quietly climbing to World No. 40, Chotrani has his eyes fixed on the Asian Games singles gold; the 24-year-old, who is the second highest-ranked men's player in the country, feels he can improve further by working on the mental and physical aspects of his game

INTERVIEW

Veer Chotrani

[redacted]

K. Keerthivasan

After taking up squash full-time following his graduation from Cornell University in the USA two years ago, Veer Chotrani has emerged as one of the players to watch out for on the PSA Tour.

The 24-year-old from Mumbai has quietly climbed the PSA rankings ladder to a career-high World No. 40, registering notable wins over top players. Chotrani has now set his sights on winning the Asian Games gold medal in singles, which offers direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

"If I win the Asian Games singles gold, I will clinch an Olympics berth. Nobody knows who will play in the individual events (at the Asian Games) because you have the mixed doubles event as well. But if I get a chance to play singles, it will be a pretty good opportunity," Chotrani told *The Hindu*.

He also spoke about competing full-time on the PSA Tour, the challenges a professional player faces, and his desire to perform better in Platinum events in the new season.

You are ranked 40th in the world. Are you satisfied with your season?

Yes, it was good. I've seen progress in every department of my game. I had some good wins. There were also a few matches where I didn't get the result, but I feel that my performances against some of the top players were really good. Overall, it was a positive season.

You registered some impressive wins over Abhay Singh and other higher-ranked players this season. Which performances would you consider the highlights?

I beat France's Baptiste Masotti, who was in the top 20, at the Squash on Fire Open in Washington. That was probably my biggest win... my first victory over a top-20 player. I beat Abhay twice (in the Indian Tour in Mumbai and the World championships in Giza) out of the three times we played each other. I played one of my best matches when I pushed top-10 player Joel Makin (Wales) to five games at the New Zealand Open in Christchurch. Reaching the quarterfinals of the Hamburg Open was great.

These kinds of performances have given me a lot of confidence and motivation to keep pushing. I know that I have the potential to get up there very soon. It's just a matter of time before I put together a consistent run of good results. Hopefully, that happens next season.

Which are the areas you think you need to work on?

My game has definitely improved, but I still think there is plenty of work to do, especially on the mental and physical aspects. That is what really separates players like me from the top guys. At this level, almost every player has the squash ability to compete at a very high standard. But who is willing to push themselves physically and mentally to the absolute limit to get over the line? That is what separates the top-10 players from those ranked in the 30s and 40s.

That is something I'm working on. The more exposure I got against the top-10 and top-20 players this season, the more I learnt. It gave me a much better understanding of what it takes to compete at the highest level, something I didn't fully have before this season. Being able to step on court with someone like Makin, who is among the top players in the world and one of the fittest on the Tour, and being able to stay with him and compete was a huge positive for me. In today's game, the physical and mental sides are everything, so those are areas I really want to focus on.

Do you take advice from your father Manish Chotrani, who is a former National champion?

We only talk squash; we love the sport way too much. It's our common language. He only wants me to get better every time I'm training or playing a tournament. All the time we're just discussing what the next step should be. It's good to have someone at home who keeps a check on me. He is someone who understands me very well. It's very good to have that kind of sporting, squash mind... someone who can analyse my game very well. He talks to my coach David Palmer and gets feedback from him. Whenever I'm in Mumbai, I'm with my dad on the court. He's the one who hits with me all the time.

All eight of your PSA titles have come at the Challenger class. Do you think you need to win Copper, Bronze and bigger World Tour events to improve your ranking further, especially with the Asian Games coming up in September-October?

Yes, all of them have been at the Challenger level, but I also made two finals (St. James Expression Open in Springfield, the USA, and the Indian Open, Mumbai) at the World Tour level this season. Obviously, the goal is to start winning World Tour titles, beginning with Copper events. I don't think that I'm too far away from that level.

There is intense competition for places in the Indian team for the Asian Games. You are the second highest-ranked men's player behind Abhay. With the rankings getting updated every week, how difficult is it to maintain your position on the tour?

Honestly, I'm not really thinking about the rankings. I just want to focus on my preparation and game. Ramit Tandon (47) and Velavan Senthilkumar (53) and I are extremely close in the standings, while Abhay (24) is ahead of us. But I believe that on any given day, all four of us are capable of beating each other. So, I'm not really thinking too much about all of that.

India now has four men in the world's top 60...

To be honest, even before COVID-19, we had a few players in the top 50. Saurav Ghosal was obviously far ahead of everyone at that point. We also had players like Ramit in the top 50. Harinderpal Singh Sandhu, Vikram Malhotra and Mahesh Mangaonkar... all of whom broke into the top 50 at different points of their careers. Maybe it wasn't as consistent then, but Indian squash has definitely had players capable of reaching that level. Right now, we have a very healthy rivalry among the four of us. Going into the Asian Games, there is a huge opportunity for us to defend our team gold. I genuinely think we have a much stronger team and a much better chance than last time.

Who could be India's toughest opponents at the Asian Games?

Traditionally, it has been Pakistan, Hong Kong and Malaysia. That has been the case for many years, and I don't think it will change this year either. Based on world rankings, I think we have the most consistent and solid team. That makes a huge difference in terms of depth. Hopefully, we go into the Games as the No. 1 seeded team. After that, it's all about delivering on the big stage at the right moment.

R. RAVINDRAN

In the past, you had balanced playing on the PSA Tour with college squash. How has the transition to professional squash been?

It's been great. I've been playing full-time since September 2024. I've been competing regularly and performing well on the PSA Tour, which is the reason for my rise in the rankings. I don't think there was much pressure on me when I started playing full-time. I planned my schedule well so that I had enough flexibility to train and recover. Physically, it wasn't too taxing, but mentally, it was tougher because of all the travelling – constantly moving from one country to another, flights, hotels and adapting to different conditions.

But honestly, I had zero pressure because I felt I had nothing to lose. It was my first full season, and my only goal was to play good squash and climb as high as possible in the rankings, especially since I hadn't played many PSA events before. I also wanted to enjoy the experience – travelling to different countries, competing at different venues, in different atmospheres and in front of different crowds. It was a lovely experience, and the exposure I gained in my first season is something I'll always cherish.

Of course, there were a lot of learnings as well. Last summer, I worked extremely hard on my physical conditioning, and I could clearly see the improvements this season. I know I need to keep doing that consistently every year, and that's going to remain a major focus for me going forward.

What is your next objective?

I would love to play in the individual event (singles) at the Asian Games. It is not just about winning an Asian Games gold; there is qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, too. I would love to have a shot at that. I also aim to make it to the Platinum events next season. I need to be in the top 35 in the world to be able to get into those events. I'll be working towards that; I'm not far away.

Is there one eye on the Los Angeles Olympics?

Winning the singles title at the Asian Games is my major goal. If I win gold, I will clinch an Olympics berth. Nobody knows who will play in the individual events (at the Asian Games) because you have the mixed doubles event as well. But if I get a chance to play singles, it will be a pretty good opportunity.

03J6. I know I am not far away from the top
मुझे पता है कि मैं शीर्ष से ज्यादा दूर नहीं हूँ

- After quietly climbing to **World No. 40**, **Chotrani** has his eyes fixed on the **Asian Games singles gold**.
  शांतिपूर्वक **विश्व रैंकिंग 40** तक पहुंचने के बाद **चोटरानी** की नजर अब **एशियन गेम्स एकल स्वर्ण पदक** पर है।
- After taking up **squash** full-time following his graduation from **Cornell University** in the USA two years ago, **Veer Chotrani** has emerged as one of the players to watch out for on the **PSA Tour**.
  दो वर्ष पहले अमेरिका के **कॉर्नेल यूनिवर्सिटी** से स्नातक होने के बाद पूर्णकालिक रूप से **स्क्वैश** अपनाने वाले **वीर चोटरानी** अब **पीएसए टूर** के उभरते खिलाड़ियों में शामिल हो गए हैं।
- The **24-year-old** from **Mumbai** has quietly climbed the PSA rankings ladder to a career-high **World No. 40**, registering notable wins over top players.

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मुंबई के इस **24 वर्षीय** खिलाड़ी ने शीर्ष खिलाड़ियों पर उल्लेखनीय जीत दर्ज करते हुए पीएसए रैंकिंग में करियर की सर्वश्रेष्ठ **विश्व रैंकिंग 40** हासिल की है।

- **Chotrani** has now set his sights on winning the **Asian Games gold medal** in singles, which offers direct qualification for the **2028 Los Angeles Olympics**.
  चोटरानी ने अब एकल वर्ग में **एशियन गेम्स स्वर्ण पदक** जीतने का लक्ष्य तय किया है, जो **2028 लॉस एंजेलिस ओलंपिक** के लिए सीधी योग्यता प्रदान करता है।

GS Paper 1: Geography	03 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
03J6	Blue Moon
03J6	IMD revises its forecast for the onset of monsoon over Kerala to 'around June 4' IMD ने केरल में मानसून के आगमन का पूर्वानुमान संशोधित कर 'लगभग 4 जून' किया
03J6	India losing ability to build its own instruments: climate science report भारत अपनी वैज्ञानिक उपकरण निर्माण क्षमता खो रहा है: जलवायु विज्ञान रिपोर्ट
03J6	Bolides: fireballs going boom बोलाइड्स: विस्फोट करते अग्नि-पिंड
03J6	Benin president visits Niger, a first since 2023 coup sparked tensions बेनिन के राष्ट्रपति ने नाइजर का दौरा किया, 2023 के तख्तापलट के बाद यह पहली यात्रा

Blue Moon

BIG SHOT

A blue moon, the second full moon in a calendar month, rises behind the ancient Greek temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion south of Athens, on May 31. AFP

- A blue moon, the second full moon in a calendar month, rises behind the ancient Greek temple of Poseidonat Cape Sounion south of Athens, on May 31.
- A **Blue Moon** is a special term used for an unusually timed full moon. Despite its name, the Moon does **not actually appear blue** in most cases.

Monthly Blue Moon

- When **two full moons occur in the same calendar month**, the second full moon is called a Blue Moon.
- This happens because:
  - A full moon occurs roughly every **29.5 days**.
  - Some months are **31 days long**.
  - Therefore, occasionally a month can contain two full moons.
- Example: If a full moon occurs on **1st August and another on 31st August**, the second one is called a Blue Moon.
- This type of Blue Moon occurs roughly once every: **2.5 to 3 years**.

India losing ability to build its own instruments: climate science report

Use of imported equipment that remains uncalibrated leads to incorrect data being reported, marring credibility of Indian science; researchers also aim to study long-term impact of uncontrolled tapping of natural resources for renewable energy

GS I: Geography GS III: S&T

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of India's leading climate scientists has warned that the country has almost lost the ability to build its own scientific instruments, leaving its climate observations dependent on imported equipment that is often run uncalibrated for years. This has led to "incorrect data being reported in national and international journals, often leading to questions on the credibility of Indian science", they said.

The researchers also called for long-term studies to evaluate the climate consequences of the "uncontrolled" growth of renewable energy installations, warning that the effects of large solar and wind plants on the climate remain "poorly understood".

The warning appeared in the Mega Science Vision-2035 (MSV) report on Climate Research, a road map prepared by the Indian climate research community with the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, as the nodal institution, and submitted to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Union government.

The report was made public earlier this week.

Heat is on: The warning lands at a time when India is already facing the harmful effects of the warming climate. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Atmanirbhar challenges

The warning on instruments sits awkwardly with the government's drive for "atmanirbhar" or self-reliance. To boost domestic manufacturing, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal was made mandatory for public scientific institutions, requiring procurement from the lowest-bidding India-registered vendor.

As *The Hindu* has reported, scientists found this a stumbling block when they needed customised equipment built to high-quality standards, with GeM vendors often unable to meet such specifications and the alternative – a global tender – entailing long bureaucratic delays.

In June 2025, the Finance Ministry rolled back some of the rules amid complaints over sub-standard materials.

The warning also lands at a time when India is already facing the harmful effects of the warming climate, from intensifying heatwaves and erratic monsoons to accelerating Himalayan glacier melt – the very trends that reliable, well-calibrated observations are meant to track.

The MSV exercise, historically used to plan large, long-horizon projects in fields such as nuclear and high-energy physics, was for the first time extended to climate research, ecology and astronomy, and was facilitated by the PSA's office under Professor Ajay K. Sood.

On the energy transition, the report recommended devising "scientific methods to estimate the social cost of carbon [i.e., the cost of damages from an extra ton of CO2]" and a mechanism to implement the "polluter pays" principle to stop the atmosphere being used as "a dumping ground" for emissions, while seeking ways to "offset the effects of the carbon tax on the poor."

The scientists' justification for studying "uncontrolled" renewables is cautionary rather than sceptical. The report said that while "renewable energy seems to be the right solution to replace polluting energy sources, studies are needed to understand the long-term consequences of the uncontrolled tapping of natural resources."

India has pledged 500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030, and crossed the halfway mark on installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025.

Mega projects

The report called for an indigenous Earth System Model built "from first principles", distinct from existing Indian models which have been "adapted from the U.S. or Europe."

It also proposed eight "mega projects" – spanning observatories, satellites, in-situ networks, field campaigns, indigenous sensors, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science – phased across three roughly five-year blocks until 2035.

03J6. India losing ability to build its own instruments: climate science report
भारत अपनी वैज्ञानिक उपकरण निर्माण क्षमता खो रहा है: जलवायु विज्ञान रिपोर्ट

- The warning appeared in the **Mega Science Vision-2035 (MSV) report on Climate Research**.
  यह चेतावनी **मेगा साइंस विजन-2035 (MSV) जलवायु अनुसंधान रिपोर्ट** में दी गई है।
- A road map prepared by the Indian climate research community with the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru**, as the nodal institution.
  यह रोडमैप भारतीय जलवायु अनुसंधान समुदाय द्वारा **भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान (IISc), बेंगलुरु** को नोडल संस्था बनाकर तैयार किया गया।
- To boost domestic manufacturing, the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** portal was made mandatory for public scientific institutions.

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घरेलू विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सार्वजनिक वैज्ञानिक संस्थानों हेतु **गवर्नमेंट ई-मार्केटप्लेस (GeM)** पोर्टल अनिवार्य बनाया गया।

- India has pledged **500 GW of non-fossil capacity by 2030**.
  भारत ने **2030 तक 500 GW गैर-जीवाश्म ऊर्जा क्षमता** हासिल करने का संकल्प लिया है।
- And crossed the halfway mark on installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in **2025**.
  और **2025** में गैर-जीवाश्म स्रोतों से स्थापित विद्युत क्षमता में आधे से अधिक लक्ष्य हासिल कर लिया।

Mega projects
मेगा परियोजनाएँ

- The report called for an indigenous **Earth System Model** built "from first principles".
  रिपोर्ट में "प्रथम सिद्धांतों" पर आधारित स्वदेशी **अर्थ सिस्टम मॉडल** विकसित करने की मांग की गई।
- Spanning observatories, satellites, in-situ networks, field campaigns, indigenous sensors, carbon-neutrality research and adaptation science.
  इनमें वेधशालाएँ, उपग्रह, स्थल-आधारित नेटवर्क, फील्ड अभियान, स्वदेशी सेंसर, कार्बन-न्यूट्रलिटी अनुसंधान और अनुकूलन विज्ञान शामिल हैं।

Bolides: fireballs going boom

GS I: Geography

Vasudevan Mukunth

On May 30, a meteor exploded over northeastern U.S. while producing loud booming noises. NASA scientists said the object broke apart around 64 km above the ground as it was falling at more than 1,20,000 km/hr. The energy the explosion released was estimated to be equivalent to around 300 tonnes of TNT.

Experts often call these objects bolides. A bolide is an exceptionally bright meteor that breaks apart or explodes in the earth's atmosphere. These objects are originally small pieces of rock or metal in space that, after a close encounter with the earth, enter the atmosphere as meteors. As such a meteor falls, the air in front becomes compressed and heated, causing it to glow and produce a bright streak of light across the sky.

Most meteors are very small and burn up completely before reaching the ground. However, larger ones can survive for longer. If they become bright enough, they become fireballs. And if they fragment violently and release a large amount of energy, astronomers often call them bolides.

The rock or metal is usually some small fragment left behind by asteroids or, less often, comets. They orbit the sun until their paths intersect with that of the earth. When they enter the atmosphere, they can travel tens of kilometres every second. The loud booms are the resulting shockwaves.

A frame grab of a video recorded by a dashboard camera shows the Chelyabinsk meteorite descending in February 2013. AP

A famous example is the Chelyabinsk bolide, which exploded over Russia in 2013, generating a powerful shockwave that damaged buildings and injured more than a thousand people.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

03J6. Bolides: fireballs going boom
बोलाइड्स: विस्फोट करते अग्नि-पिंड

- On **May 30**, a meteor exploded over northeastern **U.S.** while producing loud booming noises.
  30 मई को उत्तर-पूर्वी **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के ऊपर एक उल्का विस्फोटित हुआ, जिससे तेज़ गूँजने वाली ध्वनियाँ उत्पन्न हुईं।
- **NASA** scientists said the object broke apart around **64 km** above the ground as it was falling at more than **1,20,000 km/hr**.
  नासा के वैज्ञानिकों ने कहा कि यह वस्तु पृथ्वी से लगभग **64 किलोमीटर** ऊपर टूट गई, जबकि यह **1,20,000 किमी/घंटा** से अधिक की गति से गिर रही थी।
- The energy the explosion released was estimated to be equivalent to around **300 tonnes of TNT**.
  इस विस्फोट से निकलने वाली ऊर्जा का अनुमान लगभग **300 टन टीएनटी** के बराबर लगाया गया।
- Experts often call these objects **bolides**.
  विशेषज्ञ इन वस्तुओं को प्रायः **बोलाइड** कहते हैं।
- A **bolide** is an exceptionally bright meteor that breaks apart or explodes in the earth's atmosphere.
  बोलाइड एक अत्यंत चमकीला उल्का होता है, जो पृथ्वी के वायुमंडल में टूट जाता है या विस्फोटित हो जाता है।
- These objects are originally small pieces of rock or metal in space that, after a close encounter with the earth, enter the atmosphere as meteors.
  ये वस्तुएँ मूल रूप से अंतरिक्ष में मौजूद चट्टान या धातु के छोटे टुकड़े होती हैं, जो पृथ्वी के निकट आने के बाद उल्का के रूप में वायुमंडल में प्रवेश करती हैं।

- As such a meteor falls, the air in front becomes compressed and heated, causing it to glow and produce a bright streak of light across the sky.
  जब ऐसा उल्का गिरता है, तो उसके सामने की वायु संकुचित और गर्म हो जाती है, जिससे वह चमकने लगता है और आकाश में प्रकाश की एक चमकीली रेखा उत्पन्न करता है।
- Most meteors are very small and burn up completely before reaching the ground.
  अधिकांश उल्काएँ बहुत छोटी होती हैं और पृथ्वी की सतह तक पहुँचने से पहले ही पूरी तरह जल जाती हैं।
- If they become bright enough, they become **fireballs**.
  यदि वे अत्यधिक चमकीली हो जाएँ, तो उन्हें **फायरबॉल** कहा जाता है।
- And if they fragment violently and release a large amount of energy, astronomers often call them **bolides**.
  और यदि वे तीव्रता से टूटकर अत्यधिक मात्रा में ऊर्जा छोड़ें, तो खगोलविद उन्हें प्रायः **बोलाइड** कहते हैं।
- The rock or metal is usually some small fragment left behind by **asteroids** or, less often, **comets**.
  यह चट्टान या धातु प्रायः **क्षुद्रग्रहों** अथवा कम मामलों में **धूमकेतुओं** के पीछे छूटे छोटे टुकड़े होते हैं।
- They orbit the sun until their paths intersect with that of the earth.
  वे सूर्य की परिक्रमा करते रहते हैं, जब तक कि उनका मार्ग पृथ्वी के मार्ग से न टकरा जाए।
- When they enter the atmosphere, they can travel tens of kilometres every second.
  जब वे वायुमंडल में प्रवेश करते हैं, तो वे प्रत्येक सेकंड में कई किलोमीटर की दूरी तय कर सकते हैं।
- The loud booms are the resulting shockwaves.
  तेज़ गूँजने वाली ध्वनियाँ उसी से उत्पन्न आघात तरंगें होती हैं।
- A famous example is the **Chelyabinsk bolide**, which exploded over **Russia** in **2013**, generating a powerful shockwave that damaged buildings and injured more than a thousand people.
  एक प्रसिद्ध उदाहरण **चेल्याबिंस्क बोलाइड** है, जो **2013** में **रूस** के ऊपर विस्फोटित हुआ था, जिससे उत्पन्न शक्तिशाली आघात तरंगों ने इमारतों को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया और एक हजार से अधिक लोग घायल हो गए।

Benin president visits Niger, a first since 2023 coup sparked tensions

GS I: Geography

Agence France-Presse
ABIDJAN

Benin's new leader was in Niger on Tuesday, state TV showed, the first such presidential visit to Niamey since a 2023 coup, in a sign of easing tensions between the neighbours.

Niger's military leaders, who broke off ties with traditional ally France, closed the border with Benin after accusing the country of harbouring "French bases" bent on destabilising Niger.

Junta chief Abdourahamane Tiani greeted Benin President Romuald Wadagni, who took over on May 24, Tele Sahel showed in its live coverage.

The two leaders are expected to discuss relaunching security cooperation between the countries, which are both battling jihadist violence.

Benin's newly elected President Romuald Wadagni during his inauguration ceremony in Cotonou on May 24. REUTERS

The visit "is part of the active neighbourhood diplomacy that President Wadagni intends to pursue with all the states bordering Benin", the Beninese presidency said in a statement.

In an initial sign of improving relations, Niger's Prime Minister Ali Lamine Zeine had attended Mr. Wadagni's inauguration in Cotonou where he spoke of "a new path".

Late on Monday, Niger state TV had broadcast reports praising "the age-old relations" between the "brotherly peoples of Niger and Benin" as well as a "desire to ease regional diplomatic tensions".

Main roads in Niamey on Tuesday were decorated with flags of the two countries and hundreds of Beninese gathered to greet the presidential convoy.

Niger is Mr. Wadagni's second foreign trip after he visited Nigeria on Monday.

Mr. Wadagni, the former Finance Minister and chosen successor of ex-President Patrice Talon, won the election with 94% of the vote.

A few days after his victory, Nigerien Interior Minister Mohamed Toumba said he was waiting for "goodwill gestures" from the new President, "for Benin to come out and say that it has nothing to do with France's interests, that Benin is not facilitating France's presence on its territory in order to attack its neighbours".

Niger regularly accuses Benin of harbouring French military bases which it says are training jihadists.

03J6. Benin president visits Niger, a first since 2023 coup sparked tensions

बेनिन के राष्ट्रपति ने नाइजर का दौरा किया, 2023 के तख्तापलट के बाद यह पहली यात्रा

- **Benin's** new leader was in **Niger** on Tuesday, state TV showed.
  राज्य टीवी के अनुसार, **बेनिन** के नए नेता मंगलवार को **नाइजर** पहुंचे।
- Niger's military leaders, who broke off ties with traditional ally **France**, closed the border with Benin.
  नाइजर के सैन्य नेताओं ने, जिन्होंने पारंपरिक सहयोगी **फ्रांस**

से संबंध तोड़ लिए थे, बेनिन के साथ सीमा बंद कर दी थी।

- After accusing the country of harbouring "**French bases**" bent on destabilising Niger.
  उन्होंने बेनिन पर नाइजर को अस्थिर करने के उद्देश्य से "**फ्रांसीसी सैन्य ठिकानों**" को शरण देने का आरोप लगाया था।
- "For Benin to come out and say that it has nothing to do with France's interests."
  "ताकि बेनिन स्पष्ट करे कि उसका फ्रांस के हितों से कोई संबंध नहीं है।"
- "That Benin is not facilitating France's presence on its territory in order to attack its neighbours."
  "और बेनिन अपने क्षेत्र में फ्रांस की मौजूदगी को अपने पड़ोसी देशों पर हमला करने के लिए सुविधा नहीं दे रहा है।"
- Niger regularly accuses Benin of harbouring **French military bases**.
  नाइजर नियमित रूप से बेनिन पर **फ्रांसीसी सैन्य अड्डों** को शरण देने का आरोप लगाता है।
- Which it says are training jihadists.
  नाइजर का कहना है कि ये अड्डे जिहादियों को प्रशिक्षण दे रहे हैं।

GS Paper II: Governance	03 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
03J6	Can CBSE's marking system be reformed for transparency and credibility? क्या पारदर्शिता और विश्वसनीयता के लिए CBSE की मूल्यांकन प्रणाली में सुधार किया जा सकता है?

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Can CBSE's marking system be reformed for transparency and credibility?

Portal glitches, blurred scans, and evaluation anomalies exposed weaknesses in the rollout of the OSM system. Robust SOPs, secure digital infrastructure, and free access to answer scripts can help restore accountability and public trust in the evaluation process

GS II: Governance

Rajeev Kumar

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), responding to long-standing demands for greater transparency in evaluation, introduced the on-screen marking (OSM) system to standardise answer-script assessment through digital technology. Under this framework, answer books are scanned into secure digital files and evaluated online through a cyber-secure platform enabling digital monitoring, random allocation of scripts, centralised moderation, and automated verification checks.

The initiative sought to improve transparency, accuracy, confidentiality, and uniformity in marking. However, it soon faced controversies over server failures, portal glitches, blurred or incomplete scanned scripts, unchecked responses, inconsistent step-marking, evaluation discrepancies, payment gateway issues, and concerns about the reliability and verifiability of the digital evaluation process.

Ironically, a system introduced to eliminate evaluation irregularities itself came under scrutiny for procedural, academic, and technological lapses. It also raises a fundamental question: why should students be charged to access and verify answer scripts that are largely their own intellectual work and have already been digitised as part of the evaluation process?

Evaluation is a crucial component of the Teaching–Learning–Evaluation framework since it directly influences students' academic progression. PTI

The evaluation system

Evaluation remains the most consequential component of the Teaching-Learning-Evaluation (TLE) framework because it directly influences students' academic progression, college admissions, scholarships, and career opportunities, particularly for Class XII students. After years of preparation and intense competition, students have a legitimate right to know how their answers were assessed, how step-marking was applied, and where marks were deducted.

Unlike multiple-choice-question (MCQ)-based examinations, where evaluation through optical mark recognition (OMR) sheets and answer keys is objective and machine-verifiable, descriptive examinations involve subjective assessment across multiple steps, methods, and interpretations. Different evaluators may award different marks for the same answer depending on reasoning, presentation, or methodology.

Given the massive scale of Board examinations involving millions of answer scripts, maintaining consistency in descriptive evaluation remains a major academic and technological challenge.

OSM rollout and challenges

CBSE's OSM system marked a significant shift from the conventional pen-and-paper (PnP) evaluation to digital assessment of scanned answer scripts. The system was expected to improve transparency, enable standardisation and centralised monitoring, and reduce manual evaluation errors. However, the rollout reportedly suffered from hurried implementation, weak digital infrastructure, poor-quality scanning systems, limited examiner training, and inadequate operational protocols. Complaints soon emerged.

The experience highlighted that digital evaluation is not merely a software transition but a complex academic and technological ecosystem that requires robust SOPs, secure infrastructure, examiner preparedness, audit mechanisms, and strong cybersecurity safeguards to ensure transparency, consistency, and accountability.

Scope for reforms in the OSM system

The Digital OSM framework should provide scanned answer books to all students free of cost, since scripts are already digitised before evaluation. CBSE should securely deliver encrypted digital copies within a fixed timeline through authenticated portals, email, or secure mobile platforms. Such a framework would make evaluation more transparent, traceable, scalable, and verifiable while reducing server congestion, manual intervention, and access-related disputes. The proposed system would, however, require a set of clearly defined standard operating procedures (SOP).

The CBSE should establish high-resolution scanning systems, encrypted archival and backup facilities, high-capacity cloud servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards against unauthorised access or data manipulation. The complete workflow – including scanning, indexing, storage, evaluator access, digital delivery, and audit logging – should undergo repeated pilot testing and full-load simulations through local and pre-board examinations before nationwide rollout.

Evaluators, moderators, scanning staff, and administrators should undergo structured training in digital evaluation procedures, screen-based moderation, stepwise marking, and handling of scanned scripts. Students should use only black pens and standardised answer-writing formats to ensure clear scanning and readability of answer books and supplementary sheets.

Detailed subject-wise marking schemes, including step-marks and acceptable alternative methods, should be released within a week after the examinations. A short expert feedback window should be provided before Chief Examiners finalise marking schemes. This would help reduce ambiguities, improve standardisation, and minimise arbitrary variations in marking.

Additionally, within two to three weeks after examinations, encrypted digital answer scripts should be securely delivered to students and parents through authenticated portals, email, or registered mobile applications integrated with secure cloud and messaging APIs. Students or parents should confirm within 24 hours of receipt that the scripts are complete, readable, correctly indexed, and genuinely their own, including all supplementary sheets.

The evaluation should begin only after script verification is completed. Examiners must assess scripts strictly in accordance with approved stepwise marking schemes. Additional digital oversight tools, such as audit trails, online moderation, automated totaling checks, anomaly-detection systems, and random quality audits, should continuously monitor consistency, completeness, and adherence to SOPs.

Since students and parents would already possess both their answer scripts and official marking schemes, they can independently estimate their likely scores before the declaration of results. Significant deviations between self-estimated and officially awarded marks would help identify possible evaluation anomalies and enable targeted review or moderation.

Finally, re-checking and re-evaluation should continue as a safeguard mechanism with defined timelines and digital tracking. However, with the proposed SOPs already ensuring verified scripts and standardised marking schemes, grievances are expected to reduce substantially.

Such a framework would significantly strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in the evaluation process.

The way forward

A reliable Digital OSM system requires robust scanning infrastructure, secure archival systems, high-capacity servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards. Given the scale of the CBSE examinations, repeated full-load testing and pilot runs are essential before nationwide implementation.

Structured training for examiners and scanning staff, along with standardised, stepwise marking schemes and disciplined digital evaluation protocols, are necessary to avoid blurred scans, unchecked answers, and inconsistent marking. With well-defined SOPs and secure implementation, digital OSM can improve the credibility, consistency, and accountability of large-scale examination evaluation in India.

Importantly, the same framework can be implemented even now, making the current crisis largely reversible within a few weeks at most. By proactively sharing scanned answer scripts with all students, enabling verification of script completeness and authenticity, ensuring transparent matching of awarded marks against approved marking schemes, and correcting evaluations where the prescribed marking scheme has not been properly followed, the CBSE can quickly restore confidence in the OSM process and regain much of the credibility lost during the rollout.

(Rajeev Kumar is a former Computer Science Professor at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, BITS Pilani, and JNU, and a former scientist at DRDO and DST.)

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03J6. Can CBSE's marking system be reformed for transparency and credibility?

क्या पारदर्शिता और विश्वसनीयता के लिए CBSE की मूल्यांकन प्रणाली में सुधार किया जा सकता है?

- **Portal glitches**, blurred scans, and **evaluation anomalies** exposed weaknesses in the rollout of the **OSM system**.
  पोर्टल संबंधी त्रुटियों, धुंधली स्कैन प्रतियों और **मूल्यांकन संबंधी विसंगतियों** ने **ओएसएम प्रणाली** के कार्यान्वयन में कमजोरियों को उजागर किया।
- The **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**, responding to long-standing demands for greater transparency in evaluation, introduced the **on-screen marking (OSM) system** to standardise answer-script assessment through digital technology.
  केंद्रीय माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड (CBSE) ने मूल्यांकन में अधिक पारदर्शिता की लंबे समय से चली आ रही मांगों के प्रत्युत्तर में डिजिटल प्रौद्योगिकी के माध्यम से उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं के मूल्यांकन को मानकीकृत करने हेतु **ऑन-स्क्रीन मार्किंग (OSM) प्रणाली** प्रारंभ की।
- Under this framework, answer books are scanned into secure digital files and evaluated online through a cyber-secure platform enabling digital monitoring, random allocation of scripts, centralised moderation, and automated verification checks.
  इस व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं को सुरक्षित डिजिटल फाइलों में स्कैन किया जाता है तथा साइबर-सुरक्षित प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन मूल्यांकन किया जाता है, जिसमें डिजिटल निगरानी, उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं का यादृच्छिक आवंटन, केंद्रीकृत मॉडरेशन तथा स्वचालित सत्यापन जाँच जैसी सुविधाएँ शामिल हैं।
- The initiative sought to improve transparency, accuracy, confidentiality, and uniformity in marking.
  इस पहल का उद्देश्य मूल्यांकन में पारदर्शिता, शुद्धता, गोपनीयता और एकरूपता में सुधार करना था।
- However, it soon faced controversies over server failures, portal glitches, blurred or incomplete scanned scripts, unchecked responses, inconsistent step-marking, evaluation discrepancies, payment gateway issues, and concerns about the reliability and verifiability of the digital evaluation process.
  हालाँकि, शीघ्र ही इसे सर्वर विफलता, पोर्टल त्रुटियों, धुंधली अथवा अधूरी स्कैन की गई उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं, बिना जाँचे गए उत्तरों, असंगत चरणवार अंकन, मूल्यांकन विसंगतियों, भुगतान गेटवे संबंधी समस्याओं तथा डिजिटल मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया की विश्वसनीयता और सत्यापन क्षमता को लेकर विवादों का सामना करना पड़ा।
- It also raises a fundamental question: why should students be charged to access and verify answer scripts that are largely their own intellectual work and have already been digitised as part of the evaluation process?
  यह एक मूलभूत प्रश्न भी उठाता है कि छात्रों से उन उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं तक पहुँच और सत्यापन के लिए शुल्क क्यों लिया जाए, जो मुख्यतः उनकी स्वयं की बौद्धिक संपत्ति हैं और जिन्हें मूल्यांकन प्रक्रिया के अंतर्गत पहले ही डिजिटीकृत किया जा चुका है?

The evaluation system
मूल्यांकन प्रणाली

- Evaluation remains the most consequential component of the **Teaching–Learning–Evaluation (TLE)** framework because it directly influences students' academic progression, college admissions, scholarships, and career opportunities, particularly for **Class XII** students.
  मूल्यांकन **शिक्षण–अधिगम–मूल्यांकन (TLE)** ढाँचे का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण घटक बना हुआ है, क्योंकि यह सीधे छात्रों की शैक्षणिक प्रगति, महाविद्यालय प्रवेश, छात्रवृत्तियों और करियर अवसरों को प्रभावित करता है, विशेषकर **कक्षा 12** के विद्यार्थियों के लिए।

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- After years of preparation and intense competition, students have a legitimate right to know how their answers were assessed, how step-marking was applied, and where marks were deducted.
  वर्षों की तैयारी और तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा के बाद छात्रों को यह जानने का वैध अधिकार है कि उनके उत्तरों का मूल्यांकन कैसे किया गया, चरणवार अंकन कैसे लागू किया गया तथा अंक कहाँ काटे गए।
- Unlike multiple-choice-question (**MCQ**)-based examinations, where evaluation through optical mark recognition (**OMR**) sheets and answer keys is objective and machine-verifiable, descriptive examinations involve subjective assessment across multiple steps, methods, and interpretations.
  बहुविकल्पीय प्रश्न (**MCQ**) आधारित परीक्षाओं के विपरीत, जहाँ ऑप्टिकल मार्क रिकग्निशन (**OMR**) शीट और उत्तर कुंजी के माध्यम से मूल्यांकन वस्तुनिष्ठ तथा मशीन द्वारा सत्यापित होता है, वर्णनात्मक परीक्षाओं में विभिन्न चरणों, विधियों और व्याख्याओं पर आधारित व्यक्तिपरक मूल्यांकन शामिल होता है।

OSM rollout and challenges
OSM का क्रियान्वयन और चुनौतियाँ

- However, the rollout reportedly suffered from hurried implementation, weak digital infrastructure, poor-quality scanning systems, limited examiner training, and inadequate operational protocols.
  हालाँकि, रिपोर्टों के अनुसार इसका क्रियान्वयन जल्दबाजी में किया गया, जिसमें कमजोर डिजिटल अवसंरचना, निम्न गुणवत्ता वाली स्कैनिंग प्रणाली, सीमित परीक्षक प्रशिक्षण तथा अपर्याप्त संचालन प्रोटोकॉल जैसी समस्याएँ रहीं।
- The experience highlighted that digital evaluation is not merely a software transition but a complex academic and technological ecosystem that requires robust **SOPs**, secure infrastructure, examiner preparedness, audit mechanisms, and strong cybersecurity safeguards to ensure transparency, consistency, and accountability.
  इस अनुभव ने स्पष्ट किया कि डिजिटल मूल्यांकन केवल सॉफ्टवेयर परिवर्तन नहीं है, बल्कि एक जटिल शैक्षणिक और तकनीकी तंत्र है, जिसके लिए पारदर्शिता, एकरूपता और जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करने हेतु मजबूत **SOPs**, सुरक्षित अवसंरचना, परीक्षकों की तैयारी, ऑडिट तंत्र और सशक्त साइबर सुरक्षा उपायों की आवश्यकता होती है।

Scope for reforms in the OSM system
OSM प्रणाली में सुधार की संभावनाएँ

- CBSE should securely deliver encrypted digital copies within a fixed timeline through authenticated portals, email, or secure mobile platforms.
  CBSE को प्रमाणीकृत पोर्टलों, ईमेल अथवा सुरक्षित मोबाइल प्लेटफॉर्म के माध्यम से निर्धारित समयसीमा के भीतर एन्क्रिप्टेड डिजिटल प्रतियाँ सुरक्षित रूप से उपलब्ध करानी चाहिए।
- Such a framework would make evaluation more transparent, traceable, scalable, and verifiable while reducing server congestion, manual intervention, and access-related disputes.
  ऐसा ढाँचा मूल्यांकन को अधिक पारदर्शी, अनुरेखणीय, विस्तार योग्य और सत्यापन योग्य बनाएगा, साथ ही सर्वर पर दबाव, मैनुअल हस्तक्षेप और पहुँच संबंधी विवादों को कम करेगा।
- The CBSE should establish high-resolution scanning systems, encrypted archival and backup facilities, high-capacity cloud servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards against unauthorised access or data manipulation.
  CBSE को उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन स्कैनिंग प्रणालियाँ, एन्क्रिप्टेड अभिलेखन और बैकअप सुविधाएँ, उच्च क्षमता वाले क्लाउड सर्वर तथा अनधिकृत पहुँच और डेटा में हेरफेर के विरुद्ध मजबूत साइबर सुरक्षा उपाय स्थापित करने चाहिए।
- The complete workflow — including scanning, indexing, storage, evaluator access, digital delivery, and audit logging — should undergo repeated pilot testing and full-load simulations

through local and pre-board examinations before nationwide rollout.
संपूर्ण कार्यप्रवाह — जिसमें स्कैनिंग, इंडेक्सिंग, भंडारण, परीक्षक पहुँच, डिजिटल वितरण और ऑडिट लॉगिंग शामिल हैं — को देशव्यापी क्रियान्वयन से पहले स्थानीय तथा प्री-बोर्ड परीक्षाओं के माध्यम से बार-बार पायलट परीक्षण और पूर्ण-लोड सिमुलेशन से गुजरना चाहिए।

- Evaluators, moderators, scanning staff, and administrators should undergo structured training in digital evaluation procedures, screen-based moderation, stepwise marking, and handling of scanned scripts.
मूल्यांकनकर्ताओं, मॉडरेटरों, स्कैनिंग कर्मचारियों और प्रशासकों को डिजिटल मूल्यांकन प्रक्रियाओं, स्क्रीन-आधारित मॉडरेशन, चरणवार अंकन तथा स्कैन की गई उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं के प्रबंधन में संरचित प्रशिक्षण दिया जाना चाहिए।
- Students should use only black pens and standardised answer-writing formats to ensure clear scanning and readability of answer books and supplementary sheets.
छात्रों को केवल काले पेन और मानकीकृत उत्तर-लेखन प्रारूप का उपयोग करना चाहिए, ताकि उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं और पूरक पृष्ठों की स्पष्ट स्कैनिंग तथा पठनीयता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।
- Detailed subject-wise marking schemes, including step-marks and acceptable alternative methods, should be released within a week after the examinations.
चरणवार अंकन और स्वीकार्य वैकल्पिक विधियों सहित विस्तृत विषयवार मूल्यांकन योजनाएँ परीक्षा के एक सप्ताह के भीतर जारी की जानी चाहिए।
- Additionally, within two to three weeks after examinations, encrypted digital answer scripts should be securely delivered to students and parents through authenticated portals, email, or registered mobile applications integrated with secure cloud and **messaging APIs**.
इसके अतिरिक्त, परीक्षाओं के दो से तीन सप्ताह के भीतर एन्क्रिप्टेड डिजिटल उत्तरपुस्तिकाएँ प्रमाणीकृत पोर्टलों, ईमेल अथवा सुरक्षित क्लाउड और मैसेजिंग APIs से एकीकृत पंजीकृत मोबाइल अनुप्रयोगों के माध्यम से छात्रों और अभिभावकों को सुरक्षित रूप से उपलब्ध कराई जानी चाहिए।
- Students or parents should confirm within 24 hours of receipt that the scripts are complete, readable, correctly indexed, and genuinely their own, including all supplementary sheets.
छात्रों अथवा अभिभावकों को प्राप्ति के 24 घंटे के भीतर यह पुष्टि करनी चाहिए कि उत्तरपुस्तिकाएँ पूर्ण, पठनीय, सही प्रकार से अनुक्रमित तथा वास्तव में उनकी अपनी हैं, जिनमें सभी पूरक पृष्ठ शामिल हों।
- The evaluation should begin only after script verification is completed.
उत्तरपुस्तिका सत्यापन पूर्ण होने के बाद ही मूल्यांकन प्रारंभ होना चाहिए।
- Examiners must assess scripts strictly in accordance with approved stepwise marking schemes.
परीक्षकों को स्वीकृत चरणवार मूल्यांकन योजनाओं के अनुसार ही उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं का मूल्यांकन करना चाहिए।
- Additional digital oversight tools, such as audit trails, online moderation, automated totaling checks, anomaly-detection systems, and random quality audits, should continuously monitor consistency, completeness, and adherence to SOPs.
ऑडिट ट्रेल, ऑनलाइन मॉडरेशन, स्वचालित योग-जाँच, विसंगति पहचान प्रणाली तथा यादृच्छिक गुणवत्ता ऑडिट जैसे अतिरिक्त डिजिटल निगरानी उपकरणों को निरंतर एकरूपता, पूर्णता और SOPs के अनुपालन की निगरानी करनी चाहिए।
- Since students and parents would already possess both their answer scripts and official marking schemes, they can independently estimate their likely scores before the declaration of results.
चूँकि छात्रों और अभिभावकों के पास उनकी उत्तरपुस्तिकाएँ तथा आधिकारिक मूल्यांकन योजनाएँ पहले से उपलब्ध होंगी, वे परिणाम घोषित होने से पहले अपने संभावित अंकों का स्वतंत्र रूप से अनुमान लगा सकेंगे।

The way forward
आगे की राह

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- A reliable **Digital OSM system** requires robust scanning infrastructure, secure archival systems, high-capacity servers, and strong cybersecurity safeguards.
  एक विश्वसनीय **डिजिटल OSM प्रणाली** के लिए मजबूत स्कैनिंग अवसंरचना, सुरक्षित अभिलेखन प्रणाली, उच्च क्षमता वाले सर्वर तथा सशक्त साइबर सुरक्षा उपाय आवश्यक हैं।
- By proactively sharing scanned answer scripts with all students, enabling verification of script completeness and authenticity, ensuring transparent matching of awarded marks against approved marking schemes, and correcting evaluations where the prescribed marking scheme has not been properly followed, the CBSE can quickly restore confidence in the OSM process and regain much of the credibility lost during the rollout.
  सभी छात्रों के साथ स्कैन की गई उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं को सक्रिय रूप से साझा करके, उत्तरपुस्तिकाओं की पूर्णता और प्रामाणिकता का सत्यापन सुनिश्चित करके, दिए गए अंकों का स्वीकृत मूल्यांकन योजनाओं के साथ पारदर्शी मिलान सुनिश्चित करके तथा जहाँ निर्धारित मूल्यांकन योजना का सही पालन नहीं हुआ है वहाँ सुधार करके, CBSE शीघ्र ही OSM प्रक्रिया में विश्वास बहाल कर सकता है और क्रियान्वयन के दौरान खोई हुई विश्वसनीयता का बड़ा हिस्सा पुनः प्राप्त कर सकता है।

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03J6	Euro zone inflation jump reinforces rate hike case यूरो क्षेत्र में मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ने से ब्याज दर वृद्धि की संभावना मजबूत हुई
03J6	Bangladeshi FM Rahman elected president of UN General Assembly बांग्लादेश के विदेश मंत्री रहमान संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित
03J6	EU moves policy for deportations and detention centres in third countries EU ने तीसरे देशों में निर्वासन और निरोध केंद्रों की नीति को आगे बढ़ाया
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The 'harvest' China wants is one India cannot afford

GS II: IR MQB

Ashok K. Kantha

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When Luo Zhaohui, then China's Ambassador to India, revived the idea of an "early harvest" in India-China boundary negotiations in 2017, India responded with scepticism. The proposal – to settle the Sikkim boundary in isolation from the three other sectors – was an asymmetric concession dressed up in the language of progress. India has resisted it. There is now a gnawing doubt as to whether it can hold that position. The trigger for this piece is a former border negotiator's concern that India might "stumble" into a damaging course of action under Chinese pressure and driven by the temptation to project contrived progress. Diplomacy that trades long-term strategic interests for short-term optics is self-defeating.

New Delhi must be cautious

The readout issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the 24th round of the Special Representatives' Dialogue on the Boundary Question between India and China (on August 19, 2025) between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recorded India's agreement to "set up an Expert Group ... to explore an early harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas". China's own readout was more pointed: it used the term "demarcation" rather than "delimitation" and spoke of "launching boundary demarcation negotiations in sectors where conditions are ripe."

The MEA press release on the 35th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, held in Beijing on May 27, 2026, mentions that the two sides "discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation" and "agreed to work together to make substantive preparation" for the next SRs' meeting. The reference to 'delimitation' is significant as it suggests follow-up discussions on the understanding "to explore Early Harvest in boundary delimitation".

The cornerstone of Special Representative negotiations is the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, signed on April 11, 2005. Article III explicitly envisages "a package settlement" covering all sectors of the India-China boundary. It establishes a three-step process: first political parameters, then a framework for a final settlement, then delineation and demarcation. Demarcation – placing physical markers on the ground – comes last, not first. China's proposal to begin demarcation in a single "ripe" sector inverts this sequence and, in effect, asks India to abandon the package architecture in exchange for the appearance of progress. India should decline.

Why does the package settlement matter so much? Because the four sectors of the India-China boundary are strategically interlinked, requiring give and take across sectors. It also guards against China extracting concessions sector by sector. An early harvest in Sikkim, where India holds comparative geographical advantage, would let Beijing bank a settlement on its preferred terms while leaving the other three sectors unresolved.

Diplomatic optics must not dictate India's boundary negotiations with China

The Sikkim stakes

The Sikkim Sector boundary is not, as sometimes claimed, a simple matter. Clashes at Nathu La and Cho La in 1967, with heavy casualties, showed how sharp these differences are. Article I of the 1890 Great Britain-China Convention identifies "Mount Gipmochi on the Bhutan frontier" as the starting point of the Sikkim-Tibet boundary, but it is preceded by an assertion that the boundary "shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu". China reads the article as placing the trijunction at Gipmochi. India and Bhutan hold that the trijunction lies at Batang La, some 6.5 kilometres to the north, on the watershed – which is the operative geographical principle in Article I.

Zompelri (or Jampheri) Ridge adjoining Geymochen commands a direct view of the Siliguri Corridor, the narrow strip connecting mainland India to its northeastern States. Any settlement implicitly endorsing the Gipmochi trijunction would hand China a legal instrument to press its claim to the very edge of the Himalayas, exposing the Corridor. The Chinese objective is to deepen and widen its Chumbi Valley and increase pressure on India's most acute territorial vulnerability.

The Doklam dimension reinforces this concern. Since 2017, China has systematically consolidated its position in western Bhutan – building roads and military facilities, constructing villages including Pangda on the Amo Chu river, and developing routes to the Jampheri Ridge that bypass the 2017 Doklam standoff site. A Sikkim settlement would immediately be leveraged by Beijing to step up pressure on a vulnerable Bhutan to settle its boundary with China. India and China have agreed that trijunction points must be finalised in trilateral consultation with all countries concerned. Even if the trijunction point is left out, China could force Bhutan to settle the rest of the disputed boundary on its own terms and present India with a *fait accompli* in Doklam.

Since the Eastern Ladakh transgressions of 2020, China has pursued multiple pressure tracks simultaneously: military consolidation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), steady resurrection of the "Zangnan" (South Tibet) narrative to describe Arunachal Pradesh, renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of "border defence villages" close to India-China LAC.

The resumption of Special Representative talks is welcome, but dialogue must be conducted with strategic clarity, not under diplomatic pressure or for the optics of progress. Three principles should guide India's approach.

First, hold the 2005 Agreement's framework firm. The Expert Group agreed upon in August 2025 must not become a vehicle for an early harvest in Sikkim. Agreeing to "explore" is not a commitment to accept. India should reject a standalone Sikkim delimitation or demarcation exercise.

Second, make peace and tranquillity on the LAC the non-negotiable condition of progress. China has periodically attempted to delink border management from the broader relationship; India has resisted this, and should continue to do so. Unilateral alterations to the LAC cannot be normalised. Indeed, the so-called "buffer zones" in Eastern Ladakh must not be allowed to persist.

Third, press for genuine political engagement on a comprehensive settlement. Decades of talks have shown that the respective narratives cannot be reconciled through legal arguments. The 2005 Agreement recognised this: it called for a political settlement that would "safeguard the vital interests of both countries" and set out principles such as the two sides "safeguard(ing) due interests of their settled populations in the border areas". Any breakthrough requires political will on both sides. India should press for meaningful boundary negotiations, not paper over the lack of progress with working groups. The test of China's seriousness will be whether it is prepared to engage on the framework for a comprehensive settlement – and whether it is prepared to hold the LAC stable while that engagement proceeds. Absent those conditions, the Special Representative process risks becoming what it has sometimes been before: a forum for managing appearances while China improves its position on the ground.

Stay the course

In boundary talks, China has a track-record of cherry-picking and resiling from formal commitments, as it did in the case of an explicit agreement to arrive at a common understanding of the LAC after exchanging maps showing the entire alignment. India must prevent the Agreement On the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question from meeting a similar fate. If peace and tranquillity on the LAC is the foundation for rebuilding India-China relations, the 2005 Agreement is the road map for resolving the boundary question. India has nothing to gain from an early harvest limited to Sikkim and must maintain its negotiating space through a comprehensive negotiation. India cannot afford a shortcut to a destination that suits China.

03J6. The 'harvest' China wants is one India cannot afford
चीन जिस 'फसल' की अपेक्षा करता है, वह ऐसी है जिसे भारत वहन नहीं कर सकता

- Diplomacy that trades long-term strategic interests for short-term optics is self-defeating.
  ऐसी कूटनीति, जो अल्पकालिक दिखावे के लिए दीर्घकालिक रणनीतिक हितों का त्याग करती है, अंततः आत्मघाती सिद्ध होती है।

New Delhi must be cautious
नई दिल्ली को सतर्क रहना चाहिए

- The readout issued by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** on the **24th round** of the **Special Representatives' Dialogue on the Boundary Question** between India and China (on **August 19, 2025**) between **National Security Adviser Ajit Doval** and Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi** recorded India's agreement to "set up an Expert Group ... to explore an

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early harvest in boundary delimitation in the India-China border areas".
विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) द्वारा **19 अगस्त 2025** को भारत और चीन के बीच **सीमा प्रश्न पर विशेष प्रतिनिधियों की वार्ता** के **24वें दौर** के संबंध में जारी विवरण में, **राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजीत डोभाल** और चीन के विदेश मंत्री **वांग यी** के बीच हुई चर्चा के दौरान भारत की इस सहमति को दर्ज किया गया कि "भारत-चीन सीमा क्षेत्रों में सीमा निर्धारण में अर्ली हार्वेस्ट की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिए एक विशेषज्ञ समूह का गठन किया जाए।"

- China's own readout was more pointed: it used the term "demarcation" rather than "delimitation" and spoke of "launching boundary demarcation negotiations in sectors where conditions are ripe."
  चीन द्वारा जारी विवरण अधिक स्पष्ट था: उसमें "delimitation" के स्थान पर "demarcation" शब्द का उपयोग किया गया तथा "उन क्षेत्रों में सीमा चिह्नांकन वार्ताएँ प्रारंभ करने" की बात कही गई, जहाँ परिस्थितियाँ अनुकूल हैं।
- The MEA press release on the **35th Meeting** of the **Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs**, held in **Beijing** on **May 27, 2026**, mentions that the two sides "discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation" and "agreed to work together to make substantive preparation" for the next SRs' meeting.
  27 मई 2026 को **बीजिंग** में आयोजित **भारत-चीन सीमा मामलों पर परामर्श एवं समन्वय कार्य तंत्र** की **35वीं बैठक** पर जारी MEA प्रेस विज्ञप्ति में उल्लेख किया गया कि दोनों पक्षों ने "सीमा निर्धारण, सीमा प्रबंधन, तंत्र निर्माण तथा सीमा-पार सहयोग" से संबंधित मुद्दों पर चर्चा की तथा अगली विशेष प्रतिनिधि बैठक की "ठोस तैयारी के लिए साथ मिलकर कार्य करने" पर सहमति व्यक्त की।
- The cornerstone of **Special Representative negotiations** is the **Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles**, signed on **April 11, 2005**.
  विशेष प्रतिनिधि वार्ताओं की आधारशिला **11 अप्रैल 2005** को हस्ताक्षरित **राजनीतिक मानदंडों और मार्गदर्शक सिद्धांतों पर समझौता** है।
- Article III explicitly envisages "a package settlement" covering all sectors of the India-China boundary.
  अनुच्छेद III स्पष्ट रूप से भारत-चीन सीमा के सभी क्षेत्रों को सम्मिलित करने वाले "समग्र पैकेज समाधान" की परिकल्पना करता है।
- It establishes a three-step process: first political parameters, then a framework for a final settlement, then delineation and demarcation.
  यह तीन-चरणीय प्रक्रिया स्थापित करता है: पहले राजनीतिक मानदंड, फिर अंतिम समाधान के लिए ढाँचा, और उसके बाद सीमांकन तथा चिह्नांकन।
- Demarcation — placing physical markers on the ground — comes last, not first.
  चिह्नांकन — अर्थात भूमि पर भौतिक संकेतक स्थापित करना — अंतिम चरण है, प्रारंभिक नहीं।
- China's proposal to begin demarcation in a single "ripe" sector inverts this sequence and, in effect, asks India to abandon the package architecture in exchange for the appearance of progress.
  किसी एक "अनुकूल" क्षेत्र में चिह्नांकन प्रारंभ करने का चीन का प्रस्ताव इस क्रम को उलट देता है और वस्तुतः भारत से प्रगति के दिखावे के बदले समग्र समाधान की संरचना छोड़ने की अपेक्षा करता है।
- Because the four sectors of the India-China boundary are strategically interlinked, requiring give and take across sectors.
  क्योंकि भारत-चीन सीमा के चारों क्षेत्र रणनीतिक रूप से परस्पर जुड़े हुए हैं, जिनमें विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के बीच संतुलित समझौते की आवश्यकता होती है।
- It also guards against China extracting concessions sector by sector.
  यह चीन को क्षेत्र-दर-क्षेत्र रियायतें प्राप्त करने से भी रोकता है।
- An early harvest in **Sikkim**, where India holds comparative geographical advantage, would let **Beijing** bank a settlement on its preferred terms while leaving the other three sectors unresolved.

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सिक्किम में अर्ली हार्वेस्ट, जहाँ भारत को तुलनात्मक भौगोलिक लाभ प्राप्त है, **बीजिंग** को अपनी पसंदीदा शर्तों पर समाधान प्राप्त करने का अवसर देगा, जबकि अन्य तीन क्षेत्रों को अनसुलझा छोड़ दिया जाएगा।

The Sikkim stakes
सिक्किम से जुड़े दांव

- The **Sikkim Sector boundary** is not, as sometimes claimed, a simple matter.
  सिक्किम सेक्टर सीमा उतनी सरल नहीं है, जैसा कभी-कभी दावा किया जाता है।
- Clashes at **Nathu La** and **Cho La** in **1967**, with heavy casualties, showed how sharp these differences are.
  1967 में **नाथू ला** और **चो ला** में हुए संघर्षों, जिनमें भारी जनहानि हुई थी, ने यह दिखाया कि ये मतभेद कितने गंभीर हैं।
- Article I of the **1890 Great Britain-China Convention** identifies "Mount Gipmochi on the Bhutan frontier" as the starting point of the Sikkim-Tibet boundary, but it is preceded by an assertion that the boundary "shall be the crest of the mountain range separating the waters flowing into the Sikkim Teesta and its affluents from the waters flowing into the Tibetan Mochu".
  1890 के ग्रेट ब्रिटेन-चीन सम्मेलन का अनुच्छेद I "भूटान सीमा पर स्थित माउंट गिपमोची" को सिक्किम-तिब्बत सीमा का प्रारंभिक बिंदु मानता है, किन्तु उससे पहले यह उल्लेख किया गया है कि सीमा "उस पर्वत श्रृंखला की चोटी होगी जो सिक्किम की तीस्ता और उसकी सहायक नदियों में बहने वाले जल को तिब्बती मोचू में बहने वाले जल से अलग करती है।"
- China reads the article as placing the trijunction at **Gipmochi**.
  चीन इस अनुच्छेद की व्याख्या त्रि-जंक्शन को **गिपमोची** पर स्थित मानकर करता है।
- India and **Bhutan** hold that the trijunction lies at **Batang La**, some **6.5 kilometres** to the north, on the watershed — which is the operative geographical principle in Article I.
  भारत और **भूटान** का मत है कि त्रि-जंक्शन उत्तर में लगभग **6.5 किलोमीटर** दूर स्थित **बाटांग ला** पर है, जो जल-विभाजक रेखा पर स्थित है — और यही अनुच्छेद I का वास्तविक भौगोलिक सिद्धांत है।
- **Zompelri (or Jampheri) Ridge** adjoining **Geymochen** commands a direct view of the **Siliguri Corridor**, the narrow strip connecting mainland India to its northeastern States.
  गेयमोचेन से सटी हुई **जोम्पेलरी (या जामफेरी) रिज** से **सिलीगुड़ी कॉरिडोर** का सीधा दृश्य प्राप्त होता है, जो मुख्य भारत को उसके उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों से जोड़ने वाली संकीर्ण पट्टी है।
- Any settlement implicitly endorsing the **Gipmochi trijunction** would hand China a legal instrument to press its claim to the very edge of the Himalayas, exposing the Corridor.
  ऐसा कोई भी समाधान जो अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से **गिपमोची त्रि-जंक्शन** को स्वीकार करता हो, चीन को हिमालय की सीमा तक अपने दावे को आगे बढ़ाने का कानूनी आधार प्रदान करेगा और इस प्रकार कॉरिडोर को असुरक्षित बना देगा।
- The Chinese objective is to deepen and widen its **Chumbi Valley** and increase pressure on India's most acute territorial vulnerability.
  चीन का उद्देश्य अपनी **चुम्बी घाटी** को अधिक गहरा और विस्तृत बनाना तथा भारत की सबसे संवेदनशील क्षेत्रीय कमजोरी पर दबाव बढ़ाना है।
- The **Doklam** dimension reinforces this concern.
  डोकलाम से जुड़ा आयाम इस चिंता को और अधिक मजबूत करता है।
- Since **2017**, China has systematically consolidated its position in western Bhutan — building roads and military facilities, constructing villages including **Pangda** on the **Amo Chu river**, and developing routes to the **Jampheri Ridge** that bypass the 2017 Doklam standoff site.
  2017 से चीन ने पश्चिमी भूटान में व्यवस्थित रूप से अपनी स्थिति मजबूत की है — सड़कों और सैन्य सुविधाओं का निर्माण किया है, **आमो चू नदी** पर स्थित **पांगदा** सहित गाँव बसाए हैं, तथा **जामफेरी रिज** तक ऐसे मार्ग विकसित किए हैं जो 2017 के डोकलाम गतिरोध स्थल को दरकिनार करते हैं।

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- A Sikkim settlement would immediately be leveraged by **Beijing** to step up pressure on a vulnerable Bhutan to settle its boundary with China.
  सिक्किम संबंधी किसी समाधान का उपयोग **बीजिंग** तुरंत भूटान पर चीन के साथ सीमा समझौता करने के लिए दबाव बढ़ाने हेतु करेगा।
- India and China have agreed that trijunction points must be finalised in trilateral consultation with all countries concerned.
  भारत और चीन इस बात पर सहमत हैं कि त्रि-जंक्शन बिंदुओं को सभी संबंधित देशों के साथ त्रिपक्षीय परामर्श द्वारा अंतिम रूप दिया जाना चाहिए।
- Since the **Eastern Ladakh transgressions** of **2020**, China has pursued multiple pressure tracks simultaneously: military consolidation along the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)**, steady resurrection of the "**Zangnan**" (South Tibet) narrative to describe **Arunachal Pradesh**, renaming of places in Arunachal Pradesh, and expansion of "border defence villages" close to India-China LAC.
  2020 में हुए **पूर्वी लद्दाख अतिक्रमणों** के बाद से चीन ने एक साथ कई प्रकार के दबाव के उपाय अपनाए हैं: **वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (LAC)** के साथ सैन्य सुदृढ़ीकरण, **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** को "**जांगनान**" (दक्षिण तिब्बत) कहने की कथा को पुनर्जीवित करना, अरुणाचल प्रदेश में स्थानों के नाम बदलना, तथा भारत-चीन LAC के निकट "सीमा रक्षा गाँवों" का विस्तार करना।
- The **2005 Agreement** recognised this: it called for a political settlement that would "safeguard the vital interests of both countries" and set out principles such as the two sides "safeguard(ing) due interests of their settled populations in the border areas".
  2005 के समझौते ने इसे स्वीकार किया था: इसमें ऐसे राजनीतिक समाधान की बात कही गई थी जो "दोनों देशों के महत्वपूर्ण हितों की रक्षा" करे तथा यह सिद्धांत निर्धारित किया गया था कि दोनों पक्ष "सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में बसे लोगों के उचित हितों की रक्षा" करेंगे।

Euro zone inflation jump reinforces rate hike case

GS II: IR

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
FRANKFURT

Euro zone inflation accelerated further last month, driven by energy and services,bolstering the already strong case for a small European Central Bank interest rate hike later this month, Eurostat data showed on Tuesday.

Consumer prices in the 21 nations sharing the euro accelerated to 3.2% in May from 3.0% a month earlier, well above the ECB's 2% target but in line with a *Reuters* poll.

The increase was driven by a 10.9% rise in energy costs and a unexpectedly large pickup in services inflation to 3.5% from3.0%.

In a development likely to worry policymakers, underlying inflation - which excludes volatile energy and food prices -accelerated more than expected to 2.5% from 2.2% on services and a small pickup in industrial goods inflation.

"The further increase in headline and particularly services inflation in May reinforces the case for the ECB to raise interest rates next week and suggests that upside risks to underlying inflation may be higher than we had anticipated,"Andrew Kenningham at Capital Economics said.

While the figures are closely watched by the ECB, they are unlikely to shift near-term policy expectations. Policymakers have already made clear higher inflation justifies a rise in borrowing costs.

More expensive: A shopper pays with a ten Euro bank note at a local market in Aix-en-Provence, France. REUTERS

Fully priced in

Financial markets have fully priced in a 25-basis-point rate hike on June 11, with one or two more expected in the autumn. Elevated energy prices risk seeping into the broader economy and triggering more persistent inflation pressures.

"While inflation risks have increased, a rate increase in June would be an insurance one, but not due to entrenched inflationary pressures," Finnish central bank chief Olli Rehn, a dovish voice on the ECB's Governing Council, said.

Even if the Iran war were to end soon, the argument goes,damage to energy infrastructure and corporate supply chains has already been done, making normalisation slow and keeping prices high well in to second half of the year.

Far less aggressive

Still, any tightening is expected to be modest - far less aggressive than the record series of rate hikes in 2022 - as weaker underlying growth limits firms' ability to pass on costs.

Indicators from PMI surveys to the ECB's own data point to growing pressure on the real economy, and further downgrades to already subdued growth forecasts look likely as the Iran war drags on and high energy prices weigh.

Europe is a net energy importer and its industrial sector -already hit by the loss of cheap Russian gas following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and by higher U.S. tariffs - is reeling.

Households are sitting on ample savings and could sustain spending, but past experience suggests consumers are quick to turn cautious when the news flow darkens.

Unlike during the 2022 inflation surge, the labour market is also softer, reinforcing that caution, economists say.

That suggests high energy prices may generate fewer second-round effects on inflation than four years ago, easing some pressure on the ECB to act aggressively. "Interest hike is becoming inevitable for the ECB," Commerzbank economist Vincent Stamer said. "Another rate hike in the third quarter is also likely to follow."

03J6. Euro zone inflation jump reinforces rate hike case
यूरो क्षेत्र में मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ने से ब्याज दर वृद्धि की संभावना मजबूत हुई

- **Euro zone** inflation accelerated further last month, driven by **energy** and **services**, bolstering the already strong case for a small **European Central Bank (ECB)** interest rate hike later this month, **Eurostat** data showed on Tuesday.
  मंगलवार को जारी **Eurostat** के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, **ऊर्जा** और **सेवाओं** की कीमतों में वृद्धि के कारण पिछले

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महीने **यूरो क्षेत्र** में मुद्रास्फीति और तेज हुई, जिससे इस महीने के अंत में **यूरोपीय केंद्रीय बैंक (ECB)** द्वारा ब्याज दर बढ़ाने की संभावना और मजबूत हो गई।

Bangladeshi FM Rahman elected president of UN General Assembly

GS II: IR

ANI

Bangladesh's Foreign Minister was elected president of the 81st UN General Assembly on Tuesday in a vote that, unusually, featured more than one candidate. Khalilur Rahman won 99 votes in the secret ballot compared to 91 for Cypriot diplomat Andreas Kakouris. He will succeed the outgoing president in September. AFP

03J6. Bangladeshi FM Rahman elected president of UN General Assembly

बांग्लादेश के विदेश मंत्री रहमान संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित

- **Bangladesh's Foreign Minister** was elected president of the **81st UN General Assembly** on Tuesday in a vote that, unusually, featured more than one candidate.

बांग्लादेश के विदेश मंत्री मंगलवार को **81वीं संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा** के अध्यक्ष निर्वाचित हुए, जिसमें असामान्य रूप से एक से अधिक उम्मीदवार शामिल थे।

- **Khalilur Rahman** won **99 votes** in the secret ballot compared to **91** for Cypriot diplomat **Andreas Kakouris**.

गुप्त मतदान में **खलीलुर रहमान** को **99 वोट** मिले, जबकि साइप्रस के राजनयिक **एंड्रियास काकौरिस** को **91 वोट** प्राप्त हुए।

- He will succeed the outgoing president in **September**.

वह **सितंबर** में निवर्तमान अध्यक्ष का स्थान ग्रहण करेंगे।

EU moves policy for deportations and detention centres in third countries

This will enable member nations to strike deal with countries outside EU to build deportation centres; the agreement struck by three institutions of the bloc will now head to EU lawmakers and heads of state for approval; activists decry the 'ICE-inspired' move over potential harm to human rights

GS II: IR

Associated Press
BRUSSELS

The European Union has moved forward with a vast overhaul of its migration policy, aiming to ramp up deportations and ink controversial deals to build detention centres abroad, in what rights groups compare to President Donald Trump administration's aggressive immigration policies in the U.S.

"The new regulation will speed up the return process and increase returns of persons who have no legal right to stay in the EU," said Nicholas Ioannides, Deputy Migration Minister for Cyprus, which holds the rotating presidency of the 27-nation bloc.

The deal was struck between the EU's three main institutions – the European Commission, the European Council, and the European Parliament – during a so-called "trilogue" on Monday.

Critics compared the regulation to the immigration strategy of the Trump administration, which has struck a series of secretive agreements with nations around the world to deport thousands of people to countries that are not their own. The United Kingdom also planned to deport migrants to Rwanda, but the plan was bogged down in legal red tape and the new government dropped the plan as soon as it came to power.

Seeking asylum: A file photo of refugees being temporarily taken to various emergency shelters in Ter Apel, Netherlands, in August 2022. REUTERS

"The Regulation is going to create a draconian detention and deportation machine," said Silvia Carter, spokesperson for the Brussels-based Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants.

'Violence by ICE'

"Across the Atlantic, we see the violence and fear created by ICE's brutal immigration enforcement. Europe should be learning from the harms of that model, not building its own version of it."

The provisional agreement will now head to the EU lawmakers and heads of state, where approval will likely be swift.

EU member nations will soon be able to set up bilateral deals with countries outside the bloc to build deportation centres. At least five EU nations – Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Greece – are already in talks with third countries, mostly in Africa, to host "return hubs" on the model of Italy's detention deal with Albania.

The EU has continually tightened migration policies after right-wing parties took power in some countries in 2024. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, from the centre-right European People's Party coalition, has said that the new measures will prevent a repeat of the 2015 crisis caused by Syria's civil war, when about one million people arrived to seek asylum.

Fueled by people fleeing conflict and poverty across Africa and West Asia, the 2015 refugee crisis and successive years of irregular migration to Europe have driven a rightward shift in the bloc's politics not unlike the anti-immigrant sentiment that buoyed a "red wave" in the 2024 election in the U.S.

Centre-right political groups allied with the far-right to overcome opposition from centrist and left-wing parties, said Mélissa Camara, a French lawmaker and member of the Greens who called the deal "a historic setback" for human rights in the bloc.

"The legalization of return hubs outside the European Union, the green light for the detention of minors, home visits inspired by ICE practices: the legal arsenal serving a xenophobic ideology is now complete," she said.

Setback to human rights

Activist groups warned the legislation would cut deep into the protections granted by the EU fundamental charter on human rights and expose people to risks outside the bloc.

"This deal will give governments much broader powers to detain and deport people," said Marta Welander, a spokesperson for the International Rescue Committee. "It looks set to normalize immigration raids, expand the use of detention in prison-like facilities outside EU territory that are essentially legal black holes, and increase the risk of people being deported to countries where they could face persecution, torture or worse."

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03J6. EU moves policy for deportations and detention centres in third countries

EU ने तीसरे देशों में निर्वासन और निरोध केंद्रों की नीति को आगे बढ़ाया

- Activists decry the "**ICE-inspired**" move over potential harm to human rights.
  कार्यकर्ताओं ने मानवाधिकारों को संभावित नुकसान को लेकर इस "**ICE-प्रेरित**" कदम की आलोचना की है।
- The deal was struck between the EU's three main institutions — the **European Commission**, the **European Council**, and the **European Parliament**.
  यह समझौता EU की तीन प्रमुख संस्थाओं — **यूरोपीय आयोग**, **यूरोपीय परिषद** और **यूरोपीय संसद** — के बीच हुआ।
- The **United Kingdom** also planned to deport migrants to **Rwanda**.
  यूनाइटेड किंगडम ने भी प्रवासियों को **रवांडा** भेजने की योजना बनाई थी।
- But the plan was bogged down in legal red tape and the new government dropped the plan as soon as it came to power.
  लेकिन यह योजना कानूनी अड़चनों में फंस गई और नई सरकार ने सत्ता में आते ही इसे समाप्त कर दिया।
- At least five EU nations — **Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Greece** — are already in talks with third countries.
  कम-से-कम पाँच EU देश — **जर्मनी, ऑस्ट्रिया, नीदरलैंड, डेनमार्क और ग्रीस** — पहले से ही तीसरे देशों के साथ बातचीत कर रहे हैं।
- Mostly in **Africa**, to host "return hubs" on the model of **Italy's** detention deal with **Albania**.
  मुख्यतः **अफ्रीका** के देशों के साथ, ताकि **इटली** और **अल्बानिया** के निरोध समझौते के मॉडल पर "रिटर्न हब" बनाए जा सकें।
- The EU has continually tightened migration policies after right-wing parties took power in some countries in **2024**.
  2024 में कुछ देशों में दक्षिणपंथी दलों के सत्ता में आने के बाद EU ने लगातार प्रवासन नीतियों को सख्त किया है।
- **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** has said that the new measures will prevent a repeat of the **2015 crisis** caused by Syria's civil war.
  यूरोपीय आयोग की अध्यक्ष उर्सुला वॉन डेर लेयेन ने कहा कि नए कदम **2015 के संकट** की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकेंगे, जो सीरिया के गृहयुद्ध के कारण उत्पन्न हुआ था।
- When about **one million people** arrived to seek asylum.
  जब लगभग **दस लाख लोग** शरण लेने यूरोप पहुंचे थे।
- Fueled by people fleeing conflict and poverty across **Africa** and **West Asia**, the **2015 refugee crisis** and successive years of irregular migration to Europe have driven a rightward shift in the bloc's politics.
  अफ्रीका और **पश्चिम एशिया** में संघर्ष और गरीबी से भाग रहे लोगों के कारण उत्पन्न **2015 शरणार्थी संकट** और लगातार अवैध प्रवासन ने यूरोप की राजनीति को दक्षिणपंथ की ओर मोड़ दिया है।
- Not unlike the anti-immigrant sentiment that buoyed a "**red wave**" in the **2024 U.S. election**.
  यह स्थिति **2024 के अमेरिकी चुनाव** में "**रेड वेव**" को समर्थन देने वाली प्रवासी-विरोधी भावना जैसी है।

GS Paper III: Economy	03 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
03J6	How land pooling solves acquisition woes भूमि समेकन किस प्रकार अधिग्रहण संबंधी समस्याओं का समाधान करता है
03J6	The future of India's chip industry भारत के चिप उद्योग का भविष्य
03J6	The need for strengthening India's EV supply chains

	भारत की ईवी आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता
03J6	Govt. to replace WPI with Producer Price Index, new series from June 15 सरकार WPI की जगह प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स लाएगी, नई शृंखला 15 जून से
03J6	Extreme heat tests India's record milk production भीषण गर्मी ने भारत के रिकॉर्ड दुग्ध उत्पादन की परीक्षा ली
03J6	'Formalising supply chain integrity a huge challenge for circularity' 'आपूर्ति शृंखला की अखंडता को औपचारिक बनाना परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बड़ी चुनौती'

How land pooling solves acquisition woes

GS III: Economy

Rajasthan has recently announced the State's first land pooling scheme. The government is optimistic that the scheme will help with land acquisition and deliver the land needed for roads, infrastructure, and development activities. Other States, too, are either actively thinking of implementing land pooling schemes. While States such as Gujarat and Maharashtra have found success, much will depend on localised innovation and institutional flexibility.

Urban infrastructure projects in India have historically relied on land acquisitions. This process has become increasingly complex and financially burdensome, particularly after the enactment of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The limitations of land acquisition are both structural and procedural. Even before the 2013 Act, acquisition processes were time-consuming and often contested. Post-2013, the inclusion of rehabilitation and resettlement provisions have further increased financial obligations, making large-scale acquisitions for urban infrastructure increasingly unviable. This has resulted in a growing gap between planned infrastructure and its implementation. Plans are often under-executed due to the inability to mobilise land.

On pooling land

While States have tried different solutions, land pooling mechanisms, especially Town Planning (TP) schemes, have emerged as a viable alternative. In a land pooling model, landowners voluntarily contribute land for infrastructure development and receive a portion of the serviced land in return. This method reduces the need for compulsory acquisition and distributes development benefits among stakeholders.

The TP scheme, widely implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra, is among the most successful land-pooling models in India. Under this model, landowners voluntarily contribute about 25-40% of their land to provide infrastructure such as roads, parks, public amenities, and housing for economically weaker sections. The remaining land (60-75%) is returned to them as reconstituted plots that are better shaped, serviced, and more valuable. This method integrates land assembly, infrastructure provisions, and cost recovery.

Amit Gotecha

An urban planner advising various State governments on town planning schemes

Compared with land acquisitions, town planning schemes reduce displacement, ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and enable faster urban development

A key strength of the TP scheme is its participatory, people-centric approach. It is also financially self-sustaining, as incremental charges from landowners are recovered during development rather than up front. Compared with land acquisitions, TP schemes reduce displacement, ensure equitable benefit-sharing, and enable faster urban development while preserving environmentally sensitive areas. Recognising its potential, the Government of India has promoted TP schemes since 2019.

Land pooling is, however, not a new idea. For instance, in Gujarat, it was introduced almost 100 years back and formalised under the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act, 1976. And over time, in Gujarat, more than 1,000 sq. km across Ahmedabad, Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara, and Gandhinagar have been planned through TP schemes.

But unlike Gujarat, Maharashtra failed to update its statutory provisions for enabling TP schemes over time. However, Pune and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority have recently adopted this model again to provide infrastructure and serviced land in the city's peripheral areas.

Exemplary model

While other States have tried to implement the model, it has not been easy. For example, in Guwahati, even though the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority Act, 1985 included provisions for the preparation and implementation of development schemes, it lacked clarity on critical aspects, including the percentages for land appropriation and institutional roles. An equally significant challenge was the absence of digitised land records; land records in Guwahati were maintained manually. Additionally, discrepancies were observed between revenue records and ground conditions.

To address this, rather than conducting time-consuming joint measurement surveys, the existing map was retained as is, and final plot allocations were based on the land areas specified in the revenue records. This significantly reduced the time required to prepare the scheme. Reducing landowners' contribution was another key decision to make the scheme more acceptable. Private landowners were asked to contribute only 12-15% of their land, compared with the usual 35-45%. This was primarily used for road infrastructure.

In Rajasthan, land pooling had already been recognised in statutory provisions since 2016. However, they were handicapped by a lack of experience. Now, modifications are being made to the land-value calculations in the State to ensure that the financial burden on landowners remains manageable. The government has absorbed a portion of the cost, making the scheme more equitable and attractive.

States that are just about to venture into land pooling, such as Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi, also have to go beyond conventional approaches. Their challenge is to first convince landholders, communicate the benefits, and contextualise the approaches. Particularly, factors such as legislation on land-pooling requirements, adjusted land-contribution mechanisms, and equitable financial models will collectively determine the success of TP schemes.

03J6. ' How land pooling solves acquisition woes
भूमि समेकन किस प्रकार अधिग्रहण संबंधी समस्याओं का समाधान करता है

- **Rajasthan** has recently announced the State's first **land pooling scheme**.
  राजस्थान ने हाल ही में राज्य की पहली **भूमि पूलिंग योजना** की घोषणा की है।
- The government is optimistic that the scheme will help with land acquisition and deliver the land needed for roads, infrastructure, and development activities.
  सरकार को आशा है कि यह योजना भूमि अधिग्रहण में सहायता करेगी तथा सड़कों, अवसंरचना और विकास गतिविधियों के लिए आवश्यक भूमि उपलब्ध कराएगी।
- This process has become increasingly complex and financially burdensome, particularly after the enactment of the **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013**.
  यह प्रक्रिया विशेष रूप से **भूमि अधिग्रहण, पुनर्वास एवं पुनर्स्थापन में उचित प्रतिकर और पारदर्शिता अधिकार अधिनियम, 2013** के लागू होने के बाद अधिक जटिल और आर्थिक रूप से बोझिल हो गई है।
- The limitations of land acquisition are both structural and procedural.
  भूमि अधिग्रहण की सीमाएँ संरचनात्मक और प्रक्रियात्मक दोनों प्रकार की हैं।
- Even before the **2013 Act**, acquisition processes were time-consuming and often contested.
  2013 के अधिनियम से पहले भी भूमि अधिग्रहण की प्रक्रियाएँ समय लेने वाली और अक्सर विवादित होती थीं।
- Post-2013, the inclusion of rehabilitation and resettlement provisions have further increased financial obligations, making large-scale acquisitions for urban infrastructure increasingly unviable.
  2013 के बाद पुनर्वास और पुनर्स्थापन प्रावधानों के शामिल होने से आर्थिक दायित्व और बढ़ गए, जिससे शहरी अवसंरचना के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर भूमि अधिग्रहण कम व्यवहार्य हो गया।

On pooling land
भूमि पूलिंग पर

- While States have tried different solutions, land pooling mechanisms, especially **Town Planning (TP) schemes**, have emerged as a viable alternative.
  यद्यपि राज्यों ने विभिन्न समाधान अपनाने का प्रयास किया है, फिर भी भूमि पूलिंग तंत्र, विशेषकर **टाउन प्लानिंग (TP) योजनाएँ**, एक व्यवहारिक विकल्प के रूप में उभरी हैं।
- The **TP scheme**, widely implemented in Gujarat and Maharashtra, is among the most successful land-pooling models in India.
  TP योजना, जिसे गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में व्यापक रूप से लागू किया गया है, भारत के सबसे सफल भूमि पूलिंग मॉडलों में से एक है।
- Under this model, landowners voluntarily contribute about **25-40%** of their land to provide infrastructure such as roads, parks, public amenities, and housing for economically weaker sections.
  इस मॉडल के अंतर्गत भू-स्वामी स्वेच्छा से अपनी लगभग **25-40%** भूमि सड़कों, पार्कों, सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं तथा आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्गों के लिए आवास जैसी अवसंरचना उपलब्ध कराने हेतु देते हैं।
- The remaining land (**60-75%**) is returned to them as reconstituted plots that are better shaped, serviced, and more valuable.
  शेष भूमि (**60-75%**) उन्हें पुनर्गठित भूखंडों के रूप में वापस दी जाती है, जो बेहतर आकार वाले, सुविधायुक्त तथा अधिक मूल्यवान होते हैं।
- This method integrates land assembly, infrastructure provisions, and cost recovery.
  यह पद्धति भूमि एकत्रीकरण, अवसंरचना प्रावधान और लागत वसूली को एकीकृत करती है।
- A key strength of the **TP scheme** is its participatory, people-centric approach.
  TP योजना की एक प्रमुख विशेषता इसका सहभागी और जन-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण है।

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- It is also financially self-sustaining, as incremental charges from landowners are recovered during development rather than up front.
  यह आर्थिक रूप से आत्मनिर्भर भी है, क्योंकि भू-स्वामियों से अतिरिक्त शुल्क विकास प्रक्रिया के दौरान वसूले जाते हैं, न कि प्रारंभ में।
- In **Rajasthan**, land pooling had already been recognised in statutory provisions since **2016**.
  राजस्थान में भूमि पूलिंग को **2016** से ही वैधानिक प्रावधानों में मान्यता प्राप्त थी।
- However, they were handicapped by a lack of experience.
  हालाँकि, अनुभव की कमी के कारण इन प्रावधानों के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन में बाधाएँ थीं।
- Now, modifications are being made to the land-value calculations in the State to ensure that the financial burden on landowners remains manageable.
  अब राज्य में भूमि मूल्यांकन की गणनाओं में संशोधन किए जा रहे हैं ताकि भूमि स्वामियों पर आर्थिक बोझ प्रबंधनीय बना रहे।

The future of India's chip industry

A new NITI Aayog report says India's semiconductor ecosystem is not yet equipped to fully meet domestic demand, while stressing the need to strengthen local manufacturing, as geopolitical pressures could potentially disrupt the electronics supply chain

GS III: Economy

EXPLAINER

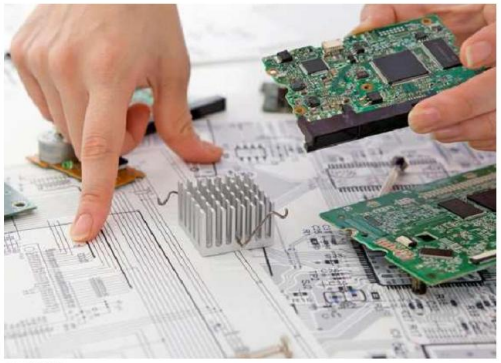
Aroon Deep

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub released a report last week that had two main messages: first, that India faces steep challenges in developing world-class semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, and second, that national interest necessitated pursuing this field doggedly regardless of those difficulties.

The Union government has made chipmaking a priority, since semiconductors are a part of nearly all electronics, from consumer gadgets to defence gear. Yet, India does not have a single fabrication unit, with the first expected to open in Dholera, Gujarat by 2028, with a total of ten in various stages of development. Multiple semiconductor packaging and testing facilities have been generously subsidised and supported by the Union government (as well as some State governments), through initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

The ISM is a ₹76,000 crore corpus, and it is almost fully earmarked to projects across semiconductor fabs, incentives for component manufacturing, and bulk subscriptions to industry-grade semiconductor design applications for students and academia. While the most cutting edge and ambitious projects – fabs – have received capital subsidies of upwards of 50%, other projects have received production- or output-linked incentives.

The report, titled 'Future of India's Semiconductor Industry', reiterates that these are yet early days for the semiconductor industry, since even chips used in domestic electronics assembly operations are largely sourced from outside the country. "India's local ecosystem is not ready to fully meet domestic demand for semiconductors," the report said. But it insisted that there was still a need to manufacture locally, as geopolitical pressures like a disaster in Taiwan could massively disrupt the electronics supply chain. "As many semiconductor parts used in defence systems are produced outside India, deploying them in our aerospace and defence programmes is increasing threats to national security," the report adds.



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The sector "requires sustained, mission-mode commitment over a decade or more," the report said.

Fab gestation

The report points to several challenges in this indigenisation process, not least of which is the time involved. "Typically, fab units require four to five years before commencing production," the report points out. "During the gestation phase, these units need to invest in purchasing more than 50 specialised equipment from global players. Even after the production is over, processes like yield optimisation and reliability test take several quarters before chips reach the market." Developing talent to work in these fabs is also, as a result, time consuming, the report says.

The report urges the government to work on "building sovereign design and research capabilities, R&D excellence and harnessing agentic AI for semiconductor engineering," since "building deep capabilities" in materials sciences and silicon designing will "move India from a services-led design base to a creator of differentiated IP, architectures and integration technologies that define next generation systems."

Capital investment

While the details on the second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission are yet to be revealed, the report pegs the necessary capital expenditure from the state at $45-60 billion over a period of ten years. This amount should, however, be spent on projects where the risk is less and "bankability" can assure returns to investors, the report warns. This translates to a shift away from directing public funds towards frontier chips, whose transistors are the smallest – 3 to 7 nanometres – and towards "mature, advanced–aligned with strategic relevance–as well as compound nodes," the report says.

The report is key in understanding the potential scope of ISM 2.0, since its ambition is defined and largely stays out of big-ticket frontier fab projects. It advocates, for instance, "selective depth, capital efficiency and system-level differentiation, rather than attempting to replicate the full global manufacturing spectrum."

For instance, packaging, which is among the last steps of a chipmaking process, and less expensive and complex than fabrication, is identified as a "core production pillar, not a downstream activity" in the report. The report calls for "[r]apid import substitution in high volume domestic segments".

Trusted partners

The report implies that China is an adversary in chipmaking in spite of the recent thaw in relations. In a list of "priority partners," the report highlights the U.S., Japan, the European Union, and South Korea as partners with whom to work to get "access to critical tools, equipment servicing and lifecycle support," and to take advantage of "India's market scale, talent base and packaging capacity."

"With sustained commitment and strategic clarity, India can build a competitive semiconductor ecosystem that strengthens economic resilience and positions the nation as a key player in the future of advanced technology," the report concludes. IT Secretary S. Krishnan welcomed the report as a "structured, actionable framework," and said in a foreword that, "India is well positioned to convert its semiconductor ambition into enduring industrial and strategic reality".

THE GIST

- The Union government has made semiconductor manufacturing a priority, but India does not yet have a fabrication unit. A recent report by NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub underscores the need to bolster local manufacturing.
- The report urges the government to work on 'building sovereign design and research capabilities, R&D excellence and harnessing agentic AI for semiconductor engineering'.

03J6. 'The future of India's chip industry
भारत के चिप उद्योग का भविष्य

- A new **NITI Aayog** report says India's **semiconductor ecosystem** is not yet equipped to fully meet domestic demand, while stressing the need to strengthen local manufacturing, as **geopolitical pressures** could potentially disrupt the electronics supply chain.
  नीति आयोग की एक नई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार भारत का **सेमीकंडक्टर पारितंत्र** अभी घरेलू मांग को पूरी तरह पूरा करने के लिए सक्षम नहीं है, साथ ही स्थानीय विनिर्माण को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया गया है, क्योंकि **भूराजनैतिक दबाव** संभावित रूप से इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को बाधित कर सकते हैं।

- **NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub** released a report last week that had two main messages: first, that India faces steep challenges in developing world-class semiconductor manufacturing capabilities, and second, that national interest necessitated pursuing this field doggedly regardless of those difficulties.
  नीति आयोग के फ्रंटियर टेक हब ने पिछले सप्ताह एक रिपोर्ट जारी की, जिसमें दो मुख्य संदेश दिए गए: पहला, कि भारत को विश्वस्तरीय सेमीकंडक्टर विनिर्माण क्षमताएँ विकसित करने में गंभीर चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, और दूसरा, कि राष्ट्रीय हित इन कठिनाइयों के बावजूद इस क्षेत्र में निरंतर प्रयास करने की मांग करता है।
- Yet, India does not have a single fabrication unit, with the first expected to open in **Dholera, Gujarat** by **2028**, with a total of ten in various stages of development.
  फिर भी भारत में अभी तक एक भी फैब्रिकेशन यूनिट नहीं है, जबकि पहली इकाई **गुजरात के धोलेरा** में **2028** तक शुरू होने की संभावना है, और कुल दस परियोजनाएँ विभिन्न विकास चरणों में हैं।
- Multiple semiconductor packaging and testing facilities have been generously subsidised and supported by the Union government (as well as some State governments), through initiatives like the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)**.
  इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन (ISM) जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से कई सेमीकंडक्टर पैकेजिंग और परीक्षण सुविधाओं को केंद्र सरकार तथा कुछ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा उदारतापूर्वक अनुदान और समर्थन प्रदान किया गया है।
- The **ISM** is a **₹76,000 crore** corpus, and it is almost fully earmarked to projects across semiconductor fabs, incentives for component manufacturing, and bulk subscriptions to industry-grade semiconductor design applications for students and academia.
  ISM एक **₹76,000 करोड़** का कोष है, जिसे लगभग पूर्ण रूप से सेमीकंडक्टर फैब परियोजनाओं, घटक निर्माण के लिए प्रोत्साहनों तथा छात्रों और शैक्षणिक संस्थानों के लिए उद्योग-स्तरीय सेमीकंडक्टर डिजाइन अनुप्रयोगों की सामूहिक सदस्यताओं हेतु निर्धारित किया गया है।
- While the most cutting edge and ambitious projects — fabs — have received capital subsidies of upwards of **50%**, other projects have received production- or output-linked incentives.
  जहाँ सबसे उन्नत और महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजनाओं — फैब्स — को **50%** से अधिक की पूंजीगत सब्सिडी प्राप्त हुई है, वहीं अन्य परियोजनाओं को उत्पादन अथवा आउटपुट-आधारित प्रोत्साहन दिए गए हैं।
- "India's local ecosystem is not ready to fully meet domestic demand for semiconductors," the report said.
  रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, "भारत का स्थानीय तंत्र अभी सेमीकंडक्टर की घरेलू मांग को पूरी तरह पूरा करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है।"
- But it insisted that there was still a need to manufacture locally, as geopolitical pressures like a disaster in **Taiwan** could massively disrupt the electronics supply chain.
  किन्तु रिपोर्ट ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि स्थानीय स्तर पर निर्माण आवश्यक है, क्योंकि **ताइवान** जैसी जगह पर किसी आपदा के कारण भू-राजनीतिक दबाव इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को गंभीर रूप से बाधित कर सकते हैं।
- "As many semiconductor parts used in defence systems are produced outside India, deploying them in our aerospace and defence programmes is increasing threats to national security," the report adds.
  रिपोर्ट में आगे कहा गया है, "चूँकि रक्षा प्रणालियों में प्रयुक्त अनेक सेमीकंडक्टर घटक भारत के बाहर निर्मित होते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें हमारे एयरोस्पेस और रक्षा कार्यक्रमों में उपयोग करना राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए बढ़ते खतरे उत्पन्न कर रहा है।"

Fab gestation
फैब की विकास अवधि

- "Typically, fab units require four to five years before commencing production," the report points out.

रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है, "सामान्यतः फैब इकाइयों को उत्पादन प्रारंभ करने से पहले चार से पाँच वर्ष का समय लगता है।"

- "During the gestation phase, these units need to invest in purchasing more than 50 specialised equipment from global players. Even after the production is over, processes like yield optimisation and reliability test take several quarters before chips reach the market."
"विकास अवधि के दौरान इन इकाइयों को वैश्विक कंपनियों से 50 से अधिक विशेष उपकरण खरीदने में निवेश करना पड़ता है। उत्पादन शुरू होने के बाद भी, यील्ड अनुकूलन और विश्वसनीयता परीक्षण जैसी प्रक्रियाओं में कई तिमाहियाँ लगती हैं, तब जाकर चिप्स बाजार तक पहुँचते हैं।"
- The report urges the government to work on "building sovereign design and research capabilities, R&D excellence and harnessing agentic AI for semiconductor engineering," since "building deep capabilities" in materials sciences and silicon designing will "move India from a services-led design base to a creator of differentiated IP, architectures and integration technologies that define next generation systems."
रिपोर्ट सरकार से "स्वायत्त डिजाइन और अनुसंधान क्षमताओं, अनुसंधान एवं विकास उत्कृष्टता तथा सेमीकंडक्टर इंजीनियरिंग हेतु एजेंटिक AI के उपयोग" पर कार्य करने का आग्रह करती है, क्योंकि पदार्थ विज्ञान और सिलिकॉन डिजाइनिंग में "गहरी क्षमताओं" का निर्माण भारत को "सेवाओं-आधारित डिजाइन केंद्र से विशिष्ट बौद्धिक संपदा, आर्किटेक्चर और एकीकरण प्रौद्योगिकियों के निर्माता" में परिवर्तित करेगा, जो अगली पीढ़ी की प्रणालियों को परिभाषित करेंग

Capital investment
पूंजी निवेश

- While the details on the second phase of the **India Semiconductor Mission** are yet to be revealed, the report pegs the necessary capital expenditure from the state at **$45-60 billion** over a period of ten years.
यद्यपि **इंडिया सेमीकंडक्टर मिशन** के दूसरे चरण का विवरण अभी सामने नहीं आया है, रिपोर्ट के अनुसार अगले दस वर्षों में सरकार को लगभग **45-60 अरब डॉलर** का पूंजीगत व्यय करना होगा।
- This amount should, however, be spent on projects where the risk is less and "bankability" can assure returns to investors, the report warns.
हालाँकि, रिपोर्ट चेतावनी देती है कि यह राशि केवल उन परियोजनाओं पर खर्च की जानी चाहिए जहाँ जोखिम कम हो तथा "बैंकबिलिटी" निवेशकों को प्रतिफल सुनिश्चित कर सके।
- This translates to a shift away from directing public funds towards frontier chips, whose transistors are the smallest — **3 to 7 nanometres** — and towards "mature, advanced—aligned with strategic relevance—as well as compound nodes," the report says.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार इसका अर्थ यह है कि सार्वजनिक धन को अत्याधुनिक चिप्स, जिनके ट्रांजिस्टर आकार **3 से 7 नैनोमीटर** तक होते हैं, से हटाकर "परिपक्व, उन्नत—रणनीतिक महत्व के अनुरूप—तथा कंपाउंड नोड्स" की ओर केंद्रित किया जाए।
- It advocates, for instance, "selective depth, capital efficiency and system-level differentiation, rather than attempting to replicate the full global manufacturing spectrum."
उदाहरण के लिए, यह "पूर्ण वैश्विक विनिर्माण ढाँचे की नकल करने के बजाय चयनात्मक गहराई, पूंजी दक्षता और प्रणाली-स्तरीय भिन्नता" का समर्थन करती है।
- For instance, packaging, which is among the last steps of a chipmaking process, and less expensive and complex than fabrication, is identified as a "core production pillar, not a downstream activity" in the report.
उदाहरणस्वरूप, पैकेजिंग, जो चिप निर्माण प्रक्रिया के अंतिम चरणों में से एक है तथा फैब्रिकेशन की तुलना में कम महंगी और कम जटिल है, रिपोर्ट में "मुख्य उत्पादन स्तंभ, न कि केवल डाउनस्ट्रीम गतिविधि" के रूप में पहचानी गई है।

Trusted partners
विश्वसनीय साझेदार

- In a list of "priority partners," the report highlights the **U.S., Japan, the European Union, and South Korea** as partners with whom to work to get "access to critical tools, equipment servicing and lifecycle support," and to take advantage of "India's market scale, talent base and packaging capacity."
"प्राथमिक साझेदारों" की सूची में रिपोर्ट ने **अमेरिका, जापान, यूरोपीय संघ और दक्षिण कोरिया** को ऐसे भागीदारों के रूप में चिह्नित किया है, जिनके साथ मिलकर "महत्वपूर्ण उपकरणों, उपकरण सेवाओं और जीवनचक्र समर्थन तक पहुँच" प्राप्त की जा सकती है तथा "भारत के विशाल बाजार, प्रतिभा आधार और पैकेजिंग क्षमता" का लाभ उठाया जा सकता है।

The need for strengthening India's EV supply chains

As EV adoption gathers pace, there is a greater need to focus on reducing vulnerability to external shocks

GS III: Economy

Jaideep Saraswat
Akanksha Golchha

India's electrification of road transport has entered a decisive growth phase. Around 2.5 million vehicles were sold in FY26, a significant increase from FY25. This momentum reflects the effectiveness of policy support from both the Centre and the States, including upfront purchase incentives, road tax exemptions and other demand-side interventions. These measures helped create the initial market, reduce consumer hesitation, and establish electric vehicles (EVs) as a credible and tested technology.

Import dependence

The next phase of EV adoption demands a different policy and industrial logic. As the sector scales, India is moving away from imported fossil fuels, only to find itself becoming increasingly dependent on imported lithium-ion batteries. The challenge is no longer how quickly India can electrify transport, but how it can do so without creating a new strategic vulnerability. EV growth must now be judged by three additional metrics: supply chain resilience, strategic autonomy, and long-term sustainability.

India's domestic cell manufacturing is still far below the scale needed to alter import dependence meaningfully. Under the ACC Battery Production Linked Incentive scheme, 40 GWh of capacity has been awarded, but only about 1 GWh has been installed so far. Meanwhile, passenger EVs sold in India are sourcing batteries from 14 global manufacturers, with 7,987 MWh imported in 2025. Of this, a significant share came from Chinese manufacturers, highlighting that increasing EV sales are tightly correlated with increasing imports from China.

This concentration creates a structural risk for Indian EV OEMs (original equipment manufacturers). Battery supply is increasingly exposed to a single-country ecosystem that is shaped by policy, geopolitics, and industrial strategy outside India's control. Several developments in China are influencing pricing and availability, like tighter technology restrictions, prioritisation of domestic demand, withdrawal of VAT exemptions on battery exports, and more. Additionally, the West Asia conflict has compounded the pressure through higher raw material costs, elevated manufacturing expenses in China, and rising transport and risk premiums.

The consequences extend beyond OEM balance sheets. Battery inflation delays price parity with internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles and slows the shift from early adopters to mass-market buyers. In a market as price-sensitive as India's, rising cell costs can confine EVs to premium segments and place national adoption targets at risk if the situation persists and OEMs are forced to pass on higher costs to consumers.

This requires a holistic situational assessment and identifying key interventions in the short to medium term. The near-term response must be pragmatic. Many OEMs already talk of a "China + 1" sourcing strategy, but actual supplier diversity varies widely by segment. Higher-end EVs are increasingly paired with non-Chinese NMC batteries, while cost-sensitive mass-market models continue to rely on cheaper Chinese LFP cells. True diversification, across suppliers, chemistries, and geographies, may raise costs initially; but it significantly lowers the risk of strategic disruption over time.

Product modifications

The cost shock should also drive product-level discipline. OEMs need to design EVs around efficiency, lighter architectures, more effective drivetrains, smarter software calibration, and battery right-sizing aligned with actual usage rather than aspirational range. India's market may ultimately reward lean, purpose-built electrification over oversized vehicles designed around imported battery economics.

Software-defined battery platforms that support multiple chemistries without hardware redesign would further improve flexibility as the cell market evolves. Moreover, Indian manufacturers should begin type-testing vehicles across emerging chemistries, including sodium-ion batteries. Sodium-ion is not yet a full substitute for lithium-ion across all use cases, but it could serve as a meaningful hedge as production scales domestically, broadening the technology base and reducing dependence on any single chemistry or supplier.

Further, India's path forward lies in building a structured 'EV supply chain alliance' with trusted partners, one that spans minerals, manufacturing, technology, and standards. Such an alliance would distribute risk across geographies, deepen domestic capability over time, and ensure that no single external disruption can stall India's electrification agenda.

The EV transition is no longer straightforward and the recent disruptions underscore the need for a more resilient approach. India has already demonstrated that it can create demand for clean mobility. The next test is whether it can build the industrial depth to sustain that demand without becoming dependent on a single external bottleneck.

(Jaideep Saraswat is the Associate Director of the Clean Power, Electric Mobility & Emerging Technologies vertical at Vasudha Foundation. Akanksha Golchha is Senior Associate (non-resident) with the Chair on India & Emerging Asia Economics at Center for Strategic and International Studies.)

03J6. ' The need for strengthening India's EV supply chains
भारत की ईवी आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं को सुदृढ़ करने की आवश्यकता

- Around **2.5 million vehicles** were sold in **FY26**, a significant increase from **FY25**.
वित्तीय वर्ष 2026 में लगभग **25 लाख वाहन** बेचे गए, जो **वित्तीय वर्ष 2025** की तुलना में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि है।
- As the sector scales, India is moving away from imported fossil fuels, only to find itself becoming increasingly dependent on imported lithium-ion batteries.
जैसे-जैसे यह क्षेत्र विस्तृत हो रहा है, भारत आयातित जीवाश्म ईंधनों से दूर जा रहा है, किन्तु साथ ही आयातित लिथियम-आयन बैटरियों पर उसकी निर्भरता बढ़ती जा रही है।
- EV growth must now be judged by three additional metrics: supply chain resilience, strategic autonomy, and long-term sustainability.
अब EV क्षेत्र की वृद्धि का आकलन तीन अतिरिक्त मानकों — आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की स्थिरता, रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता और दीर्घकालिक स्थिरता — के आधार पर किया जाना चाहिए।
- Under the **ACC Battery Production Linked Incentive scheme**, **40 GWh** of capacity has been awarded, but only about **1 GWh** has been installed so far.
ACC बैटरी प्रोडक्शन लिंक्ड इंसेंटिव योजना के अंतर्गत **40 GWh** क्षमता आवंटित की गई है, किन्तु अब तक केवल लगभग **1 GWh** क्षमता ही स्थापित हो पाई है।

Product modifications
उत्पाद संशोधन

- Further, India's path forward lies in building a structured '**EV supply chain alliance**' with trusted partners, one that spans minerals, manufacturing, technology, and standards.
इसके अतिरिक्त, भारत का भविष्य विश्वसनीय साझेदारों के साथ एक संगठित '**EV सप्लाई चेन गठबंधन**' बनाने में निहित है, जो खनिज, विनिर्माण, प्रौद्योगिकी और मानकों तक विस्तृत हो।

Govt. to replace WPI with Producer Price Index, new series from June 15

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

DPIIT will release a new series with three indices – Output PPI, Trial Input PPI, Services PPI

The Centre will phase out the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) over the next five years while simultaneously introducing a more detailed Producer Price Index (PPI), covering output, input and services prices, in a bid to offer a more realistic assessment of inflationary trends in the economy.

Speaking with reporters, Praveen Mahto, Principal Economic Adviser in the Commerce and Industry Ministry, said that the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) will release the revised series of WPI with new base year 2022-23 on June 15, which would replace the existing series with base year 2011-12.

In addition, the department would release a new series of PPI from June 15. It will have three indices – Output PPI, Trial Input PPI and Services PPI.

Initially, services PPI will have seven services – Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance, Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom.

"Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of release of the revised series along with PPI and will be discontinued thereafter," the ministry said in a statement. The five-year period would give users sufficient time to switch from WPI to PPI. Mr. Mahto said that after five years, the PPI is expected to replace WPI.

The transition from WPI to PPI aligns with global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The availability of both Output PPI and Input PPI provides a better understanding of the price movements of output items vis-à-vis the input items used in an industry.

It also explains how inflation experienced by producers of input items is passed through to the output they produce.

Mr. Mahto said that the Service PPIs for seven services have been compiled in the first phase based on the availability of data from administrative sources/agencies. More services are planned to be added to the PPI basket of services in subsequent phases, subject to data availability.

The DPIIT informed that WPI and Output PPI are being compiled on a monthly basis and will be available for May 2026 (Provisional) along with the back series from April 2023 to April 2026 on June 15.

03J6. ' Govt. to replace WPI with Producer Price Index, new series from June 15
सरकार WPI की जगह प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स लाएगी, नई श्रृंखला 15 जून से

- The Centre will phase out the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** over the next five years.

केंद्र सरकार अगले पाँच वर्षों में **थोक मूल्य सूचकांक (WPI)** को चरणबद्ध तरीके से समाप्त करेगी।

- While simultaneously introducing a more detailed **Producer Price Index (PPI)**, covering output, input and services prices.

साथ ही अधिक विस्तृत **प्रोड्यूसर प्राइस इंडेक्स (PPI)** लागू करेगी, जिसमें उत्पादन, इनपुट और सेवाओं की कीमतें शामिल होंगी।

- In a bid to offer a more realistic assessment of inflationary trends in the economy.

इसका उद्देश्य अर्थव्यवस्था में मुद्रास्फीति के रुझानों का अधिक यथार्थवादी आकलन प्रदान करना है।

- Speaking with reporters, **Praveen Mahto**, Principal Economic Adviser in the **Commerce and Industry Ministry**, said that the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** will release the revised series of WPI with new base year **2022-23** on **June 15**.

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय के प्रधान आर्थिक सलाहकार **प्रवीण महतो** ने पत्रकारों से बातचीत में कहा कि **उद्योग और आंतरिक व्यापार संवर्धन विभाग (DPIIT)** 15 जून को **2022-23** को नया आधार वर्ष बनाकर WPI की संशोधित श्रृंखला जारी करेगा।

- Which would replace the existing series with base year **2011-12**.

यह वर्तमान **2011-12** आधार वर्ष वाली श्रृंखला का स्थान लेगी।

- In addition, the department would release a new series of **PPI** from June 15.

इसके अतिरिक्त विभाग 15 जून से **PPI** की नई श्रृंखला भी जारी करेगा।

- It will have three indices — **Output PPI, Trial Input PPI and Services PPI**.

इसमें तीन सूचकांक होंगे — **आउटपुट PPI, ट्रायल इनपुट PPI और सर्विसेज PPI**।

- Initially, **Services PPI** will have seven services — **Banking, Securities Transaction, Insurance,**

Management of Pension Funds, Railways, Air (Passenger), and Telecom.

प्रारंभ में **सर्विसेज PPI** में सात सेवाएँ शामिल होंगी — **बैंकिंग, सिक्योरिटीज ट्रांजैक्शन, बीमा, पेंशन फंड प्रबंधन, रेलवे, हवाई यात्री सेवा और दूरसंचार**।

- "Considering the wide usage of WPI in price escalation clauses, this index will be released for five years from the date of release of the revised series along with PPI and will be discontinued thereafter," the ministry said in a statement.

  मंत्रालय ने बयान में कहा, "मूल्य वृद्धि संबंधी प्रावधानों में WPI के व्यापक उपयोग को देखते हुए, संशोधित श्रृंखला जारी होने की तिथि से अगले पाँच वर्षों तक इसे PPI के साथ जारी रखा जाएगा और उसके बाद इसे बंद कर दिया जाएगा।"
- The transition from **WPI** to **PPI** aligns with global best practices adopted by advanced economies and the recommendations of the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.

  WPI से **PPI** की ओर यह बदलाव विकसित अर्थव्यवस्थाओं द्वारा अपनाई गई वैश्विक सर्वोत्तम प्रथाओं और **अंतरराष्ट्रीय मुद्रा कोष (IMF)** की सिफारिशों के अनुरूप है।
- The availability of both **Output PPI** and **Input PPI** provides a better understanding of the price movements of output items vis-à-vis the input items used in an industry.

  आउटपुट PPI और **इनपुट PPI** दोनों की उपलब्धता उद्योगों में उपयोग होने वाले इनपुट और उत्पादित वस्तुओं की कीमतों में बदलाव को बेहतर ढंग से समझने में मदद करेगी।
- It also explains how inflation experienced by producers of input items is passed through to the output they produce.

  यह यह भी स्पष्ट करेगा कि इनपुट उत्पादकों द्वारा अनुभव की गई मुद्रास्फीति अंतिम उत्पादों की कीमतों में कैसे स्थानांतरित होती है।
- Mr. Mahto said that the **Service PPIs** for seven services have been compiled in the first phase based on the availability of data from administrative sources/agencies.

  श्री महतो ने कहा कि पहले चरण में सात सेवाओं के लिए **सर्विस PPI** प्रशासनिक स्रोतों और एजेंसियों से उपलब्ध आंकड़ों के आधार पर तैयार किए गए हैं।
- More services are planned to be added to the **PPI basket of services** in subsequent phases, subject to data availability.

  आंकड़ों की उपलब्धता के अनुसार आगे के चरणों में **PPI सेवा बास्केट** में और सेवाएँ जोड़ी जाएँगी।
- The **DPIIT** informed that **WPI** and **Output PPI** are being compiled on a monthly basis.

  DPIIT ने जानकारी दी कि **WPI** और **आउटपुट PPI** को मासिक आधार पर संकलित किया जा रहा है।

Extreme heat tests India's record milk production

GS III: Economy

NEWS ANALYSIS

Reuters
NEW DELHI

During a summer of extreme heat with temperature topping 40 degrees Celsius last year, much like northern India is currently experiencing, dairy farmer Neeraj Bharadwaj watched one of his cows deliver a calf months early.

The newborn was tiny and almost hairless. People said it would not survive, but Bharadwaj bottle fed it milk until it slowly recovered.

Scientists say such premature births are part of a wider pattern of increasingly intense summers linked to climate change.

Heat stress reduces feed intake and diverts cows' energy.

Bharadwaj's small farm of six cows near Delhi is typical of millions in India, the world's biggest dairy producer responsible for almost a quarter of global supply where most milk comes from farms with between 2-5 animals.

5% of GDP

Dairy sector accounts for about 5% of India's GDP and supports more than 80 million farmers. Rising incomes and population level mean demand for dairy is set to grow - the government estimates it could almost double by 2050.

But extreme heat means cows eat less, make less milk, struggle to conceive and produce fewer live offspring, experts say, while farmers spend more trying to keep animals cool and fertile. "Milk production falls by nearly 30% during extreme heat," Bharadwaj said.

Record output

India's milk production reached a record 239 million tonne in the 2023-24 fiscal year, up nearly 64% in a decade, according to government data.

But researchers, dairy experts and farmers say rising heat is quietly exposing the vulnerabilities of that model. Scientists at the National Dairy Research Institute said heat stress reduces feed intake and diverts cows' energy away from milk production and reproduction.

Bharadwaj spent some ₹2 lakh modifying cattle sheds with tarpaulin covers and ventilation systems to cut heat stress while yearly maintenance added another ₹50,000.

Pankaj Navani, a dairy entrepreneur, said larger organised dairy operators adapted more quickly because they treat dairy as a commercial business, investing in cooling systems, ventilation and feed management. But such investment is hard for most dairy farmers operating with only a handful of cattle and limited capital.

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03J6. 'Extreme heat tests India's record milk production
भीषण गर्मी ने भारत के रिकॉर्ड दुग्ध उत्पादन की परीक्षा ली

- The dairy sector accounts for about **5% of India's GDP** and supports more than **80 million farmers**.
  डेयरी क्षेत्र भारत के **GDP का लगभग 5%** योगदान देता है और **8 करोड़ से अधिक किसानों** को सहारा प्रदान करता है।
- Rising incomes and population level mean demand for dairy is set to grow.
  बढ़ती आय और जनसंख्या के कारण डेयरी उत्पादों की मांग बढ़ने वाली है।
- The government estimates it could almost double by **2050**.
  सरकार का अनुमान है कि यह मांग **2050** तक लगभग दोगुनी हो सकती है।
- But extreme heat means cows eat less, make less milk, struggle to conceive and produce fewer live offspring, experts say.
  लेकिन विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार अत्यधिक गर्मी के कारण गायें कम खाती हैं, कम दूध देती हैं, गर्भधारण में कठिनाई होती है और जीवित बछड़ों की संख्या भी घट जाती है।

- India's milk production reached a record **239 million tonne** in the **2023-24** fiscal year.
  भारत का दुग्ध उत्पादन **2023-24** वित्तीय वर्ष में रिकॉर्ड **239 मिलियन टन** तक पहुँच गया।
- Investing in cooling systems, ventilation and feed management.
  वे कूलिंग सिस्टम, वेंटिलेशन और चारा प्रबंधन में निवेश करते हैं।

'Formalising supply chain integrity a huge challenge for circularity'

GS III: Economy

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Formalising supply chain integrity in manufacturing is a challenge for circular economy in India, industry leaders opined. At the Maharashtra Circular Economy Conclave held here, large Indian firms spoke about the efforts being taken towards circular economy, the regulatory framework and the push and pull factors towards circularity.

"There are two challenges at present. We need to have supply chain integrity. In India, we have an informal way of managing circularity. How to formalise it is a challenge. The second challenge is transparency and traceability in the system that the material is really good and is going to get recycled back into the system," said Prabodha Acharya, CSO of JSW Steel.

Prabodha Acharya, CSO of JSW Steel. said JSW Steel was able to use 99.99% of its waste as byproduct. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

A panel discussion with the representatives of firms such as Mahindra Group, Tata Group, Aditya Birla Group and JSW Steel explored three broad themes on why circular economy mattered to large businesses, how conglomerates can shape systems beyond own operations to suppliers and what the next phase of circular business transformation in Maharashtra and India could look like. They also discussed the significance of resource security at a time of geopolitical instability, which has become a major factor leading to circularity.

Push and pull factors

Deeksha Vats, chief sustainability officer of Aditya Birla Group, emphasised on the impact of push and pull factors in creating circularity. "The regulations are the push factors. The pull factor is when the customers ask for greener products. Currently, the need for resource security is what is leading to bigger strides in circular economy," she said.

Mr. Acharya said JSW Steel was able to use 99.99% of its waste as by-product. "We created JSW cement to create another business. It is one of the most low-carbon businesses. Everything which comes out must be reused. Every energy which comes out, we trap and use. We do waste-gas recycling. [As much as] 40-50% of our energy needs are met out of it. We use everything that comes out of it," he said.

The event organised by the Consulate General of Finland in Mumbai, Embassy of Finland in India, MMRDA, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra and FICCI was the official side event of World Circular Economy Forum 2026, to be hosted in Asia for the first time this year in September.

03

J6. 'Formalising supply chain integrity a huge challenge for circularity'
'आपूर्ति श्रृंखला की अखंडता को औपचारिक बनाना परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए बड़ी चुनौती'

- At the **Maharashtra Circular Economy Conclave** held here, large Indian firms spoke about the efforts being taken towards circular economy.
  यहाँ आयोजित **महाराष्ट्र सर्कुलर इकोनॉमी कॉन्क्लेव** में बड़ी भारतीय कंपनियों ने परिपत्र अर्थव्यवस्था की दिशा में किए जा रहे प्रयासों पर चर्चा की।
- "The second challenge is transparency and traceability in the system that the material is really good and is going to get recycled back into the system."
  "दूसरी चुनौती प्रणाली में पारदर्शिता और ट्रेसबिलिटी सुनिश्चित करना है ताकि यह पता चल सके कि सामग्री वास्तव में अच्छी है और उसे पुनर्चक्रित करके फिर से प्रणाली में शामिल किया जाएगा।"

GS Paper III: Environment	03 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
03J6	Tigress Zeenat gives birth to four cubs in Odisha's Similipal ओडिशा के सिमिलिपाल में बाघिन ज़ीनत ने चार शावकों को जन्म दिया
03J6	India vulnerable to chronic aircraft noise thanks to regulatory gaps नियामकीय कमियों के कारण भारत दीर्घकालिक विमान शोर के प्रति संवेदनशील

GS III: Environment

Tigress Zeenat gives birth to four cubs in Odisha's Similipal

The translocation effort aimed at enhancing the genetic diversity of tigers in Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve has received a major boost, with tigress Zeenat, brought from Maharashtra, giving birth to four cubs. Photographs of Zeenat gently carrying her cubs in her mouth have since gone viral. "Today, a proud chapter has been added to Odisha's natural resources and wildlife conservation efforts," Chief Minister Mohan Majhi said in a post on X on Tuesday. The event assumes significant importance for the State Forest Department, especially after an earlier experiment to introduce tigers in Satkosia Tiger Reserve had failed.

03J6. Tigress Zeenat gives birth to four cubs in Odisha's Similipal
ओडिशा के सिमिलिपाल में बाघिन ज़ीनत ने चार शावकों को जन्म दिया

- The translocation effort aimed at enhancing the genetic diversity of tigers in Odisha's **Similipal Tiger Reserve** has received a major boost.
  ओडिशा के **सिमिलिपाल टाइगर रिजर्व** में बाघों की आनुवंशिक विविधता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से चलाए गए पुनर्स्थापन प्रयास को बड़ी सफलता मिली है।
- Especially after an earlier experiment to introduce tigers in **Satkosia Tiger Reserve** had failed.
  विशेष रूप से इसलिए क्योंकि इससे पहले **सतकोसिया टाइगर रिजर्व** में बाघों को बसाने का प्रयास असफल हो गया था।

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India vulnerable to chronic aircraft noise thanks to regulatory gaps

Researchers have said the health effects of noise depend on how loud it is as well as on how often it occurs, how long it continues for, whether people have enough time to recover before the next exposure – especially as they sleep at night – and cumulative long-term exposure

GS III: Environment

Rohan Singh
Kushagra Rajendra
Argha Kamal Guha

Every few minutes, aircraft descend over densely populated neighbourhoods near India's major airports. For the people here, the noise has been almost constant for years, often even continuing through the night. India's aviation and environmental regulations require airports to map the aircraft noise exposure using decibel contours – maps showing how the air pressure varies around the airport. Official assessments have also identified high-noise zones extending into residential areas.

But even as India's airports monitor sound with increasing technical precision, they have paid far less attention to what years of repeated exposure may be doing to people. Research on the long-term biological effects of chronic aircraft noise in India is also limited. Some emerging research has pointed to inflammation, stress-related changes, and even cognitive effects. The fact remains, however, that the gap between regulatory noise monitoring and understanding biological risk is widening.

The standard metrics designed for steady industrial noise don't capture the intermittent, burst-like nature of the noise from aircraft. PASCAL MEIER/UNSPLASH

THE GIST

- Even as India's airports monitor sound with increasing technical precision, they have paid far less attention to what years of repeated exposure may be doing to people
- Research on the long-term biological effects of chronic aircraft noise in India is also limited
- Some emerging research has pointed to inflammation, stress-related changes, and even cognitive effects
- The fact remains, however, that the gap between regulatory noise monitoring and understanding biological risk is widening

Aircraft noise, biological stress

The limited research available, often confined to high-intensity occupational settings such as aviation personnel, nevertheless suggests aircraft noise may have effects far beyond hearing loss alone.

One 2025 study led by Manish Shukla, a scientist at the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences, a laboratory under the Defence Research and Development Organisation in New Delhi, checked 621 Air Force personnel who were chronically exposed to aircraft noise. The researchers found elevated levels of systemic inflammation and oxidative stress and lower heart-rate variability.

These personnel also showed subclinical cochlear and neural damage. While their standard hearing tests were normal, they had inner-ear and auditory nerve dysfunction.

Together, the findings suggested aircraft noise may be a chronic biological stressor affecting both auditory and cardiovascular systems. Dr. Shukla noted that even lower urban noise levels, when experienced over long periods, could potentially trigger similar stress-related pathways in the body.

He added that current aircraft noise assessment frameworks may underestimate broader public health risks because they remain largely centered on hearing damage and decibel thresholds. He noted that emerging evidence increasingly links chronic noise exposure to stress-related inflammation and cardiovascular effects, even at lower exposure levels.

The current approaches to monitoring also fall short of addressing cumulative biological stress, Dr. Shukla said.

Unequal risk

The gap between monitoring noise and understanding risk requires technical but also social solutions because of how the options of the people at risk are constrained. Not all people living near airports can afford to move elsewhere or fully proof their homes from the vibrations and noise.

Rajeev Kariya, who has lived near Delhi airport flight paths for decades now, said aircraft noise has become more intense over the years as flights have become larger and more frequent and airports have extended runway operations. He said the continuous noise regularly disrupts sleep and irritates him throughout the day. He installed expensive double-glazed windows but they did little to keep the noise out. His neighbourhood, he said, is suffused with it.

Researchers have said the health effects of noise depend on how loud it is as well as on how often it occurs, how long it continues for, whether people have enough time to recover before the next exposure – especially as they sleep at night – and cumulative long-term exposure.

Both World Health Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines have acknowledged these factors.

The standard acoustic metrics are designed for steady industrial noise. They do not capture the intermittent, burst-like nature of the noise from aircraft flying overhead. That is, each takeoff produces sudden sound peaks and that can trigger disproportionate psychological responses.

Markandeya Tiwari, a former faculty member of the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT-Banaras Hindu University, said relying only on averaged indicators, such as L_{eq} and L_{DN}, is insufficient to understand aircraft noise exposure. He added that additional metrics such as L_{10}, L_{50}, and L_{90} are required to capture fluctuations, peak exposure periods, and intermittent noise.

L_{eq} is the average acoustic energy. L_{DN} is a variant of Leq over 24 hours plus 10 dB added to all nighttime noise. L_{10}, L_{50}, and L_{90} are the sound levels exceeded for 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time.

Activist Anil Sood, who has been involved in legal disputes over airport noise for nearly 17 years, has disputed whether averaged indicators can capture repeated noise peaks, night-time disturbances, and long-term exposure linked to health risks. Using RTI applications and court proceedings, Mr. Sood has questioned official monitoring methodologies and airport-noise assessments.

According to him, while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is formally responsible for monitoring aviation noise, most of the compliance is handled by airport operators and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Former CPCB regional director D.K. Soni said the current regulations do not adequately address the long-term public-health implications of chronic noise. Cumulative exposure assessment, he said, remains a low regulatory priority.

CSIR-National Environment Engineering Research Institute senior technical officer Satish K. Lokhande said India's aircraft noise monitoring needs substantial improvements.

"Currently, monitoring is largely limited to regulatory compliance rather than long-term health-based assessments," he said, recommending real-time noise monitoring networks around residential and hospital zones with public dashboards.

Beyond decibels

According to Dr. Tiwari, acoustic monitoring that is mindful of fluctuations in sound levels could help identify when peak exposure occurs. That then could allow doctors and hospitals, urban planners, and architects to develop more targeted ways to mitigate noise and health-based standards for affected populations.

Taken together, the challenge now is not that data is unavailable – it exists – but that health-based evidence of harm is linked in a very limited way to aviation regulations. Until that changes, India may continue to measure aircraft noise with great precision even as it knows less and less about the noise's long-term impact.

Rohan Singh is an independent science journalist in Lucknow (rohanthakur780@gmail.com). Kushagra Rajendra is Head, Environment and Sustainability, Amity University, Haryana (officel.kushagra@gmail.com). Argha Kamal Guha is assistant professor, Adamas University, Kolkata (arghakamalguha@gmail.com).

03J6. India vulnerable to chronic aircraft noise thanks to regulatory gaps
नियामकीय कमियों के कारण भारत दीर्घकालिक विमान शोर के प्रति संवेदनशील

- India's **aviation** and **environmental regulations** require airports to map the aircraft noise exposure using **decibel contours** — maps showing how the air pressure varies around the airport.
  भारत के **विमानन** तथा **पर्यावरणीय नियमों** के अनुसार हवाई अड्डों को **डेसीबल कंटूर** का उपयोग करके विमान शोर के प्रभाव का मानचित्रण करना आवश्यक है — ऐसे मानचित्र जो यह दर्शाते हैं कि हवाई अड्डे के आसपास वायु दाब किस प्रकार बदलता है।

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- Some emerging research has pointed to **inflammation**, **stress-related changes**, and even **cognitive effects**.
  कुछ उभरते हुए शोधों ने **सूजन**, **तनाव-संबंधी परिवर्तनों**, तथा यहाँ तक कि **संज्ञानात्मक प्रभावों** की ओर संकेत किया है।
- These personnel also showed subclinical **cochlear and neural damage.**
  इन कर्मियों में उप-नैदानिक कॉक्लियर तथा तंत्रिका क्षति के संकेत भी पाए गए।
- Together, the findings suggested aircraft noise may be a chronic biological stressor affecting both **auditory and cardiovascular** systems.
  इन निष्कर्षों से यह संकेत मिला कि विमान शोर एक दीर्घकालिक जैविक तनावकारक हो सकता है, जो श्रवण तथा हृदय-वाहिका प्रणालियों दोनों को प्रभावित करता है।
- He added that current aircraft noise assessment frameworks may underestimate broader public health risks because they remain largely centered on hearing damage and decibel thresholds.
  उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि वर्तमान विमान शोर मूल्यांकन ढाँचे व्यापक जनस्वास्थ्य जोखिमों को कम करके आँक सकते हैं, क्योंकि वे मुख्यतः श्रवण क्षति तथा डेसीबल सीमाओं पर केंद्रित हैं।

Unequal risk
असमान जोखिम

- The gap between monitoring noise and understanding risk requires technical but also social solutions because of how the options of the people at risk are constrained.
  शोर की निगरानी और जोखिम की समझ के बीच का अंतर केवल तकनीकी ही नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक समाधानों की भी माँग करता है, क्योंकि जोखिमग्रस्त लोगों के विकल्प सीमित होते हैं।
- He installed expensive **double-glazed windows** but they did little to keep the noise out.
  उन्होंने महँगी **डबल-ग्लेज़्ड खिड़कियाँ** लगवाईं, किन्तु वे शोर को रोकने में बहुत कम प्रभावी सिद्ध हुईं।
- Both **World Health Organization** and **International Civil Aviation Organization** guidelines have acknowledged these factors.
  विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन तथा **अंतरराष्ट्रीय नागरिक उड्डयन संगठन** दोनों के दिशा-निर्देशों ने इन कारकों को स्वीकार किया है।
- **Markandeya Tiwari**, a former faculty member of the **Department of Civil Engineering** at **IIT-Banaras Hindu University**, said relying only on averaged indicators, such as **Leq** and **LDN**, is insufficient to understand aircraft noise exposure.
  मार्कण्डेय तिवारी, जो **आईआईटी- बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय** के **सिविल इंजीनियरिंग विभाग** के पूर्व संकाय सदस्य हैं, ने कहा कि केवल औसत संकेतकों, जैसे **Leq** और **LDN**, पर निर्भर रहना विमान शोर संपर्क को समझने के लिए अपर्याप्त है।
- He added that additional metrics such as **L10, L50, and L90** are required to capture fluctuations, peak exposure periods, and intermittent noise.
  उन्होंने कहा कि उतार-चढ़ाव, अधिकतम संपर्क अवधि तथा रुक-रुक कर होने वाले शोर को समझने के लिए **L10, L50 और L90** जैसे अतिरिक्त मापदंड आवश्यक हैं।
- Leq is the average acoustic energy.
  Leq औसत ध्वनिक ऊर्जा है।
- LDN is a variant of Leq over 24 hours plus 10 dB added to all nighttime noise.
  LDN, 24 घंटे की अवधि में Leq का एक रूप है, जिसमें रात्रिकालीन सभी शोर में 10 dB जोड़ा जाता है।
- L10, L50, and L90 are the sound levels exceeded for 10%, 50%, and 90% of the time.
  L10, L50 और L90 वे ध्वनि स्तर हैं जो क्रमशः 10%, 50% और 90% समय के लिए पार किए जाते हैं।
- According to him, while the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** is formally responsible for monitoring aviation noise, most of the compliance is handled by airport operators and the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**.
  उनके अनुसार, यद्यपि **केंद्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड (CPCB)** औपचारिक रूप से विमानन शोर की निगरानी के

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लिए उत्तरदायी है, किन्तु अधिकांश अनुपालन कार्य हवाई अड्डा संचालकों तथा **नागर विमानन महानिदेशालय (DGCA)** द्वारा किया जाता है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	03 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
03J6	Indigenous air-to-surface RudraM-II missile clears flight trials; Rajnath praises team स्वदेशी हवा से सतह पर मार करने वाली रुद्रम-II मिसाइल ने उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया; राजनाथ ने टीम की सराहना की

Indigenous air-to-surface RudraM-II missile clears flight trials; Rajnath praises team

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

DRDO and the IAF flight-tests RudraM-II missile from an airborne platform on Tuesday. ANI/MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) have successfully conducted flight-tests of the indigenous RudraM-II air-to-surface missile, marking a significant milestone in India's efforts to strengthen its precision strike capabilities and advance self-reliance in defence technology.

According to the Defence Ministry, the missile was test-fired from an airborne platform under extreme release conditions, with the trials designed to validate the performance of all critical subsystems and flight parameters.

Data captured through a network of tracking and monitoring instruments deployed by the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, confirmed the missile's performance and the success of the trials.

RudraM-II was developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad, the nodal DRDO laboratory for the programme, in collaboration with other DRDO establishments, including Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), and ITR.

The programme also received significant support from development-cum-production partners, along with agencies such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness, Missile System Quality Assurance Agency, and a number of Indian defence industries.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, the IAF, defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs), industry partners and all stakeholders.

03J6. Indigenous air-to-surface RudraM-II missile clears flight trials; Rajnath praises team

स्वदेशी हवा से सतह पर मार करने वाली रुद्रम-II मिसाइल ने उड़ान परीक्षण सफलतापूर्वक पूरा किया; राजनाथ ने टीम की सराहना की

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** have successfully conducted flight-tests of the indigenous **RudraM-II** air-to-surface missile.

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) और **भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF)** ने स्वदेशी **रुद्रम-II** हवा से सतह पर मार करने वाली मिसाइल का सफल उड़ान परीक्षण किया है।

- Data captured through a network of tracking and monitoring instruments deployed by the **Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur**, confirmed the missile's performance and the success of the trials.

इंटीग्रेटेड टेस्ट रेंज (ITR), चांदीपुर द्वारा तैनात ट्रैकिंग और निगरानी उपकरणों के नेटवर्क से प्राप्त आंकड़ों ने मिसाइल के प्रदर्शन और परीक्षणों की सफलता की पुष्टि की।

- **RudraM-II** was developed by **Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad**, the nodal DRDO laboratory for the programme.

रुद्रम-II का विकास **रिसर्च सेंटर इमारत (RCI), हैदराबाद** द्वारा किया गया, जो इस कार्यक्रम के लिए DRDO की प्रमुख प्रयोगशाला है।

- In collaboration with other DRDO establishments, including **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, **High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL)**, **Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE)**, and **ITR**.

यह विकास DRDO की अन्य संस्थाओं जैसे **डिफेंस रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट लेबोरेटरी (DRDL)**, **हाई एनर्जी मटेरियल्स रिसर्च लेबोरेटरी (HEMRL)**, **आर्मामेंट रिसर्च एंड डेवलपमेंट एस्टैब्लिशमेंट (ARDE)** और **ITR** के सहयोग से किया गया।

- The programme also received significant support from development-cum-production partners.
  इस कार्यक्रम को विकास एवं उत्पादन सहयोगी संस्थाओं से भी महत्वपूर्ण समर्थन मिला।
- Along with agencies such as **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**, **Regional Centre for Military Airworthiness**, **Missile System Quality Assurance Agency**, and a number of Indian defence industries.
  इसके अलावा **हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL)**, **रीजनल सेंटर फॉर मिलिट्री एयरवर्थिनेस**, **मिसाइल सिस्टम क्वालिटी एश्योरेंस एजेंसी** और कई भारतीय रक्षा उद्योगों ने भी सहयोग दिया।
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** congratulated the DRDO, the IAF, defence public sector undertakings (**DPSUs**), industry partners and all stakeholders.
  रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह ने DRDO, IAF, रक्षा सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों (**DPSUs**), उद्योग सहयोगियों और सभी हितधारकों को बधाई दी।

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PCS Special:	02 June 2026
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The silken voice of Hindi cinema that touched hearts falls silent

OBITUARY

PCS

Anuj Kumar

SUMAN KALYANPUR (1937-2026)

Suman Kalyanpur, who touched the deepest corners of our hearts with her silken voice, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday night after a brief illness. Like a gentle wind bearing the fragrance of first rain, Kalyanpur's voice possessed a luminous clarity that spoke directly to the listener. It never knocked on the door of the heart – it felt like it was already nestled within, like a long-lost memory waiting to be remembered. Her understated and intimate expressions made her songs feel like quiet confessions.

In Hindi cinema's golden age, when competition was not always fair, and musical giants carried huge egos, Kalyanpur viewed singing not as a vehicle for fame but as a pure, spiritual extension of her early love for the fine arts. Underappreciated even after delivering massive chartbusters, she remained remarkably soft-spoken, media-shy, and genuinely embarrassed by extravagant praise.

Born on January 28, 1937, in Dhaka to Shankar Rao Hemmady, a noted banker, she relocated to Bombay with her family in 1943. Music was not her first choice. As a teenager, she was passionate about the visual arts. After completing her schooling at Mumbai's St. Columba High School, she enrolled at the prestigious Sir J.J. School of Art to pursue painting.

Her musical quest began when family members noticed her natural talent while she sang Noor Jehan songs at home, prompting her to pursue formal vocal training under family friend and composer Pandit Keshav Rao Bhole.

Later, maestro Khan Abdul Rehman Khan of Kirana gharana gave her a grounding in Hindustani classical music, followed by a stint with Master Navrang.

Finds a footing

Meanwhile, in 1953, when Kalyanpur sang at a college function, she impressed the legendary Talat Mahmood with her rendition of Noor Jehan classics. Mahmood recommended her name to the recording label HMV, and Kalayanpur found a footing in an extremely competitive industry led by the Mangeshkar sisters.

In a career spanning three decades, the Padma Bhushan sang in around 100 films in different languages. Her definitive masterpieces include *Na Tum Hamein Jano (Baat Ek Raat Ki)*, a masterclass in romantic yearning with Hemant Kumar, where her voice floats like moonlight over a minimalist arrangement by S.D. Burman. In Shankar Jaikishen's pulsating *Aaj Kal Tere Mere Pyar Ke Charche (Brahmachari)* and Kalyanji Anandji's teasing love song *Na Na Karte Pyar Tumhin Se Karte (Jab Jab Phool Khile*, 1965) with Rafi, Kalyanpur exudes her playful energy and mischievous tone without losing vocal control, while Naushad's tender *Mera Pyar Bhi Tu Hai* (*Saathi*,1968) with Mukesh is a perfect example of Kalyanpur's soft, romantic, caressing vocal style.

Comparison with Lata

Though a section of the industry saw Kalyanpur as an alternative to Lata Mangeshkar, and radio announcers inadvertently credited her songs to Mangeshkar, a close look reveals the difference in their sonic signatures. The discerning always appreciated Suman's softer, slightly rounder texture, which lent itself beautifully to intimate settings.

One of the abiding links with the golden era of Hindi film music, Kalyanpur will live on through melodies that continue to resonate across generations, a soothing voice that made ordinary love stories feel poetic and eternal.

02J6. The silken voice of Hindi cinema that touched hearts falls silent
दिलों को छू लेने वाली हिंदी सिनेमा की रेशमी आवाज़ खामोश हो गई

- **Suman Kalyanpur**, who touched the deepest corners of our hearts with her silken voice, passed away in **Mumbai** on Sunday night after a brief illness.
  सुमन कल्याणपुर, जिन्होंने अपनी रेशमी आवाज़ से हमारे दिलों के सबसे गहरे कोनों को छुआ, उनका रविवार रात **मुंबई** में संक्षिप्त बीमारी के बाद निधन हो गया।
- Born on January 28, 1937, in **Dhaka** to **Shankar Rao Hemmady**, a noted banker, she relocated to **Bombay** with her family in 1943.
  28 जनवरी 1937 को **ढाका** में प्रसिद्ध बैंकर **शंकर राव हेम्माडी** के घर जन्मी सुमन कल्याणपुर 1943 में अपने परिवार के साथ **बॉम्बे** आ गईं।
- Later, maestro **Khan Abdul Rehman Khan** of **Kirana gharana** gave her a grounding in Hindustani classical music, followed by a stint with **Master Navrang**.
  बाद में **किराना घराना** के उस्ताद **खान अब्दुल रहमान खान** ने उन्हें हिंदुस्तानी शास्त्रीय संगीत की शिक्षा दी, जिसके बाद उन्होंने **मास्टर नवरंग** के साथ भी काम किया।
- In a career spanning three decades, the **Padma Bhushan** sang in around 100 films in different languages.
  तीन दशकों के करियर में **पद्म भूषण** से सम्मानित सुमन कल्याणपुर ने विभिन्न भाषाओं की लगभग 100 फिल्मों में गीत गाए।

Divyanshi is youngest Indian to win WTT Feeder women's title

PCS

Sports Bureau

Divyanshi... the champion.

Fifteen-year-old Divyanshi Bhowmick produced a dream performance at Prishtina in Kosovo as she became the youngest Indian to win a WTT Feeder women's singles title.

The World No. 211 Divyanshi stunned Chinese Taipei's Yeh Yi-Tian, placed 38 in the chart, with a 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7 victory. According to the Table Tennis Federation of India, she is the second-youngest player in the world to capture a WTT Feeder women's crown. Divyanshi also clinched the women's doubles top prize alongside fellow Indian teenager Syndrela Das. The pair defeated Japan's Sachi Aoki and Cocona Muramatsu 7-11, 14-12, 12-14, 11-8, 11-7.

In WTT Youth Contender Sandefjord, M. Ananya bagged the girls' u-17 singles trophy, beating Tushti Sood 14-12, 11-3, 12-10.

02J6. Divyanshi is youngest Indian to win WTT Feeder women's title
दिव्यांशी WTT फीडर महिला खिताब जीतने वाली सबसे युवा भारतीय बनीं

- Fifteen-year-old **Divyanshi Bhowmick** produced a dream performance at **Prishtina** in **Kosovo** as she became the youngest Indian to win a **WTT Feeder women's singles**

title.

15 वर्षीय **दिव्यांशी भौमिक** ने **कोसोवो** के **प्रिस्टिना** में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए **WTT फीडर महिला एकल खिताब** जीतने वाली सबसे युवा भारतीय बनने का गौरव हासिल किया।

- The World No. 211 Divyanshi stunned **Chinese Taipei's Yeh Yi-Tian**, placed 38 in the chart, with a 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7 victory.

A tribute to Satwik and Chirag's resilience

Celebration time: Satwik and Chirag are delighted after ending their title drought. BADMINTON PHOTO

PCS

Devyanshi Bihani

For nearly two years, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were forced to watch title opportunities slip away amid injuries, setbacks and frustrating near-misses.

On Sunday, however, India's premier men's doubles pair ended the drought by becoming the first Indian duo to win the Singapore Open after defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the Super 750 final.

The triumph marked Satwik and Chirag's first BWF World Tour title since 2024 and capped a week in which they also snapped the 34-match winning streak of World champions Kim Won-ho and Seo Seung-jae in the semifinals.

"I think the last week has been really, really good. It's been almost two years since we had won a title, so that makes it even more special. Especially in a tournament like the Singapore Open, where historically we haven't done as well," Chirag said during a virtual press conference on Monday.

The title run was built on resilience, with four of the Indians' five matches going the distance. They were tested again in the final as the Indonesians edged a tight opening game after drawing level at 18. But Satwik and Chirag stayed composed.

"We'll accept if we lose, but we'll give everything and lose. The attitude was pretty calm. Even when we were down, we wanted to fight back," Satwik said.

The second game saw the Indians increase the pace of the exchanges and force errors from their opponents to force the decider.

The Indians entered the third game determined to seize control. Satwik's attacking game began to click while Chirag dominated the forecourt, helping the pair build a crucial cushion. Although Fajar and Fikri briefly narrowed the gap, the Indians remained in command and closed out the contest in 72 minutes.

With a long-awaited title finally secured, Satwik and Chirag head into this week's Indonesia Open with renewed confidence and momentum ahead of the World Championships and Asian Games later this year.

विश्व रैंकिंग में 211वें स्थान पर मौजूद दिव्यांशी ने रैंकिंग में 38वें स्थान पर काबिज **चीनी ताइपे की येह यी-तियान** को 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7 से हराकर चौंका दिया।

- According to the **Table Tennis Federation of India**, she is the second-youngest player in the world to capture a **WTT Feeder women's crown**.

टेबल टेनिस फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडिया के अनुसार, वह **WTT फीडर महिला खिताब** जीतने वाली दुनिया की दूसरी सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी हैं।

02J6. A tribute to Satwik and Chirag's resilience
सात्विक और चिराग के संघर्ष व जज़्बे को सलाम

- For nearly two years, **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** were forced to watch title opportunities slip away amid injuries, setbacks and frustrating near-misses.

लगभग दो वर्षों तक **सात्विकसाईराज रंकीरेड्डी** और **चिराग शेट्टी** को चोटों, असफलताओं और निराशाजनक करीबी हारों के बीच खिताब जीतने के मौके हाथ से निकलते हुए देखने पड़े।

- On Sunday, however, India's premier men's doubles pair ended the drought by becoming the first Indian duo to win the **Singapore Open** after defeating Indonesia's **Fajar Alfian** and **Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 in the **Super 750 final**.

हालाँकि रविवार को भारत की शीर्ष पुरुष युगल जोड़ी ने इस सूखे को समाप्त करते हुए **सिंगापुर ओपन** जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय जोड़ी बनने का गौरव हासिल किया। उन्होंने इंडोनेशिया के **फजार अल्फियान** और **मुहम्मद सोहिबुल फिक्री** को **सुपर 750 फाइनल** में 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 से हराया।

GS Paper 1: History	02 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	How red moved through empires, trade networks, and industrial factories

	लाल रंग किस प्रकार साम्राज्यों, व्यापारिक नेटवर्कों और औद्योगिक कारखानों के माध्यम से आगे बढ़ा।
02J6	QUIZ

How red moved through empires, trade networks, and industrial factories

Red emerges from a vast global system of dyes made from insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, and shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts; it moves through empires, trade networks, and factories, shifting from living organisms to laboratory production

GS I: History

Satwik Gade

In 1799, during the storming of the fortress of Seringapatam, British troops broke through the defences of Srirangapatna and killed Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore. The palace inventories compiled in the aftermath record jewels, weapons, manuscripts and textiles of startling colour. Officers wrote with particular fascination about the intensity of the dyed fabrics stored in the royal workshops.

At the same moment, the soldiers themselves wore uniforms dyed in equally vivid scarlet. The British redcoat marching through the palace and the Mysorean textile he admired were both products of a vast global system of dyes – insects raised in the Americas, plants cultivated in Asia, shellfish harvested along Mediterranean coasts.

Global red trade

In the Mediterranean world, the most famous red-purple dye was extracted from marine snails harvested along Levantine shores. Classical writers such as Pliny the Elder describe vats of crushed shells fermenting under the sun, releasing a colour so rare that Roman law eventually reserved it for imperial robes. The value of the dye lay not merely in its hue but in the difficulty of its production: thousands of mollusks sacrificed to colour a single garment. In the Americas,

As pigments entered circuits of factories and markets, meanings attached to red began to shift: from sacrifice to revolution, warning, and mass politics

Indigenous farmers raised the cochineal insect on cactus paddles, harvesting the tiny bodies and drying them into a powder that produced a red of extraordinary intensity. A pound of red from these insects could produce enough red colour to run an entire factory. When Spanish ships began exporting cochineal to Europe in the sixteenth century, the dye rapidly became one of the most valuable commodities of the Atlantic world, rivaling silver in price and strategic importance.

Elsewhere, especially across Eurasia, dyers cultivated the roots of the madder plant, whose alizarin compounds could produce deep crimson lakes. These biological reds travelled astonishing distances. A single crimson cloak worn in London or Istanbul might contain colour drawn from insects cultivated in Oaxaca, plants grown in Central Asia, or mollusks harvested from Mediterranean shores. Colour, therefore, linked distant ecologies into networks of exchange long before industrial globalisation. Each red carried with it a geography.

Military power depended on these networks. By the eighteenth century, the scarlet coats of European regiments required reliable supplies of imported dyes. On battlefields clouded with gunpowder smoke, vivid uniforms helped commanders identify their troops and maintain order. The siege of Seringapatam unfolded within this global colour economy. Mysore's textile workshops produced fabrics dyed through Indian Ocean trade networks that connected Persian, Southeast Asian and South Asian markets. British officers entering the palace encountered not simply decorative cloth but the material traces of a rival commercial system. Empires fought not only for territory but also for control of the commodities that coloured the world.

Imperial cloth

Yet even as imperial armies marched in crimson, the foundations of the dye trade were beginning to shift. For centuries, every brilliant red had depended on living organisms, whether it was roots pulled from soil, or insects harvested from cacti, or shellfish gathered along rocky coasts. In 1856, the English chemist William Henry Perkin inadvertently altered this relationship. While attempting to synthesise quinine in an experiment, he produced a purple residue that dyed silk with remarkable intensity. The compound, later marketed as mauveine, inaugurated the modern synthetic dye industry. Within a few decades, chemists learned to reproduce the molecular structures responsible for many natural colours. In 1869, industrial chemists succeeded in synthesising alizarin, which is the key red component of madder, making centuries of agricultural cultivation suddenly unnecessary.

The implications were profound. Madder fields across Europe collapsed almost overnight. Cochineal plantations faced competition from cheaper laboratory pigments. What had once required soil, insects, seasons and skilled cultivation could now be produced in factories wherever coal, glassware and chemical knowledge were available.

Red was becoming abstract. Red moved from earth, to organism, to laboratory – from ritual substance to industrial commodity. And as pigments entered the circuits of factories, markets and empires, the meanings attached to red also began to shift: from sacrifice and sovereignty to revolution, warning, and mass politics.

Synthetic shift

The colour remained the same to the eye, but the world that produced it, and the world that would perceive red as a phenomenon, had both fundamentally changed.

(Satwik Gade is a Chennai-based writer and illustrator. This article is part of a series on the history and development of colours)

02J6. How red moved through empires, trade networks, and industrial factories

लाल रंग किस प्रकार साम्राज्यों, व्यापारिक नेटवर्कों और औद्योगिक कारखानों के माध्यम से आगे बढ़ा।

- In 1799, during the storming of the fortress of **Seringapatam**, British troops broke through the defences of **Srirangapatna** and killed **Tipu Sultan**, the ruler of **Mysore**.
  वर्ष 1799 में, **सेरिंगपट्टम** के किले पर आक्रमण के दौरान ब्रिटिश सैनिकों ने **श्रीरंगपट्टन** की रक्षा पंक्तियों को भेद दिया और **मैसूर** के शासक **टीपू सुल्तान** की हत्या कर दी।
- Officers wrote with particular fascination about the intensity of the dyed fabrics stored in the royal workshops.
  अधिकारियों ने विशेष आकर्षण के साथ राजकीय कार्यशालाओं में संग्रहित रंगे हुए वस्त्रों की गहन रंगत का वर्णन किया।

Global red trade
वैश्विक लाल रंग व्यापार

- In the Mediterranean world, the most famous red-purple dye was extracted from marine snails harvested along Levantine shores.

भूमध्यसागरीय विश्व में सबसे प्रसिद्ध लाल-बैंगनी रंग लेवांत के तटों से एकत्रित समुद्री घोंघों से प्राप्त किया जाता था।

- In the Americas, Indigenous farmers raised the **cochineal insect on cactus paddles**, harvesting the tiny bodies and drying them into a powder that produced a red of extraordinary intensity.
  अमेरिका में स्थानीय कृषक कैक्टस पर **कोचिनियल** नामक कीटों का पालन करते थे, उनके छोटे शरीरों को एकत्र कर सुखाकर ऐसा चूर्ण बनाते थे जो अत्यंत गहरे लाल रंग का उत्पादन करता था।
- When Spanish ships began exporting cochineal to Europe in the sixteenth century, the dye rapidly became one of the most valuable commodities of the Atlantic world, rivaling silver in price and strategic importance.
  जब सोलहवीं शताब्दी में स्पेनी जहाजों ने कोचिनियल को यूरोप निर्यात करना प्रारंभ किया, तब यह रंग शीघ्र ही अटलांटिक विश्व की सबसे मूल्यवान वस्तुओं में से एक बन गया और मूल्य तथा रणनीतिक महत्व में चाँदी की बराबरी करने लगा।
- Elsewhere, especially across **Eurasia, dyers cultivated the roots of the madder plant, whose alizarin compounds could produce deep crimson lakes**.
  अन्य स्थानों पर, विशेषकर यूरेशिया में, रंगरेज़ मैडर पौधे की जड़ों की खेती करते थे, जिनके अलिज़ारिन यौगिक गहरे लाल रंग उत्पन्न कर सकते थे।
- A single crimson cloak worn in **London** or **Istanbul** might contain colour drawn from insects cultivated in **Oaxaca**, plants grown in **Central Asia**, or mollusks harvested from Mediterranean shores.
  लंदन या **इस्तांबुल** में पहना गया एक लाल चोगा संभवतः **ओआहाका** में पाले गए कीटों, **मध्य एशिया** में उगाए गए पौधों या भूमध्यसागरीय तटों से प्राप्त मोलस्क जीवों के रंग से निर्मित होता था।
- The siege of **Seringapatam** unfolded within this global colour economy.
  सेरिंगपट्टम की घेराबंदी इसी वैश्विक रंग अर्थव्यवस्था के भीतर हुई।
- For centuries, every brilliant red had depended on living organisms, whether it was roots pulled from soil, or insects harvested from cacti, or shellfish gathered along rocky coasts.
  सदियों तक प्रत्येक चमकीला लाल रंग जीवित जीवों पर निर्भर था, चाहे वे मिट्टी से निकाली गई जड़ें हों, कैक्टस से प्राप्त कीट हों या पथरीले तटों से एकत्रित शंख-जीव।
- In 1856, the English chemist **William Henry Perkin** inadvertently altered this relationship.
  वर्ष 1856 में अंग्रेज रसायनशास्त्री **विलियम हेनरी पर्किन** ने अनजाने में इस संबंध को बदल दिया।
- While attempting to synthesise quinine in an experiment, he produced a purple residue that dyed silk with remarkable intensity.
  क्विनीन संश्लेषित करने के एक प्रयोग के दौरान उन्होंने एक बैंगनी अवशेष उत्पन्न किया जिसने रेशम को अत्यंत गहरे रंग में रंग दिया।
- The compound, later marketed as **mauveine**, inaugurated the modern synthetic dye industry.
  यह यौगिक, जिसे बाद में **मॉवीन** के नाम से बाज़ार में प्रस्तुत किया गया, आधुनिक कृत्रिम रंग उद्योग की शुरुआत बना।
- In 1869, industrial chemists succeeded in synthesising **alizarin**, which is the key red component of **madder,** making centuries of agricultural cultivation suddenly unnecessary.
  वर्ष 1869 में औद्योगिक रसायनज्ञों ने **अलिज़ारिन** का संश्लेषण करने में सफलता प्राप्त की, जो मैडर का मुख्य लाल घटक है, और इससे सदियों पुरानी कृषि आधारित खेती अचानक अनावश्यक हो गई।
- **Madder fields across Europe** collapsed almost overnight.
  यूरोप भर में मैडर के खेत लगभग रातोंरात समाप्त हो गए।
- Cochineal plantations faced competition from cheaper laboratory pigments.
  कोचिनियल बागानों को सस्ते प्रयोगशाला-निर्मित रंगों से प्रतिस्पर्धा का सामना करना पड़ा।
- What had once required soil, insects, seasons and skilled cultivation could now be produced in factories wherever coal, glassware and chemical knowledge were available.

जो कार्य पहले मिट्टी, कीट, मौसम और कुशल खेती पर निर्भर था, अब वह कोयला, काँच उपकरण और रासायनिक ज्ञान उपलब्ध होने पर कारखानों में उत्पादित किया जा सकता था।

- Red moved from earth, to organism, to laboratory — from ritual substance to industrial commodity.
  लाल रंग पृथ्वी से जीवों तक और फिर प्रयोगशाला तक पहुँच गया — एक अनुष्ठानिक पदार्थ से औद्योगिक वस्तु में परिवर्तित हो गया।

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. In which year did Goa attain statehood, and from which State was it separated? **Ans: 1987 and Daman and Diu**
2. On what date does Goa celebrate its Liberation Day? **Ans: December 19, 1961**
3. Goa attained statehood on May 30, and it became the .... State of India. Fill in the blanks. **Ans: 25**
4. Who owned Goa before India, and when was it annexed to India? **Ans: Portugal and 1961**
5. "Little Russia" in Goa refers to which place? **Ans: Morjim Beach**
6. What was the name of Goa before it was changed to the present name? **Ans: Gomantak, Govapuri, Gopakapattanna and Aparanta**
Visual: This place is famous for its "Blue Lagoon" — a stunning, emerald-green freshwater lagoon situated in South Goa. What is this place? **Ans: Cola Beach**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan | Tom Alan Faith | Tito Shiladitya | Tamanjit Bisla | Sumana Dutta

02J6. QUIZ: Goa Statehood

1. Goa attained statehood in 1987 and was separated from Daman and Diu

- Goa was granted full **statehood** on **May 30, 1987** through the **Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act, 1987**. Before this, Goa, Daman and Diu functioned as a single Union Territory after their liberation from Portuguese rule in 1961.
- With statehood, Goa became the **25th State of India**, while Daman and Diu continued as a Union Territory.

2. Goa celebrates its Liberation Day on December 19, 1961

- **Goa Liberation Day** is observed every year on **December 19** to commemorate the end of Portuguese colonial rule in Goa.
- On this day in **1961**, the Indian Armed Forces launched **Operation Vijay**, leading to the successful integration of Goa, Daman, and Diu into India.
- Portuguese rule in Goa had continued for nearly **451 years**.

3. Goa became the 25th State of India

- The inclusion of **Konkani in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution in 1992 further strengthened Goa's linguistic recognition at the national level.

4. Goa was owned by Portugal and annexed to India in 1961

- Before joining India, Goa was under the control of **Portugal**, which had established colonial rule there in **1510** under Afonso de Albuquerque.

5. "Little Russia" in Goa refers to Morjim Beach

- The term **"Little Russia"** is popularly associated with **Morjim Beach** in North Goa.
- The area gained this nickname because of the large number of Russian tourists and expatriates who began visiting and residing there from the late 1990s onward.
- Russian restaurants, signboards, cultural influence, and businesses became common in the locality.
- Morjim is also ecologically significant because it serves as a nesting site for the protected **Olive Ridley turtles**, attracting both tourists and conservationists.

6. Goa was earlier known by names such as Gomantak and Govapuri

- Historically, Goa was known by several ancient names including **Gomantak, Govapuri, Gopakapattana, and Aparanta**.

- These names are found in ancient Indian texts, Puranas, and historical records. "Gomantak" is often interpreted as "fertile land" or "land of cows."
- During different historical periods, Goa was ruled by the Kadambas, Bahmani Sultanate, Vijayanagara Empire, and the Portuguese.

GS Paper 1: Geography	02 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	Fearsome dinosaur-era reptile was T. rex of the sea भयावह डायनासोर-युग का सरीसृप समुद्र का टी. रेक्स था।

Fearsome dinosaur-era reptile was T. rex of the sea

GS I: Geography

Reuters

Tyrannosaurus rex was a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs. But it was not the only *T. rex* that terrorised the Cretaceous Period. There also was a marine reptile named *Tylosaurus rex* – the *T. rex* of the sea – that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

Scientists say they have identified *Tylosaurus rex* as a distinct species after a wide-ranging examination of previously discovered fossils. They made the judgment based on its enormous size, fine serrations along the edges of its teeth to cut flesh more efficiently, heavy-duty musculature of the jaws and neck for subduing large prey, and certain other anatomical nuances. Roughly 66 million years ago, *Tyrannosaurus rex* roamed the land in Western North America.

The seagoing T. rex with a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail, rivalling its land counterpart in size and ferocity

Approximately 80 million years ago, *Tylosaurus rex* prowled an inland sea that at the time split North America in two. The seagoing *T. rex* had a streamlined body, elongated snout with large teeth, four large paddle-like flippers, and a powerful tail. The genus 'Tylosaurus' has been known since fossils were first unearthed during the 19th century. A handful of species are recognised, including *Tylosaurus proriger*. A genus is a grouping of closely related species sharing similar characteristics. For example, lions and tigers are from the same genus but represent different species.

The largest *Tyrannosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Sue and held at the Field Museum in Chicago, is about 12.2 m long. The largest *Tylosaurus rex* specimen, nicknamed Bunker and held at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum, is about 13.2 m long. Bunker previously had been identified as *Tylosaurus proriger*, but possessed the suite of traits that assigned it to *Tylosaurus rex*, the researchers said. "The skull alone is as long as I am tall – 5-foot-7 inches (1.7 m)," said palaeontologist Amelia Zietlow of the History Museum at the Castle in Appleton, Wisconsin, lead author of the study published in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*.

Tylosaurus rex is a member of a group of marine reptiles with a global distribution called mosasaurs that evolved from land-living lizards to become apex marine predators during the final roughly 30 million years of the age of dinosaurs. Today's monitor lizards, including the Komodo dragon – the largest present-day lizard at up to 3 m long – are perhaps among the closest living relatives of *Tylosaurus rex*. Most of the fossils identified as *Tylosaurus rex* come from north and central Texas, though Bunker came from Kansas. The holotype specimen – the fossil used to formally name a species – is at the Perot Museum.

The new species name, meaning "king of the tylosaurs," was a nod to *Tyrannosaurus rex* – "an incredible animal itself, obviously," Ms. Zietlow said. The two *T. rexes* were not contemporaries, though forerunners of the giant dinosaur lived at the same time as the giant mosasaur. *Tylosaurus rex* was among the largest of the mosasaurs, alongside the likes of *Mosasaurus hoffmanni*.

02J6. Fearsome dinosaur-era reptile was T. rex of the sea
भयावह डायनासोर-युग का सरीसृप समुद्र का टी. रेक्स था।

- **Tyrannosaurus rex** was **a huge land predator during the twilight of the age of dinosaurs**.

टायरैनोसॉरस रेक्स डायनासोरों के युग के **अंतिम चरण में एक विशाल स्थलीय शिकारी था।**

- But it was not the only T. rex that terrorised the **Cretaceous Period**.

किन्तु **क्रेटेशियस काल** में आतंक फैलाने वाला वह एकमात्र टी. रेक्स नहीं था।

- There also was a marine reptile named **Tylosaurus rex** — the T. rex of the sea — that rivalled its land counterpart in size and ferocity.

एक समुद्री सरीसृप **टायलोसॉरस रेक्स** भी था — समुद्र का टी. रेक्स — जो आकार और उग्रता में अपने स्थलीय समकक्ष की बराबरी करता था।

- Roughly 66 million years ago, **Tyrannosaurus rex** roamed the land in **Western North America.**

लगभग 6.6 करोड़ वर्ष पूर्व **टायरैनोसॉरस रेक्स** पश्चिमी उत्तरी अमेरिका की भूमि पर विचरण करता था।

- The largest **Tylosaurus rex** specimen, nicknamed **Bunker** and held at the **University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and Natural History Museum**, is about 13.2 m long.

टायलोसॉरस रेक्स का सबसे बड़ा नमूना, जिसे **बंकर** नाम दिया गया है और जो **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कंसास बायोडायवर्सिटी इंस्टिट्यूट एंड नेचुरल हिस्ट्री म्यूज़ियम** में रखा गया है, लगभग 13.2 मीटर लंबा है।

- **Tylosaurus rex** is a member of a group of marine reptiles with a global distribution called **mosasaurs** that evolved from land-living lizards to become apex marine predators during the • nal roughly 30 million years of the age of dinosaurs.

टायलोसॉरस रेक्स समुद्री सरीसृपों के एक वैश्विक समूह **मोसासॉर्स** का सदस्य है, जो स्थलीय छिपकलियों से विकसित होकर डायनासोरों के युग के अंतिम लगभग 3 करोड़ वर्षों के दौरान समुद्र के शीर्ष शिकारी बन गए।

- Today's monitor lizards, including the **Komodo dragon** — the largest present-day lizard at up to 3 m long — are perhaps among the closest living relatives of **Tylosaurus rex**.
  वर्तमान समय की मॉनिटर छिपकलियाँ, जिनमें **कोमोडो ड्रैगन** भी शामिल है — जो लगभग 3 मीटर लंबाई वाली आज की सबसे बड़ी छिपकली है — संभवतः **टायलोसॉरस रेक्स** के सबसे निकट जीवित संबंधियों में से हैं।
- The two T. rexes were not contemporaries, though forerunners of the giant dinosaur lived at the same time as the giant mosasaur.
  दोनों टी. रेक्स एक ही समय के जीव नहीं थे, यद्यपि विशाल डायनासोर के पूर्वज उसी काल में जीवित थे जब विशाल मोसासॉर मौजूद था।
- **Tylosaurus rex** was among the largest of the mosasaurs, alongside the likes of **Mosasaurus hoffmanni**.
  टायलोसॉरस रेक्स, **मोसासॉरस हॉफमानी** जैसे मोसासॉर्स के साथ, सबसे बड़े मोसासॉर्स में से एक था।

GS Paper II: Polity	02 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37 केंद्र ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के लिए पाँच नए न्यायाधीशों को मंजूरी दी; संख्या बढ़कर 37 हुई
02J6	Delhi HC recognises 'right to be forgotten', lays down rules for de-indexing judicial records दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने 'भूल जाने के अधिकार' को मान्यता दी, न्यायिक अभिलेखों को डी-इंडेक्स करने के नियम तय किए

Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday cleared the appointment of five judges to the Supreme Court, taking the court's strength to 37, close to its revised sanctioned strength of 38.

In a post on X, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said the President had approved the appointments under Article 124(2) of the Constitution.

Those appointed are Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court; Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh; and senior advocate V. Mohana.

Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsels in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the armed forces. Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, who is also part of the Supreme Court Collegium. Justice Nagarathna was appointed to the Supreme Court in August 2021.

V. Mohana

The appointments follow the Collegium's recommendation on May 27, 2026.

The development comes weeks after the Centre, on May 5, increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges through the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026.

02J6. Centre clears five new judges for SC; strength rises to 37

केंद्र ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के लिए पाँच नए न्यायाधीशों को मंजूरी दी; संख्या बढ़कर 37 हुई

- The Centre on Monday cleared the appointment of five judges to the **Supreme Court**, taking the court's strength to 37, close to its revised sanctioned strength of 38.
  केंद्र ने सोमवार को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** में पाँच न्यायाधीशों की नियुक्ति को मंजूरी दी, जिससे अदालत की संख्या बढ़कर 37 हो गई, जो संशोधित स्वीकृत संख्या 38 के करीब है।
- In a post on **X**, Minister of State for Law and Justice **Arjun Ram Meghwal** said the President had approved the appointments under **Article 124(2)** of the Constitution.
  X पर एक पोस्ट में विधि एवं न्याय राज्य मंत्री **अर्जुन राम मेघवाल** ने कहा कि राष्ट्रपति ने संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 124(2)** के तहत इन नियुक्तियों को मंजूरी दी है।
- Those appointed are Justice **Sheel Nagu**, Chief Justice of the **Punjab and Haryana High Court**.
  नियुक्त किए गए न्यायाधीशों में **पंजाब एवं हरियाणा हाई कोर्ट** के मुख्य न्यायाधीश जस्टिस **शील नागू** शामिल हैं।

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- Justice **Shree Chandrashekhar**, Chief Justice of the **Bombay High Court**.
  बॉम्बे हाई कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश जस्टिस **श्री चंद्रशेखर** शामिल हैं।
- Justice **Sanjeev Sachdeva**, Chief Justice of the **Madhya Pradesh High Court**.
  मध्य प्रदेश हाई कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश जस्टिस **संजीव सचदेवा** शामिल हैं।
- Justice **Arun Palli**, Chief Justice of the **High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh**.
  जम्मू-कश्मीर और लद्दाख हाई कोर्ट के मुख्य न्यायाधीश जस्टिस **अरुण पल्ली** शामिल हैं।
- And senior advocate **V. Mohana**.
  तथा वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **वी. मोहना** शामिल हैं।
- Ms. Mohana was one of the leading counsels in a series of cases highlighting structural career inequalities for women officers in the **armed forces**.
  सुश्री मोहना **सशस्त्र बलों** में महिला अधिकारियों के लिए संरचनात्मक करियर असमानताओं को उजागर करने वाले कई मामलों में प्रमुख वकीलों में से एक थीं।
- Currently, the Supreme Court has only one woman judge, Justice **B.V. Nagarathna**, who is also part of the **Supreme Court Collegium**.
  वर्तमान में सुप्रीम कोर्ट में केवल एक महिला न्यायाधीश जस्टिस **बी.वी. नागरत्ना** हैं, जो **सुप्रीम कोर्ट कॉलेजियम** का भी हिस्सा हैं।
- Justice Nagarathna was appointed to the Supreme Court in **August 2021**.
  जस्टिस नागरत्ना की नियुक्ति **अगस्त 2021** में सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हुई थी।
- The development comes weeks after the Centre, on May 5, increased the sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court from 34 to 38 judges through the **Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Ordinance, 2026**.
  यह घटनाक्रम केंद्र द्वारा 5 मई को **सुप्रीम कोर्ट (न्यायाधीशों की संख्या) संशोधन अध्यादेश, 2026** के माध्यम से सुप्रीम कोर्ट की स्वीकृत संख्या 34 से बढ़ाकर 38 करने के कुछ सप्ताह बाद आया है।

Delhi HC recognises 'right to be forgotten', lays down rules for de-indexing judicial records

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has held that the "right to be forgotten" flows from the constitutional right to privacy under Article 21 and enables individuals to seek removal of personal information from public digital accessibility when it no longer serves a legitimate public purpose.

Justice Sachin Datta, in a 144-page judgment delivered on Friday, laid down a framework governing de-indexing of judicial records from search engines and masking of personal identifiers from publicly accessible court records.

"India presently lacks a comprehensive statutory framework explicitly governing the right to be forgotten. However, the absence of specific legislation does not preclude constitutional courts from recognising and enforcing this right," the High Court remarked.

Petitioners sought removal of personal information from digital public domain

The court's decision came while hearing over 30 petitions filed by a diverse group of individuals, including persons who had been acquitted of criminal charges, parties to matrimonial disputes, persons whose proceedings had been quashed or settled, and individuals whose names appeared incidentally in judicial records.

'Harm to reputation'

The petitioners shared a common grievance that the continued availability and name-based searchability of judicial records bearing their names in the digital public domain causes "disproportionate and continuing harm to their reputations, dignity, and life prospects".

Giving them relief, the court directed search engines, legal database platforms and other intermediaries to de-index specified judgments, orders and related reportage from name-based search results.

02J6. Delhi HC recognises 'right to be forgotten', lays down rules for de-indexing judicial records

दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने 'भूल जाने के अधिकार' को मान्यता दी, न्यायिक अभिलेखों को डी-इंडेक्स करने के नियम तय किए

- The **Delhi High Court** has held that the "**right to be forgotten**" flows from the constitutional right to privacy under **Article 21** and enables individuals to seek removal of personal information from public digital accessibility when it no longer serves a legitimate public purpose.

दिल्ली हाई कोर्ट ने कहा है कि "**भूल जाने का अधिकार**" संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 21** के तहत निजता के अधिकार से उत्पन्न होता है और यह

व्यक्तियों को सार्वजनिक डिजिटल पहुंच से अपनी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी हटाने का अधिकार देता है, जब उसका कोई वैध सार्वजनिक उद्देश्य नहीं रह जाता।

- Justice **Sachin Datta**, in a 144-page judgment delivered on Friday, laid down a framework governing de-indexing of judicial records from search engines and masking of personal identifiers from publicly accessible court records.
  न्यायमूर्ति **सचिन दत्ता** ने शुक्रवार को दिए गए 144 पृष्ठों के फैसले में सर्च इंजनों से न्यायिक रिकॉर्ड को डी-इंडेक्स करने और सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध अदालत रिकॉर्ड से व्यक्तिगत पहचान संबंधी जानकारी छिपाने के लिए एक रूपरेखा तय की।
- "India presently lacks **a comprehensive statutory framework explicitly governing the right to be forgotten**. However, the absence of specific legislation does not preclude constitutional courts from recognising and enforcing this right," the High Court remarked.
  हाई कोर्ट ने कहा, "भारत में वर्तमान में 'भूल जाने के अधिकार' को स्पष्ट रूप से नियंत्रित करने वाला कोई व्यापक वैधानिक ढांचा नहीं है। हालांकि, विशेष कानून की अनुपस्थिति संवैधानिक अदालतों को इस अधिकार को मान्यता देने और लागू करने से नहीं रोकती।"
- The court's decision came while hearing over 30 petitions filed by a diverse group of individuals, including persons who had been acquitted of criminal charges, parties to matrimonial disputes, persons whose proceedings had been quashed or settled, and individuals whose names appeared incidentally in judicial records.
  अदालत का यह फैसला 30 से अधिक याचिकाओं की सुनवाई के दौरान आया, जिन्हें विभिन्न लोगों ने दायर किया था, जिनमें आपराधिक मामलों से बरी हुए लोग, वैवाहिक विवादों के पक्षकार, जिनके मामले रद्द या सुलझा दिए गए थे, और वे लोग शामिल थे जिनके नाम न्यायिक रिकॉर्ड में संयोगवश दर्ज हो गए थे।

'Harm to reputation'
'प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान'

- The petitioners shared a common grievance that the continued availability and name-based searchability of judicial records bearing their names in the digital public domain causes "disproportionate and continuing harm to their reputations, dignity, and life prospects".
  याचिकाकर्ताओं की साझा शिकायत थी कि डिजिटल सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में उनके नाम वाले न्यायिक रिकॉर्ड की निरंतर उपलब्धता और नाम के आधार पर खोजे जाने की सुविधा उनकी "प्रतिष्ठा, गरिमा और जीवन की संभावनाओं को असंगत और निरंतर नुकसान" पहुंचाती है।
- Giving them relief, the court directed search engines, legal database platforms and other intermediaries to de-index specified judgments, orders and related reportage from name-based search results.
  उन्हें राहत देते हुए अदालत ने सर्च इंजनों, कानूनी डेटाबेस प्लेटफॉर्मों और अन्य मध्यस्थों को निर्देश दिया कि वे निर्दिष्ट फैसलों, आदेशों और संबंधित रिपोर्टों को नाम-आधारित खोज परिणामों से डी-इंडेक्स करें।

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TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	Joy and pain खुशी और पीड़ा

GS II: Governance:Health Sectory

Joy and pain

Health gains from NFHS-6 are significant, but unaddressed needs exist

When triumph and disaster arrive at the same time, it is important to celebrate, but also, to take stock, assess, and pivot to address the lacuna. The recently released National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 data offer such an opportunity. The data for 2023-24 revealed some remarkable gains for India, but also exposed some unguarded pathways that will become disastrous if not attended to. The greatest of the gains came in the sector of child health – stunting is down by 17%; severe wasting is down 32%; institutional deliveries are at over 90%; and full immunisation coverage for children aged 12-23 months rose to over 87%. Additionally, the figures show that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) had stabilised at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1 Unequivocally, these are gains; ones that India has been working on for decades. It is an encouraging sign that the needle has finally moved, in these crucial sectors. These gains will have to be built upon, without any drop in service delivery, while remaining uncompromising on access or quality of services in the public sector. However, health managers need to heed the other side of the paradigm as well. NFHS-6 indicates a 'dual public health burden' – obesity (in three years, it had grown from 22.9% to 27.3% among men, while among women, from 24% to 30.7%) remains problematic while some level of malnutrition continues, besides the onslaught of lifestyle diseases. The survey also showed a decline in exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months, from 63.7% in NFHS-5 to 55.8% in NFHS-6. Breast feeding is essential to prevent infant malnutrition.

The NFHS, one of the largest cross-sectional household surveys in the world, could easily be considered the primary tool to define public policy, and evidence-based governance, besides tracking development indicators. The data it generates are crucial. Other India-level data from similar periods indicate similar trends; the SRS and the National Health Accounts Survey reveal the lack of focus or funds for lifestyle diseases, and metabolic disorders. The danger of letting this continue will be known sooner rather than later, as India progresses through a demographic transition to a greyer nation. At this stage, transformations are still possible. Setting up comprehensive screening programmes for NCDs, stressing on nation-wide behaviour change communication on diet and exercise, and ensuring higher taxes on sugared beverages and packaged foods are all techniques that will help reduce, and limit the burden, of NCDs. Bolstering health systems to tackle these NCDs, once they set in, at every level – village, town and city – is also critical.

02J6. Joy and pain
खुशी और पीड़ा

- The greatest of the gains came in the sector of child health — stunting is down by 17%; severe wasting is down 32%; institutional deliveries are at over 90%; and full immunisation coverage for children aged 12-23 months rose to over 87%.

सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धियाँ बाल स्वास्थ्य के क्षेत्र में प्राप्त हुईं — अवरुद्ध वृद्धि में 17% की कमी आई; गंभीर क्षीणता में 32% की कमी हुई; संस्थागत प्रसव 90% से अधिक हो गए; तथा 12-23 माह आयु के बच्चों के लिए पूर्ण टीकाकरण कवरेज 87% से अधिक हो गया।

- Additionally, the gures show that India's**Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** had stabilised at 2.0, below the replacement level of 2.1.

इसके अतिरिक्त, आँकड़े दर्शाते हैं कि भारत की **कुल प्रजनन दर (TFR)** 2.0 पर स्थिर हो गई है, जो प्रतिस्थापन स्तर 2.1 से नीचे है।

- **NFHS-6** indicates a 'dual public health burden' — obesity (in three years, it had grown from 22.9% to 27.3% among men, while among women, from 24% to 30.7%) remains problematic while some level of malnutrition continues, besides the onslaught of lifestyle diseases.

NFHS-6 एक 'द्वैध सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य बोझ' को इंगित करता है — मोटापा (तीन वर्षों में पुरुषों में 22.9% से बढ़कर 27.3% तथा महिलाओं में 24% से बढ़कर 30.7%) अभी भी गंभीर समस्या बना हुआ है, जबकि जीवनशैली संबंधी रोगों के बढ़ते प्रभाव के साथ कुछ स्तर का कुपोषण भी जारी है।

- The survey also showed a decline in exclusive breastfeeding among children under six months, from 63.7% in **NFHS-5** to 55.8% in **NFHS-6**.

सर्वेक्षण में यह भी पाया गया कि छह माह से कम आयु के बच्चों में केवल स्तनपान की दर **NFHS-5** में 63.7% से घटकर **NFHS-6** में 55.8% रह गई।

- Breast feeding is essential to prevent infant malnutrition.

शिशु कुपोषण को रोकने के लिए स्तनपान अत्यंत आवश्यक है।

- The **NFHS**, one of the largest cross-sectional household surveys in the world, could easily be considered the primary tool to de• ne public policy, and evidence-based governance, besides tracking development indicators.

NFHS, जो विश्व के सबसे बड़े क्रॉस-सेक्शनल घरेलू सर्वेक्षणों में से एक है, विकास संकेतकों की निगरानी के साथ-साथ सार्वजनिक नीति निर्धारण और साक्ष्य-आधारित शासन का प्रमुख उपकरण माना जा सकता है।

- The data it generates are crucial.

इसके द्वारा उत्पन्न आँकड़े अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

- Setting up comprehensive screening programmes for **NCDs**, stressing on nation-wide behaviour change communication on diet and exercise, and ensuring higher taxes on sugared beverages and packaged foods are all techniques that will help reduce, and limit the burden, of **NCDs**.

गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs) के लिए व्यापक स्क्रीनिंग कार्यक्रम स्थापित करना, आहार और व्यायाम के संबंध में राष्ट्रव्यापी व्यवहार परिवर्तन संचार पर बल देना, तथा मीठे पेय पदार्थों और पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थों पर अधिक कर सुनिश्चित करना — ये सभी उपाय **NCDs** के बोझ को कम और सीमित करने में सहायक होंगे।

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02J6	No room for anti-India elements in Myanmar, says visiting President म्यांमार में भारत-विरोधी तत्वों के लिए कोई जगह नहीं, दौरे पर आए राष्ट्रपति ने कहा
02J6	Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings ब्रिक्स संस्कृति बैठकों में सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में AI के नैतिक उपयोग पर रहेगा विशेष फोकस
02J6	IMEC is caught between commerce and geopolitics IMEC वाणिज्य और भूराजनीति के बीच फँस गया है।
02J6	EU's engagement with West Balkan countries is real: Costa पश्चिम बाल्कन देशों के साथ EU की भागीदारी वास्तविक है: कोस्टा
02J6	Court rejects Rwanda's £100 mn claim against U.K. over migrant deal प्रवासी समझौते पर अदालत ने ब्रिटेन के खिलाफ रवांडा के £100 मिलियन दावे को खारिज किया

No room for anti-India elements in Myanmar, says visiting President

[redacted]
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Visiting Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing has assured India that he will not allow use of his country's territory by groups that pose a security threat to Indian interests. The concern was raised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who held broad-spectrum conversations with Mr. Hlaing on Monday, including calls for dialogue between the junta-backed government and the pro-democracy Opposition in Myanmar. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the discussion included the issue of detention of former leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

"The President reiterated Myanmar's assurance that its territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests. The Prime Minister affirmed that India... remained committed to deepening security cooperation between the two countries," a joint statement issued at the end of the discussion mentioned.

Mr. Misri later said that the issue of presence of insurgents from India's Northeast in Myanmar territory was raised by Mr. Modi during the talks.

'Pragmatic step'

The visit of Mr. Hlaing is being viewed as a pragmatic engagement of Myanmar by India despite the conflict situation that prevails in that country since the February 2021 coup that deposed the National League for Democracy (NLD) government of Ms. Suu Kyi. Speaking to the media after the discussion, Mr. Misri mentioned that a detailed discussion was held during the talks to "find a way" out of the civil conflict, saying that India believes in "sustained dialogue" among all the stakeholders to deal with the conflict in Myanmar. He added that India does not believe in "disengagement" when it comes to Myanmar.

Promising talks: PM Narendra Modi with Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"I should underline that our engagement with Myanmar is not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangement in that country. The Prime Minister raised the issue that there is a need for an enduring peace as Myanmar finds its way back to democracy," said Mr. Misri, explaining that the Indian concerns on continued detention of Ms. Suu Kyi was raised during a "free-wheeling" talk.

He further informed that the two sides discussed infrastructure projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the trilateral Moreh-Mae Tsot highway that was to connect India's northeast with Myanmar via Thailand – both of which have been "delayed" by the conflict in Myanmar. "Right now, the obstacle that faces both of these projects is the security situation in Myanmar," said Mr. Misri, adding that there are "active hostilities" currently under way in the Kaladan highway between the Myanmar Army and the ethnic armed organisations in the Rakhine State.

Defence cooperation

Mr. Misri further said that the two sides discussed defence cooperation that will cover training of Myanmar troops for United Nations peacekeeping. "This is something that has been in focus for several years now. Defence cooperation with Myanmar focuses on training, capacity building, institution building and a very important part of the training is also UN peace keeping." Mr. Misri also said that the defence cooperation also included concerns related to security and safety of the India-Myanmar border spanning 1,643 km.

He also informed that the discussion covered critical minerals as Myanmar has major deposits in the Kachin State that borders both India and China. The discussion also included the issue of existence of cyber scam centres in southeast Myanmar bordering Thailand. Mr. Misri recollected that India has airlifted at least 2,411 workers from cyber scam compounds in Myanmar so far.

Mr. Hlaing's visit has also drawn criticism from Myanmar's exiled Opposition and especially the exiled National Unity Government (NUG), which has urged India not to grant legitimacy to his junta-backed government.

02J6. No room for anti-India elements in Myanmar, says visiting President

म्यांमार में भारत-विरोधी तत्वों के लिए कोई जगह नहीं, दौरे पर आए राष्ट्रपति ने कहा

- Visiting Myanmar President **Min Aung Hlaing** has assured India that he will not allow use of his country's territory by groups that pose a security threat to Indian interests.

दौरे पर आए म्यांमार के राष्ट्रपति **मिन आंग ह्लाइंग** ने भारत को आश्वासन दिया है कि वह अपने देश की भूमि का उपयोग उन समूहों द्वारा नहीं होने देंगे जो भारत के हितों के लिए सुरक्षा खतरा पैदा करते हैं।

- Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** said the discussion included the issue of detention of former leader and Nobel laureate **Aung San Suu Kyi**.

विदेश सचिव **विक्रम मिस्री** ने कहा कि चर्चा में पूर्व नेता और नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता **आंग सान सू ची** की हिरासत का मुद्दा भी शामिल था।

- The visit of Mr. Hlaing is being viewed as a pragmatic engagement of Myanmar by India despite the conflict situation that prevails in that country since the February 2021 coup that deposed the National League for Democracy (**NLD**) government of Ms. Suu Kyi.

श्री ह्लाइंग की यात्रा को भारत द्वारा म्यांमार के साथ एक व्यावहारिक जुड़ाव के रूप में देखा जा रहा है, जबकि फरवरी 2021 के तख्तापलट के बाद से वहां संघर्ष की स्थिति बनी हुई है, जिसने सुश्री सू ची की **नेशनल लीग फॉर डेमोक्रेसी (NLD)** सरकार को हटा दिया था।

- He further informed that the two sides discussed infrastructure projects like the **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project** and the trilateral **Moreh-Mae Sot highway** that was to connect India's northeast with Myanmar via Thailand – both of which have been "delayed" by the conflict in Myanmar.

उन्होंने आगे बताया कि दोनों पक्षों ने **कलादान मल्टीमॉडल ट्रांजिट ट्रांसपोर्ट प्रोजेक्ट** और त्रिपक्षीय **मोरेह-माए सॉट राजमार्ग** जैसे अवसंरचना परियोजनाओं पर चर्चा की, जो भारत के पूर्वोत्तर को थाईलैंड के माध्यम से म्यांमार से जोड़ने वाली थीं — और दोनों ही परियोजनाएं म्यांमार के संघर्ष के कारण "विलंबित" हो गई हैं।

- "Right now, the obstacle that faces both of these projects is the security situation in Myanmar," said Mr. Misri, adding that there are "active hostilities" currently under way in the Kaladan highway between the Myanmar Army and the ethnic armed organisations in the **Rakhine State**.

"इस समय इन दोनों परियोजनाओं के सामने सबसे बड़ी बाधा म्यांमार की सुरक्षा स्थिति है," श्री मिस्री ने कहा। उन्होंने बताया कि **राखाइन राज्य** में कलादान राजमार्ग पर म्यांमार सेना और जातीय सशस्त्र संगठनों के बीच वर्तमान में "सक्रिय संघर्ष" चल रहा है।

Defence cooperation
रक्षा सहयोग

- Mr. Misri further said that the two sides discussed defence cooperation that will cover training of Myanmar troops for **United Nations peacekeeping**.
  श्री मिस्री ने आगे कहा कि दोनों पक्षों ने रक्षा सहयोग पर चर्चा की जिसमें **संयुक्त राष्ट्र शांति स्थापना** के लिए म्यांमार के सैनिकों का प्रशिक्षण शामिल होगा।
- Mr. Misri also said that the defence cooperation also included concerns related to security and safety of the **India-Myanmar border** spanning **1,643 km**.
  श्री मिस्री ने यह भी कहा कि रक्षा सहयोग में **भारत-म्यांमार सीमा** की सुरक्षा और संरक्षा से जुड़ी चिंताएं भी शामिल थीं, जिसकी लंबाई **1,643 किमी** है।
- He also informed that the discussion covered **critical minerals** as Myanmar has major deposits in the **Kachin State** that borders both India and China.
  उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि चर्चा में **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** का मुद्दा भी शामिल था क्योंकि म्यांमार के **काचिन राज्य** में बड़े भंडार हैं, जिसकी सीमा भारत और चीन दोनों से लगती है।
- The discussion also included the issue of the existence of **cyber scam centres** in southeast Myanmar bordering Thailand.
  चर्चा में थाईलैंड से लगते दक्षिण-पूर्वी म्यांमार में मौजूद **साइबर धोखाधड़ी केंद्रों** का मुद्दा भी शामिल था।
- Mr. Misri recollected that India has airlifted at least **2,411 workers** from cyber scam compounds in Myanmar so far.
  श्री मिस्री ने बताया कि भारत अब तक म्यांमार के साइबर धोखाधड़ी परिसरों से कम से कम **2,411 श्रमिकों** को एयरलिफ्ट कर चुका है।

Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings

GS II: IR

NEW DELHI

Varanasi is set to host 2nd Culture Working Group Meeting after the 1st CWG, which was held virtually

The ethical use of artificial intelligence in the cultural space will be one of the focus areas for discussion during the BRICS culture working group meetings beginning from Thursday, the Union Culture Ministry said on Monday.

Creative economy, culture climate and sustainable development and cultural and creative industries are some of the other areas of deliberation, Union Culture Secretary Vivek Agrawal said at a press conference in which he unveiled the comprehensive road map and calendar for the 2026 BRICS Culture Track.

He said that there was a line-up of major cultural events around the BRICS summit scheduled across the country over the coming months. Varanasi is set to host second Culture Working Group Meeting, following the successful completion of the 1st Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting held virtually on April 29-30.

"As one of the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi will serve as the backdrop for five critical thematic panel discussions aimed at shaping the final outcome document," Mr. Agrawal said.

The five themes are: creative economy and people-to-people cooperation, copyright and ethical AI in the creative economy, cultural heritage protection and return of cultural property, collaborative approaches to safeguarding shared heritage and culture as a driver of sustainable development.

The culture track will feature a total of four official meetings alongside major public festivals, bringing together the 11 member nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia) along with 10 newly joined partner countries. After Varanasi, the third BRICS CWG meeting would be held in Bhopal followed by the BRICS Culture Festival and the BRICS Culture Minister's meeting. A BRICS theatre festival would be held in Delhi in October.

02J6. Ethical use of AI in cultural space to be a key focus area at BRICS culture meetings
ब्रिक्स संस्कृति बैठकों में सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में AI के नैतिक उपयोग पर रहेगा विशेष फोकस

- The ethical use of **artificial intelligence** in the cultural space will be one of the focus areas for discussion during the **BRICS culture working group meetings** beginning from Thursday, the Union Culture Ministry said on Monday.

केंद्रीय संस्कृति मंत्रालय ने सोमवार को कहा कि गुरुवार से शुरू होने वाली **ब्रिक्स संस्कृति कार्य समूह बैठकों** में सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** के नैतिक उपयोग पर विशेष चर्चा की जाएगी।

- **Creative economy**, culture climate and sustainable development and

cultural and creative industries are some of the other areas of deliberation, Union Culture Secretary **Vivek Agrawal** said at a press conference in which he unveiled the comprehensive road map and calendar for the **2026 BRICS Culture Track**.

केंद्रीय संस्कृति सचिव **विवेक अग्रवाल** ने एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा कि **रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था**, संस्कृति, जलवायु एवं सतत विकास तथा सांस्कृतिक और रचनात्मक उद्योग भी चर्चा के अन्य प्रमुख विषय होंगे। इस दौरान उन्होंने **2026 ब्रिक्स कल्चर ट्रैक** का व्यापक रोडमैप और कैलेंडर जारी किया।

- **Varanasi** is set to host second **Culture Working Group Meeting**, following the successful completion of the 1st Culture Working Group (CWG) meeting held virtually on April 29–30.
  29–30 अप्रैल को वर्चुअल माध्यम से आयोजित पहली **कल्चर वर्किंग ग्रुप (CWG)** बैठक की सफलता के बाद अब दूसरी **कल्चर वर्किंग ग्रुप बैठक** की मेजबानी **वाराणसी** करेगा।
- "As one of the world's oldest living cities, Varanasi will serve as the backdrop for five critical thematic panel discussions aimed at shaping the final outcome document," Mr. Agrawal said.
  श्री अग्रवाल ने कहा, "दुनिया के सबसे प्राचीन जीवित शहरों में से एक **वाराणसी** पाँच महत्वपूर्ण विषयगत पैनल चर्चाओं की पृष्ठभूमि बनेगा, जिनका उद्देश्य अंतिम परिणाम दस्तावेज़ को तैयार करना है।"
- The five themes are: creative economy and people-to-people cooperation.
  पाँच विषयों में पहला है: रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था और लोगों के बीच सहयोग।
- Copyright and ethical AI in the creative economy.
  रचनात्मक अर्थव्यवस्था में कॉपीराइट और नैतिक AI।
- Cultural heritage protection and return of cultural property.
  सांस्कृतिक विरासत की सुरक्षा और सांस्कृतिक संपत्तियों की वापसी।
- Collaborative approaches to safeguarding shared heritage.
  साझा विरासत की सुरक्षा के लिए सहयोगात्मक दृष्टिकोण।
- And culture as a driver of sustainable development.
  और सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने में संस्कृति की भूमिका।
- The culture track will feature a total of four official meetings alongside major public festivals, bringing together the 11 member nations (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia**) along with 10 newly joined partner countries.
  कल्चर ट्रैक के अंतर्गत चार आधिकारिक बैठकों के साथ प्रमुख सार्वजनिक उत्सव भी आयोजित होंगे, जिनमें 11 सदस्य देश (**ब्राज़ील, रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, मिस्र, इथियोपिया, ईरान, सऊदी अरब, यूएई और इंडोनेशिया**) तथा 10 नए साझेदार देश भाग लेंगे।
- After **Varanasi**, the third BRICS CWG meeting would be held in **Bhopal** followed by the **BRICS Culture Festival** and the **BRICS Culture Minister's meeting**.
  वाराणसी के बाद तीसरी ब्रिक्स CWG बैठक **भोपाल** में आयोजित होगी, जिसके बाद **ब्रिक्स कल्चर फेस्टिवल** और **ब्रिक्स संस्कृति मंत्रियों की बैठक** होगी।
- A **BRICS theatre festival** would be held in **Delhi** in October.
  अक्टूबर में **दिल्ली** में एक **ब्रिक्स थिएटर फेस्टिवल** आयोजित किया जाएगा।

PATRIOTIC IAS

IMEC is caught between commerce and geopolitics

GS II: IR

The ongoing war in Iran has shattered many myths and brought to light realities that expose the structural vulnerabilities of the existing world order. Iran, which was no match for the combined military might and technological superiority of Israel and the United States, has not only withstood the military onslaught but has also retaliated in ways that were neither expected nor planned for. Nearly three months into the conflict, although a fragile ceasefire is holding, there appears to be no immediate solution to end the war or achieve the politico-military objectives that Israel and the U.S. set at its outset. While Iran has suffered major losses to its leadership, infrastructure and military assets, the American military has also incurred unprecedented losses.

Lessons from the Iran conflict

A recent U.S. Congressional Research Service report has noted that 42 U.S. aircraft have been lost or damaged so far during "Operation Epic Fury" – the war with Iran – which includes fifth generation stealth fighters such as the F-35. Plus, the ability to intercept Iranian missiles and drones has been severely degraded as more than half the total inventory of Patriot, Tomahawk and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles have been expended. With more than 240 American targets reportedly hit by Iran, the conflict has shattered the myth that military superiority alone will guarantee an outright victory. Several of the asymmetric tactics employed by Iran have caught the U.S. and Israel on the back foot.

Another reality check underscored by this war is the critical importance of global choke points and how their blockade can severely disrupt the global economy. Iran, by imposing a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz early in the conflict, has virtually brought the global economy to its knees. Nearly 20 million barrels of crude oil, accounting for about a third of global oil supplies, pass through this narrow sea passage every day. India is among the countries most affected, as it imports nearly 88% of its crude oil requirements, amounting to about 1.8 billion barrels annually. While the world grapples with the blockade and works to diversify its energy sources, one thing is clear: there is an urgent need to explore and develop alternative connectivity options beyond existing trade routes, particularly maritime routes. New routes and corridors must be developed that avoid the two 'C's – conflict zones and choke points.

However, this realisation is neither new nor have countries been idle in pursuing solutions. Transnational connectivity projects such as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) were conceived precisely for this purpose. The INSTC was designed to bypass the Suez Canal choke point, while the overland component of the BRI across Asia and Europe seeks to reduce dependence on both the Malacca Strait and the Suez Canal. Another major connectivity project is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Unlike the other initiatives, IMEC traverses parts of West Asia, a region that has been significantly affected by the current conflict.

Rajeev Agarwal

Retired colonel, a Senior Research Consultant at CRF, Delhi, and the author of 'Between Tehran and Tel Aviv – Gaza's Story of Unending War'

The Iran conflict strengthens the case for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) while simultaneously complicating its execution

The IMEC framework

What is IMEC? The IMEC is a transformative and ambitious connectivity initiative that was officially announced at the G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. It seeks to connect India with Europe across the Arabian Peninsula, bypassing the traditional choke point of the Suez Canal. The project envisions a multimodal economic corridor integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment and connectivity. Unlike conventional transport corridors, IMEC is conceived as a holistic and multidimensional infrastructure project encompassing sea routes, rail networks, pipelines, undersea high-speed data links, green hydrogen corridors and transnational energy transmission grids.

The proposed structure has three distinct sections. The eastern section links India with West Asia through sealinks to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The central section consists of an overland route across West Asia, traversing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel, and culminating at the port of Haifa on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The western leg of the corridor is sea-based, connecting Haifa to various European ports, beyond which the continent's extensive transportation network takes over.

What has happened due to the war? Soon after IMEC was announced, the war in Gaza broke out on October 7, 2023, placing the project on the back burner. Major areas of the originally envisioned corridor, particularly those involving Israel and the port of Haifa, were directly affected by the conflict.

Soon after the Iran-Israel '12-Day War' in June 2025, there was a concerted effort to move the project forward. However, the ongoing conflict involving Iran has once again thrown a spanner into its execution. Key ports in the UAE, particularly Jebel Ali and Fujairah, have been repeatedly targeted by Iran, while disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have exposed the geographical vulnerabilities of these ports.

Another critical fault line exposed by the war is the deep faultlines and divergence in the positions adopted by Saudi Arabia and the UAE in the war. Both countries are key partners in IMEC, and any adversarial posture between them could prove to be a major setback for the corridor, whose success depends on smooth coordination and seamless connectivity across the region. The UAE's April 2026 announcement that it was opting out of the global oil grouping, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and reports of its growing strategic coordination with Israel, including the deployment of Israeli defence systems such as the Iron Beam, risk widening differences between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi. Such developments are unlikely to augur well for either regional stability or the future of IMEC.

Navigating the challenges

The war in Iran has highlighted two important issues for both West Asia and IMEC. First, there is an urgent need for projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must also navigate the region's geopolitical complexities, including the rapidly evolving dynamics among key partners such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

To address the first challenge, IMEC must evolve into a broader and more flexible framework while keeping open the possibility of reverting to the originally envisioned alignment once the conflict subsides. To this end, the option of developing key ports in Oman – such as Salalah, Duqm and Muscat – as eastern entry points could be explored, as they are located well away from the conflict-prone Strait of Hormuz. Similarly, on the western end, until the port of Haifa becomes a secure transit hub, a western spur passing through Egypt and terminating at one of its major Mediterranean ports could offer a viable alternative. Egypt already possesses the logistics ecosystem required to support IMEC, including the Suez Canal Economic Zone, six operational ports and four industrial zones specialising in green hydrogen, liquefied natural gas, shipbuilding and other future-oriented sectors.

To address the second challenge, countries such as India, which enjoy close relations and the trust of both Saudi Arabia and the UAE, will have to navigate a delicate but critical diplomatic terrain. European countries such as Italy and France, which are positioning themselves as key champions of IMEC in Europe, will also need to play an active role. The growing recognition of IMEC's strategic importance was evident during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Europe in May 2026. While elevating their bilateral ties to a Special Strategic Partnership, India and Italy reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on IMEC, recognising its transformative potential to reshape and promote global trade, connectivity and prosperity.

The bottom line is clear. The war in Iran has underscored the need for transnational connectivity projects such as IMEC that can bypass conflict zones and strategic choke points. However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must overcome the geopolitical complexities in West Asia.

02J6.IMEC is caught between commerce and geopolitics
IMEC वाणिज्य और भूराजनीति के बीच फँस गया है।

- A recent **U.S. Congressional Research Service** report has noted that 42 U.S. aircraft have been lost or damaged so far during "**Operation Epic Fury**" — the war with Iran — which includes fifth generation stealth fighters such as the **F-35**.
  हाल ही में जारी **अमेरिकी कांग्रेसनल रिसर्च सर्विस** की एक रिपोर्ट में उल्लेख किया गया है कि ईरान के साथ युद्ध, जिसे "**ऑपरेशन एपिक फ्यूरी**" कहा गया, के दौरान अब तक 42 अमेरिकी विमान नष्ट या क्षतिग्रस्त हो चुके हैं, जिनमें **F-35** जैसे पाँचवीं पीढ़ी के स्टील्थ लड़ाकू विमान भी शामिल हैं।
- Plus, the ability to intercept Iranian missiles and drones has been severely degraded as more than half the total inventory of **Patriot, Tomahawk and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)** missiles have been expended.

इसके अतिरिक्त, ईरानी मिसाइलों और ड्रोन को रोकने की क्षमता भी गंभीर रूप से कमजोर हो गई है, क्योंकि **पैट्रियट, टॉमहॉक और टर्मिनल हाई एल्टीट्यूड एरिया डिफेंस (THAAD)** मिसाइलों के कुल भंडार का आधे से अधिक हिस्सा खर्च हो चुका है।

- New routes and corridors must be developed that avoid the two 'C's — conflict zones and choke points.
  ऐसे नए मार्ग और गलियारे विकसित किए जाने चाहिए जो दो 'C' — संघर्ष क्षेत्र और चोक प्वाइंट्स — से बच सकें।
- However, this realisation is neither new nor have countries been idle in pursuing solutions.
  हालाँकि, यह समझ नई नहीं है और न ही देश इसके समाधान खोजने में निष्क्रिय रहे हैं।
- Transnational connectivity projects such as the **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** and the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** were conceived precisely for this purpose.
  अंतरराष्ट्रीय उत्तर-दक्षिण परिवहन गलियारा (INSTC) और **बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI)** जैसी अंतरराष्ट्रीय संपर्क परियोजनाएँ इसी उद्देश्य से परिकल्पित की गई थीं।
- The **INSTC** was designed to bypass the **Suez Canal** choke point, while the overland component of the **BRI** across Asia and Europe seeks to reduce dependence on both the **Malacca Strait** and the **Suez Canal**.
  INSTC को **स्वेज नहर** के चोक प्वाइंट को दरकिनार करने के लिए तैयार किया गया था, जबकि एशिया और यूरोप में फैला **BRI** का स्थलीय घटक **मलक्का जलडमरूमध्य** और **स्वेज नहर** दोनों पर निर्भरता कम करने का प्रयास करता है।
- Another major connectivity project is the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)**.
  एक अन्य प्रमुख संपर्क परियोजना **भारत-मध्य पूर्व-यूरोप आर्थिक गलियारा (IMEC)** है।

- What is **IMEC**?
  आईएमईसी क्या है?
- The **IMEC** is a transformative and ambitious connectivity initiative that was officially announced at the **G-20 Summit** in **New Delhi** in September 2023.
  आईएमईसी एक परिवर्तनकारी और महत्वाकांक्षी संपर्क पहल है जिसकी आधिकारिक घोषणा सितंबर 2023 में **नई दिल्ली** में आयोजित **जी-20 शिखर सम्मेलन** में की गई थी।
- It seeks to connect **India** with **Europe** across the Arabian Peninsula, bypassing the traditional choke point of the **Suez Canal**.
  इसका उद्देश्य **भारत** को अरब प्रायद्वीप के माध्यम से **यूरोप** से जोड़ना है, जबकि पारंपरिक चोक प्वाइंट **स्वेज नहर** को दरकिनार करना है।
- The project envisions a multimodal economic corridor integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment and connectivity.
  यह परियोजना व्यापार, निवेश और संपर्क को बढ़ावा देने हेतु रेलमार्गों, बंदरगाहों, राजमार्गों, ऊर्जा नेटवर्क और डिजिटल अवसंरचना को एकीकृत करने वाले बहु-माध्यमीय आर्थिक गलियारे की परिकल्पना करती है।
- Unlike conventional transport corridors, **IMEC** is conceived as a holistic and multidimensional infrastructure project encompassing sea routes, rail networks, pipelines, undersea high-speed data links, green hydrogen corridors and transnational energy transmission grids.
  पारंपरिक परिवहन गलियारों के विपरीत, **IMEC** को एक समग्र और बहुआयामी अवसंरचना परियोजना के रूप में परिकल्पित किया गया है, जिसमें समुद्री मार्ग, रेल नेटवर्क, पाइपलाइनें, समुद्र के नीचे उच्च गति डेटा लिंक, हरित हाइड्रोजन गलियारे और अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऊर्जा संचरण ग्रिड शामिल हैं।
- The central section consists of an overland route across **West Asia**, traversing the **UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel**, and culminating at the port of **Haifa** on Israel's Mediterranean coast.

केंद्रीय भाग **पश्चिम एशिया** में एक स्थलीय मार्ग से बना है, जो **UAE, सऊदी अरब, जॉर्डन और इज़राइल** से होकर गुजरता है तथा इज़राइल के भूमध्यसागरीय तट पर स्थित **हाइफ़ा** बंदरगाह पर समाप्त होता है।

- The western leg of the corridor is sea-based, connecting **Haifa** to various European ports, beyond which the continent's extensive transportation network takes over.
  गलियारे का पश्चिमी भाग समुद्र आधारित है, जो **हाइफ़ा** को विभिन्न यूरोपीय बंदरगाहों से जोड़ता है, जिसके बाद यूरोप का विस्तृत परिवहन नेटवर्क आगे की संपर्क व्यवस्था संभालता है।
- What has happened due to the war?
  युद्ध के कारण क्या हुआ है?
- Major areas of the originally envisioned corridor, particularly those involving **Israel** and the port of **Haifa**, were directly affected by the conflict.
  मूल रूप से परिकल्पित गलियारे के प्रमुख क्षेत्र, विशेषकर **इज़राइल** और **हाइफ़ा** बंदरगाह से जुड़े भाग, सीधे संघर्ष से प्रभावित हुए।
- Key ports in the **UAE**, particularly **Jebel Ali** and **Fujairah**, have been repeatedly targeted by Iran, while disruptions in the **Strait of Hormuz** have exposed the geographical vulnerabilities of these ports.
  UAE के प्रमुख बंदरगाह, विशेषकर **जेबेल अली** और **फुजैराह**, बार-बार ईरान के निशाने पर रहे हैं, जबकि **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** में व्यवधानों ने इन बंदरगाहों की भौगोलिक कमजोरियों को उजागर कर दिया है।
- **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE** in the war both countries are key partners in **IMEC**, and any adversarial posture between them could prove to be a major setback for the corridor, whose success depends on smooth coordination and seamless connectivity across the region.
  दोनों देश **IMEC** के प्रमुख साझेदार हैं, और उनके बीच किसी भी प्रकार की विरोधात्मक स्थिति गलियारे के लिए बड़ा झटका सिद्ध हो सकती है, जिसकी सफलता क्षेत्रीय समन्वय और निर्बाध संपर्क पर निर्भर करती है।
- The **UAE's** April 2026 announcement that it was opting out of the global oil grouping, the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)**, and reports of its growing strategic coordination with **Israel**, including the deployment of Israeli defence systems such as the **Iron Beam**, risk widening differences between **Riyadh** and **Abu Dhabi**.
  अप्रैल 2026 में **UAE** द्वारा वैश्विक तेल संगठन **पेट्रोलियम निर्यातक देशों के संगठन (OPEC)** से बाहर होने की घोषणा, तथा **इज़राइल** के साथ उसकी बढ़ती रणनीतिक साझेदारी — जिसमें **Iron Beam** जैसे इज़राइली रक्षा प्रणालियों की तैनाती भी शामिल है — ने **रियाद** और **अबू धाबी** के बीच मतभेदों को और बढ़ाने का जोखिम उत्पन्न कर दिया है।
- However, for such initiatives to succeed, they must also navigate the region's geopolitical complexities, including the rapidly evolving dynamics among key partners such as **Saudi Arabia** and the **UAE**.
  किन्तु ऐसी पहलों की सफलता के लिए उन्हें क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक जटिलताओं का भी सामना करना होगा, जिनमें **सऊदी अरब** और **UAE** जैसे प्रमुख साझेदारों के बीच तेजी से बदलते संबंध शामिल हैं।
- To this end, the option of developing key ports in **Oman** — such as **Salalah, Duqm and Muscat** — as eastern entry points could be explored, as they are located well away from the conflict-prone **Strait of Hormuz**.
  इस उद्देश्य से **ओमान** के प्रमुख बंदरगाहों — जैसे **सलालाह, दुक्म और मस्कट** — को पूर्वी प्रवेश बिंदुओं के रूप में विकसित करने के विकल्प पर विचार किया जा सकता है, क्योंकि वे संघर्ष-प्रवण **हॉर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य** से काफी दूर स्थित हैं।
- Similarly, on the western end, until the port of **Haifa** becomes a secure transit hub, a western spur passing through **Egypt** and terminating at one of its major Mediterranean ports could offer a viable alternative.
  इसी प्रकार, पश्चिमी छोर पर जब तक **हाइफ़ा** बंदरगाह एक सुरक्षित पारगमन केंद्र नहीं बन जाता, तब तक **मिस्र** से होकर गुजरने वाला और उसके किसी प्रमुख भूमध्यसागरीय बंदरगाह पर समाप्त होने वाला पश्चिमी मार्ग एक व्यवहारिक विकल्प प्रदान कर सकता है।
- **Egypt** already possesses the logistics ecosystem required to support **IMEC**, including the **Suez Canal Economic Zone**, six operational ports and four industrial zones specialising in

green hydrogen, lique• ed natural gas, shipbuilding and other future-oriented sectors.
मिस्र के पास पहले से ही **IMEC** को समर्थन देने हेतु आवश्यक लॉजिस्टिक तंत्र मौजूद है, जिसमें **स्वेज नहर आर्थिक क्षेत्र**, छह संचालित बंदरगाह और चार औद्योगिक क्षेत्र शामिल हैं, जो हरित हाइड्रोजन, द्रवीकृत प्राकृतिक गैस, जहाज निर्माण तथा अन्य भविष्य उन्मुख क्षेत्रों में विशेषज्ञता रखते हैं।

- European countries such as **Italy** and **France**, which are positioning themselves as key champions of **IMEC** in Europe, will also need to play an active role.
इटली और **फ्रांस** जैसे यूरोपीय देशों को, जो स्वयं को यूरोप में **IMEC** के प्रमुख समर्थकों के रूप में स्थापित कर रहे हैं, भी सक्रिय भूमिका निभानी होगी।
- While elevating their bilateral ties to a **Special Strategic Partnership**, **India** and **Italy** reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on **IMEC**, recognising its transformative potential to reshape and promote global trade, connectivity and prosperity.
अपने द्विपक्षीय संबंधों को **विशेष रणनीतिक साझेदारी** के स्तर तक बढ़ाते हुए, **भारत** और **इटली** ने **IMEC** पर सहयोग की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता को पुनः पुष्टि की तथा वैश्विक व्यापार, संपर्क और समृद्धि को पुनर्परिभाषित और प्रोत्साहित करने की इसकी परिवर्तनकारी क्षमता को स्वीकार किया।

EU's engagement with West Balkan countries is real: Costa

GS II: IR

Associated Press
SARAJEVO

EU has sought to encourage reform in the candidate nations fearing growing influence of Russia and China

European Council President António Costa said on Monday that this week's European Union summit with Western Balkan candidate nations aims to show that the opportunity for enlargement is real.

Speaking in Bosnia at the start of a pre-summit tour of the Western Balkans, Mr. Costa said that amid global geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability, "enlargement is a geostrategic interest for Europe."

"It (enlargement) is an investment in the peace, stability and security of our continent," Mr. Costa added. "This tour is a clear sign that the commitment of the European Union to the Western Balkans is real. As real as the opportunity for enlargement."

Mr. Costa will co-chair the summit in Montenegro on Friday that will gather EU leaders and top officials from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro.

The six nations are each at a different stage of the accession process with Montenegro and Albania leading the way. The EU has recently sought to encourage reform in the candidate nations fearing growing influence of Russia and China.

Ukraine and Moldova are also among about ten countries aspiring to join the bloc.

Candidate countries must bring their laws into line in 35 policy areas, or "chapters," ranging from justice standards to farm and fishing rules. All 27 EU members must agree before each chapter can be opened, and then again for it to be closed.

Friday's event in the Adriatic Sea resort of Tivat will be "a clear demonstration of our determination to bring forward our cooperation and build on the momentum of the European Union's enlargement," Mr. Costa said.

Bosnia has lagged behind, still deeply divided along ethnic lines long after the 1992-95 war that killed more than 100,000 people and displaced millions.

02J6. EU's engagement with West Balkan countries is real: Costa
पश्चिम बाल्कन देशों के साथ EU की भागीदारी वास्तविक है: कोस्टा

- **European Council President António Costa** said on Monday that this week's **European Union summit** with **Western Balkan** candidate nations aims to show that the opportunity for enlargement is real.
यूरोपीय परिषद के अध्यक्ष एंटोनियो कोस्टा ने सोमवार को कहा कि इस सप्ताह **यूरोपीय संघ शिखर सम्मेलन** का उद्देश्य **पश्चिम बाल्कन** उम्मीदवार देशों को यह दिखाना है कि विस्तार का अवसर वास्तविक है।
- "This tour is a clear sign that the commitment of the **European Union** to the **Western Balkans** is real."
"यह दौरा इस बात का स्पष्ट संकेत है कि **यूरोपीय संघ** की **पश्चिम बाल्कन** के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता वास्तविक है।"
- "As real as the opportunity for enlargement."
"उतनी ही वास्तविक जितना विस्तार का अवसर।"
- Mr. Costa will co-chair the summit in **Montenegro** on Friday that will gather EU leaders and top officials from **Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia and Montenegro**.
श्री कोस्टा शुक्रवार को **मोंटेनेग्रो** में आयोजित शिखर सम्मेलन की सह-अध्यक्षता करेंगे, जिसमें EU नेताओं और **अल्बानिया, बोस्निया-हर्जेगोविना, उत्तर मैसेडोनिया, कोसोवो, सर्बिया और मोंटेनेग्रो** के शीर्ष अधिकारी शामिल होंगे।
- The six nations are each at a different stage of the accession process with **Montenegro** and **Albania** leading the way.
ये छह देश सदस्यता प्रक्रिया के अलग-अलग चरणों में हैं, जिनमें **मोंटेनेग्रो** और **अल्बानिया** सबसे आगे हैं।

- The EU has recently sought to encourage reform in the candidate nations fearing growing influence of **Russia** and **China**.
  EU ने हाल ही में उम्मीदवार देशों में सुधारों को प्रोत्साहित करने का प्रयास किया है, क्योंकि उसे **रूस** और **चीन** के बढ़ते प्रभाव की चिंता है।
- **Ukraine** and **Moldova** are also among about ten countries aspiring to join the bloc.
  यूक्रेन और **मोल्दोवा** भी उन लगभग दस देशों में शामिल हैं जो इस समूह में शामिल होना चाहते हैं।
- Candidate countries must bring their laws into line in **35 policy areas**, or "chapters," ranging from justice standards to farm and fishing rules.
  उम्मीदवार देशों को न्यायिक मानकों से लेकर कृषि और मत्स्य पालन नियमों तक **35 नीतिगत क्षेत्रों** या "अध्यायों" में अपने कानूनों को EU मानकों के अनुरूप बनाना होगा।
- All **27 EU members** must agree before each chapter can be opened, and then again for it to be closed.
  प्रत्येक अध्याय को खोलने और बाद में बंद करने से पहले सभी **27 EU सदस्य देशों** की सहमति आवश्यक होती है।
- Friday's event in the **Adriatic Sea** resort of **Tivat** will be "a clear demonstration of our determination to bring forward our cooperation and build on the momentum of the European Union's enlargement," Mr. Costa said.
  श्री कोस्टा ने कहा कि शुक्रवार को **एड्रियाटिक सागर** के रिसॉर्ट शहर **टिवाट** में होने वाला कार्यक्रम "हमारे सहयोग को आगे बढ़ाने और यूरोपीय संघ के विस्तार की गति को मजबूत करने के हमारे संकल्प का स्पष्ट प्रदर्शन" होगा।
- **Bosnia** has lagged behind, still deeply divided along ethnic lines long after the **1992-95 war** that killed more than **100,000 people** and displaced millions.
  बोस्निया अभी भी पीछे है और **1992-95 के युद्ध** के लंबे समय बाद भी जातीय आधार पर गहराई से विभाजित है, जिसमें **1 लाख से अधिक लोग** मारे गए थे और लाखों विस्थापित हुए थे।

Court rejects Rwanda's £100 mn claim against U.K. over migrant deal

GS II: IR

Agence France-Presse
THE HAGUE

An international court on Monday rejected a claim by Rwanda for Britain to pay more than £100 million it said London still owed from a scrapped deal to deport migrants.

Judges from the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague ruled that Britain was not liable for two years of outstanding costs from the scheme that was shelved in 2024.

In 2022, former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson sealed a deal with Kigali to send to Rwanda migrants arriving in Britain via "dangerous or illegal journeys" in small boats or lorries.

A file photo of a protest against the British government's plans to deport asylum seekers to Rwanda in London. REUTERS

But the scheme hit legal and political obstacles from the start, with the U.K. Supreme Court eventually ruling it illegal.

When Keir Starmer became British Prime Minister in July 2024, he declared the plan "dead and buried" on his first full day in office, dismissing it as a "gimmick".

'Waste of tax money'

Then Interior Minister Yvette Cooper called it "the most shocking waste of taxpayers' money I have ever seen".

During the two years before the scheme was scrapped, only four people actually went to Rwanda, all voluntarily, according to the current U.K. government.

According to the U.K. government website, about £290 million has already been paid to Rwanda, but Kigali argued in its pre-hearing submissions to the PCA that two annual payments of £50m were still outstanding.

But the PCA, set up in 1899 to settle contractual disputes between nations, rejected by majority a £50m claim for one year and unanimously rejected the same amount for the second.

02J6. Court rejects Rwanda's £100 mn claim against U.K. over migrant deal

प्रवासी समझौते पर अदालत ने ब्रिटेन के खिलाफ रवांडा के £100 मिलियन दावे को खारिज किया

- An international court on Monday rejected a claim by **Rwanda** for **Britain** to pay more than **£100 million** it said London still owed from a scrapped deal to deport migrants.

एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय अदालत ने सोमवार को **रवांडा** के उस दावे को खारिज कर दिया, जिसमें उसने कहा था कि

प्रवासियों को निर्वासित करने के रद्द किए गए समझौते के तहत **ब्रिटेन** पर अभी भी **£100 मिलियन** से अधिक बकाया है।

- Judges from the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** in **The Hague** ruled that Britain was not liable for two years of outstanding costs from the scheme that was shelved in 2024.
  द हेग स्थित **स्थायी मध्यस्थता न्यायालय (PCA)** के न्यायाधीशों ने फैसला दिया कि 2024 में बंद की गई इस योजना के दो वर्षों के बकाया खर्च के लिए ब्रिटेन जिम्मेदार नहीं है।
- In 2022, former U.K. Prime Minister **Boris Johnson** sealed a deal with **Kigali** to send to Rwanda migrants arriving in Britain via "dangerous or illegal journeys" in small boats or lorries.
  2022 में ब्रिटेन के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री **बोरिस जॉनसन** ने **किगाली** के साथ एक समझौता किया था, जिसके तहत छोटी नावों या ट्रकों से "खतरनाक या अवैध यात्राओं" के जरिए ब्रिटेन पहुंचने वाले प्रवासियों को रवांडा भेजा जाना था।
- But Kigali argued in its pre-hearing submissions to the PCA that two annual payments of **£50 million** were still outstanding.
  लेकिन किगाली ने PCA में सुनवाई से पहले अपने प्रस्तुतिकरण में कहा कि **£50 मिलियन** की दो वार्षिक किस्तें अभी भी बकाया हैं।
- But the **PCA**, set up in 1899 to settle contractual disputes between nations, rejected by majority a **£50 million** claim for one year and unanimously rejected the same amount for the second.
  लेकिन देशों के बीच संविदात्मक विवादों को सुलझाने के लिए 1899 में स्थापित **PCA** ने बहुमत से एक वर्ष के लिए किए गए **£50 मिलियन** के दावे को खारिज कर दिया और दूसरे वर्ष के लिए समान राशि के दावे को सर्वसम्मति से अस्वीकार कर दिया।

GS Paper III: Economy	**02 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	**Vizag data centre is a major challenge** **विजाग डेटा सेंटर एक बड़ी चुनौती है।**
02J6	**Remittances anchor the rupee, India's external balances** **प्रेषण राशि रुपये तथा भारत के बाह्य संतुलनों को स्थिरता प्रदान करती है।**
02J6	**Value of loans sanctioned to MSMEs under ECLGS** **ECLGS के तहत MSMEs को स्वीकृत ऋण का मूल्य**
02J6	**AI debt sales reshape global corporate bond markets** **AI ऋण बिक्री वैश्विक कॉरपोरेट बॉन्ड बाजारों को नया रूप दे रही है**
02J6	**As rare earths become strategic assets, China trains youth with specialised courses** **दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व रणनीतिक संपत्ति बनते जा रहे हैं, चीन विशेष पाठ्यक्रमों से युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित कर रहा है**

Vizag data centre is a major challenge

If India needs Google's hyperscale hub, it is not yet ready for the facility

GS III: Economy: Infrastructure

STATE OF PLAY

Vasudevan Mukunth

The Google Cloud India AI Hub, for which the technology giant and Andhra Pradesh recently broke ground in Visakhapatnam, is a sign that India is finally moving from providing information technology services and coding to owning infrastructure. While the facility is part of a larger digital infrastructure push in Visakhapatnam, expected to involve investments running to ₹1.25 lakh crore, there are also numerous second-order gains in the offing. The facility could strengthen downstream demand for high-end computing hardware, augmenting India's efforts to build semiconductor capacity under Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, even if manufacturing viability will still depend on broader ecosystem factors.

The project has been integrated into the America-India Connect initiative, as part of which multiple international subsea cables will land in Visakhapatnam, creating India's second major gateway on the eastern seaboard. As a result, Indian data will have a direct connection from the east coast to South Africa and thereon to the U.S. without first being backhauled to Cochin, that too on Google's high-capacity cables. Likewise, in the east, data from Visakhapatnam can reach the U.S. via Singapore and Australia, no longer restricted to the Chennai-Singapore connection and thereafter to the U.S. on third-party cables. As a result, India's dependence on geopolitical stability in the Red Sea – through which cables from Mumbai pass before reaching Europe – will reduce. Similarly, within India, the Hub's location could move high-value technological activity away from expensive metropolitan cities, potentially redistributing growth.

Infrastructure problem

The Hub is an integrated complex with computational infrastructure and high-capacity data connectivity, and large power requirements. Its expected power demand of 1 GW makes it a so-called hyperscale hub, with the ability to run powerful artificial intelligence (AI) models.

But that is also a gateway to consider the not-inconsiderable challenges the project poses. For example, the Hub could attract firms handling sensitive data, especially in sectors where legal or regulatory preferences favour keeping data in India. However, while Google will thus lower costs for Indian firms, it will increase dependence on a single foreign provider's proprietary stack. As a result, India could become a site for "sovereign AI" – as Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian said – only in name.

Second, even though AI GPU workloads are among the world's most power-guzzling uses of computing infrastructure, the Hub suggests AI is now an infrastructure problem: power, land, and water are the bottlenecks. The power demand may strain the local grid and result in knock-on effects for local residents and industries. While Google has pledged 100% use of renewable energy, the Hub will still feature a fleet of backup diesel generators, which will affect local air quality and microclimate.

If Google aspires to maintain its global average power usage effectiveness of 1.1 in Visakhapatnam's humid weather, it may need evaporative cooling, which is water-intensive. The district is periodically vulnerable to water stress, especially in summer. It depends heavily on inter-basin water transfers to meet its needs. In fact, it has the lowest groundwater levels for domestic, agricultural or industrial use in the State, as per the Water Resources and Information Management System. Facilities worldwide similar to the Hub are known to consume over 2 million litres per day per 100 MW. At 1 GW, the indicated demand is an eye-watering 20 million litres per day.

Rights groups have alleged that the State government assigned the project to a category that allowed it to sidestep a full environmental impact assessment and public hearings – measures that have forced Google, et al. in other countries to redesign data centres to be more sustainable. India still struggles to harmonise State-level incentives. Andhra Pradesh offers aggressive tax holidays and power subsidies yet they have not come with environmental benchmarks or 'green' capacity targets. A Central single-window could standardise public hearings and resource accounting. If India does not codify these safeguards, its climb up the digital stack will come at the cost of its environmental and democratic foundations.

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02J6. Vizag data centre is a major challenge

विजाग डेटा सेंटर एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

- If India needs Google's **hyperscale hub**, it is not yet ready for the facility

यदि भारत को **Google** का **हाइपरस्केल हब** चाहिए, तो वह अभी इस सुविधा के लिए तैयार नहीं है।

- **The Google Cloud India AI Hub**, for which the technology giant and **Andhra Pradesh** recently broke ground in **Visakhapatnam**, is a sign that **India** is finally moving from providing information technology services and coding to owning infrastructure.

गूगल क्लाउड इंडिया एआई हब, जिसके लिए प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनी और **आंध्र प्रदेश** ने हाल ही में **विशाखापट्टनम** में आधारशिला रखी, इस बात का संकेत है कि **भारत** अब केवल सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी सेवाएँ और कोडिंग प्रदान करने से आगे बढ़कर अवसंरचना का स्वामित्व प्राप्त करने की दिशा में अग्रसर है।

- While the facility is part of a larger digital infrastructure push in **Visakhapatnam**, expected to involve investments running to ₹1.25 lakh crore.

यद्यपि यह सुविधा **विशाखापट्टनम** में व्यापक डिजिटल अवसंरचना विस्तार का हिस्सा है, जिसमें ₹1.25 लाख करोड़ तक के निवेश की संभावना है, इसके अतिरिक्त भी अनेक अप्रत्यक्ष लाभ सामने आने की संभावना है।

- The facility could strengthen downstream demand for high-end computing hardware, augmenting India's efforts to build semiconductor capacity under **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** schemes, even if manufacturing viability will still depend on broader ecosystem factors.

यह सुविधा उच्च स्तरीय कंप्यूटिंग हार्डवेयर की मांग को बढ़ा सकती है, जिससे **उत्पादन आधारित प्रोत्साहन (PLI)** योजनाओं के अंतर्गत भारत के सेमीकंडक्टर क्षमता निर्माण प्रयासों को बल मिलेगा, यद्यपि विनिर्माण की व्यवहार्यता अब भी व्यापक पारिस्थितिक तंत्र पर निर्भर करेगी।

- The project has been integrated into the **America-India Connect initiative**, as part of which multiple international subsea cables will land in **Visakhapatnam**, creating India's second major gateway on the eastern seaboard.

इस परियोजना को **अमेरिका-इंडिया कनेक्ट पहल** में सम्मिलित किया गया है, जिसके अंतर्गत अनेक अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुद्रतलीय केबल **विशाखापट्टनम** में उतरेंगी, जिससे भारत के पूर्वी तट पर दूसरा प्रमुख प्रवेश द्वार विकसित होगा।

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- As a result, Indian data will have a direct connection from the east coast to **South Africa** and thereon to the **U.S.** without first being backhauled to **Cochin**, that too on **Google's** high-capacity cables.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय डेटा को पूर्वी तट से सीधे **दक्षिण अफ्रीका** और वहाँ से **अमेरिका** तक सीधा संपर्क प्राप्त होगा, बिना पहले **कोच्चि** तक वापस भेजे, और वह भी **गूगल** की उच्च क्षमता वाली केबलों के माध्यम से।
- Likewise, in the east, data from **Visakhapatnam** can reach the **U.S.** via **Singapore** and **Australia**, no longer restricted to the **Chennai-Singapore** connection and thereafter to the U.S. on third-party cables.
  इसी प्रकार, पूर्वी दिशा में **विशाखापट्टनम** से डेटा **सिंगापुर** और **ऑस्ट्रेलिया** के माध्यम से सीधे **अमेरिका** पहुँच सकेगा, और अब वह केवल **चेन्नई-सिंगापुर** संपर्क तथा उसके बाद तीसरे पक्ष की केबलों तक सीमित नहीं रहेगा।
- As a result, India's dependence on geopolitical stability in the **Red Sea** — through which cables from **Mumbai** pass before reaching **Europe** — will reduce.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप **भारत** की **लाल सागर** क्षेत्र की भू-राजनीतिक स्थिरता पर निर्भरता कम होगी, जहाँ से होकर **मुंबई** से जाने वाली केबलें **यूरोप** तक पहुँचती हैं।
- Its expected power demand of 1 GW makes it a so-called hyperscale hub, with the ability to run powerful artificial intelligence (**AI**) models.
  इसकी अनुमानित 1 गीगावाट विद्युत मांग इसे तथाकथित हाइपरस्केल हब बनाती है, जिसमें शक्तिशाली कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (**AI**) मॉडल संचालित करने की क्षमता होगी।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Remittances anchor the rupee, India's external balances

Despite doing the heavy lifting in tackling the pressure on the rupee, remittances are ignored in discussions due to overemphasis on FDI and FPI flows

GS III: Economy

DATA POINT

Puneet Bhasin

The Indian rupee has lost nearly 12% of its value against the U.S. dollar since May 2025. Several analysts have noted the consistent decline in net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) flows as a cause.

The ebbing of net FDI and FPI flows notably began much before the current energy crisis due to the war in West Asia. A declining trend in net FDI began in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021-2022. As of Q3 of 2025-26, net FDI was negative **(Chart 1)**. The declining trend in net FPI, which is also at a negative, started in Q4 of 2023-24 **(Chart 2)**.

It is commonly understood that a downward (depreciation) pressure is structurally inherent upon the rupee because of India's persistent Current Account (CA) deficit, which in turn stems from India's persistent trade deficit. Consequently, buoyant net positive FDI and FPI flows, recorded in the Financial Account (FA), are considered crucial to not only finance the CA Deficit (CAD), but to countervail the downward pressure on the rupee. However, there is an overemphasis on these two, at the cost of the other important flow for India, namely, remittances, recorded in the CA, which does the heavy lifting for both the financing of the CAD and in tackling the pressure on the rupee. Not accounting for remittances risks non-mitigation of a major external vulnerability: the ebbing of remittance flows that is also likely.

The CA primarily consists of three component flows: the trade deficit, the Net Primary Income (NPI) deficit and the Net Secondary Income (NSI) surplus **(Chart 3)**. The NPI mainly reflects the net negative balance of investment income earned by Indian residents on foreign assets and paid on India's external liabilities held by foreign counterparts. The NSI essentially accounts for its huge net positive remittance flows. India attracts the highest remittances (in $) by a wide margin. In 2024, India saw $138 billion in remittances.

They matter significantly for India's CAD and the rupee. Firstly, since mid-2013, remittances have on an average financed more than the entirety of India's trade deficit **(Chart 4)**. As a result, the CAD financed by the FA flows of FDI and FPI is a residual of the two persistent deficits in the CA, leftover after the remittances have financed their bulk. If not for India's high net remittances, its CAD would be much larger and the financing demands on the FA also higher.

Secondly, net remittances, averaging about 3% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are much higher than the net FDI and FPI flows. Thirdly, unlike, say FPI, remittances are not given to sudden halts, for they are largely driven by the income and savings decisions of the Indian diaspora and their respective familial needs back home. Fourthly, unlike FDI and FPI, remittances are transfers and not claims. Hence, they do not generate future liability outflows. Lastly, remittances have low transaction costs.

A lot rides on remittances now because the more the rupee slips, the more diaspora remitters are likely to wait till it bottoms out. Concomitantly, with the trade deficit likely to increase due to costlier energy imports, a wide gap can emerge in the remittances' ability to cover this deficit. This will in turn increase the CAD and its financing demands on the FA, at a time when net FDI and FPI flows are negative. Yet, despite their importance, analyses of remittances pale in comparison to those of FDI and FPI flows. It is perhaps because remittances are largely the result of small financial decisions by thousands of working-class Indians abroad, who do not animate globalised elites in the same way as talks of FDI and FPI do.

Merits of remittances

The data for the charts were sourced from the Reserve bank of India's Database on Indian Economy. The author is with the Center for the Study of the Indian Economy (CSIE) at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru. With inputs from Anshuman Singh, also at CSIE

CHART 1: Quarterly net Foreign Direct Investment in $ million ( ) and as a % share of GDP ( )

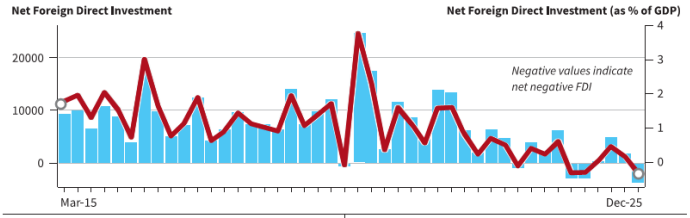


CHART 2: Quarterly net Foreign Portfolio Investment (as % of GDP). Negative values indicate net negative FPI

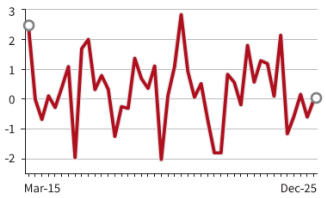


CHART 4: Quarterly net remittances as % of trade deficit. The two blue bars in June and September 2020 indicate trade surplus. All other quarters saw trade deficits

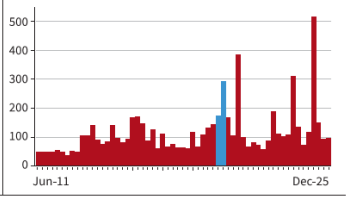
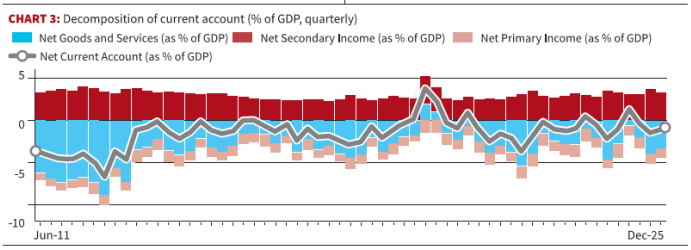


CHART 3: Decomposition of current account (% of GDP, quarterly)



02J6. Remittances anchor the rupee, India's external balances

प्रेषण राशि रुपये तथा भारत के बाह्य संतुलनों को स्थिरता प्रदान करती है।

- The CA primarily consists of three component • ows: the trade de• cit, the **Net Primary Income (NPI)** de• cit and the **Net Secondary Income (NSI)** surplus.
  चालू खाते में मुख्यतः तीन घटक प्रवाह शामिल होते हैं: व्यापार घाटा, **शुद्ध प्राथमिक आय (NPI)** घाटा और **शुद्ध द्वितीयक आय (NSI)** अधिशेष।
- The NPI mainly re• ects the net negative balance of investment income earned by Indian residents on foreign assets and paid on India's external liabilities held by foreign counterparts.
  NPI मुख्यतः विदेशी परिसंपत्तियों पर भारतीय निवासियों द्वारा अर्जित निवेश आय और विदेशी पक्षों के पास मौजूद भारत की बाह्य देनदारियों पर भुगतान की गई आय के शुद्ध नकारात्मक संतुलन को दर्शाता है।
- The NSI essentially accounts for its huge net positive remittance • ows.
  NSI मुख्यतः भारत के विशाल सकारात्मक शुद्ध रेमिटेंस प्रवाह को दर्शाता है।
- Secondly, net remittances, averaging about 3% of the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**, are much higher than the net FDI and FPI • ows.

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दूसरा, शुद्ध रेमिटेंस, जो **सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP)** का लगभग 3% है, शुद्ध FDI और FPI प्रवाह की तुलना में कहीं अधिक है।

- Thirdly, unlike, say FPI, remittances are not given to sudden halts, for they are largely driven by the income and savings decisions of the Indian diaspora and their respective familial needs back home.
  तीसरा, FPI के विपरीत रेमिटेंस अचानक रुकने की प्रवृत्ति नहीं रखती, क्योंकि यह मुख्यतः भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय की आय, बचत और उनके परिवारों की आवश्यकताओं पर आधारित होती है।
- Fourthly, unlike FDI and FPI, remittances are transfers and not claims.
  चौथा, FDI और FPI के विपरीत, रेमिटेंस हस्तांतरण होते हैं, दावे नहीं।
- Hence, they do not generate future liability out• ows.
  अतः वे भविष्य में देनदारी आधारित बाह्य भुगतान उत्पन्न नहीं करते।
- Lastly, remittances have low transaction costs.
  अंततः, रेमिटेंस की लेनदेन लागत भी कम होती है।

Value of loans sanctioned to MSMEs under ECLGS

GS III: Economy

35,000 in ₹ crore. Banks have sanctioned ₹35,000 crore loans under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to MSMEs and industries impacted by the West Asia conflict. The scheme aimed at providing additional credit flow of ₹2.55 lakh crore for airlines hit by the ongoing geopolitical crisis. PTI

02J6. Value of loans sanctioned to MSMEs under ECLGS

ECLGS के तहत MSMEs को स्वीकृत ऋण का मूल्य

- Banks have sanctioned **₹35,000 crore** loans under the **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** to **MSMEs** and industries impacted by the **West Asia conflict**.
  बैंकों ने **पश्चिम एशिया संघर्ष** से प्रभावित **MSMEs** और उद्योगों को **इमरजेंसी क्रेडिट लाइन गारंटी योजना (ECLGS)** के तहत **₹35,000 करोड़** के ऋण स्वीकृत किए हैं।
- The scheme aimed at providing additional credit flow of **₹2.55 lakh crore** for airlines hit by the ongoing geopolitical crisis.
  इस योजना का उद्देश्य जारी भू-राजनीतिक संकट से प्रभावित एयरलाइनों को **₹2.55 लाख करोड़** की अतिरिक्त ऋण सहायता प्रदान करना था।

02J6. AI debt sales reshape global corporate bond markets

AI ऋण बिक्री वैश्विक कॉरपोरेट बॉन्ड बाजारों को नया रूप दे रही है

- **Google-parent Alphabet** is already one of the biggest outstanding borrowers in the sterling and Swiss franc corporate bond markets.
  गूगल की मूल कंपनी अल्फाबेट पहले से ही स्टर्लिंग और स्विस फ्रैंक कॉरपोरेट बॉन्ड बाजारों में सबसे बड़े उधारकर्ताओं में से एक है।
- Debt issues by so-called "**hyperscalers**" or Big Tech companies outside the **United States** are part of a push to diversify their funding early on, bankers said.
  बैंकरों के अनुसार, **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के बाहर तथाकथित "**हाइपरस्केलर्स**" या बड़ी टेक कंपनियों द्वारा ऋण जारी करना उनके वित्तपोषण स्रोतों में शुरुआती स्तर पर विविधता लाने की रणनीति का हिस्सा है।

As rare earths become strategic assets, China trains youth with specialised courses

GS III: Economy

Reuters

BEIJING

Every year, several hundred young adults head to the steppes of northern China to learn about rare earths at schools like the Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology.

After completing undergraduate study, they may venture a few kilometres up the six-lane Rare Earths Street in Baotou, where they can work for state-owned refiners that convert the critical minerals into magnets that power jet engines, electric vehicles and wind turbines. Or, the graduates may pursue further studies at the nearby Baotou Rare Earth Research Institute - roughly 150 km from the world's largest rare earths mine.

U.S. President Donald Trump and other Western leaders have pledged billions of dollars in investments to break China's chokehold on rare earths refining – a powerful lever Beijing has wielded in its trade war with the U.S. But China still holds a significant advantage in the pipeline of talent that it has developed over decades in places like Baotou.

40 specialist labs

China has created an ecosystem of more than 40 specialist rare-earth laboratories that produce cutting-edge research, supplemented by at least 11 universities and technical colleges that collectively enrol more than 500 students annually in rare earths degree programmes, a Reuters examination has found. That accumulated expertise sustains Beijing's grip on global supplies of refined rare earths.

Several U.S. institutions have begun incorporating more of a focus on rare earths in their curriculum, though Reuters could not identify a school outside China that offers a specific undergraduate degree. U.S. institutions awarded just over 200 generalist undergraduate mining and metallurgical engineering degrees in 2023, the latest year with nationwide figures available, according to data compiled by the Colorado-based Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

"In China, I used to hire kids right out of university and they're immediately productive," said Constantine Karayannopoulos, former chief executive of rare earths companies Neo Performance Materials and Molycorp. "Anywhere else I need to train them for three years."

Baotou Research Institute of Rare Earths in China's rare earth industry hub of Baotou, Inner Mongolia. REUTERS

Beijing is now tightly guarding this expertise: It has over the years increased restrictions on exports of rare earths technology and equipment. China has also limited contact between industry professionals and foreigners, with some technicians having been ordered to surrender their passports, according to three people familiar with the matter. They did not identify the government entity that confiscated the travel documents but said the crackdown intensified after Trump's "Liberation Day" tariffs in April 2025.

U.S. Department of Energy spokesperson Olivia Tinari said in response to questions about Washington's rare earths rivalry with Beijing that the agency was "investing in American workers, scaling innovation, and expanding domestic production of critical materials."

Academia-industry ties

Billions of federal dollars have flowed into U.S. mining schools, research programmes and other related areas since 2024 as the country seeks to rebuild mining expertise. The U.S. Congress is also considering legislation that would fund international cooperation in mining education.

China's rare earth industry benefited in the 1980s and 1990s from generous tax incentives and an abundant supply of cheap labour. The government and affiliated entities continue to fund research institutes, and state lenders have offered financing on preferential terms to firms that mine critical minerals.

By the 1990s, the processing industry was "wiped out" in the West, said Ed Richardson, chief executive of U.S. magnet producer Thomas & Skinner. "Therefore, the schools have not been educating mining students for this task."

In contrast, researchers, universities, and industry continue to collaborate closely in China. Scientists at the National Engineering Research Center for Rare Earths in Beijing developed a new technology, which state-owned Gansu Rare Earth New Materials adopted in 2023 at a refining facility that can churn out 50,000 metric tonnes of highly processed rare earths annually.

That is five times what Australia's Lynas Rare Earths, the largest rare earths company outside China, produced in the 2025 fiscal year.

China produces over 90% of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets.

David Parker, a rare earths expert at Britain's Durham University who reviewed the Chinese institute's course outline for Reuters, described it as "highly specialized" and reflective of the "pre-eminent position of China in rare earth science and engineering."

02J6. As rare earths become strategic assets, China trains youth with specialised courses

दुर्लभ मृदा तत्व रणनीतिक संपत्ति बनते जा रहे हैं, चीन विशेष पाठ्यक्रमों से युवाओं को प्रशिक्षित कर रहा है

- Every year, several hundred young adults head to the steppes of northern **China** to learn about **rare earths** at schools like the **Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology**.
  हर वर्ष सैकड़ों युवा उत्तरी **चीन** के घास के मैदानों की ओर जाते हैं ताकि वे **इनर मंगोलिया यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी** जैसे संस्थानों में **दुर्लभ मृदा तत्वों (Rare Earths)** के बारे में अध्ययन कर सकें।
- After completing undergraduate study, they may venture a few kilometres up the six-lane **Rare Earths Street** in **Baotou**, where they can work for state-owned refiners that convert the critical minerals into magnets that power jet engines, electric vehicles and wind turbines.
  स्नातक अध्ययन पूरा करने के बाद वे **बाओतौ** की छह लेन वाली **रेयर अर्थ्स स्ट्रीट** तक जाते हैं, जहाँ वे सरकारी रिफाइनरियों में काम कर सकते हैं, जो इन महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों को जेट इंजन, इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन और पवन टर्बाइनों को चलाने वाले मैग्नेट में बदलती हैं।
- Or, the graduates may pursue further studies at the nearby **Baotou Rare Earth Research Institute** roughly 150 km from the world's largest rare earths mine.
  या फिर छात्र दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी दुर्लभ मृदा खदान से लगभग 150 किमी दूर स्थित **बाओतौ रेयर अर्थ रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूट** में आगे की पढ़ाई कर सकते हैं।

40 specialist labs
40 विशेष प्रयोगशालाएँ

- China has created an ecosystem of more than **40 specialist rare-earth laboratories** that produce cutting-edge research.
  चीन ने **40 से अधिक विशेष रेयर-अर्थ प्रयोगशालाओं** का एक तंत्र विकसित किया है, जो अत्याधुनिक शोध करती हैं।
- Supplemented by at least **11 universities and technical colleges** that collectively enrol more than **500 students annually** in rare earths degree programmes, a Reuters examination has found.
  रॉयटर्स की जांच के अनुसार, इनके साथ कम से कम **11 विश्वविद्यालय और तकनीकी कॉलेज** जुड़े हैं, जो हर वर्ष रेयर अर्थ डिग्री कार्यक्रमों में **500 से अधिक छात्रों** को प्रवेश देते हैं।

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- That accumulated expertise sustains Beijing's grip on global supplies of refined rare earths.
  यह संचित विशेषज्ञता परिष्कृत दुर्लभ मृदा की वैश्विक आपूर्ति पर बीजिंग की पकड़ को बनाए रखती है।
- Several U.S. institutions have begun incorporating more of a focus on rare earths in their curriculum.
  कई अमेरिकी संस्थानों ने अपने पाठ्यक्रम में दुर्लभ मृदा तत्वों पर अधिक ध्यान देना शुरू किया है।
- Though Reuters could not identify a school outside China that offers a specific undergraduate degree.
  हालांकि रॉयटर्स चीन के बाहर ऐसा कोई संस्थान नहीं खोज सका जो इस विषय में विशेष स्नातक डिग्री प्रदान करता हो।
- U.S. institutions awarded just over **200 generalist undergraduate mining and metallurgical engineering degrees** in 2023.
  अमेरिकी संस्थानों ने 2023 में केवल **200 से कुछ अधिक सामान्य खनन और धातुकर्म इंजीनियरिंग स्नातक डिग्रियाँ** प्रदान कीं।
- The latest year with nationwide figures available, according to data compiled by the **Colorado-based Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration**.
  यह नवीनतम वर्ष है जिसके राष्ट्रीय आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं, जैसा कि **कोलोराडो स्थित सोसाइटी फॉर माइनिंग, मेटलर्जी एंड एक्सप्लोरेशन** के आंकड़ों से पता चलता है।
- "In China, I used to hire kids right out of university and they're immediately productive," said **Constantine Karayannopoulos**, former chief executive of rare earths companies **Neo Performance Materials** and **Molycorp**.
  दुर्लभ मृदा कंपनियों **नियो परफॉर्मेंस मटेरियल्स** और **मोलीकॉर्प** के पूर्व मुख्य कार्यकारी **कॉन्स्टेंटाइन करायान्नोपोलोस** ने कहा, "चीन में मैं सीधे विश्वविद्यालय से छात्रों को नियुक्त करता था और वे तुरंत उत्पादक साबित होते थे।"
- "Anywhere else I need to train them for three years."
  "दूसरी जगहों पर मुझे उन्हें तीन साल तक प्रशिक्षित करना पड़ता है।"
- China's rare earth industry benefited in the 1980s and 1990s from generous tax incentives and an abundant supply of cheap labour.
  चीन के दुर्लभ मृदा उद्योग को 1980 और 1990 के दशक में उदार कर प्रोत्साहनों और सस्ते श्रम की प्रचुर उपलब्धता से लाभ मिला।
- The government and affiliated entities continue to fund research institutes, and state lenders have offered financing on preferential terms to firms that mine critical minerals.
  सरकार और उससे जुड़े संस्थान शोध संस्थानों को वित्तपोषित करते हैं और सरकारी ऋणदाताओं ने महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों का खनन करने वाली कंपनियों को रियायती शर्तों पर वित्त उपलब्ध कराया है।
- By the 1990s, the processing industry was "wiped out" in the West, said **Ed Richardson**, chief executive of U.S. magnet producer **Thomas & Skinner**.
  अमेरिकी मैग्नेट निर्माता **थॉमस एंड स्किनर** के मुख्य कार्यकारी **एड रिचर्डसन** ने कहा कि 1990 के दशक तक पश्चिम में प्रसंस्करण उद्योग "समाप्त" हो चुका था।
- "Therefore, the schools have not been educating mining students for this task."
  "इसलिए स्कूल इस कार्य के लिए खनन छात्रों को शिक्षित नहीं कर रहे थे।"
- In contrast, researchers, universities, and industry continue to collaborate closely in China.
  इसके विपरीत, चीन में शोधकर्ता, विश्वविद्यालय और उद्योग अब भी निकट सहयोग बनाए हुए हैं।
- Scientists at the **National Engineering Research Center for Rare Earths** in **Beijing** developed a new technology.
  बीजिंग स्थित **नेशनल इंजीनियरिंग रिसर्च सेंटर फॉर रेयर अर्थ्स** के वैज्ञानिकों ने एक नई तकनीक विकसित की।
- Which state-owned **Gansu Rare Earth New Materials** adopted in 2023 at a refining facility that can churn out **50,000 metric tonnes** of highly processed rare earths annually.

जिसे सरकारी कंपनी **गांसू रेयर अर्थ न्यू मटेरियल्स** ने 2023 में ऐसी रिफाइनिंग सुविधा में अपनाया जो हर वर्ष **50,000 मीट्रिक टन** अत्यधिक प्रसंस्कृत दुर्लभ मृदा तत्वों का उत्पादन कर सकती है।

- That is five times what **Australia's Lynas Rare Earths**, the largest rare earths company outside China, produced in the 2025 fiscal year.
  यह चीन के बाहर की सबसे बड़ी रेयर अर्थ कंपनी **ऑस्ट्रेलिया की लिनास रेयर अर्थ्स** के 2025 वित्तीय वर्ष के उत्पादन से पाँच गुना अधिक है।
- China produces over **90%** of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets.
  चीन दुनिया के **90% से अधिक** प्रसंस्कृत दुर्लभ मृदा तत्वों और रेयर अर्थ मैग्नेट का उत्पादन करता है।

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TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril सिंथेटिक बायोलॉजी का जिन्न बाहर आ चुका है, और इसके साथ शक्ति तथा संकट दोनों आए हैं।
02J6	Orbital rivalry — the challenge of China's space power कक्षीय प्रतिद्वंद्विता — चीन की अंतरिक्ष शक्ति की चुनौती।
02J6	The FemTech industry's approach to PMOS फेमटेक उद्योग का PMOS के प्रति दृष्टिकोण।

The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril

The quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp kept inside. it is of no use and leashes human thought and creativity; released but unregulated, it risks creating new and unforeseen problems released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable

K. VijayRaghavan

For the first time in about four billion years of life on the earth, one species is learning not just to read the book of life but to write new versions.

Humans' quest to understand and explain the natural world has always carried a double consequence: every success also enhances our ability to change the world. By understanding how diseases act, we create drugs and vaccines that change the prevalence of infectious agents. The elimination of smallpox is one example. Understanding the basis of some hereditary disorders has meant that dietary management can help those affected to live full lives. Phenylketonuria, a condition in which the body cannot process a common amino acid, phenylalanine, is one such example.

Verbosity in genes

At the core of our efforts to understand and explain the extraordinary diversity of forms and functions of life lies one molecule: deoxyribonucleic acid, popularly known by its abbreviation, DNA. DNA resides in cells, the unit of construction of our bodies – indeed of any organism – and we humans are made up of trillions of cells.

The DNA in a cell is called its genome. The linear thread of DNA that makes up the genome has an alphabet of four molecules, denoted by the letters 'A', 'T', 'G', and 'C'. A genome can have thousands of genes, and through the specific ordering of these letters, each gene can encode a specific protein. Proteins in their various forms make up, or help manufacture, all that is needed for each cell to perform its unique function.

If we were to look simultaneously at a bacterium, a fruit fly, a mouse, and a human, and think about their varying complexity, we would be tempted to hypothesise that the human has many thousands of times more genes than the fly or the bacterium. After all, we are a far more complex organism than a tiny, unicellular bacterium.

However, the commonly studied bacterium *Escherichia coli* has about 4,300 genes. The fruit fly, about 17,000. The mouse, about 21,000. And the human, about 22,000. There is only a fivefold difference in gene number between a bacterium and a human. The mouse has more protein-coding genes than us, and a water flea, *Daphnia*, has about 31,000 genes, more than either us or the mouse.

Verbosity in genes, as in conversation, is not a measure of complexity. Just as one can convey something complex and information-dense in a short, non-redundant paragraph, it is how, when, how much, and where in the cell gene products are expressed that determines complexity. While genes encode proteins, they also have DNA sequences involved in regulating when, where, and to what extent genes are expressed. These regulatory regions are locations where other specific proteins, called transcription factors bind, to turn genes 'on' and 'off'. These regulatory proteins are themselves encoded by genes.

Three extraordinary insights

The decreasing cost and increasing speed of DNA sequencing means that we can, today, sequence the genome of any organism we choose. At the start of the Human Genome Project, sequencing a human genome took more than a decade, cost close to $3 billion, and involved thousands of scientists across about 20 countries. Today this is possible in a few hours, at a cost of a few hundred dollars, in a small laboratory. As our computational capacity also increases, so does our ability to study the genomes we have sequenced. The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers three extraordinary insights into all life on the earth.

First, genome sequences taken together give us a history of life on the planet, the relatedness of organisms, and how the tree of life branched in different ways. The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available – but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period.

Second, when we examine genomes in the context of how an organism (bacterium, plant or animal) functions in its environment, we learn how they are adapted. Genes, famously described as selfish, ensure their own propagation by using their host organism's survival as a vehicle for their transmission. By studying variations in genes, we learn how mutations are selected as organisms adapt to their environments. Human populations that today carry genes predisposing them to type II diabetes are typically descended from groups that lived in environments where food supply rose and fell cyclically over long intervals. In today's environment of abundant food, this genetic inheritance leads to disease.

Third, just as with DNA sequencing, we are rapidly accumulating detailed information on all aspects of the cellular environment across a variety of organisms – which genes are expressed, where their products are localised, what they do, and so on. When taken together, this detailed 'cell map' can give us a picture of all the complexity within a cell in each organism we study. When gathered over the entire life of a cell or organism – and we are far from this stage of data collection – the volume and complexity of data to be analysed is mind-boggling. Yet the tools for storing, analysing, and interrogating such 'big data' are also growing.

While scepticism remains, this may therefore not only be a feasible project in theory, but also one in practice. We already see early glimpses of such comprehensive pictures appearing from diverse attempts around the world. From all of this, one can expect a substantial advance in our understanding of how life in all its diversity came about, how organisms are made, and how they work. New hypotheses will be formed and tested, and new fundamental knowledge and applications will appear.

Never before seen

With this knowledge will come expanded power in synthetic biology. Our understanding of how genes, cells, and environments collaborate to make organisms has already enabled us to

With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes with the desired properties on our computers

engineer nature in many ways. But what we can currently do with genetic engineering is modest compared to the potential from new avenues now opening. Engineering cells and organisms not just at the level of one or a few genes, but on a genome-wide scale, is becoming possible. These technologies will become more accurate, less expensive, and more accessible.

With access to computing power and memory that AI provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes, with the desired properties on our computers.

Today, the predictability of what happens when such designs are implemented still remains low: cells and organisms are notorious for resisting simplistic *in silico* predictions. But this too will change, through a combination of analytical and experimental work. Designer cells that make chemicals, drugs, materials, and fuels are already with us but they will become ubiquitous and far broader in their uses than what we see today.

It is not only cells for biotechnological applications that will be created, often making products never before seen in nature. Creating complex new forms of multicellular organisms, plants or animals, is also a real possibility. Replacing the genome of a cell with one designed and manufactured by humans is now feasible for small genomes and will soon be possible for larger ones.

In 2010, American scientist J. Craig Venter (1946-2026) and his team chemically synthesised a complete bacterial genome and introduced it into a bacterial cell whose native DNA had been removed. This was, at a first approximation, digitally created life. They watermarked their creation by encoding three quotations into non-coding regions of the synthetic DNA – a biological 'cipher' in which letters were mapped to codons: James Joyce, from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*: "To live, to err, to fall, to triumph, to recreate life out of life"; Richard Feynman: "What I cannot build, I do not understand"; and J. Robert Oppenheimer: "See things not as they are, but as they might be."

While we are currently limited by the speed and cost of genome-wide synthesis, this will change. It will then be possible to create large genomes, introduce them into defined cellular environments we construct, or into bacterial cells whose own genomes have been removed.

With great power

Complementing this top-down approach, which draws on billions of years of genomic history to create new forms of life, there is a bottom-up alternative. Pioneered by Jack Szostak and others, this approach aims to synthesise a primordial cell from scratch, modelling what the earliest living systems may have looked like before the first genome was ever written. Mr. Szostak's laboratory at the University of Chicago builds protocells – fatty-acid vesicles that can spontaneously form closed membranes, encapsulate RNA, and, in the right conditions, copy that RNA and divide. The aim is to solve the great mystery of how life first originated from non-living chemistry. In working towards this, we too will develop the power to create new and complex self-replicating biological systems.

All of this raises the 'genie conundrum' that humanity has grappled with across the centuries. Our quest to understand the universe releases the genie from the lamp. Kept inside, the genie is of no use and, more relevant, we leash human thought and creativity. Released but unregulated, we risk creating new and unforeseen problems. Released and used wisely, the applications are many and valuable.

These are challenges that regulators face not only in biology but in other domains too: how does one regulate chemistry or nuclear power, for example? But the engineering of life has a feature that the engineering of a spaceship or a nuclear plant does not: the ability to convert information into a self-replicating product. Here, we must 'see things not as they are, but as they might be'. Both for what must be done, and for what we must refrain from doing.

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Life chemistry: The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available — but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists. No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period. KETHA FERGUSON/PIXELS

Building blocks: The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers extraordinary insights into all life on the earth. REUTERS

02J6. The genie of synthetic biology is out, and with it comes power and peril
सिंथेटिक बायोलॉजी का जिन्न बाहर आ चुका है, और इसके साथ शक्ति तथा संकट दोनों आए हैं।

- For the **first** time in about four billion years of life on the earth, one species is learning not just to read the book of life but to write new versions.

पृथ्वी पर लगभग चार अरब वर्षों के जीवन इतिहास में पहली बार, एक प्रजाति केवल जीवन की पुस्तक को पढ़ना ही नहीं बल्कि उसके नए संस्करण लिखना भी सीख रही है।

- The elimination of **smallpox** is one example.

चेचक का उन्मूलन इसका एक उदाहरण है।

- **Phenylketonuria**, a condition in which the body cannot process a common amino acid, phenylalanine, is one such example.

फेनिलकीटोनूरिया, एक ऐसी स्थिति जिसमें शरीर सामान्य अमीनो अम्ल फेनिलएलनिन को संसाधित नहीं कर पाता, इसका एक उदाहरण है।

Verbosity in genes
जीनों में शब्दबहुलता

- At the core of our efforts to understand and explain the extraordinary diversity of forms and functions of life lies one molecule: **deoxyribonucleic acid**, popularly known by its abbreviation, **DNA**.

जीवन के रूपों और कार्यों की असाधारण विविधता को समझने और

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उसकी व्याख्या करने के हमारे प्रयासों के केंद्र में एक अणु स्थित है: **डीऑक्सीराइबोन्यूक्लिक अम्ल**, जिसे सामान्यतः उसके संक्षिप्त नाम **डीएनए** से जाना जाता है।

- DNA resides in cells, the unit of construction of our bodies — indeed of any organism — and we humans are made up of trillions of cells.
  डीएनए कोशिकाओं में स्थित होता है, जो हमारे शरीर — और वास्तव में किसी भी जीव — की निर्माण इकाई हैं, तथा हम मनुष्य खरबों कोशिकाओं से बने हैं।
- The DNA in a cell is called its **genome**.
  किसी कोशिका में उपस्थित डीएनए को उसका **जीनोम** कहा जाता है।
- The linear thread of DNA that makes up the genome has an alphabet of four molecules, denoted by the letters 'A', 'T', 'G', and 'C'.
  जीनोम का निर्माण करने वाले डीएनए के रैखिक सूत्र में चार अणुओं की वर्णमाला होती है, जिन्हें 'A', 'T', 'G' और 'C' अक्षरों द्वारा दर्शाया जाता है।
- A genome can have thousands of genes, and through the specific ordering of these letters, each gene can encode a specific protein.
  एक जीनोम में हजारों जीन हो सकते हैं, और इन अक्षरों के विशिष्ट क्रम के माध्यम से प्रत्येक जीन एक विशिष्ट प्रोटीन को कूटबद्ध कर सकता है।
- Proteins in their various forms make up, or help manufacture, all that is needed for each cell to perform its unique function.
  प्रोटीन अपने विभिन्न रूपों में उन सभी आवश्यक तत्वों का निर्माण करते हैं अथवा उनके निर्माण में सहायता करते हैं, जिनकी प्रत्येक कोशिका को अपना विशिष्ट कार्य करने के लिए आवश्यकता होती है।
- However, the commonly studied bacterium **Escherichia coli** has about 4,300 genes.
  हालाँकि, सामान्यतः अध्ययन किए जाने वाले जीवाणु **एशेरिशिया कोलाई** में लगभग 4,300 जीन होते हैं।
- The fruit fly, about 17,000.
  फल मक्खी में लगभग 17,000 जीन होते हैं।
- The mouse, about 21,000.
  चूहे में लगभग 21,000 जीन होते हैं।
- And the human, about 22,000.
  और मनुष्य में लगभग 22,000 जीन होते हैं।
- There is only a fivefold difference in gene number between a bacterium and a human.
  एक जीवाणु और मनुष्य के बीच जीनों की संख्या में केवल पाँच गुना का अंतर है।
- The mouse has more protein-coding genes than us, and a water flea, **Daphnia**, has about 31,000 genes, more than either us or the mouse.
  चूहे में हमसे अधिक प्रोटीन-कूटबद्ध करने वाले जीन होते हैं, और एक जल पिस्सू, **डैफ्निया**, में लगभग 31,000 जीन होते हैं, जो हम और चूहे दोनों से अधिक हैं।
- While genes encode proteins, they also have DNA sequences involved in regulating when, where, and to what extent genes are expressed.
  यद्यपि जीन प्रोटीन को कूटबद्ध करते हैं, उनमें ऐसे डीएनए अनुक्रम भी होते हैं जो यह नियंत्रित करते हैं कि जीन कब, कहाँ और किस सीमा तक अभिव्यक्त होंगे।
- These regulatory regions are locations where other specific proteins, called **transcription factors** bind, to turn genes 'on' and 'off'.
  ये नियामक क्षेत्र वे स्थान होते हैं जहाँ अन्य विशिष्ट प्रोटीन, जिन्हें **ट्रांसक्रिप्शन फैक्टर्स** कहा जाता है, जीनों को 'चालू' और 'बंद' करने के लिए जुड़ते हैं।
- These regulatory proteins are themselves encoded by genes.
  ये नियामक प्रोटीन स्वयं भी जीनों द्वारा कूटबद्ध किए जाते हैं।

Three extraordinary insights
तीन असाधारण अंतर्दृष्टियाँ

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- The decreasing cost and increasing speed of **DNA sequencing** means that we can, today, sequence the genome of any organism we choose.
  डीएनए अनुक्रमण की घटती लागत और बढ़ती गति का अर्थ है कि आज हम किसी भी चुने गए जीव के जीनोम का अनुक्रमण कर सकते हैं।
- At the start of the **Human Genome Project**, sequencing a human genome took more than a decade, cost close to $3 billion, and involved thousands of scientists across about 20 countries.
  ह्यूमन जीनोम प्रोजेक्ट की शुरुआत में मानव जीनोम का अनुक्रमण करने में एक दशक से अधिक समय लगा, लगभग 3 अरब डॉलर की लागत आई, और इसमें लगभग 20 देशों के हजारों वैज्ञानिक शामिल थे।
- As our computational capacity also increases, so does our ability to study the genomes we have sequenced.
  जैसे-जैसे हमारी संगणनात्मक क्षमता बढ़ रही है, वैसे-वैसे अनुक्रमित जीनोमों का अध्ययन करने की हमारी क्षमता भी बढ़ रही है।
- The growing bank of genome sequences across organisms offers three extraordinary insights into all life on the earth.
  विभिन्न जीवों के जीनोम अनुक्रमों का बढ़ता भंडार पृथ्वी पर समस्त जीवन के संबंध में तीन असाधारण अंतर्दृष्टियाँ प्रदान करता है।
- First, genome sequences taken together give us a history of life on the planet, the relatedness of organisms, and how the tree of life branched in different ways.
  प्रथम, जीनोम अनुक्रम सामूहिक रूप से हमें पृथ्वी पर जीवन का इतिहास, जीवों की पारस्परिक संबंधता, तथा जीवन-वृक्ष किस प्रकार विभिन्न दिशाओं में विभाजित हुआ, इसकी जानकारी देते हैं।
- The exquisite detail that genomes provide complements the fossil record where it is available — but it also tells us the history of life where no fossil record exists.
  जीनोम द्वारा प्रदान किया गया सूक्ष्म विवरण वहाँ जीवाश्म अभिलेखों का पूरक बनता है जहाँ वे उपलब्ध हैं — किंतु यह हमें वहाँ के जीवन का इतिहास भी बताता है जहाँ कोई जीवाश्म अभिलेख मौजूद नहीं है।
- No social history of humans can provide this degree of precision and accuracy over such an extended period.
  मानवों का कोई सामाजिक इतिहास इतने विस्तृत कालखंड के लिए इस स्तर की परिशुद्धता और सटीकता प्रदान नहीं कर सकता।
- Second, when we examine genomes in the context of how an organism (bacterium, plant or animal) functions in its environment, we learn how they are adapted.
  द्वितीय, जब हम जीनोम का अध्ययन इस संदर्भ में करते हैं कि कोई जीव (जीवाणु, पौधा अथवा प्राणी) अपने पर्यावरण में किस प्रकार कार्य करता है, तब हम यह समझते हैं कि वे किस प्रकार अनुकूलित हुए हैं।
- Genes, famously described as selfish, ensure their own propagation by using their host organism's survival as a vehicle for their transmission.
  जीन, जिन्हें प्रसिद्ध रूप से स्वार्थी कहा गया है, अपने वाहक जीव के अस्तित्व को अपने संचरण के माध्यम के रूप में उपयोग करके अपने स्वयं के प्रसार को सुनिश्चित करते हैं।
- By studying variations in genes, we learn how mutations are selected as organisms adapt to their environments.
  जीनों में विविधताओं का अध्ययन करके हम यह समझते हैं कि जीव अपने पर्यावरण के अनुरूप ढलते समय उत्परिवर्तन किस प्रकार चयनित होते हैं।
- Human populations that today carry genes predisposing them to **type II diabetes** are typically descended from groups that lived in environments where food supply rose and fell cyclically over long intervals.
  वे मानव जनसंख्या समूह जो आज **टाइप-II मधुमेह** की प्रवृत्ति वाले जीन धारण करते हैं, सामान्यतः उन समूहों के वंशज हैं जो ऐसे वातावरण में रहते थे जहाँ लंबे अंतरालों में खाद्य आपूर्ति चक्रीय रूप से घटती-बढ़ती रहती थी।

PATRIOTIC IAS

- In today's environment of abundant food, this genetic inheritance leads to disease.
  आज के प्रचुर खाद्य उपलब्धता वाले वातावरण में यही आनुवंशिक विरासत रोग का कारण बनती है।
- Third, just as with DNA sequencing, we are rapidly accumulating detailed information on all aspects of the cellular environment across a variety of organisms — which genes are expressed, where their products are localised, what they do, and so on.
  तृतीय, ठीक डीएनए अनुक्रमण की तरह, हम विभिन्न जीवों में कोशिकीय वातावरण के सभी पहलुओं से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी तीव्र गति से एकत्र कर रहे हैं — कौन-से जीन अभिव्यक्त होते हैं, उनके उत्पाद कहाँ स्थित होते हैं, वे क्या कार्य करते हैं, आदि।
- When taken together, this detailed 'cell map' can give us a picture of all the complexity within a cell in each organism we study.
  सामूहिक रूप से देखा जाए तो यह विस्तृत 'कोशिका मानचित्र' हमें प्रत्येक अध्ययन किए गए जीव की कोशिका के भीतर विद्यमान समस्त जटिलताओं का चित्र प्रदान कर सकता है।
- From all of this, one can expect a substantial advance in our understanding of how life in all its diversity came about, how organisms are made, and how they work.
  इन सभी प्रयासों से यह अपेक्षा की जा सकती है कि जीवन अपनी समस्त विविधताओं सहित कैसे उत्पन्न हुआ, जीवों का निर्माण कैसे हुआ, और वे किस प्रकार कार्य करते हैं — इस संबंध में हमारी समझ में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति होगी।

- With this knowledge will come expanded power in **synthetic biology**.
  इस ज्ञान के साथ **सिंथेटिक बायोलॉजी** में विस्तारित शक्ति भी आएगी।
- Our understanding of how genes, cells, and environments collaborate to make organisms has already enabled us to engineer nature in many ways.
  जीन, कोशिकाएँ और पर्यावरण किस प्रकार मिलकर जीवों का निर्माण करते हैं, इसकी हमारी समझ ने हमें पहले ही अनेक प्रकार से प्रकृति का अभियांत्रिकीकरण करने में सक्षम बना दिया है।
- Engineering cells and organisms not just at the level of one or a few genes, but on a genome-wide scale, is becoming possible.
  केवल एक या कुछ जीनों के स्तर पर ही नहीं, बल्कि संपूर्ण जीनोम स्तर पर कोशिकाओं और जीवों का अभियांत्रिकीकरण अब संभव होता जा रहा है।
- These technologies will become more accurate, less expensive, and more accessible.
  ये प्रौद्योगिकियाँ अधिक सटीक, कम महंगी और अधिक सुलभ बनेंगी।
- With access to computing power and memory that **AI** provides, it is possible to analyse cellular and environmental information and design sections of genomes or entire genomes, with the desired properties on our computers.
  एआई द्वारा उपलब्ध कराई गई संगणनात्मक शक्ति और स्मृति तक पहुँच के माध्यम से कोशिकीय एवं पर्यावरणीय जानकारी का विश्लेषण करना तथा इच्छित गुणों वाले जीनोम के भागों अथवा संपूर्ण जीनोम का कंप्यूटर पर डिज़ाइन तैयार करना संभव है।
- Designer cells that make chemicals, drugs, materials, and fuels are already with us but they will become ubiquitous and far broader in their uses than what we see today.
  रसायन, औषधियाँ, पदार्थ और ईंधन बनाने वाली डिज़ाइनर कोशिकाएँ पहले से ही हमारे बीच मौजूद हैं, किन्तु भविष्य में वे सर्वव्यापी होंगी और उनके उपयोग आज की तुलना में कहीं अधिक व्यापक होंगे।
- Creating complex new forms of multicellular organisms, plants or animals, is also a real possibility.
  बहुकोशिकीय जीवों, पौधों अथवा प्राणियों के जटिल नए रूपों का निर्माण भी एक वास्तविक संभावना है।
- Replacing the genome of a cell with one designed and manufactured by humans is now feasible for small genomes and will soon be possible for larger ones.
  किसी कोशिका के जीनोम को मनुष्यों द्वारा डिज़ाइन और निर्मित जीनोम से प्रतिस्थापित करना अब छोटे जीनोमों के लिए संभव है और शीघ्र ही बड़े जीनोमों के लिए भी संभव होगा।
- In 2010, American scientist **J. Craig Venter** (1946-2026) and his team chemically synthesised a complete bacterial genome and introduced it into a bacterial cell whose native

DNA had been removed.

वर्ष 2010 में अमेरिकी वैज्ञानिक **जे. क्रेग वेंटर** (1946-2026) और उनकी टीम ने रासायनिक रूप से एक पूर्ण जीवाणु जीनोम का संश्लेषण किया और उसे एक ऐसी जीवाणु कोशिका में प्रविष्ट कराया जिसका मूल डीएनए हटा दिया गया था।

Orbital rivalry — the challenge of China's space power

GS III: S&T

GS III: Internal Security

China's expanding counter-space capabilities are a cause for concern. While no conflict has ever been fought in space, the incentive to influence activities on earth by controlling outer space remains a potential trigger for future confrontation. Beijing's development of anti-satellite missiles and co-orbital systems blurs the line between routine space operations and counter-space activities.

The key question is how Beijing views its space ambitions and control of outer space, and what India can do to safeguard its vital interests in this domain.

Beijing's space ambitions

While the Chinese space programme emphasises the peaceful use of space, evidence suggests that China is preparing for an orbital war.

In January 2007, it targeted its own satellite from earth. In October 2015, China tested an exo-atmospheric vehicle designed to strike a hostile satellite. In 2022, China used a robotic spacecraft to push a defunct satellite into the graveyard orbit. In 2024, it demonstrated an orbital dog-fight. There is a clear research and developmental push for fielding offensive capabilities in space.

China's space ambitions operate at two levels. First, it seeks to remain competitive in the emerging space race, both technologically and numerically. China has around 1,900 satellites in orbit, compared to more than 8,000 American satellites, including the SpaceX satellites.

Second, it recognises the military and economic implications of the weaponisation of space. A single strike could disrupt communications, power grids, navigation systems, financial markets, and military command-and-control (C2) and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) networks.

Accordingly, China aims to land on the moon by 2036, launch a nuclear-powered shuttle by 2040, and establish a solar power system by 2050. Chinese start-ups such as LandSpace, iSpace and OneSpace are challenging rivals such as SpaceX and Blue Origin. China is also exploring lunar and asteroid mining for energy and critical minerals. The growing demand for energy-efficient data centres is likely to further intensify the space race.

Harinder Singh
Former corps commander

China's counter-space rise demands stronger resilience and deterrence from India

China is seeking to assert control over outer space in two distinct ways. First, by leveraging space-based assets to safeguard its military and economic systems. Second, by competing with its rivals – both numerically and technologically – to maintain space superiority. Its most immediate competition is with Starlink in low-earth orbit (LEO). China plans to deploy more than 36,000 LEO satellites by 2030. This rivalry could intensify if China were to become the first to establish a presence on the far side of the moon or demonstrate a particular interest in exploiting asteroid resources. Such developments could create an escalatory dynamic in an environment that lacks a comprehensive regulatory framework.

Consequently, China's capabilities are evolving in three key areas. First, kinetic attack systems such as the DN-3 and SC-19 missiles, which can physically destroy satellites. Second, laser-based systems that can dazzle or blind satellites, disrupting navigation and communications. Third, co-orbital satellites, such as the SJ and TJS series, designed to interfere with or dislodge other satellites from orbit. Together, these capabilities could enable the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to cripple Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), GPS and communication networks, shaping the battlespace during the first 24 to 48 hours of a conflict.

Implications for India

If a contingency arises in Taiwan, the PLA is likely to first blind ISR and communication networks before resorting to hard-kill attacks. This would give Beijing time to shape the narrative, whereas a hard kill could trigger immediate escalation.

The U.S. would then have to assess China's military objectives, and, if an invasion proceeds, neutralise its counter-space capabilities. While both sides may lose assets, the U.S. would likely retain an advantage due to its greater redundancy and resilience. The Taiwan scenario applies to India albeit on a lesser scale. India has around 60 operational satellites as against 400-plus Chinese military satellites alone, which implies lesser redundancy. Losing five to six satellites will hurt India more.

Hypothetically, China could strike at the CARTOSAT/RISAT series, which could lead to loss of tactical-level imagery for hours, if not days. Instead, if it only choose to lase as these satellites as they pass over the Line of Actual Control, it could lead to temporary blind spots. They could even deploy jammers to disable India's NavIC system.

The key strategic takeaway is that while China can conduct peacetime harassment using lasers and jammers, or temporarily blind a few satellites during a border crisis, it cannot inflict crippling damage without destroying a large number of Indian satellites and risking severe Kessler Syndrome consequences. While Mission Shakti has strengthened India's deterrence posture, its utility remains restricted. Moreover, a single successful test does not guarantee operational reliability, and India still lacks co-orbital capabilities to counter satellites such as the SJ and TJS series.

Safeguarding India's interests

A few measures are pertinent. First, India must expand its space industry beyond the Indian Space Research Organisation to increase satellite production and launch capacity. Greater capacity translates into greater redundancy. Second, it should disaggregate large satellite programmes, such as GSAT, into smaller constellations, which are more resilient and survivable. Third, India must strengthen the protection of its ground space assets to mitigate the impact of hard-kill attacks. Fourth, it should enhance data-sharing arrangements with strategic partners so that, in the event of satellite losses, critical services can be restored through commercial or partner networks within hours.

Besides, India should also clearly define its red lines and the scope of a proportionate response to ensure that China fully understands the potential escalation ladder.

02J6. rbital rivalry — the challenge of China's space power
कक्षीय प्रतिद्वंद्विता — चीन की अंतरिक्ष शक्ति की चुनौती।

- **Beijing's** development of anti-satellite missiles and co-orbital systems blurs the line between routine space operations and counter-space activities.
  बीजिंग द्वारा विकसित उपग्रह-रोधी मिसाइलें और सह-कक्षीय प्रणालियाँ सामान्य अंतरिक्ष अभियानों और प्रतिअंतरिक्ष गतिविधियों के बीच की रेखा को धुंधला कर देती हैं।
- In January 2007, it targeted its own satellite from earth.
  जनवरी 2007 में उसने पृथ्वी से अपने ही उपग्रह को निशाना बनाया।
- In October 2015, **China** tested an exo-atmospheric vehicle designed to strike a hostile satellite.
  अक्टूबर 2015 में **चीन** ने एक बाह्य-वायुमंडलीय वाहन का परीक्षण किया, जिसे शत्रु उपग्रह पर प्रहार करने हेतु डिज़ाइन किया गया था।
- In 2022, China used a robotic spacecraft to push a defunct satellite into the graveyard orbit.
  वर्ष 2022 में चीन ने एक रोबोटिक अंतरिक्ष यान का उपयोग कर निष्क्रिय उपग्रह को ग्रेवयार्ड कक्षा में धकेल दिया।

- China has around 1,900 satellites in orbit, compared to more than 8,000 American satellites, including the **SpaceX** satellites.
  चीन के लगभग 1,900 उपग्रह कक्षा में हैं, जबकि अमेरिका के पास **SpaceX** उपग्रहों सहित 8,000 से अधिक उपग्रह हैं।
- A single strike could disrupt communications, power grids, navigation systems, • nancial markets, and military command-and-control (C2) and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) networks.
  एकमात्र हमला संचार, विद्युत ग्रिड, नेविगेशन प्रणालियों, वित्तीय बाजारों तथा सैन्य कमांड एंड कंट्रोल (C2) और इंटेलिजेंस, सर्विलांस एंड रिकॉनिसेंस (ISR) नेटवर्क को बाधित कर सकता है।
- Accordingly, China aims to land on the moon by 2036, launch a nuclear-powered shuttle by 2040, and establish a solar power system by 2050.
  इसी के अनुरूप, चीन का लक्ष्य 2036 तक चंद्रमा पर उतरना, 2040 तक परमाणु-संचालित शटल प्रक्षेपित करना और 2050 तक सौर ऊर्जा प्रणाली स्थापित करना है।
- Chinese start-ups such as **LandSpace, iSpace and OneSpace** are challenging rivals such as **SpaceX** and **Blue Origin**.
  लैंडस्पेस, आईस्पेस और वनस्पेस जैसे चीनी स्टार्ट-अप्स **स्पेसएक्स** और **ब्लू ओरिजिन** जैसी प्रतिस्पर्धी कंपनियों को चुनौती दे रहे हैं।
- China is also exploring lunar and asteroid mining for energy and critical minerals.
  चीन ऊर्जा और महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के लिए चंद्रमा तथा क्षुद्रग्रहों के खनन की संभावनाओं का भी अन्वेषण कर रहा है।
- Its most immediate competition is with **Starlink** in low-earth orbit (LEO).
  निम्न-पृथ्वी कक्षा (LEO) में उसका सबसे तात्कालिक प्रतिस्पर्धी **स्टारलिंक** है।
- China plans to deploy more than 36,000 LEO satellites by 2030.
  चीन की योजना 2030 तक 36,000 से अधिक LEO उपग्रह तैनात करने की है।
- First, kinetic attack systems such as the **DN-3** and **SC-19** missiles, which can physically destroy satellites.
  पहला, **DN-3** और **SC-19** जैसी गतिज आक्रमण प्रणालियाँ, जो उपग्रहों को भौतिक रूप से नष्ट कर सकती हैं।
- Second, laser-based systems that can dazzle or blind satellites, disrupting navigation and communications.
  दूसरा, लेज़र-आधारित प्रणालियाँ, जो उपग्रहों को चकाचौंध या अंधा कर सकती हैं तथा नेविगेशन और संचार को बाधित कर सकती हैं।
- Third, co-orbital satellites, such as the **SJ** and **TJS** series, designed to interfere with or dislodge other satellites from orbit.
  तीसरा, **SJ** और **TJS** श्रृंखला जैसे सह-कक्षीय उपग्रह, जिन्हें अन्य उपग्रहों में हस्तक्षेप करने अथवा उन्हें कक्षा से हटाने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है।
- India has around 60 operational satellites as against 400-plus Chinese military satellites alone, which implies lesser redundancy.
  भारत के पास लगभग 60 परिचालन उपग्रह हैं, जबकि केवल चीन के सैन्य उपग्रहों की संख्या ही 400 से अधिक है, जो भारत की कम वैकल्पिक क्षमता को दर्शाता है।
- Losing • ve to six satellites will hurt India more.
  पाँच से छह उपग्रहों की क्षति भारत को अधिक प्रभावित करेगी।
- Hypothetically, China could strike at the **CARTOSAT/RISAT** series, which could lead to loss of tactical-level imagery for hours, if not days.
  काल्पनिक रूप से, चीन **CARTOSAT/RISAT** श्रृंखला को निशाना बना सकता है, जिससे कई घंटों, यदि दिनों तक नहीं, सामरिक स्तर की चित्रात्मक जानकारी का नुकसान हो सकता है।
- They could even deploy jammers to disable India's **NavIC** system.
  वे भारत की **NavIC** प्रणाली को निष्क्रिय करने के लिए जैमर भी तैनात कर सकते हैं।
- The key strategic takeaway is that while China can conduct peacetime harassment using lasers and jammers, or temporarily blind a few satellites during a border crisis, it cannot inflict

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crippling damage without destroying a large number of Indian satellites and risking severe **Kessler Syndrome** consequences.
मुख्य रणनीतिक निष्कर्ष यह है कि यद्यपि चीन शांति काल में लेज़र और जैमर का उपयोग कर उत्पीड़न कर सकता है अथवा सीमा संकट के दौरान कुछ उपग्रहों को अस्थायी रूप से अंधा कर सकता है, किन्तु वह बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय उपग्रहों को नष्ट किए बिना और गंभीर **केसलर सिंड्रोम** के जोखिम उठाए बिना विनाशकारी क्षति नहीं पहुँचा सकता।

- While **Mission Shakti** has strengthened India's deterrence posture, its utility remains restricted.
  यद्यपि **मिशन शक्ति** ने भारत की प्रतिरोधक क्षमता को सुदृढ़ किया है, फिर भी इसकी उपयोगिता सीमित बनी हुई है।
- Moreover, a single successful test does not guarantee operational reliability, and India still lacks co-orbital capabilities to counter satellites such as the **SJ** and **TJS** series.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, एक सफल परीक्षण परिचालन विश्वसनीयता की गारंटी नहीं देता, और भारत के पास अभी भी **SJ** और **TJS** श्रृंखला जैसे उपग्रहों का मुकाबला करने हेतु सह-कक्षीय क्षमताओं का अभाव है।

Safeguarding India's interests
भारत के हितों की सुरक्षा

- Second, it should disaggregate large satellite programmes, such as **GSAT**, into smaller constellations, which are more resilient and survivable.
  दूसरा, भारत को **GSAT** जैसे बड़े उपग्रह कार्यक्रमों को छोटे उपग्रह समूहों में विभाजित करना चाहिए, जो अधिक लचीले और सुरक्षित होते हैं।
- Third, India must strengthen the protection of its ground space assets to mitigate the impact of hard-kill attacks.
  तीसरा, भारत को कठोर विनाशकारी हमलों के प्रभाव को कम करने हेतु अपने भू-आधारित अंतरिक्ष संसाधनों की सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करना होगा।
- Fourth, it should enhance data-sharing arrangements with strategic partners so that, in the event of satellite losses, critical services can be restored through commercial or partner networks within hours.
  चौथा, भारत को अपने रणनीतिक साझेदारों के साथ डेटा-साझाकरण व्यवस्थाओं को मजबूत करना चाहिए ताकि उपग्रह क्षति की स्थिति में कुछ ही घंटों के भीतर व्यावसायिक अथवा साझेदार नेटवर्कों के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण सेवाओं को पुनर्स्थापित किया जा सके।

PATRIOTIC IAS

The FemTech industry's approach to PMOS

GS III: S&T

The global decision to rename Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) as Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS) is a culmination of a decade-long collaboration between doctors, researchers, and patient groups. Led by Professor Helena Teede, Director of the Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation in Melbourne, the rationale for the change was published in *The Lancet* last month. At the heart of the renaming was a growing recognition that the term PCOS could not capture the condition's complexity, and reduced it to a reproductive disorder centred on the ovaries. It is a long overdue acknowledgement of the condition's multisystem nature as PMOS manifests through a wide range of endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, psychological, and dermatological symptoms.

India's FemTech response

Yet, even as the formal medical renaming to PMOS is enforced, India's FemTech (female technology) industry had already begun treating PCOS as a multisystem condition. A paper published in 2024 by the authors of this article titled, "Platforming PCOS Treatment Online: FemTech Logics of Care," showed how FemTech platforms curated integrated care packages that brought together general practitioners, diabetologists, endocrinologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, nutritionists, fitness trainers, and psychologists to treat PCOS.

Backed by venture capital funding, FemTech platforms conducted extensive market research to identify the gaps in conventional healthcare systems that stymied the long-term management of PCOS. Several platform founders were themselves women who had struggled to navigate gynaecological care that centred fertility and weight loss as the individual responsibility of patients. Their experiences shaped the emergence of platforms that framed PCOS as requiring coordinated and long-term care. Platforms also sought to improve doctor-patient interactions by training gynaecologists to avoid prejudiced language around marital status, fertility, and body weight. Since many aspects of PMOS management could be coordinated remotely, digital consultations also offered women greater privacy and flexibility in a culture that stigmatises unmarried women visiting gynaecologists unchaperoned.

PMOS often first appears through irregular menstrual cycles. The underlying hormonal and metabolic imbalances can remain poorly understood for years delaying treatment. In both families and clinical settings, it is viewed primarily through the lens of fertility and weight loss, generating shame and anxiety around marriage prospects and hostility within marriages itself.

FemTech platforms positioned themselves as offering an integrated and non-judgemental approach to PCOS care. They foregrounded its multifaceted nature, and as of 2025, India's FemTech market was estimated to be worth $1.48 billion.

Limits of privatised care

However, reliance on FemTech platforms creates new vulnerabilities for long-term healthcare delivery. First, access to these platforms depends on the ability to afford uninterrupted internet connectivity and recurring subscription costs. As a result, these services cater disproportionately to urban, digitally savvy women. For most people, gynaecologists in conventional healthcare systems are usually the first point of contact when they start showing PMOS symptoms. Strengthening these systems is therefore essential to public health.

Second, as start-ups, FemTech platforms are vulnerable to market volatility. They are dependent on investor confidence. None of the platform founders who were interviewed had secured funding beyond the preliminary 'Series A round' and one of the platforms had to cease operations stranding patients. In the absence of regulatory safeguards, these issues weaken FemTech platforms' claim of being robust alternatives to conventional healthcare systems.

Third, while platforms attempt to improve gynaecologist-patient interactions, scaling such interventions is challenging without broader reforms in medical education and clinical training. The shortage of gynaecologists in India, particularly in rural regions, further intensifies this challenge.

The larger healthcare crisis

Therefore, while FemTech platforms address a real and underserved need, they equally reflect deeper infrastructural failures. The long-term solution to conditions such as PMOS requires investment in public healthcare infrastructure and medical education that move beyond a narrow, fertility-first framework. Doctor-patient interactions must become more inclusive and respectful to women. At the same time, it is important to recognise the strain under which gynaecologists work, particularly in public hospitals. Overcrowded conditions, high patient volumes, and inadequate infrastructure leave little room for privacy and counselling. While FemTech platforms may ease some pressures by coordinating care digitally, they cannot substitute public healthcare.

Moreover, discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins. If the shift from PCOS to PMOS is to be meaningful, it should encourage a deeper reconsideration of how chronic women's health conditions are understood, prevented, and cared for in India.

Taru Jain

Senior design researcher at CoRE Stack — a digital public good for climate change resilience in rural India

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Discussions around PMOS rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins

02J6. The FemTech industry's approach to PMOS
फेमटेक उद्योग का PMOS के प्रति दृष्टिकोण।

- **The global decision** to rename **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)** as **Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)** is a culmination of a decade-long collaboration between doctors, researchers, and patient groups.
  पॉलीसिस्टिक ओवरी सिंड्रोम (PCOS) का नाम बदलकर **पॉलीएंडोक्राइन मेटाबोलिक ओवेरियन सिंड्रोम (PMOS)** करने का वैश्विक निर्णय चिकित्सकों, शोधकर्ताओं और रोगी समूहों के बीच एक दशक लंबे सहयोग का परिणाम है।
- Led by Professor **Helena Teede**, Director of the **Monash Centre for Health Research and Implementation** in Melbourne, the rationale for the change was published in **The Lancet** last month.
  मेलबर्न स्थित **मोनाश सेंटर फॉर हेल्थ रिसर्च एंड इम्प्लीमेंटेशन** की निदेशक प्रोफेसर **हेलेना टीडे** के नेतृत्व में इस परिवर्तन के औचित्य को पिछले महीने **द लैंसेट** में प्रकाशित किया गया।
- At the heart of the renaming was a growing recognition that the term **PCOS** could not capture the condition's complexity, and reduced it to a reproductive disorder centred on the ovaries.
  इस नाम परिवर्तन के मूल में यह बढ़ती समझ थी कि **PCOS** शब्द इस स्थिति की जटिलता को व्यक्त नहीं कर पाता और इसे केवल अंडाशयों से संबंधित प्रजनन विकार तक सीमित कर देता है।
- It is a long overdue acknowledgement of the condition's multisystem nature as **PMOS** manifests through a wide range of endocrine, metabolic, reproductive, psychological, and dermatological symptoms.
  यह इस स्थिति की बहु-प्रणालीगत प्रकृति की लंबे समय से अपेक्षित स्वीकृति है, क्योंकि **PMOS** अंतःस्रावी, चयापचयी, प्रजनन, मनोवैज्ञानिक और त्वचा संबंधी अनेक लक्षणों के रूप में प्रकट होता है।

India's FemTech response
भारत की फेमटेक प्रतिक्रिया

- Yet, even as the formal medical renaming to **PMOS** is enforced, India's **FemTech** (female technology) industry had already begun treating **PCOS** as a multisystem condition.
  यद्यपि औपचारिक चिकित्सा नाम परिवर्तन के तहत **PMOS** को लागू किया जा रहा है, भारत का **फेमटेक** (महिला प्रौद्योगिकी) उद्योग पहले ही **PCOS** को एक बहु-प्रणालीगत स्थिति के रूप में देखना प्रारंभ कर चुका था।
- A paper published in 2024 by the authors of this article titled, "**Platforming PCOS Treatment Online: FemTech Logics of Care**," showed how **FemTech** platforms curated integrated care packages that brought together general practitioners, diabetologists, endocrinologists, gynaecologists, dermatologists, nutritionists, fitness trainers, and psychologists to treat **PCOS**.
  इस लेख के लेखकों द्वारा 2024 में प्रकाशित शोधपत्र "**Platforming PCOS Treatment Online: FemTech Logics of Care**" ने यह दर्शाया कि किस प्रकार **फेमटेक** प्लेटफ़ॉर्म सामान्य चिकित्सकों, मधुमेह विशेषज्ञों, अंतःस्राव विशेषज्ञों, स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञों, त्वचा विशेषज्ञों, पोषण विशेषज्ञों, फिटनेस प्रशिक्षकों और मनोवैज्ञानिकों को एक साथ जोड़कर **PCOS** के उपचार हेतु समेकित देखभाल पैकेज तैयार कर रहे थे।
- Several platform founders were themselves women who had struggled to navigate gynaecological care that centred fertility and weight loss as the individual responsibility of patients.
  कई प्लेटफ़ॉर्म संस्थापक स्वयं ऐसी महिलाएँ थीं जिन्होंने ऐसे स्त्रीरोग उपचार तंत्र का सामना किया था, जो प्रजनन क्षमता और वजन घटाने को रोगियों की व्यक्तिगत जिम्मेदारी के रूप में देखता था।
- Platforms also sought to improve doctor-patient interactions by training gynaecologists to avoid prejudiced language around marital status, fertility, and body weight.
  इन प्लेटफ़ॉर्मों ने स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञों को वैवाहिक स्थिति, प्रजनन क्षमता और शारीरिक वजन के संबंध में पूर्वाग्रहपूर्ण भाषा से बचने का प्रशिक्षण देकर डॉक्टर-रोगी संबंधों को बेहतर बनाने का प्रयास भी किया।
- Since many aspects of **PMOS** management could be coordinated remotely, digital consultations also offered women greater privacy and flexibility in a culture that stigmatises unmarried women visiting gynaecologists unchaperoned.

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चूँकि **PMOS** प्रबंधन के अनेक पहलुओं का दूरस्थ समन्वय संभव था, इसलिए डिजिटल परामर्श ने महिलाओं को अधिक गोपनीयता और लचीलापन प्रदान किया, विशेषकर ऐसे सामाजिक परिवेश में जहाँ अविवाहित महिलाओं का अकेले स्त्रीरोग विशेषज्ञ के पास जाना कलंकित माना जाता है।

- **PMOS** often first appears through irregular menstrual cycles.
  PMOS प्रायः अनियमित मासिक चक्रों के माध्यम से सबसे पहले प्रकट होता है।
- The underlying hormonal and metabolic imbalances can remain poorly understood for years delaying treatment.
  इसके अंतर्निहित हार्मोनल और चयापचयी असंतुलन वर्षों तक ठीक से समझ में नहीं आते, जिससे उपचार में देरी होती है।
- In both families and clinical settings, it is viewed primarily through the lens of fertility and weight loss, generating shame and anxiety around marriage prospects and hostility within marriages itself.
  परिवारों और चिकित्सकीय परिवेश दोनों में इसे मुख्यतः प्रजनन क्षमता और वजन घटाने के दृष्टिकोण से देखा जाता है, जिससे विवाह की संभावनाओं को लेकर शर्म और चिंता उत्पन्न होती है तथा वैवाहिक संबंधों में तनाव पैदा होता है।

Limits of privatised care
निजीकृत स्वास्थ्य सेवा की सीमाएँ

- First, access to these platforms depends on the ability to a• ord uninterrupted internet connectivity and recurring subscription costs.
  पहला, इन प्लेटफ़ॉर्मों तक पहुँच निर्बाध इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी और नियमित सदस्यता शुल्क वहन करने की क्षमता पर निर्भर करती है।
- As a result, these services cater disproportionately to urban, digitally savvy women.
  परिणामस्वरूप, ये सेवाएँ मुख्यतः शहरी और डिजिटल रूप से सक्षम महिलाओं तक सीमित रह जाती हैं।
- Doctor-patient interactions must become more inclusive and respectful to women.
  चिकित्सक-रोगी संवाद महिलाओं के प्रति अधिक समावेशी और सम्मानजनक होना चाहिए।
- Moreover, discussions around **PMOS** rarely engage with broader environmental factors such as adulterated food, pollution, chronic stress, and toxins.
  इसके अतिरिक्त, **PMOS** से संबंधित चर्चाएँ प्रायः मिलावटी भोजन, प्रदूषण, दीर्घकालिक तनाव और विषैले तत्वों जैसे व्यापक पर्यावरणीय कारकों को शामिल नहीं करतीं।

GS Paper III: Environment	02 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	Why do cities get polluted in summer? गर्मियों में शहर प्रदूषित क्यों हो जाते हैं?

PATRIOTIC IAS

Why do cities get polluted in summer?

How is summer air pollution different from that in winter? Why does ozone rise in hot weather? What drives PM10 spikes in Indian cities? How do dust storms affect air quality? How do human activities worsen summer air pollution? What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?

EXPLAINER

Mohammad Rafiuddin
Sneha Maria Ignatious

The story so far:

In March, the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) revoked all curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), signalling the end of the winter air pollution in Delhi.

A month later, as temperatures rose, it reimposed Stage 1 of the GRAP to combat summer air pollution. It was briefly revoked and reimposed again in May, while North India was reeling under heatwaves.

Why are cities witnessing pollution episodes during summer?

Delhi and the Indo-Gangetic plain are known for winter smog because low temperatures, low wind speeds, and their basin-like topography trap pollutants close to the ground.

Summer brings stronger winds, occasional thunderstorms that wash out pollutants, and warmer temperatures that allow pollutants to mix higher in the atmosphere. Despite such meteorological favours, Delhi has already witnessed 54 days between 1 April and 31 May 2026 where daily average PM10 levels exceeded the 24-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 100 ug/m3. At the same time, on 40 days, at least one Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) in the city recorded a breach in the hourly ozone standard of 180 ug/m3.

Unlike most headlines, this is not the story of Delhi alone. Other large cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata also recorded pollution spikes in the same period this summer, with PM10 and ozone levels going above the national standards to varying degrees. These spikes were shaped by local sources such as vehicular emissions, road dust, construction activity, industrial emissions, and dust from local storms. Mumbai, for instance, has been recording high PM10 and ozone levels over the last few years due to construction activity, dust, and traffic. While Chennai's PM10 breaches are occasional, its high vehicular density and hot weather also make it an ozone hotspot.

How is summer air pollution different from that in winter?

While winter pollution is dominated by finer PM2.5 particles, summer air pollution is driven by the coarser PM10 and ozone.

Vehicles, industries, waste burning, agricultural residue burning, construction sites, and broken roads remain year-round sources of pollution. Winter adds biomass burning for heating. Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation.

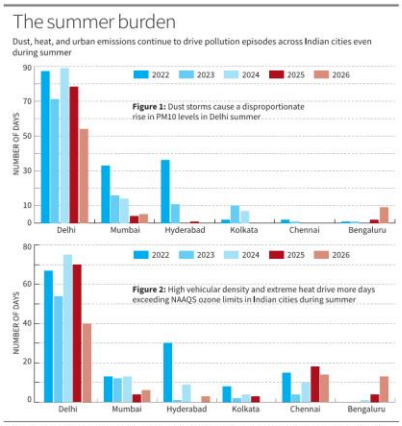
Why does ozone rise in hot weather?

Ozone is not emitted directly from a tailpipe or chimney. It forms when nitrogen oxides (NOx), largely from vehicles and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, paints, and other sources, react under strong sunlight. Hotter, sunnier days therefore create favourable conditions for ozone formation, which, along with particulate matter, could cause respiratory illnesses.

Summer brings in dust storms that hike PM10 levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation. PTI

THE GIST

- Summer air pollution is driven largely by PM10 and ozone, with several Indian cities recording repeated breaches of national standards.
- Dust storms, construction activity, road dust, vehicular emissions and industrial pollution contribute to pollution episodes during the hotter months.
- Heat and strong sunlight promote ozone formation, underlining the need for year-round air quality management rather than a focus on winter smog alone



What causes India's PM10 to spike?

Hot conditions over the Indian subcontinent create a low-pressure area that extends towards Iran. Its interaction with surrounding high-pressure areas produces hot, windy conditions. These winds could stir up dust storms, including hot winds called loo, which carry dust from West Asia and the Thar Desert across India towards the Bay of Bengal. Such episodes could elevate PM10 levels for days, as seen during the severe North Indian dust storms of 2018.

The Indian subcontinent also experiences shorter, localised dust storms known as 'andhi' that usually subside within hours. These form when strong downward-moving air associated with thunderstorms hits the ground, lifts loose dust, and carries it at high speed. While loo-type dust storms are common in North India, cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad generally face dusty episodes due to local thunderstorms.

Human activity worsens this natural dust load. Construction and demolition work often resumes after the more stringent winter GRAP restrictions are lifted. Without adequate site-level dust control, these activities add to PM10 levels. Vehicles moving over broken roads also further resuspend loose, dry dust into the air in the dry summer months.

What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?

While natural sources of dust cannot be controlled, they can be predicted. Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) was created in response to severe dust storms in 2018 and smog episodes of the previous years, and now runs year-round. It has since been extended to other cities such as Jaipur and Mumbai, and provides forecasts of multiple pollutants several days in advance. Its bulletin provides detailed weather information for Delhi and three-day Air Quality Index forecasts for 140 Indian cities.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also publishes national weather forecast bulletins several times a day. Authorities should use these systems to issue local alerts on dust storms, ozone, and poor air quality so citizens can reduce exposure.

For controllable non-natural sources, enforcement matters. Construction sites need active dust management even outside winter.

A study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) found that simply reducing heavy-vehicle movement at construction sites can lower local particulate matter levels. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)'s Air Quality Decision Support System (AQDSS), also developed with CEEW, for example, assists in monitoring construction sites. It has already helped authorities take measures against more than 1,000 sites since October 2025 in Mumbai.

Reducing ozone requires cutting NOx and VOC emissions from vehicles and industries through cleaner transport, better compliance, and attention to solvents, paints, and fuel combustion. Even simple behavioural measures, like the 'Red Light On, Gaadi Off' campaign of the Delhi government that urges drivers to switch vehicles off while waiting at junctions to reduce idling emissions, can reduce ozone formation. But Indian cities need more sustained action.

Delhi has had a summer action plan since 2022. Other cities need similar plans that combine forecasting, public health advisories, construction dust control, road dust management, and action on ozone-forming emissions. Summer may disperse some pollutants better than winter, but heat and sunlight create their own pollution chemistry. Indian cities must plan for both seasons, treating them with equal seriousness.

(Mohammad Rafiuddin is Programme Lead and Sneha Maria Ignatious is Programme Associate at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water)

02J6. Why do cities get polluted in summer?
गर्मियों में शहर प्रदूषित क्यों हो जाते हैं?

- In March, the **Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** revoked all curbs under the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)**, signalling the end of the winter air pollution in **Delhi**.
  मार्च में, **राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र और आस-पास के क्षेत्रों में वायु गुणवत्ता प्रबंधन आयोग (CAQM)** ने **ग्रेडेड रिस्पॉन्स एक्शन प्लान (GRAP)** के अंतर्गत लगाए गए सभी प्रतिबंध हटा दिए, जिससे **दिल्ली** में शीतकालीन वायु प्रदूषण के अंत का संकेत मिला।
- A month later, as temperatures rose, it reimposed Stage 1 of the **GRAP** to combat summer air pollution.
  एक माह बाद, तापमान बढ़ने के साथ, ग्रीष्मकालीन वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने हेतु **GRAP** के चरण 1 को पुनः लागू किया गया।

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- **Delhi** and the **Indo-Gangetic plain** are known for winter smog because low temperatures, low wind speeds, and their basin-like topography trap pollutants close to the ground.
  दिल्ली और **इंडो-गंगेटिक मैदान** शीतकालीन धुंध के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं क्योंकि निम्न तापमान, कम पवन गति और उनकी बेसिन जैसी स्थलाकृति प्रदूषकों को भूमि के निकट फँसा देती है।
- Summer brings stronger winds, occasional thunderstorms that wash out pollutants, and warmer temperatures that allow pollutants to mix higher in the atmosphere.
  ग्रीष्म ऋतु में तेज हवाएँ, कभी-कभी आने वाले आंधी-तूफान जो प्रदूषकों को साफ कर देते हैं, तथा अधिक तापमान होता है, जिससे प्रदूषक वायुमंडल में अधिक ऊँचाई तक मिश्रित हो जाते हैं।
- Despite such meteorological favours, Delhi has already witnessed 54 days between 1 April and 31 May 2026 where daily average **PM10** levels exceeded the 24-hour **National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)** of 100 ug/m3.
  ऐसी अनुकूल मौसमीय परिस्थितियों के बावजूद, **दिल्ली** में 1 अप्रैल से 31 मई 2026 के बीच 54 दिनों तक दैनिक औसत **PM10** स्तर 24 घंटे के **राष्ट्रीय परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता मानक (NAAQS)** 100 ug/m3 से अधिक रहा।
- At the same time, on 40 days, at least one **Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS)** in the city recorded a breach in the hourly ozone standard of 180 ug/m3.
  इसी अवधि में 40 दिनों तक शहर के कम-से-कम एक **सतत परिवेशी वायु गुणवत्ता निगरानी स्टेशन (CAAQMS)** ने प्रति घंटे के ओजोन मानक 180 ug/m3 के उल्लंघन को दर्ज किया।
- Unlike most headlines, this is not the story of Delhi alone.
  अधिकांश समाचारों के विपरीत, यह केवल दिल्ली की कहानी नहीं है।
- Other large cities like **Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Kolkata** also recorded pollution spikes in the same period this summer, with **PM10** and ozone levels going above the national standards to varying degrees.
  मुंबई, चेन्नई, हैदराबाद, बेंगलुरु और कोलकाता जैसे अन्य बड़े शहरों में भी इसी अवधि के दौरान प्रदूषण स्तर में वृद्धि दर्ज की गई, जहाँ **PM10** और ओजोन स्तर विभिन्न स्तरों पर राष्ट्रीय मानकों से ऊपर पहुँचे।
- These spikes were shaped by local sources such as vehicular emissions, road dust, construction activity, industrial emissions, and dust from local storms.
  इन प्रदूषण वृद्धि घटनाओं के पीछे स्थानीय स्रोत जैसे वाहन उत्सर्जन, सड़क की धूल, निर्माण गतिविधियाँ, औद्योगिक उत्सर्जन तथा स्थानीय आंधियों से उत्पन्न धूल जिम्मेदार रहे।
- While winter pollution is dominated by • ner **PM2.5** particles, summer air pollution is driven by the coarser **PM10** and ozone.
  जहाँ शीतकालीन प्रदूषण मुख्यतः सूक्ष्म **PM2.5** कणों से प्रभावित होता है, वहीं ग्रीष्मकालीन वायु प्रदूषण का प्रमुख कारण अपेक्षाकृत बड़े **PM10** कण और ओजोन होते हैं।
- Vehicles, industries, waste burning, agricultural residue burning, construction sites, and broken roads remain year-round sources of pollution.
  वाहन, उद्योग, कचरा जलाना, कृषि अवशेषों का दहन, निर्माण स्थल तथा टूटी हुई सड़कें वर्षभर प्रदूषण के स्रोत बने रहते हैं।
- Winter adds biomass burning for heating.
  शीतकाल में ताप प्राप्त करने हेतु बायोमास जलाना अतिरिक्त प्रदूषण का कारण बनता है।
- Summer brings in dust storms that hike **PM10** levels, while heat and sunlight catalyse ozone formation.
  ग्रीष्म ऋतु धूल भरी आँधियाँ लेकर आती है, जो **PM10** स्तर को बढ़ाती हैं, जबकि गर्मी और सूर्यप्रकाश ओजोन निर्माण को उत्प्रेरित करते हैं।

Why does ozone rise in hot weather?
गर्म मौसम में ओजोन का स्तर क्यों बढ़ता है?

- Ozone is not emitted directly from a tailpipe or chimney.
  ओजोन सीधे वाहन के एग्जॉस्ट पाइप या चिमनी से उत्सर्जित नहीं होती है।

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- It forms when nitrogen oxides (**NOx**), largely from vehicles and volatile organic compounds (**VOCs**) from industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, paints, and other sources, react under strong sunlight.
  यह तब बनती है जब नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड (**NOx**), जो मुख्यतः वाहनों से निकलते हैं, तथा वाष्पशील कार्बनिक यौगिक (**VOCs**), जो औद्योगिक उत्सर्जन, वाहन धुएँ, पेंट और अन्य स्रोतों से उत्पन्न होते हैं, तीव्र सूर्यप्रकाश में परस्पर अभिक्रिया करते हैं।
- Hotter, sunnier days therefore create favourable conditions for ozone formation, which, along with particulate matter, could cause respiratory illnesses.
  अतः अधिक गर्म और धूप वाले दिन ओजोन निर्माण के लिए अनुकूल परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न करते हैं, जो कणीय पदार्थों के साथ मिलकर श्वसन संबंधी रोग उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

What causes India's PM10 to spike?
भारत में PM10 स्तर में वृद्धि का कारण क्या है?

- Hot conditions over the Indian subcontinent create a low-pressure area that extends towards **Iran**.
  भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप के ऊपर की गर्म परिस्थितियाँ एक निम्न दाब क्षेत्र उत्पन्न करती हैं, जो **ईरान** की ओर विस्तारित होता है।
- Its interaction with surrounding high-pressure areas produces hot, windy conditions.
  इसके आसपास के उच्च दाब क्षेत्रों के साथ संपर्क से गर्म और तेज हवाओं वाली परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न होती हैं।
- These winds could stir up dust storms, including hot winds called **loo**, which carry dust from **West Asia** and the **Thar Desert** across India towards the **Bay of Bengal**.
  ये हवाएँ धूल भरी आँधियाँ उत्पन्न कर सकती हैं, जिनमें **लू** नामक गर्म हवाएँ भी शामिल हैं, जो **पश्चिम एशिया** और **थार मरुस्थल** की धूल को भारत के पार **बंगाल की खाड़ी** की ओर ले जाती हैं।
- localised dust storms known as '**andhi**' that usually subside within hours forms when strong downward-moving air associated with thunderstorms hits the ground, lifts loose dust, and carries it at high speed.
  ये तब बनते हैं जब आंधी-तूफान से जुड़ी तीव्र नीचे की ओर चलने वाली हवा भूमि से टकराती है, ढीली धूल को उठाती है और उसे तेज गति से ले जाती है।

What can cities do to combat summer air pollution?
ग्रीष्मकालीन वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए शहर क्या कर सकते हैं?

- Delhi's **Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS)** was created in response to severe dust storms in 2018 and smog episodes of the previous years, and now runs year-round.
  दिल्ली की **वायु गुणवत्ता प्रारंभिक चेतावनी प्रणाली (AQEWS)** वर्ष 2018 के गंभीर धूल तूफानों और पूर्ववर्ती वर्षों के धुंध प्रदूषण की घटनाओं के उत्तर में विकसित की गई थी और अब यह पूरे वर्ष कार्य करती है।
- Its bulletin provides detailed weather information for **Delhi** and three-day **Air Quality Index** forecasts for 140 Indian cities.
  इसका बुलेटिन **दिल्ली** के लिए विस्तृत मौसम संबंधी जानकारी तथा 140 भारतीय शहरों के लिए तीन-दिवसीय **वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक** पूर्वानुमान प्रदान करता है।
- The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** also publishes national weather forecast bulletins several times a day.
  भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) भी प्रतिदिन कई बार राष्ट्रीय मौसम पूर्वानुमान बुलेटिन जारी करता है।
- Authorities should use these systems to issue local alerts on dust storms, ozone, and poor air quality so citizens can reduce exposure.
  प्राधिकरणों को इन प्रणालियों का उपयोग धूल तूफान, ओजोन और खराब वायु गुणवत्ता के संबंध में स्थानीय चेतावनी जारी करने हेतु करना चाहिए ताकि नागरिक अपने जोखिम को कम कर सकें।

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- Reducing ozone requires cutting **NOx** and **VOC** emissions from vehicles and industries through cleaner transport, better compliance, and attention to solvents, paints, and fuel combustion.
  ओजोन स्तर कम करने के लिए वाहनों और उद्योगों से निकलने वाले **NOx** और **VOC** उत्सर्जन में कमी लाना आवश्यक है, जिसके लिए स्वच्छ परिवहन, बेहतर अनुपालन तथा सॉल्वेंट, पेंट और ईंधन दहन पर ध्यान देना होगा।
- Even simple behavioural measures, like the '**Red Light On, Gaadi Off**' campaign of the **Delhi government** that urges drivers to switch vehicles off while waiting at junctions to reduce idling emissions, can reduce ozone formation.
  यहाँ तक कि सरल व्यवहारिक उपाय, जैसे **दिल्ली सरकार** का '**रेड लाइट ऑन, गाड़ी ऑफ**' अभियान, जो चालकों को चौराहों पर प्रतीक्षा के दौरान वाहन बंद रखने के लिए प्रेरित करता है, भी ओजोन निर्माण को कम कर सकते हैं।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	02 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
02J6	New chief of Central Air Command takes charge सेंट्रल एयर कमांड के नए प्रमुख ने पदभार संभाला
02J6	Operation Mule Hunt exposes cyberfraud network; 638 held ऑपरेशन म्यूल हंट ने साइबर धोखाधड़ी नेटवर्क का खुलासा किया; 638 गिरफ्तार

02J6. New chief of Central Air Command takes charge
सेंट्रल एयर कमांड के नए प्रमुख ने पदभार संभाला

New chief of Central Air Command takes charge

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

NEW DELHI

Air Marshal Tarun Chaudhry on Monday assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Indian Air Force's Central Air Command.

Commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1989, Air Marshal Chaudhry is a highly accomplished officer with extensive experience in operational, staff, and diplomatic assignments.

Prior to taking over the Central Air Command, he was serving as the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, Southern Air Command.

- Air Marshal **Tarun Chaudhry** on Monday assumed charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C)** of the **Indian Air Force's Central Air Command**.

एयर मार्शल **तरुण चौधरी** ने सोमवार को **भारतीय वायु सेना की सेंट्रल एयर कमांड** के **एयर ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ (AOC-in-C)** के रूप में पदभार ग्रहण किया।

02J6. Operation Mule Hunt exposes cyberfraud network; 638 held
ऑपरेशन म्यूल हंट ने साइबर धोखाधड़ी नेटवर्क का खुलासा किया; 638 गिरफ्तार

GS III: Internal Security

Operation Mule Hunt exposes cyberfraud network; 638 held

In one of Gujarat's largest crackdowns on cybercrime-linked financial networks, the State police have uncovered cyberfraud worth ₹2,289 crore and taken action against 913 mule bank accounts during a special operation aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure used by cybercriminals. The crackdown, titled Operation Mule Hunt 1.0, led to the registration of 565 FIRs and the arrest of 638 accused, according to details shared by the State on Monday. The drive was conducted by the Gujarat Police and the Cyber Centre of Excellence under the supervision of Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi as part of the government's broader effort to combat cybercrime, officials said.

- In one of **Gujarat's** largest crackdowns on cybercrime-linked financial networks, the State police have uncovered cyberfraud worth **₹2,289 crore** and taken action against **913 mule bank accounts** during a special operation aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure used by cybercriminals.

गुजरात में साइबर अपराध से जुड़े वित्तीय नेटवर्क पर की गई सबसे बड़ी कार्रवाई में से एक के दौरान राज्य पुलिस ने **₹2,289 करोड़** की साइबर धोखाधड़ी का खुलासा किया और साइबर अपराधियों द्वारा इस्तेमाल किए जा रहे वित्तीय ढांचे को ध्वस्त करने के उद्देश्य से चलाए गए विशेष अभियान में **913 म्यूल बैंक खातों** के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की।

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PCS Special:	01 June 2026
01J6	Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers मन की बात: प्रधानमंत्री ने खिलाड़ियों और बदलाव लाने वालों की सराहना की
01J6	The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate 'द वॉयस ऑफ हिंद रजब' को 'A' प्रमाणपत्र मिलने की संभावना
01J6	Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final सदाबहार कोहली IPL फाइनल में PoM पुरस्कार जीतने वाले दूसरे सबसे उम्रदराज खिलाड़ी बने
01J6	15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap 15 वर्षीय सूर्यवंशी ऑरेंज कैप जीतने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बने
01J6	Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display रॉयल चैलेंजर्स ने शाही प्रदर्शन के साथ खिताब बरकरार रखा
01J6	Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought सात्विक-चिराग ने सिंगापुर ओपन जीता, दो साल का खिताबी सूखा समाप्त किया
01J6	Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian U-20 Championships महिला रिले स्वर्ण ने एशियाई अंडर-20 चैंपियनशिप में भारत के शानदार अभियान को मुकम्मल किया
01J6	Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers

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	मन की बात: प्रधानमंत्री ने खिलाड़ियों और बदलाव लाने वालों की सराहना की
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Mummy homecoming: People of the Kolla indigenous community participate in a ceremony following the return of the so-called **'Child of Chani'**, an Inca-era child mummy found frozen in 1905 at nearly 5,900 m on a mountain, in Jujuy province, Argentina on May 28. The mummy had been in a Buenos Aires museum for around 120 years.

CHILD OF CHANI

- The Kolla People, an Indigenous community living mainly in the **Andes Mountains of Argentina and Bolivia**. They participated in a ceremony after the return of an ancient Inca child mummy known as the **"Child of Chani."**
- The mummy was discovered in **1905** near the summit of **Mount Chani** in Argentina at an altitude of nearly **5,900 metres** above sea level. The child belonged to the Inca Civilization, which flourished in South America before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century.
- The child's body remained naturally preserved for centuries because of the extreme cold temperatures high in the Andes. Such preserved bodies are called **mummies**.
- Unlike Egyptian mummies, which were artificially preserved using chemicals and wrapping, these Andean mummies were preserved naturally by freezing conditions, similar to food being preserved in a freezer.
- Historians believe that some Inca children were part of a ritual called **Capacocha**. In this ritual, children considered pure or special were ceremonially offered to mountain gods.
- Mountains were sacred in Inca belief because they were thought to control weather, water, and fertility.
- The **Inca civilization** developed in the Andes Mountains region of western South America, mainly in present-day Peru, during the **13th to 16th centuries**.
- The capital of the **Inca Empire was Cusco**, which was considered the political and cultural center of the empire.
- The Incas built a vast empire called the "Tawantinsuyu," meaning "Land of Four Regions." At its peak, the empire extended across modern Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile, and parts of Argentina and Colombia. The ruler of the empire was called the

"Sapa Inca," who was treated as the son of the Sun God. The Incas mainly worshipped the Sun God, known as "Inti."

- The civilization is famous for its advanced engineering and architecture.
- Despite lacking modern tools, iron technology, or wheeled transport, the Incas built strong roads, bridges, terraces, and stone buildings.
- Their road network stretched thousands of kilometers across mountains. One of the best examples of Inca architecture is Machu Picchu, a magnificent hilltop city built with precisely cut stones that fit together without cement.

Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers

He praised Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur; lauded mango farmers for reaching global markets; shared story of educator Girija Amma for raising funds for soldiers

PCS

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the 134th episode of *Mann Ki Baat* on Sunday, highlighted India's achievements in sports, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and scientific learning, while urging citizens to continue contributing towards nation-building through innovation, community participation, and social responsibility.

A major highlight of the address was the Prime Minister's praise for Indian sprinters Gurindervir Singh and Animesh Kujur, who delivered historic performances at the Federation Cup in Ranchi.

During a telephone interaction with the athletes, Mr. Modi lauded their dedication and the spirit of healthy competition that has helped elevate Indian athletics.

Mr. Singh recently became India's fastest man after clocking a remarkable 10.09 seconds in the 100-metre sprint, becoming the first Indian athlete to break the 10.10-second barrier.

> Today, through *Mann Ki Baat*, I want to praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers; you are playing a significant role in strengthening the nation's agricultural economy
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

Praising mango farmers

Speaking about the summer season, Mr. Modi said mangoes remain an inseparable part of Indian households and culture. He praised farmers engaged in mango cultivation and highlighted how Indian mangoes are increasingly reaching global markets.

"Today, through *Mann Ki Baat*, I want to praise my farmer brothers and sisters involved in mango cultivation. You are not just ordinary farmers; you are playing a significant role in strengthening the nation's agricultural economy," the Prime Minister said.

Reflecting on his recent visit to the Netherlands, the Prime Minister described it as a significant step in strengthening India's international partnerships. He also spoke about the return of rare Chola-era copper plates by the country, describing them as invaluable historical treasures that offer insights into the maritime strength, governance, and international relations of the Chola empire.

Mr. Modi also underlined the importance of environmental conservation and highlighted efforts to protect the endangered Ganga river dolphin.

He called upon citizens to actively participate in preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

The Prime Minister urged people and local administrations to remain vigilant during heatwaves and work collectively to minimise their impact.

He also appreciated grassroots initiatives such as the work of Saji Valasheril in Kerala, who has trained thousands of people, including children with disabilities, through swimming programmes.

Astronomy initiatives

Encouraging scientific curiosity among young people, Mr. Modi highlighted astronomy outreach initiatives by organisations such as Astro Kerala, the Bangalore Astronomical Society, and the Big Bang Astronomy Club of Rajkot.

He said astronomy has long fascinated Indians and can inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators.

The Prime Minister concluded by sharing the inspiring story of educator Girija Amma, whose initiative of collecting one rupee daily from students for soldiers raised nearly ₹40 lakh, calling it a shining example of patriotism and collective responsibility towards the nation.

01J6. Mann Ki Baat: PM praises athletes, changemakers
मन की बात: प्रधानमंत्री ने खिलाड़ियों और बदलाव लाने वालों की सराहना की

- He praised Indian sprinters **Gurindervir Singh** and **Animesh Kujur**; lauded mango farmers for reaching global markets; shared the story of educator **Girija Amma** for raising funds for soldiers.

उन्होंने भारतीय धावकों **गुरिंदरवीर सिंह** और **अनिमेष कुजूर** की प्रशंसा की; वैश्विक बाजारों तक पहुंचने वाले आम किसानों की सराहना की; और सैनिकों के लिए धन जुटाने वाली शिक्षिका **गिरिजा अम्मा** की कहानी साझा की।

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in the 134th episode of **Mann Ki Baat** on Sunday, highlighted India's achievements in sports, environmental conservation, cultural heritage, and scientific learning, while urging citizens to continue contributing towards nation-building through innovation, community participation, and social responsibility.
  प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** ने रविवार को **मन की बात** के 134वें एपिसोड में खेल, पर्यावरण संरक्षण, सांस्कृतिक विरासत और वैज्ञानिक शिक्षा में भारत की उपलब्धियों को रेखांकित किया, साथ ही नागरिकों से नवाचार, सामुदायिक भागीदारी और सामाजिक जिम्मेदारी के माध्यम से राष्ट्र निर्माण में योगदान जारी रखने का आग्रह किया।
- A major highlight of the address was the Prime Minister's praise for Indian sprinters **Gurindervir Singh** and **Animesh Kujur**, who delivered historic performances at the **Federation Cup** in **Ranchi**.
  इस संबोधन का एक प्रमुख आकर्षण भारतीय धावकों **गुरिंदरवीर सिंह** और **अनिमेष कुजूर** की प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा की गई प्रशंसा थी, जिन्होंने **रांची** में आयोजित **फेडरेशन कप** में ऐतिहासिक प्रदर्शन किया।
- Mr. Singh recently became India's fastest man after clocking a remarkable **10.09 seconds** in the **100-metre sprint**, becoming the first Indian athlete to break the **10.10-second barrier**.
  श्री सिंह हाल ही में **100 मीटर स्प्रिंट** में शानदार **10.09 सेकंड** का समय निकालकर भारत के सबसे तेज धावक बने और **10.10 सेकंड की बाधा** को तोड़ने वाले पहले भारतीय एथलीट बने।

Praising mango farmers
आम किसानों की सराहना

- Reflecting on his recent visit to the **Netherlands**, the Prime Minister described it as a significant step in strengthening India's international partnerships.
  प्रधानमंत्री ने अपनी हालिया **नीदरलैंड** यात्रा को भारत की अंतरराष्ट्रीय साझेदारियों को मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम बताया।
- He also spoke about the return of rare **Chola-era copper plates** by the country, describing them as invaluable historical treasures that offer insights into the maritime strength, governance, and international relations of the **Chola empire**.
  उन्होंने देश द्वारा दुर्लभ **चोल कालीन ताम्रपत्रों** की वापसी का भी उल्लेख किया और उन्हें अमूल्य ऐतिहासिक धरोहर बताया, जो **चोल साम्राज्य** की समुद्री शक्ति, शासन व्यवस्था और अंतरराष्ट्रीय संबंधों की जानकारी देते हैं।
- Mr. Modi also underlined the importance of environmental conservation and highlighted efforts to protect the endangered **Ganga river dolphin**.
  श्री मोदी ने पर्यावरण संरक्षण के महत्व पर भी जोर दिया और संकटग्रस्त **गंगा नदी डॉल्फिन** की सुरक्षा के प्रयासों को रेखांकित किया।
- He also appreciated grassroots initiatives such as the work of **Saji Valasheril** in **Kerala**, who has trained thousands of people, including children with disabilities, through swimming programmes.
  उन्होंने **केरल** में **साजी वलाशेरिल** जैसे जमीनी स्तर के प्रयासों की भी सराहना की, जिन्होंने तैराकी कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से दिव्यांग बच्चों सहित हजारों लोगों को प्रशिक्षण दिया है।

Astronomy initiatives
खगोल विज्ञान पहल

- Encouraging scientific curiosity among young people, Mr. Modi highlighted astronomy outreach initiatives by organisations such as **Astro Kerala**, the **Bangalore Astronomical**

Society, and the **Big Bang Astronomy Club of Rajkot**.

युवाओं में वैज्ञानिक जिज्ञासा को प्रोत्साहित करते हुए श्री मोदी ने **एस्ट्रो केरल**, **बैंगलोर एस्ट्रोनॉमिकल सोसाइटी**, और **राजकोट के बिग बैंग एस्ट्रोनॉमी क्लब** जैसी संस्थाओं की खगोल विज्ञान संबंधी पहलों को रेखांकित किया।

- The Prime Minister concluded by sharing the inspiring story of educator **Girija Amma**, whose initiative of collecting one rupee daily from students for soldiers raised nearly **₹40 lakh**, calling it a shining example of patriotism and collective responsibility towards the nation.

प्रधानमंत्री ने शिक्षिका **गिरिजा अम्मा** की प्रेरणादायक कहानी साझा करते हुए कार्यक्रम का समापन किया, जिनकी सैनिकों के लिए छात्रों से प्रतिदिन एक रुपया एकत्र करने की पहल से लगभग **₹40 लाख** जुटाए गए। उन्होंने इसे देश के प्रति देशभक्ति और सामूहिक जिम्मेदारी का उज्ज्वल उदाहरण बताया।

01J6. The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate
'द वॉयस ऑफ हिंद रजब' को 'A' प्रमाणपत्र मिलने की संभावना

The Voice of Hind Rajab likely to get 'A' certificate

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Voice of Hind Rajab, the critically acclaimed 2025 film on the killing of the eponymous Palestinian five-year-old by Israeli forces, is set to be cleared by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) with an 'A' certificate, say official sources.

This comes weeks after the Kaouther Ben Hania directorial was rejected for supposedly being detrimental to India-Israel relations.

The misgivings of the initial advisory panel drew censure from film-makers, actors, activists and the Opposition.

For the film to release, the CBFC will have to issue the certificate on its website (a step yet to be completed), and hand over the certificate to the film distributor.

- **The Voice of Hind Rajab**, the critically acclaimed 2025 film on the killing of the eponymous Palestinian five-year-old by Israeli forces, is set to be cleared by the **Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC)** with an 'A' certificate, official sources say.

द वॉयस ऑफ हिंद रजब, जो 2025 की समीक्षकों द्वारा प्रशंसित फिल्म है और इजरायली बलों द्वारा उसी नाम की पांच वर्षीय फिलिस्तीनी बच्ची की हत्या पर आधारित है, उसे **केंद्रीय फिल्म प्रमाणन बोर्ड (CBFC)** द्वारा 'A' प्रमाणपत्र दिए जाने की संभावना है, ऐसा आधिकारिक सूत्रों ने कहा।

- For the film to release, the **CBFC** will have to issue the certificate on its website (a step yet to be completed), and hand over the certificate to the film distributor.

फिल्म की रिलीज के लिए **CBFC** को अपनी वेबसाइट पर प्रमाणपत्र जारी करना होगा (जो प्रक्रिया अभी पूरी नहीं हुई है) और फिल्म वितरक को प्रमाणपत्र सौंपना होगा।

01J6. Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final
सदाबहार कोहली IPL फाइनल में PoM पुरस्कार जीतने वाले दूसरे सबसे उम्रदराज खिलाड़ी बने

TRUE CHAMPION

Evergreen Kohli second oldest to win PoM award in IPL final

VIJAY SONEJI

PCS

At the age of 37 years and 207 days, Virat Kohli became the second oldest player to win the Player-of-the-Match award in an Indian Premier League final. Anil Kumble (38y 219d, 4-0-16-4 for Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs. Deccan Chargers in 2009) remains the oldest recipient of the award.

- At the age of **37 years and 207 days**, **Virat Kohli** became the second oldest player to win the **Player-of-the-Match** award in an **Indian Premier League** final.

37 वर्ष और 207 दिन की आयु में **विराट कोहली इंडियन प्रीमियर लीग** फाइनल में **प्लेयर ऑफ द मैच** पुरस्कार जीतने वाले दूसरे सबसे उम्रदराज खिलाड़ी बन गए।

- **Anil Kumble** (38y 219d, 4-0-16-4 for **Royal Challengers Bengaluru** vs. **Deccan Chargers** in 2009) remains the oldest recipient of the award.

अनिल कुंबले (38 वर्ष 219 दिन, 2009 में **रॉयल चैलेंजर्स बेंगलुरु** बनाम **डेक्कन चार्जर्स** के खिलाफ 4-0-16-4) अब भी इस पुरस्कार के सबसे उम्रदराज विजेता बने हुए हैं।

PRODIGY

15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap

IPLT20.COM

Rajasthan Royals opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to clinch the IPL Orange Cap. The 15-year-old amassed 776 runs (one century and five half-centuries) in 16 innings to walk home with the prize. Gujarat Titans' Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan were in contention but fell for low scores in the final.

01J6. 15-year-old Sooryavanshi the youngest to clinch Orange Cap

15 वर्षीय सूर्यवंशी ऑरेंज कैप जीतने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बने

- **Rajasthan Royals** opener **Vaibhav Sooryavanshi** became the youngest player to clinch the **IPL Orange Cap**.

राजस्थान रॉयल्स के ओपनर **वैभव सूर्यवंशी IPL ऑरेंज कैप** जीतने वाले सबसे युवा खिलाड़ी बन गए।

- The **15-year-old** amassed **776 runs** (one century and five half-centuries) in 16 innings to walk home with the prize.

इस **15 वर्षीय** खिलाड़ी ने 16 पारियों में **776 रन** बनाए, जिसमें एक शतक और पांच अर्धशतक शामिल थे, और इसी के साथ उन्होंने यह पुरस्कार अपने नाम किया।

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Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display

Kohli takes the Bengaluru side home with an unbeaten 75; the bowlers restrict Titans to 155 for eight after Patidar asks them to take first strike; Washington wages a lone battle for Gill's men

IPL-19

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru crowned a dominant IPL 2026 campaign with a crushing five-wicket victory over Gujarat Titans in the final here on Sunday, sealing the title with the same authority it had shown through the season.

RCB had set the standard from the opening weeks of the tournament, and reserved its best for the biggest night.

For a side considered favourite, the season ended in fitting fashion – as champion for the second successive year.

The RCB bowlers set the tone early at the Narendra Modi Stadium, relentlessly hitting hard lengths to strangle GT. A sub-par 155 for eight was never likely to be enough to seriously test a power-packed RCB batting line-up.

Stark contrast

That gulf in intent was evident when Virat Kohli (75 n.o., 42b, 9x4, 3x6) and Venkatesh Iyer (32, 16b, 4x4, 2x6) came out attacking, in stark contrast to GT's muddled innings. The pair took on Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada, powering RCB to 70 for two in the PowerPlay.

With the required rate dropping to 6.14, GT was left to play catch up.

Rashid Khan briefly raised hopes when he dismissed Rajat Patidar and Krunal Pandya in the ninth over, but with Kohli still around, RCB remained in control.

RCB capped a memorable campaign in emphatic fashion, crossing the line with 12 balls to spare. The 90,000-odd crowd, with RCB jerseys in the majority, erupted as Kohli launched Arshad Khan into the sky.

Patidar's decision to field first was vindicated, as GT never quite found room to breathe.

After the RCB pacers struck early, left-arm spinner Krunal tightened the grip with subtle changes of pace and trajectory.

Only Washington Sundar escaped the chokehold. His unbeaten 50 (37b, 5x4) was an innings of resistance, but it was a lone hand in a line-up that never settled.

Shubman Gill's men appeared wary of RCB's pace attack from the outset. Intent gave way to preservation, and preservation soon became paralysis.

Introduced in the third over, Josh Hazlewood removed Gill with a length ball. Sai Sudharsan followed soon after, miscuing while attempting to hook Bhuvneshwar Kumar. With its two premier batters back in the pavilion inside four overs, GT retreated.

The promotion of Nishant Sindhu to No. 3 underlined the mood. Tasked with blunting the new ball, Sindhu could not shift momentum, and the move only strengthened RCB's control.

GT went nearly seven overs after the PowerPlay without a boundary. Jos Buttler, usually quick to change gears, crawled at under a run-a-ball. When he finally tried to accelerate, Krunal outfoxed him with a quicker delivery and Jitesh Sharma did the rest.

Even the death overs brought little relief. Washington alone kept the scoreboard moving.

Lucky break

Dropped by substitute Jordan Cox on four, he dragged GT to a total that kept faint hope alive.

That hope vanished quickly once Kohli and Venkatesh came out to bat.

Delivering on the big night: Rasikh was the most successful RCB bowler while Hazlewood picked up a couple before the RCB openers Venkatesh and Kohli came out swinging. K.R. DEEPAK & VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
Sai Sudharsan c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 12 (12b, 2x4), Shubman Gill c Patidar b Hazlewood 10 (8b, 2x4), Nishant Sindhu c Padikkal b Rasikh 20 (18b, 3x4), Jos Buttler st. Jitesh b Krunal 19 (23b, 1x4), Washington Sundar (not out) 50 (37b, 5x4), Arshad Khan c Rasikh b Hazlewood 15 (6b, 2x6), Rahul Tewatia c Patidar b Rasikh 7 (5b, 1x4), Jason Holder c Hazlewood b Bhuvneshwar 7 (5b, 1x4), Rashid Khan c Shepherd b Rasikh 7 (3b, 1x6), Kagiso Rabada (not out) 3 (3b); Extras (lb-1, w-4): 5; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 155.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Gill, 2.2 overs), 2-26 (Sai Sudharsan, 3.4), 3-55 (Nishant, 7.6), 4-73 (Buttler, 12.1), 5-99 (Arshad, 14.1), 6-115 (Tewatia, 16.1), 7-142 (Holder, 18.3), 8-151 (Rashid, 19.2).

RCB BOWLING
Duffy 4-0-38-0, Bhuvneshwar 4-0-29-2, Hazlewood 4-0-37-2, Rasikh 4-0-27-3, Krunal 4-0-23-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Venkatesh Iyer **(Impact Player for Duffy)** c Rabada b Siraj 32 *(16b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 75 *(42b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Arshad b Rabada 1 *(4b)*, Rajat Patidar c Rabada b Rashid 15 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya lbw b Rashid 1 *(2b)*, Tim David c Buttler b Arshad 24 *(17b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 11 *(14b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for five wkts. in 18 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-62 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 2-63 (Padikkal, 5.1), 3-89 (Patidar, 8.2), 4-91 (Krunal, 8.5), 5-132 (David, 13.6).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-36-1, Rabada 3-0-44-1, Holder 2-0-16-0, Rashid 4-0-25-2, Arshad 4-0-32-1, Prasidh **(Impact Player for Tewatia)** 1-0-7-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Kohli.
RCB won by five wickets with two overs to spare.

Impact Index

- 3 RCB is the third team, after CSK and MI, to successfully defend its title
- 3 Kohli has the most scores of 75 or more in T20 finals
- 3.3 RCB's 50 is the fastest in a final. CSK (4 overs in 2023) held the previous record
- 4 Rabada (2020, 2026) is the fourth player to win the Purple Cap twice after Bravo (2013, 2015), Bhuvneshwar (2016, 2017) and Harshal (2021, 2024)
- 4 Patidar is the fourth skipper to win two or more titles after Dhoni (5), Rohit (5) and Gambhir (2)
- 9 For the ninth consecutive season, the winner of Qualifier 1 has gone on to lift the title. Overall, the record is 13 (out of 16) since the playoffs format was introduced in 2011
- 25 Kohli's quickest half-century (by balls faced) in the IPL
- 28 Patidar has taken the least matches by a captain to win two crowns (Rohit 44, Dhoni 59, Gambhir 79)
- 75 Kohli's is the second highest unbeaten score in a successful run chase in a final after Watson's 117 n.o. vs. SRH in 2018

Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

Composure of the guys just shone through: Kohli

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

At this very venue last year, Virat Kohli sunk to the ground and held back tears when Royal Challengers Bengaluru broke a long drought to clinch its maiden IPL trophy.

On Sunday, Kohli was far less emotional when RCB successfully defended the title. There was no novelty to celebrate this year, just the satisfaction of a thorough professional getting the job done.

Kohli was clinical with the bat, striking an unbeaten 42-ball 75 to lead the RCB chase.

His confidence reflected the feeling in a team which stayed ahead of the pack right from the early phase of the competition.

"It doesn't feel like the same pressure as last year. We knew what kind of ability we have in the group. We topped the table. There's a reason why we got here first. The skill sets we have, the maturity, the composure of the guys just shone through again tonight," Kohli said after the win.

RCB's excellent campaign had hinged on handy contributions from several members of the squad, a shift from the star-driven ethos in past teams.

"We have a group of guys where you don't need to be the one to step up every time. There are guys behind you, around you, who can win games. We have so many 'Player-of-the-Match' awards spread throughout the group. I feel so happy to play in a group where we have balance. We are an all-round strong team, and that is why we have confidence on the field," Kohli said.

Honours board

2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians
2018	Chennai Super Kings
2019	Mumbai Indians
2020	Mumbai Indians
2021	Chennai Super Kings
2022	Gujarat Titans
2023	Chennai Super Kings
2024	Kolkata Knight Riders
2025	Royal Challengers Bengaluru
2026	Royal Challengers Bengaluru

... And the caps go to

ORANGE CAP
Sooryavanshi (RR)
Matches 16 | Runs 776 | HS: 103 | SR: 237.30

PURPLE CAP
Rabada (GT)
Matches 17 | Wickets 29 | BB: 3/25 | Econ: 9.68

Best on show
Most Valuable Player: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (RR); **Orange Cap:** Sooryavanshi; **Purple Cap:** Kagiso Rabada (GT); **Emerging player:** Sooryavanshi; **Super striker (highest SR):** Sooryavanshi; **Most sixes:** Sooryavanshi; **Most fours:** Sai Sudharsan (GT); **Most dot balls:** Mohammed Siraj (GT); **Catch of the season:** Manish Pandey (KKR); **Fairplay:** Punjab Kings

01J6.Royal Challengers retain title with a regal display
रॉयल चैलेंजर्स ने शाही प्रदर्शन के साथ खिताब बरकरार रखा

- The RCB bowlers set the tone early at the **Narendra Modi Stadium**, relentlessly hitting hard lengths to strangle GT.
  RCB के गेंदबाजों ने **नरेंद्र मोदी स्टेडियम** में शुरुआत से ही कड़ी लेंथ गेंदबाजी कर GT को दबाव में डाल दिया।

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Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought

The premier Indian men's doubles team bounces back to defeat Indonesia's Alfian and Fikri for its first crown since the 2024 Thailand Open

PCS

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden Singapore Open title, defeating Indonesia's Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohibul Fikri in the men's doubles final of the BWF Super 750 badminton tournament, here on Sunday.

The Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides claiming a third Super 750 title, with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in 73 minutes.

The victory was particularly significant for the World No. 4 Indian duo, who became the first Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open.

Satwik and Chirag had last lifted a trophy at the Thailand Open in 2024. Since then, they had reached four finals but finished runner-up on each occasion before finally breaking the drought here.

The Indians had entered the final trailing 1-2 in their head-to-head record against the Indonesian pair, with their most recent defeat coming in the Malaysia Open quarterfinals in January.

After dropping a closely-fought opening game, Satwik and Chirag raised their intensity and dominated the longer rallies to turn the contest around against the World No. 3 Indonesians.

The triumph capped an impressive week for the Indian pair, who had stunned reigning World champions and top seeds Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae of South Korea in the semifinals.

As the winning point was sealed, Satwik and Chirag lay flat on the court in celebration. Satwik followed it up with a baby-themed celebration, while an ecstatic Chirag let out a loud roar before leaping onto his partner.

The duo later danced on court as they savoured a long-awaited return to the top step on the podium.

"Two years... we knew for a fact that eventually the win will come. We had that belief and it was just a matter of time and finally we got it," said Chirag.

Other results (finals):

Men: Alex Lanier (Fra) bt Loh Kean Yew (Sgp) 17-21, 21-15, 21-14.

Women: An Se-young (Kor) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-11, 17-21, 21-19.

Doubles: Jia Yifan & Zhang Shuxian (Chn) bt Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (Chn) 22-20, 21-19.

Mixed doubles: Mathias Christiansen & Alexandra Boje (Den) bt Yuichi Shimogami & Sayaka Hobara 17-21, 21-12, 21-12.

Victory dance: Satwik and Chirag are over the moon after their comeback win. BWF/BADMINTON PHOTO

01J6. Satwik-Chirag win Singapore Open, end their two-year title drought
सात्विक-चिराग ने सिंगापुर ओपन जीता, दो साल का खिताबी सूखा समाप्त किया

- The premier Indian men's doubles team bounces back to defeat **Indonesia's Alfian and Fikri** for its first crown since the **2024 Thailand Open**.
  भारत की प्रमुख पुरुष युगल जोड़ी ने वापसी करते हुए **इंडोनेशिया के अल्फियान और फिकरी** को हराकर **2024 थाईलैंड ओपन** के बाद अपना पहला खिताब जीता।
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy** and **Chirag Shetty** fought back from a game down to clinch their maiden **Singapore Open** title, defeating Indonesia's **Fajar Alfian** and **Muhammad Shohibul Fikri** in the men's doubles final of the **BWF Super 750** badminton tournament, here on Sunday.
  सात्विकसाईराज रंकीरेड्डी और **चिराग शेट्टी** ने एक गेम से पिछड़ने के बाद शानदार वापसी करते हुए रविवार को **BWF सुपर 750** बैडमिंटन टूर्नामेंट के पुरुष युगल फाइनल में इंडोनेशिया के **फजार अल्फियान** और **मुहम्मद शोहिबुल फिकरी** को हराकर अपना पहला **सिंगापुर ओपन** खिताब जीता।
- The **Asian Games** and **Commonwealth Games** champions produced a gritty comeback to secure their first title in two years and their ninth career World Tour crown, besides claiming a third Super 750 title, with a tense 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 win in 73 minutes.
  एशियाई खेलों और **कॉमनवेल्थ गेम्स** के चैंपियन इस भारतीय जोड़ी ने संघर्षपूर्ण वापसी करते हुए दो वर्षों में अपना पहला खिताब और करियर का नौवां वर्ल्ड टूर खिताब जीता, साथ ही तीसरा सुपर 750 खिताब भी हासिल किया। उन्होंने 73 मिनट में 18-21, 21-17, 21-16 से जीत दर्ज की।
- The victory was particularly significant for the **World No. 4** Indian duo, who became the first Indians to win the doubles title at the Singapore Open.
  यह जीत **विश्व नंबर 4** भारतीय जोड़ी के लिए विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण रही, क्योंकि वे सिंगापुर ओपन में युगल खिताब जीतने वाले पहले भारतीय बने।
- Satwik and Chirag had last lifted a trophy at the Thailand Open in 2024.
  सात्विक और चिराग ने आखिरी बार 2024 में थाईलैंड ओपन का खिताब जीता था।

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Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian u-20 Championships

Stellar: India's women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record. AFI

Good showing: India's men's 4x400m team of Ranjith, Sayed, Ashfaq, and Piyush took bronze in 3:05.54. AFI

ATHLETICS

PCS
Sports Bureau

India ended the Asian under-20 Athletics Championships in Hong Kong with another gold as its women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record on the final day on Sunday.

The quartet of Bhumika Sanjay Nehate, Tahura Khatun, Sehnoor Bawa and Neeru Pathak clocked 3:38.07 to finish ahead of Kazakhstan, which took silver in 3:43.63.

Host Hong Kong claimed bronze in 3:49.94.

India added another relay medal soon after, with the men's 4x400m team of Piyush Raj, Sayed Sabeer, Ranjith Kumar S. and Mohammed Ashfaq taking bronze in 3:05.54.

China won gold in 3:04.88, while Qatar finished second in 3:05.06.

Earlier in the day, Venkatram Reddy Mogali won gold in the men's 800m with a personal best of 1:48.27.

Muskan had also topped the women's 5000m in 16:53.08, while Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw with a personal best of 60.10m.

The final-day medals capped a strong campaign for the Indian contingent at the continental junior meet.

Mogali won gold in men's 800m. AFI

Muskan topped the women's 5000m. AFI

Nishchay claimed silver in the men's discus throw. AFI

01J6. Women's relay gold caps India's strong campaign in Asian U-20 Championships

महिला रिले स्वर्ण ने एशियाई अंडर-20 चैंपियनशिप में भारत के शानदार अभियान को मुकम्मल किया

- India ended the **Asian Under-20 Athletics Championships** in **Hong Kong** with another gold as its women's 4x400m relay team set a meet record on the final day on Sunday.
  भारत ने रविवार को अंतिम दिन महिलाओं की 4x400 मीटर रिले टीम द्वारा मीट रिकॉर्ड बनाते हुए **हांगकांग** में आयोजित **एशियाई अंडर-20 एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप** का समापन एक और स्वर्ण पदक के साथ किया।
- The quartet of **Bhumika Sanjay Nehate**, **Tahura Khatun**, **Sehnoor Bawa** and **Neeru Pathak** clocked 3:38.07 to finish ahead of **Kazakhstan**, which took silver in 3:43.63.
  भूमिका संजय नेहाते, **तहुरा खातून**, **सेहनूर बावा** और **नीरू पाठक** की चौकड़ी ने 3:38.07 का समय निकालकर **कजाखस्तान** को पीछे छोड़ा, जिसने 3:43.63 के साथ रजत पदक जीता।
- Host **Hong Kong** claimed bronze in 3:49.94.
  मेजबान **हांगकांग** ने 3:49.94 के समय के साथ कांस्य पदक हासिल किया।
- India added another relay medal soon after, with the men's 4x400m team of **Piyush Raj**, **Sayed Sabeer**, **Ranjith Kumar S.** and **Mohammed Ashfaq** taking bronze in 3:05.54.

इसके तुरंत बाद भारत ने एक और रिले पदक जोड़ा, जब पुरुषों की 4x400 मीटर टीम के **पियूष राज**, **सैयद सबीर**, **रंजीत कुमार एस.** और **मोहम्मद अशफाक** ने 3:05.54 के समय के साथ कांस्य पदक जीता।

- **China** won gold in 3:04.88, while **Qatar** finished second in 3:05.06.
  चीन ने 3:04.88 के समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता, जबकि **कतर** 3:05.06 के साथ दूसरे स्थान पर रहा।
- Earlier in the day, **Venkatram Reddy Mogali** won gold in the men's 800m with a personal best of 1:48.27.
  इससे पहले दिन में **वेंकटराम रेड्डी मोगली** ने पुरुषों की 800 मीटर दौड़ में 1:48.27 के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ समय के साथ स्वर्ण पदक जीता।
- **Muskan** had also topped the women's 5000m in 16:53.08.
  मुस्कान ने भी महिलाओं की 5000 मीटर दौड़ में 16:53.08 के समय के साथ पहला स्थान हासिल किया।
- While **Nishchay** claimed silver in the men's discus throw with a personal best of 60.10m.
  वहीं **निश्चय** ने पुरुषों की डिस्कस थ्रो स्पर्धा में 60.10 मीटर के व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन के साथ रजत पदक जीता।

GS Paper 1: History	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith आदिवासी पहचान और आस्था पर बहुसंख्यकवाद की छाया

The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith

GS I: History GS I: Society

Brinda Karat
Senior leader of the CPI(M)

Majoritarian politics seeks to reshape Adivasi identity and rights

Last week, the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, both Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) progeny, held a conclave in Delhi – "Janjati Sanskritik Samagam" – attended by thousands of Adivasis from across the country The stated occasion was the 150th anniversary of legendary hero Birsa Munda. In the vote of thanks, the organisers acknowledged the extensive official machinery behind the gathering – from the Railway Ministry to Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, and senior officials. With Union Home Minister Amit Shah as the chief guest, the event was effectively semi-official. This is precisely why the speeches, demands raised, and the Home Minister's response deserve far closer scrutiny than an ostensibly cultural gathering would normally invite.

The JSM's core agenda against Christian conversions is well known, its main demand being the delisting of all Adivasi communities that have converted to Christianity and the stripping of their constitutional and legal protections on the grounds that they no longer subscribe to Adivasi beliefs. The organisation has run violent campaigns in several States in central India, particularly Chhattisgarh, targeting Adivasi families who have converted to Christianity – campaigns that have gone so far as the forcible exhumation of bodies from graves on privately owned land belonging to Christian Adivasis in tribal villages. In February this year, in a case pending before the Supreme Court of India, the Court issued interim orders restraining such exhumations. Yet, these incidents continue under the patronage of Bharatiya Janata Party State governments.

A foundational distinction

At the conclave, the demand for delisting was framed with reference to the recent Court judgment upholding the Presidential Order of 1950, which holds that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes (SC) who profess a religion "other than Hinduism" do not qualify for constitutional or legal benefits meant for SCs. The JSM's demand is that this principle be extended to Scheduled Tribes (ST) – a move that would require removing what one of its leaders described as "a weakness in the Constitution." What the JSM considers a weakness is, in fact, a foundational distinction: unlike in the case of SCs, neither the Constitution of India nor the law links the identity of STs to religion.

On the conclave stage, alongside portraits of Birsa Munda and a Hinduised image of "Bharat Mata", was a portrait of the late Kartik Oraon – a Congress Member of Parliament who once filed a petition challenging the candidature of two members of the Oraon community from an ST-reserved seat on the grounds that they were Christians. The Patna High Court, in its ruling in 1963, rejected his petition categorically, holding that "tribal identity is not religion-based," that it rests on ethnic and community kinship ties, and that "an Oraon remains an Oraon" regardless of whether he is Hindu, Christian, or Buddhist. The High Court further observed that, by and large, converted Adivasis continued to participate in community festivals and celebrations, and joined others in raising concerns common to all Adivasi communities. This judgment remains the governing legal precedent. The JSM seeks to overturn it, and its method for doing so is chillingly cruel: isolating converted families, forcibly preventing them from attending community festivals, and then using that coercively imposed exclusion as proof that converts have abandoned Adivasi culture, promoting their expulsion from traditional gram sabhas. Exclusion is engineered, then presented as evidence.

A campaign of cooption

Simultaneously, the JSM has been pushing the assertion that Adivasis belong to the broader "sanatan parivar". At the conclave, the organisation's national convenor declared: "They say Adivasis are not Hindus. What is this game? We are Ram's children – this is a conspiracy against us." Another leader proclaimed that "Adivasis exist in the shade of the great tree of Sanatan". The nature of the JSM's *"ghar wapasi* (homecoming") for converts is unambiguous – functions marked not with Adivasi symbols but those of Hindutva. In the JSM's worldview, Adivasis are "*vanvasis*" – forest dwellers defined by their service to Lord Ram, subordinate to upper-caste deities, and redeemable only through their blessings. The building of temples with Hindu idols in tribal villages, the rebranding of local deities as forms of Vishnu, Shiva or Durga, and the installation of Hanuman idols at village entry points are all part of this hegemonic cooption campaign.

Adivasis are fully entitled to choose their religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion. There are laws, some quite draconian, to deal with conversions which are "fraudulent". Adivasis may choose to be Hindu, Christian, or of any other faith. But whether an Adivasi worships Ram or Jesus has no bearing on their identity as an Adivasi; this is a fundamental constitutional principle. What cannot be accepted is the distortion of this principle to suggest that an Adivasi who worships Ram is expressing Adivasi culture, while one who worships Jesus is betraying it. Adivasis have long demanded formal recognition of the distinctiveness of their beliefs, of their worship of nature, their animist traditions and practices. The Jharkhand Legislative Assembly, for instance, adopted a resolution calling for a separate column in the Census enumeration of religion for Adivasis to register their own beliefs, a demand reiterated by Adivasi intellectuals and numerous organisations across the country. But this has been unfairly ignored by the government, insulting Adivasi faith.

The urgent issues Adivasis face

It is this majoritarian agenda that Mr. Amit Shah endorsed going even further by describing the JSM's campaign as a contemporary "Ulgulan". Birsa Munda's Ulgulan was a revolt against colonial rule – and notably, he broke with Christian missionaries precisely because he saw them as instruments of that rule. Mr. Shah's political lineage, by contrast, never fought the British – it compromised with them. To invoke hero Birsa's name and the historic Ulgalan to legitimise a sectarian campaign against converted Adivasis is a grave betrayal of his legacy. Mr. Shah also declared that sanatanis too are nature worshippers, and that *jal*, *jangal*, *pahad* (water, forests, mountains) "is the centre of our beliefs".

His words ring hollow. Even as Mr. Shah spoke, tribal communities in Sijimali and Rayagada in Odisha were fighting to save their sacred mountain from bauxite mining operations approved by his own government. In the Hasdeo region of Chhattisgarh, thousands of Adivasis have spent years fighting against their forests being handed over to private mining companies – forests that were previously declared a "no-go zone," until the current regime decided otherwise. Lakhs of trees have been felled against the decisions of the gram sabhas, among them the *sal* and *karam*, the sacred trees around which Adivasi festivals and rituals are organised. The nature worshippers in Delhi have been remarkably efficient destroyers of nature.

The urgent issues before Adivasis are the sabotage of the Forest Rights Act, the virtual elimination of the rights of the gram sabha, the subversion of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas), or PESA, the huge backlog in employment in reserved posts, the pathetic condition of Adivasi student hostels and arrears in scholarship payments, and the continuing lack of civic and health facilities in Adivasi areas, to name a few. And through all of this – not once, not in a single instance – has the JSM raised its voice in defence of Adivasi rights against government-enabled corporate takeovers of *jal*, *jangal*, and *zameen*. On the contrary, by splitting Adivasi communities along religious lines, it has served the interests of the very companies that are dispossessing them. Dividing the dispossessed is, after all, the oldest trick in the book.

For those committed to the defence of Adivasi rights, the JSM gathering and the Home Minister's endorsement are indications of the challenges ahead, which can and must be met by the united will of Adivasi resistance and democratic forces in the spirit of the great Adivasi heroes.

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01J6. The majoritarian shadow over Adivasi identity, faith
आदिवासी पहचान और आस्था पर बहुसंख्यकवाद की छाया

- **Last week, the Janjati Suraksha Manch (JSM) and Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, both Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) progeny, held a conclave in Delhi — "Janjati Sanskritik Samagam" — attended by thousands of Adivasis from across the country.**
  पिछले सप्ताह, जनजाति सुरक्षा मंच (JSM) और वनवासी कल्याण आश्रम, जो दोनों राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS) से संबद्ध संगठन हैं, ने दिल्ली में "जनजाति सांस्कृतिक समागम" नामक एक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया, जिसमें देशभर से हजारों आदिवासियों ने भाग लिया।
- The stated occasion was the **150th anniversary** of legendary hero **Birsa Munda**.
  इस आयोजन का घोषित अवसर महानायक **बिरसा मुंडा** की **150वीं जयंती** था।
- The **JSM's** core agenda against Christian conversions is well known, its main demand being the delisting of all Adivasi communities that have converted to Christianity and the stripping of their constitutional and legal protections on the grounds that they no longer subscribe to Adivasi beliefs.
  JSM का ईसाई धर्मांतरण के विरुद्ध मुख्य एजेंडा सर्वविदित है, जिसकी प्रमुख माँग यह है कि ईसाई धर्म अपनाने वाले सभी आदिवासी समुदायों को सूचीबद्ध जनजातियों की श्रेणी से बाहर किया जाए तथा यह कहते हुए उनके संवैधानिक और कानूनी संरक्षण समाप्त किए जाएँ कि वे अब आदिवासी मान्यताओं का पालन नहीं करते।
- The organisation has run violent campaigns in several States in central India, particularly **Chhattisgarh**, targeting Adivasi families who have converted to Christianity — campaigns that have gone so far as the forcible exhumation of bodies from graves on privately owned land belonging to Christian Adivasis in tribal villages.
  इस संगठन ने मध्य भारत के अनेक राज्यों, विशेषकर **छत्तीसगढ़**, में ईसाई धर्म अपनाने वाले आदिवासी परिवारों के विरुद्ध हिंसक अभियान चलाए हैं — जो आदिवासी गाँवों में ईसाई आदिवासियों की निजी भूमि पर स्थित कब्रों से शवों को जबरन निकालने तक पहुँच गए हैं।

A foundational distinction
एक मूलभूत भेद

- At the conclave, the demand for delisting was framed with reference to the recent Court judgment upholding the **Presidential Order of 1950**, which holds that persons belonging to **Scheduled Castes (SC)** who profess a religion "other than Hinduism" do not qualify for constitutional or legal benefits meant for SCs.
  सम्मेलन में सूची से हटाने की माँग को हाल ही के उस न्यायिक निर्णय के संदर्भ में प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिसमें **1950 के राष्ट्रपति आदेश** को बरकरार रखा गया था। इस आदेश के अनुसार, **अनुसूचित जाति (SC)** से संबंधित वे व्यक्ति जो "हिंदू धर्म के अतिरिक्त" किसी अन्य धर्म को मानते हैं, अनुसूचित जातियों हेतु निर्धारित संवैधानिक या कानूनी लाभों के पात्र नहीं होंगे।
- The **JSM's** demand is that this principle be extended to **Scheduled Tribes (ST)** — a move that would require removing what one of its leaders described as "a weakness in the Constitution."
  JSM की माँग है कि इस सिद्धांत को **अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST)** पर भी लागू किया जाए — एक ऐसा कदम, जिसके लिए उनके एक नेता द्वारा "संविधान की कमजोरी" कहे गए प्रावधान को हटाना आवश्यक होगा।
- What the **JSM** considers a weakness is, in fact, a foundational distinction: unlike in the case of **SCs**, neither the **Constitution of India** nor the law links the identity of **STs** to religion.
  जिसे **JSM** कमजोरी मानता है, वह वास्तव में एक मूलभूत भेद है: **SCs** के मामले के विपरीत, न तो **भारतीय संविधान** और न ही कानून, **STs** की पहचान को धर्म से जोड़ता है।

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- On the conclave stage, alongside portraits of **Birsa Munda** and a Hinduised image of "**Bharat Mata**", was a portrait of the late **Kartik Oraon** — a Congress Member of Parliament who once filed a petition challenging the candidature of two members of the **Oraon** community from an ST-reserved seat on the grounds that they were Christians.
  सम्मेलन के मंच पर **बिरसा मुंडा** और "**भारत माता**" की हिंदूकरण की गई छवि के साथ दिवंगत **कार्तिक उराँव** का चित्र भी था — जो कांग्रेस के सांसद थे और जिन्होंने कभी **उराँव** समुदाय के दो ईसाई उम्मीदवारों की ST-आरक्षित सीट से उम्मीदवारी को चुनौती देते हुए याचिका दायर की थी।
- The **Patna High Court**, in its ruling in **1963**, rejected his petition categorically, holding that "tribal identity is not religion-based," that it rests on ethnic and community kinship ties, and that "an Oraon remains an Oraon" regardless of whether he is Hindu, Christian, or Buddhist.
  पटना उच्च न्यायालय ने अपने **1963** के निर्णय में उनकी याचिका को स्पष्ट रूप से अस्वीकार करते हुए कहा था कि "जनजातीय पहचान धर्म आधारित नहीं होती," बल्कि यह जातीय और सामुदायिक संबंधों पर आधारित होती है, तथा "एक उराँव, उराँव ही रहता है," चाहे वह हिंदू हो, ईसाई हो या बौद्ध।
- The High Court further observed that, by and large, converted Adivasis continued to participate in community festivals and celebrations, and joined others in raising concerns common to all Adivasi communities.
  उच्च न्यायालय ने आगे यह भी कहा कि सामान्यतः धर्मांतरित आदिवासी सामुदायिक उत्सवों और आयोजनों में भाग लेते रहे तथा सभी आदिवासी समुदायों से संबंधित सामान्य मुद्दों को उठाने में अन्य लोगों के साथ शामिल रहे।

A campaign of cooption
समावेशन के माध्यम से आत्मसात करने का अभियान

- Adivasis are fully entitled to choose their religion under **Article 25** of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of conscience and religion.
  आदिवासियों को संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 25** के अंतर्गत अपना धर्म चुनने का पूर्ण अधिकार प्राप्त है, जो अंतःकरण और धर्म की स्वतंत्रता की गारंटी देता है।

The urgent issues Adivasis face
आदिवासियों के समक्ष उपस्थित तात्कालिक समस्याएँ

- **Birsa Munda's Ulgulan** was a revolt against colonial rule — and notably, he broke with Christian missionaries precisely because he saw them as instruments of that rule.
  बिरसा मुंडा का उलगुलान औपनिवेशिक शासन के विरुद्ध विद्रोह था — और विशेष रूप से उन्होंने ईसाई मिशनरियों से संबंध इसलिए तोड़ लिया था क्योंकि वे उन्हें औपनिवेशिक शासन का उपकरण मानते थे।
- The urgent issues before Adivasis are the sabotage of the **Forest Rights Act**, the virtual elimination of the rights of the gram sabha, the subversion of the **Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas), or PESA**, the huge backlog in employment in reserved posts, the pathetic condition of Adivasi student hostels and arrears in scholarship payments, and the continuing lack of civic and health facilities in Adivasi areas, to name a few.
  आदिवासियों के समक्ष तात्कालिक समस्याओं में **वन अधिकार अधिनियम** को निष्प्रभावी बनाना, ग्राम सभा के अधिकारों का लगभग समाप्त कर दिया जाना, **पंचायत (अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों तक विस्तार) अधिनियम अर्थात् PESA** को कमजोर करना, आरक्षित पदों में रोजगार का भारी बैकलॉग, आदिवासी छात्रावासों की दयनीय स्थिति, छात्रवृत्ति भुगतान में बकाया राशि तथा आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में नागरिक एवं स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं की निरंतर कमी जैसी समस्याएँ शामिल हैं।

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01J6	Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality किशोर यौनिकता पर संवाद की ओर

Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality

GS I: Society

A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, allowing the medical termination of pregnancy at 28 weeks, has received significant media attention. Much of this attention stems from the arguments advanced on behalf of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which has sought for a reconsideration of the judgment.

Doctors at AIIMS argued that what the court described as a medical termination of pregnancy would, in reality, involve delivering a living child at 28 weeks, one likely to be born with serious medical complications, long-term co-morbidities and disabilities. They asked that the delivery be pushed by six weeks to improve the child's chances of survival. These arguments were rejected by the court in rather strong terms.

A doctor's ethical burden

The nature of the doctors' argument is not inherently distinct from claims about a (much younger) foetus' interest in being carried to term. In both cases, more time in the womb increases the chances of survival outside it. However, since a 28-week foetus is at a more advanced stage of gestation, two things change about the claim.

First, doctors are better able to predict both the foetus' chances of survival and the medical complications it may face, making concerns about neo-natal care and future health more concrete. Second, and not unrelatedly, the ethical burden of the doctor who must perform the delivery increases significantly. Where a foetus is not viable, the doctor's sole obligation is to the pregnant woman. But where a living child may be delivered, the doctor's obligations extend to that child as well. A doctor may, therefore, experience the procedure not merely as an abortion, but as a medically induced premature delivery that immediately creates an obligation to preserve life.

Shraddha Chaudhary

Assistant Professor, School of Law, BML Munjal University

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet

While the court's order protects her from legal action, it does not extinguish her ethical and moral obligations as a doctor and as a human being.

None of this necessarily undermines the court's decision. Faced with an unwed minor who had reportedly attempted suicide twice, the court understandably prioritised her reproductive autonomy and well-being. But the doctors' objections, though framed as concern for the unborn child, also reflect a potent anxiety: the ethical burden placed on medical professionals asked to perform such procedures at the edge of foetal viability. This burden need not change how we think about the outcome of the case, but it deserves to be acknowledged for the ethical tensions underlining it.

On adolescent sexual activity

These ethical tensions are not accidental or anomalous. The immense trauma endured by the unwed minor, the predicament of the unborn but viable foetus, and the ethical burden of the doctors are all symptomatic of a deeper structural issue. Cases like these arise because of a serious and largely unnoticed failure of the state to deal appropriately with the phenomenon of teenage sex. In this case, a de-facto consensual sexual relationship between a 15-year-old girl and her 17-year-old partner resulted in pregnancy. The pregnancy went unnoticed until the minor's mother reportedly observed 'an unusual heaviness' in her abdomen, by which time it was already too advanced to terminate without court intervention. This is because the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, as amended in 2021, does not allow abortions beyond 24 weeks even in exceptional circumstances.

The Indian state's approach to the issue has largely been one of blanket criminalisation: all sexual activity involving minors is treated as a criminal offence, regardless of whether it involves coercion, exploitation, or de-facto consensual sexual activity between adolescents. Studies from the U.S. have shown that abstinence-only policies fail to prevent adolescents from having sex. Empirical studies on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) in India have also repeatedly shown that nearly 10-15% of all cases before the POCSO special courts involve de-facto consensual relationships, and there is nothing to suggest that the law manages to deter such sex amongst adolescents.

If anything, this criminalisation works in tandem with the absence of adequate and comprehensive sex education in educational institutions.

Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet. Instead of teaching adolescents the essentials of safe sex, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, the answer to all questions around sex and sexuality is reduced to a simplistic "don't do it". However, preventing cases such as this is more likely to require comprehensive sex education and an emphasis on safe sexual practices.

The way forward

Such policies require a more nuanced conversation around adolescent sexuality, in which we are willing to acknowledge that de-facto consensual sexual interactions involving adolescents exist and should not be conflated with instances of child rape and exploitation. They also require a commitment to steady long-term measures, which may not provide short-term rhetorical gains.

Thus, if our concern is truly the well-being of adolescents, the solution is not a refusal to acknowledge their sexuality but a commitment to engage with it honestly and meaningfully.

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01J6. Towards a dialogue on adolescent sexuality
किशोर यौनिकता पर संवाद की ओर

- **A recent judgment of the Supreme Court of India, allowing the medical termination of pregnancy at 28 weeks, has received significant media attention.**
  भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के एक हालिया निर्णय, जिसमें 28 सप्ताह पर गर्भसमापन की अनुमति दी गई, ने व्यापक मीडिया ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।
- However, since a **28-week foetus** is at a more advanced stage of gestation, two things change about the claim.
  किन्तु चूँकि **28 सप्ताह का भ्रूण** गर्भावस्था के अधिक विकसित चरण में होता है, इसलिए इस दावे के संबंध में दो महत्वपूर्ण परिवर्तन उत्पन्न होते हैं।
- First, doctors are better able to predict both the foetus' chances of survival and the medical complications it may face, making concerns about neo-natal care and future health more concrete.
  पहला, चिकित्सक भ्रूण के जीवित रहने की संभावना तथा संभावित चिकित्सीय जटिलताओं का अधिक सटीक अनुमान लगाने में सक्षम होते हैं, जिससे नवजात देखभाल और भविष्य के स्वास्थ्य संबंधी चिंताएँ अधिक वास्तविक और स्पष्ट हो जाती हैं।
- The immense trauma endured by the unwed minor, the predicament of the unborn but viable foetus, and the ethical burden of the doctors are all symptomatic of a deeper structural issue.
  अविवाहित नाबालिग द्वारा झेला गया गहरा आघात, अजन्मे किंतु जीवित रहने में सक्षम भ्रूण की स्थिति, तथा चिकित्सकों पर पड़ा नैतिक दायित्व — ये सभी एक गहरे संरचनात्मक संकट के लक्षण हैं।
- This is because the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act**, as amended in 2021, does not allow abortions beyond 24 weeks even in exceptional circumstances.
  ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि 2021 में संशोधित **गर्भसमापन चिकित्सा अधिनियम (Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act)** असाधारण परिस्थितियों में भी 24 सप्ताह के बाद गर्भपात की अनुमति नहीं देता।
- Studies from the **U.S.** have shown that abstinence-only policies fail to prevent adolescents from having sex.
  अमेरिका के अध्ययनों से यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि केवल संयम आधारित नीतियाँ किशोरों को यौन संबंध बनाने से रोकने में असफल रहती हैं।
- Empirical studies on the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO)** in India have also repeatedly shown that nearly 10-15% of all cases before the POCSO special courts involve de-facto consensual relationships, and there is nothing to suggest that the law manages to deter such sex amongst adolescents.
  भारत में **बाल यौन अपराध संरक्षण अधिनियम, 2012 (POCSO)** पर किए गए अनुभवजन्य अध्ययनों ने बार-बार यह दर्शाया है कि POCSO विशेष न्यायालयों के समक्ष आने वाले लगभग 10-15% मामलों में वास्तविक सहमति पर आधारित संबंध शामिल होते हैं, और ऐसा कोई प्रमाण नहीं है जिससे यह संकेत मिले कि यह कानून किशोरों के बीच ऐसे संबंधों को रोकने में सफल रहा है।
- Policies such as the ban on condom advertisements between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., and a generally repressive culture around sex brush questions of sex and sexuality under the carpet.
  सुबह 6 बजे से रात 10 बजे तक कंडोम विज्ञापनों पर प्रतिबंध जैसी नीतियाँ तथा यौन विषयों के प्रति दमनकारी सामाजिक संस्कृति, यौन संबंधी प्रश्नों और यौनिकता को दबाने का कार्य करती हैं।
- Instead of teaching adolescents the essentials of safe sex, menstruation, sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy, the answer to all questions around sex and sexuality is reduced to a simplistic "don't do it".
  किशोरों को सुरक्षित यौन संबंध, मासिक धर्म, यौन संचारित रोगों और गर्भधारण की मूलभूत जानकारी देने के

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स्थान पर, यौन और यौनिकता से जुड़े सभी प्रश्नों का उत्तर केवल एक सरल "यह मत करो" तक सीमित कर दिया गया है।

- However, preventing cases such as this is more likely to require comprehensive sex education and an emphasis on safe sexual practices.
  किन्तु इस प्रकार के मामलों की रोकथाम के लिए व्यापक यौन शिक्षा और सुरक्षित यौन व्यवहार पर बल देना अधिक आवश्यक प्रतीत होता है।

The way forward
आगे की राह

- Such policies require a more nuanced conversation around adolescent sexuality, in which we are willing to acknowledge that de-facto consensual sexual interactions involving adolescents exist and should not be conflated with instances of child rape and exploitation.
  ऐसी नीतियों के लिए किशोर यौनिकता पर अधिक संतुलित और सूक्ष्म संवाद की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें हम यह स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हों कि किशोरों के बीच वास्तविक सहमति पर आधारित यौन संबंध अस्तित्व में हैं और उन्हें बाल बलात्कार तथा शोषण की घटनाओं के साथ मिश्रित नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

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Euphrates on the rise

Water being released from the Euphrates Dam in Tabqa in Syria's Raqa province. The floods in the north and east are the result of rain levels that were higher than usual this year prompting authorities to open some of the gates at the Euphrates Dam to reduce pressure on it. Flooding has been rare in the country since Turkey built dams decades ago that control the flow of the Euphrates into Syria and Iraq. AFP

Water being released from the **Euphrates Dam in Tabqain Syria's Raqa province**. The floods in the north and east are the result of rain levels that were higher than usual this year prompting authorities to open some of the gates at the Euphrates Dam to reduce pressure on it.
Flooding has been rare in the country since Turkey built dams decades ago that control the flow of the Euphrates into Syria and Iraq.

Padma Barrage: another barrier

GS I: Geography

Vasudevan Mukunth

Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district. It is Bangladesh's attempt to partially re-engineer the hydrology of its southwest region, which has become prone to drought after decades of reduced seasonal flows linked to the Farakka barrage upstream in India.

The barrage will be 2.1-km-long and have 78 spillway gates, undersluices, navigation locks, fish passages, and associated embankments. It will impound roughly 2.9 billion cubic metres of water and includes 113 MW of hydropower generation. According to Bangladesh, the project will affect roughly 37% of the country's land area and irrigate around 2.88 million ha of farmland.

While the barrage's supporters see a long-delayed national water security project in the Padma barrage, critics have said mega-barrages often underperform, alter sediment flows in unpredictable ways, and can create new ecological problems, such as water-logging and damage to fisheries. Some environmental groups have also criticised the speed of approval and called for greater public scrutiny.

As Mehebub Sahana at the University of Manchester and Bayes Ahmed at University College London have argued, the project highlights how South Asian countries are building more barriers to rivers rather than removing them. The regional turn towards unilateral river engineering is at odds with Europe and North America tearing down obsolete dams and culverts to restore rivers' free flow. In 2025 alone, 21 European countries removed a record 603 barriers.

Boats on the Padma river in 1860. PUBLIC DOMAIN

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01J6. Padma Barrage: another barrier
पद्मा बैराज: एक और अवरोध

- **Bangladesh has approved a large river engineering project called the Padma barrage, on the Padma river, which is Bangladesh's stretch of the Ganga, in Rajbari district.**

बांग्लादेश ने राजबाड़ी ज़िले में स्थित पद्मा नदी, जो गंगा का बांग्लादेशी भाग है, पर पद्मा बैराज नामक एक विशाल नदी अभियांत्रिकी परियोजना को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है।

- The barrage will be **2.1-km-long** and have **78 spillway gates**, undersluices, navigation locks, fish passages, and associated embankments.

यह बैराज **2.1 किलोमीटर लंबा** होगा तथा इसमें **78 स्पिलवे द्वार**, अंडरस्लुइस, नौवहन लॉक, मछली मार्ग तथा संबंधित तटबंध होंगे।

- According to Bangladesh, the project will affect roughly **37%** of the country's land area and irrigate around **2.88 million ha** of farmland.

बांग्लादेश के अनुसार, यह परियोजना देश के लगभग **37%** भू-क्षेत्र को प्रभावित करेगी तथा लगभग **2.88 मिलियन हेक्टेयर** कृषि भूमि की सिंचाई करेगी।

- While the barrage's supporters see a long-delayed national water security project in the **Padma barrage**, critics have said mega-barrages often underperform, alter sediment flows in unpredictable ways, and can create new ecological problems, such as water-logging and damage to fisheries.

जहाँ बैराज के समर्थक **पद्मा बैराज** को लंबे समय से लंबित राष्ट्रीय जल सुरक्षा परियोजना के रूप में देखते हैं, वहीं आलोचकों का कहना है कि विशाल बैराज अक्सर अपेक्षित प्रदर्शन नहीं कर पाते, तलछट प्रवाह को अप्रत्याशित रूप से बदल देते हैं तथा जलभराव और मत्स्य संसाधनों को क्षति जैसी नई पारिस्थितिक समस्याएँ उत्पन्न कर सकते हैं।

- As **Mehebub Sahana** at the **University of Manchester** and **Bayes Ahmed** at **University College London** have argued, the project highlights how South Asian countries are building more barriers to rivers rather than removing them.

जैसा कि **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ मैनचेस्टर** के **मेहेबुब सहाना** तथा **यूनिवर्सिटी कॉलेज लंदन** के **बेयस अहमद** ने तर्क दिया है, यह परियोजना दर्शाती है कि दक्षिण एशियाई देश नदियों पर अवरोध हटाने के बजाय अधिक अवरोध निर्मित कर रहे हैं।

- The regional turn towards unilateral river engineering is at odds with **Europe** and **North America** tearing down obsolete dams and culverts to restore rivers' free flow.

एकपक्षीय नदी अभियांत्रिकी की दिशा में यह क्षेत्रीय परिवर्तन **यूरोप** और **उत्तरी अमेरिका** की उस प्रवृत्ति के विपरीत है, जहाँ नदियों के मुक्त प्रवाह को पुनर्स्थापित करने के लिए अप्रचलित बाँधों और कल्वर्टों को हटाया जा रहा है।

- In **2025** alone, **21 European countries** removed a record **603 barriers**.

केवल **2025** में ही **21 यूरोपीय देशों** ने रिकॉर्ड **603 अवरोधों** को हटाया।

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Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Tibetans and Sherpas call Mt Everest Chomolungma. What does that mean? **Ans: Mother Goddess of the Earth**
2. This is a perilous area on Mt Everest where most mountaineers struggle to carry on because the air contains only about one-third of the oxygen available at sea level. What is it called? **Ans: The death zone**
3. Before the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, which peak was considered the highest peak in the world? Also, which State government bans mountaineering expeditions from its side on this mountain, which is believed to be sacred? **Ans: Kanchenjunga, Sikkim**
4. She was the first woman to summit Mt Everest. A mountain range on Pluto is named after her. Name her. **Ans: Junko Tabei**
5. Humanity has littered the entire planet, from the peak of Mt Everest to the deepest point on earth. In both places, microplastics have been found. Name the deepest point. **Ans: Mariana Trench**
Visual: This man served as Surveyor General of India. He never saw the Everest but he is associated with it. Name him. **Ans: George Everest**
Early Birds: Utsav Kaushal | Suchit Narottam | K.N. Viswanathan | Dodo Jayaditya | Sukdev Shet

01J6. QUIZ: Mount Everest

1. Chomolungma — Mother Goddess of the Earth

- Tibetans and Sherpas traditionally call **Mount Everest** "Chomolungma" or "Qomolangma".
- The term means **"Mother Goddess of the Earth"** in the Tibetan language.
- The name reflects the spiritual and sacred significance of the mountain in Himalayan Buddhist culture.
- Sherpa communities living in Nepal and Tibet worship the mountain as a divine entity and perform rituals before expeditions.
- In Nepal, Mount Everest is also known as **Sagarmatha**, meaning "Forehead of the Sky".

The mountain lies in the **Mahalangur Himal** sub-range of the Himalayas on the Nepal–China border.
According to the latest Nepal-China joint announcement of 2020, Everest's official height is **8,848.86 metres**.

2. The Death Zone

- The "**Death Zone**" refers to altitudes above approximately **8,000 metres** on mountains such as Mount Everest.
- At this height, atmospheric oxygen levels are extremely low, containing nearly one-third of the oxygen available at sea level.
- Human bodies cannot acclimatise permanently under such conditions.
- Climbers experience severe risks such as hypoxia, cerebral oedema, pulmonary oedema, frostbite, and exhaustion.

3. Kanchenjunga and Sikkim's Ban on Expeditions

- Before the **Great Trigonometrical Survey of India**, many geographers considered **Kanchenjunga** the highest mountain in the world.
- **Kanchenjunga has a height of 8,586 metres and is currently the third-highest mountain globally**.
- It is located on the border between **India's Sikkim State and Nepal**.
- The Great Trigonometrical Survey later scientifically established **Mount Everest** as the world's highest peak.
- Kanchenjunga is considered sacred by the people of Sikkim, especially the Lepcha and Buddhist communities.
- Because of its religious importance, the **Government of Sikkim** prohibits mountaineers from stepping on the actual summit from the Indian side.
- Climbers traditionally stop a few feet below the peak to respect local beliefs.
- The Kanchenjunga landscape is also protected through the **Khangchendzonga National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

4. Junko Tabei — First Woman to Summit Everest

- **Junko Tabei** of Japan became the first woman to successfully summit Mount Everest on **May 16, 1975**.
- Junko Tabei later climbed the highest peaks on all seven continents, completing the "Seven Summits".

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- A mountain range on the dwarf planet **Pluto** has been named "Tabei Montes" in her honour by the International Astronomical Union.

5. Mariana Trench — Deepest Point on Earth

- The **Mariana Trench** is the deepest known point on Earth's oceans.
- It is located in the western Pacific Ocean near the Mariana Islands.
- Its deepest section is called the **Challenger Deep**, which reaches nearly **10,900 to 11,000 metres** below sea level according to modern oceanographic studies.
- Scientific expeditions have discovered microplastics and human-generated pollutants even at this extreme depth.
- Studies published in marine science journals show that plastic contamination has spread across the entire planet.
- Microplastics have also been found on Mount Everest, proving the global reach of pollution.
- The Mariana Trench was formed due to the subduction of the Pacific Plate beneath the Mariana Plate.

6. George Everest — Surveyor General of India

- **Sir George Everest** served as the **Surveyor General of India** from 1830 to 1843.

- He played an important role in the **Great Trigonometrical Survey of India**, one of the most ambitious scientific surveys of the nineteenth century.
- The survey aimed to accurately measure the Indian subcontinent and Himalayan peaks.
- Interestingly, George Everest himself never saw Mount Everest.
- After his tenure, the mountain known earlier as "Peak XV" was identified as the world's highest peak by surveyor **Radhanath Sikdar** in 1852.
- In 1865, the Royal Geographical Society officially named the mountain "Mount Everest" in George Everest's honour.
- Modern satellite and GPS technology have greatly improved mountain measurements compared to nineteenth-century survey methods.

Ukraine hits Russian energy sites, denies striking nuclear plant

GS I: Geography

Associated Press

KYIV

Ukraine denied Moscow's claims on Sunday that a Ukrainian drone struck the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as Kyiv launched fresh strikes overnight on Russian energy sites.

Ukraine's General Staff on Sunday said Ukrainian drones had struck the Saratov oil refinery in southwestern Russia, causing a "large-scale fire". It said the extent of the damage was being clarified, and claimed the refinery has been supplying Moscow's war effort.

Kyiv denied a Russian claim that a Ukrainian drone struck the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest.

The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Russian-held southern Ukraine. AFP

Russia's state nuclear energy company, Rosatom, said on Saturday that the drone exploded after tearing a hole in the wall of a turbine hall, and accused Ukraine of a "deliberate" attack.

01J6. Ukraine hits Russian energy sites, denies striking nuclear plant

यूक्रेन ने रूसी ऊर्जा स्थलों पर हमला किया, परमाणु संयंत्र पर हमले से किया इनकार

- Kyiv denied a Russian claim that a Ukrainian drone struck the **Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant**, Europe's largest.

कीव ने रूस के उस दावे को खारिज कर दिया कि एक यूक्रेनी ड्रोन ने यूरोप के सबसे बड़े **जापोरिज्झिया परमाणु संयंत्र** पर हमला किया।

- Russia's state nuclear energy company, **Rosatom**.

रूस की सरकारी परमाणु ऊर्जा कंपनी **रोसाटॉम** ने शनिवार को कहा कि ड्रोन टरबाइन हॉल की दीवार में छेद करने के बाद विस्फोट हुआ और उसने यूक्रेन पर "जानबूझकर" हमला करने का आरोप लगाया।

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GS Paper II: Polity	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	The apex court rings its own chain सर्वोच्च न्यायालय स्वयं अपनी न्याय-श्रृंखला बजा रहा है

The apex court rings its own chain

The Supreme Court's reliance on *suo motu* cognisance has turned a once 'rare but highly visible' jurisdiction into a recurring instrument shaped by primetime attention and media reports; while it keeps 'ringing' its own chain through televised listings and supervision, the trial courts below it continue doing the work

GS II: Polity

LETTER & SPIRIT

V. Venkatesan

In 1605, on his accession, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir fastened a chain outside his palace. Any subject denied justice by his administration could pull the chain and reach the emperor directly. The chain was, in conception, a remedy against the bureaucracy. The Indian Supreme Court is now, in its *suo motu* cognisance of individual criminal cases, the bureaucracy itself, ringing its own version of the chain. Each televised listing is the sound of the apex court calling attention to itself.

Media and motive

The latest instance is the court's *suo motu* cognisance of Twisha Sharma's death, registered under the title 'In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home'. The title prejudges its own inquiry. Institutional bias has not been judicially established at any level. The apex court's own office report, signed by the Assistant Registrar on May 23, records the basis of registration. The case was registered, the document says, 'based on media reports and other attending circumstances'. Two days later, the same bench appealed to the media to refrain from recording statements of witnesses. A court that acts on press reports while admonishing the journalists who filed them is, at the same moment, both consumer and critic of the same source.

The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant. A magistrate in Bhopal had remanded the husband, a practising advocate, to seven days of police custody. The Madhya Pradesh High Court had directed a second autopsy by an AIIMS Delhi team. The Bar Council of India had suspended the husband's licence. The State government had proposed transferring the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before the apex listing. The institutions whose bias the apex title alleges had been moving against the accused for nearly a fortnight.

Marc Galanter and Vasujith Ram put the central question to this reflex with care. Their study appears in A Qualified Hope (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Why does the response of the higher judiciary to executive or police failure take 'the form of these singular heroic interventions rather than promoting some institutional shake-up, some initiative to empower and equip courts lower in the judicial hierarchy'? Their diagnosis was unsparing. The reflex carries, they wrote, 'an echo of the disdain with which higher courts in India frequently treat the efforts of the lower judiciary'.

Easier path

Suo motu cognisance, in matters of this kind, is the easier of the two paths open to the apex court. The harder path is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary it heads. The first requires only the bench's decision to list the matter. The second requires sustained cooperation: with the High Courts on case management and supervision under Article 235 (control over subordinate courts), with State governments on funding trial-court infrastructure, with the executive on judicial appointments, and with the National Judicial Academy on training. The asymmetry between the energies devoted to the two paths is what produces the diagnosis Galanter and Ram named.

Where the easier path is taken, the court chooses persuasion over compulsion. The apex bench has, in *Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI* (2012), a five-judge Constitution Bench authority on media trial. Sahara permits a court to issue a postponement order against media publication. The test is a real and substantial risk of prejudice to the administration of justice. The order is available only where no less restrictive means will work. The doctrine is settled. In the Twisha matter, the bench had every occasion to invoke it. It chose instead to request the media not to record statements of potential witnesses. A request from the apex court carries moral weight. But it is not the legal instrument it has at hand for this very problem.

The post-2019 record is unkind to the pro-*suo-motu* case. In the R.G. Kar matter, the Supreme Court registered cognisance on August 18, 2024. Sanjay Roy had been arrested by the Kolkata Police eight days earlier. The Calcutta High Court had handed the probe to the CBI on August 13, 2024. The Sealdah trial court convicted Roy in January 2025 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The trial judge did the work. Apex monitoring of CBI status reports did not.

Hathras is closer to the Bhopal facts and more instructive. The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court registered the case *suo motu* in October 2020. The Supreme Court, after entertaining transfer petitions, handed monitoring back to the High Court within weeks. That earlier bench saw the architectural point: the High Court was already in motion, and the apex role was supervisory. In July 2024, following the Hathras Satsang stampede that claimed 121 lives, the court declined a PIL. The bench said that the High Court was equipped to deal with the case. The same principle applies in Bhopal too.

Scarce attention

Lakhimpur Kheri sharpens the matter. The apex court took cognisance in October 2021 and, in April 2022, set aside the High Court's bail order for the main accused, Ashish Mishra. It then eased him back into liberty. Interim bail came in 2023. Regular bail followed in 2024. As of early 2026, the trial court had examined only 44 of 131 witnesses. In Manipur, the *suo motu* case over the viral video from July 2023 has yet to produce a conviction. Apex supervision has not been the route to faster justice.

A second observation runs alongside. In 2019, Galanter and Ram called *suo motu* 'rare but highly visible'. The first half of that description has lapsed. What was once a residual jurisdiction is now a recurring instrument. A trigger sequence has begun to repeat. Sustained primetime attention is followed by cognisance. The Solicitor General has now confirmed the sequence in open court. Appearing for the Union in the Twisha matter, he told the bench that 'it is also because of this media intervention that a lot of progress has happened'.

The numbers since the chapter, authored by Galanter and Ram, went to press confirm the rule. The Supreme Court Observer, working from the apex court's own Case Status records, counts 35 *suo motu* matters in the five years from 2020 to 2024.

The preceding fifteen years had seen only 31 in total. The annual figures, excluding contempt, were 10 in 2020, eight in 2021, one in 2022, four in 2023, and 12 in 2024. The trend continues. In 2025, the court's numbering reached 10 civil *suo motu* writs and three criminal matters. Nine of the 10 civil matters are publicly listed. By May 25 this year, the count already stood at four civil and four criminal matters. Both totals exclude *suo motu* transfer and contempt, which exercise distinct constitutional powers. The criminal count, in particular, has risen sharply. Four months and three weeks have already exceeded the criminal count for all of 2025.

Judicial attention is a scarce resource. The National Crime Records Bureau recorded 6,450 dowry deaths in 2022, with convictions in only 11 to 17 per cent of cases. The court has the capacity to list one. The criterion of selection is, on the present record, temporal rather than legal. Galanter and Ram closed their chapter with a question. They asked whether *suo motu* was 'an instance of effective use of the scarce resource of judicial attention'. The seven years since they wrote have not produced an easier answer.

None of this is to deny the seriousness of the Twisha Sharma matter. The accused's mother is a retired judge. The husband is a lawyer. The family of the deceased has reason to fear local proximity. The constitutional response to that fear is independent investigation under judicial supervision, conducted promptly. The court, however, disposed of the matter on the first day after taking note of the "narrative" in the media that a fair investigation was being denied on account of the involvement of the judiciary.

The chain Jahangir hung was a remedy against an unaccountable bureaucracy. The apex court is now that bureaucracy. Each televised listing is the sound it makes to draw attention to a failure it has the power, and the constitutional duty, to repair. Until the harder of its two paths is walked with the energy now devoted to the easier one, the chain will keep ringing. The trial courts below it will keep doing the work.

(V. Venkatesan is a journalist and legal researcher.)

GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The ground on which the apex court arrived was not vacant, with the magistrate, the High Court, the Bar Council of India and the State government already acting in the Twisha Sharma case.
- The harder path before the apex court is the slow, unspectacular work of reforming the judiciary through better case management, trial-court infrastructure, appointments and training.
- Judicial attention is a scarce resource, but sustained primetime attention is increasingly followed by cognisance, raising questions about the use of that attention.

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01J6. The apex court rings its own chain
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय स्वयं अपनी न्याय-श्रृंखला बजा रहा है

- In 1605, on his accession, the **Mughal Emperor Jahangir** fastened a chain outside his palace.
  1605 में, सत्ता संभालने के बाद **मुगल सम्राट जहाँगीर** ने अपने महल के बाहर एक श्रृंखला लगवाई थी।

- The latest instance is the court's **suo motu cognisance** of **Twisha Sharma's** death, registered under the title '**In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home**'.
  हालिया उदाहरण **ट्विशा शर्मा** की मृत्यु पर न्यायालय द्वारा लिया गया **सुओ मोटू संज्ञान** है, जिसे '**In Re Alleged Institutional Bias and Procedural Discrepancies in the Unnatural Death of a Young Girl at Her Matrimonial Home**' शीर्षक के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत किया गया।
- The second requires sustained cooperation: with the **High Courts** on case management and supervision under **Article 235** (control over subordinate courts), with State governments on funding trial-court infrastructure, with the executive on judicial appointments, and with the **National Judicial Academy** on training.
  दूसरे मार्ग के लिए निरंतर सहयोग आवश्यक है: **उच्च न्यायालयों** के साथ वाद प्रबंधन और **अनुच्छेद 235** (अधीनस्थ न्यायालयों पर नियंत्रण) के अंतर्गत पर्यवेक्षण, राज्य सरकारों के साथ ट्रायल कोर्ट अवसंरचना के वित्तपोषण, कार्यपालिका के साथ न्यायिक नियुक्तियों तथा **राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक अकादमी** के साथ प्रशिक्षण के क्षेत्र में।
- The apex bench has, in **Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI (2012)**, a five-judge Constitution Bench authority on media trial.
  Sahara India Real Estate Corporation v. SEBI (2012) मामले में सर्वोच्च पीठ के पास मीडिया ट्रायल के संबंध में पाँच-न्यायाधीशीय संविधान पीठ का अधिकारिक निर्णय उपलब्ध है।
- The **National Crime Records Bureau** recorded **6,450 dowry deaths** in 2022, with convictions in only **11 to 17 per cent** of cases.
  राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो ने 2022 में **6,450 दहेज मृत्यु** के मामले दर्ज किए, जिनमें केवल **11 से 17 प्रतिशत** मामलों में दोषसिद्धि हुई।

GS Paper II: Governance	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	Language decorum भाषाई मर्यादा

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GS II: Governance

Language decorum

School education should not be the site of a cultural battle

The Supreme Court of India has issued notices to the Union Government, the CBSE, and the NCERT, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a three-language formula in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026. On May 27, while hearing petitioners challenging the CBSE move, the Court declined to grant an immediate stay on the policy but acknowledged that concerns over "hardship and inconvenience" warranted review. The Court will hear arguments on July 15 and 16. The casual manner in which the government is using the CBSE to enforce its contentious language policy once again shows complete disregard for students, teachers, and parents. On May 15, the CBSE had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023. At least two of the three must be native Indian languages. Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject. In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the CBSE exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

Barely weeks earlier, the CBSE had stated that the third-language requirement would be deferred until the 2029-30 academic year. The abrupt turnabout can only be explained as a political decision. The move is being challenged in the Court on multiple grounds, including constitutional ones. The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state. It is also being pointed out that the NEP 2020, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State. The petitioners also argue that the CBSE, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the NEP says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute. Parents and teachers are alarmed about the added pressure on students just before their Board examinations. School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks. Turning school education into a cultural battleground is not helping India's ambition to become a global reservoir of advanced human resources. The Centre should course-correct before the Court takes up the case again.

01J6. Language decorum
भाषाई मर्यादा

School education should not be the site of a cultural battle.

विद्यालयी शिक्षा को सांस्कृतिक संघर्ष का क्षेत्र नहीं बनाया जाना चाहिए।

- The **Supreme Court of India** has issued notices to the Union Government, the **CBSE**, and the **NCERT**, directing them to file a comprehensive report on their logistical preparedness to implement a **three-language formula** in all CBSE schools for Class 9 students from July 1, 2026.

भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केंद्र सरकार, **CBSE** और **NCERT** को नोटिस जारी करते हुए निर्देश दिया है कि वे 1 जुलाई 2026 से कक्षा 9 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए सभी CBSE विद्यालयों में **त्रिभाषा सूत्र** लागू करने संबंधी अपनी व्यवस्थागत तैयारी पर विस्तृत रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करें।

- On May 15, the **CBSE** had issued a circular mandating the study of three languages for Class 9 students from July 1, citing alignment with the **NEP 2020** and the **National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023**.

15 मई को **CBSE** ने एक परिपत्र जारी कर 1 जुलाई से कक्षा 9 के विद्यार्थियों के लिए तीन भाषाओं का अध्ययन अनिवार्य कर दिया था, जिसका आधार **राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 (NEP 2020)** तथा **राष्ट्रीय पाठ्यचर्या रूपरेखा 2023** के साथ सामंजस्य बताया गया।

- At least two of the three must be native Indian languages.

तीन भाषाओं में से कम-से-कम दो भारतीय भाषाएँ होना अनिवार्य होगा।

- Foreign languages such as French or German could only be taken as a third language if the first two were Indian, or alternatively as an optional fourth subject.

फ्रेंच या जर्मन जैसी विदेशी भाषाएँ केवल तभी तीसरी भाषा के रूप में ली जा सकती हैं, जब पहली दो भाषाएँ भारतीय हों, अथवा इन्हें वैकल्पिक चौथे विषय के रूप में चुना जा सकता है।

- In a meagre effort to camouflage the hardship unleashed on the students, the **CBSE** exempted the third language from the Class 10 Board examination, which would instead be assessed through school-based internal evaluations, though the marks would still appear on the final certificate.

विद्यार्थियों पर पड़ने वाले अतिरिक्त बोझ को छिपाने के एक सीमित प्रयास के रूप में **CBSE** ने तीसरी भाषा को कक्षा 10 बोर्ड परीक्षा से बाहर रखा, जिसका मूल्यांकन विद्यालय आधारित आंतरिक परीक्षाओं द्वारा किया जाएगा, यद्यपि उसके अंक अंतिम प्रमाणपत्र में अंकित रहेंगे।

- The petitioners argue that language is a matter of personal choice and cannot be imposed by the state.

याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि भाषा व्यक्तिगत चयन का विषय है और इसे राज्य द्वारा थोप नहीं जा सकता।

- It is also being pointed out that the **NEP 2020**, in whose name the mandate is being enforced, promises flexibility and guarantees that no language shall be imposed on any student or State.
  यह भी इंगित किया जा रहा है कि **NEP 2020**, जिसके नाम पर यह अनिवार्यता लागू की जा रही है, लचीलापन प्रदान करने तथा किसी भी विद्यार्थी या राज्य पर कोई भाषा न थोपने की गारंटी देता है।
- The petitioners also argue that the **CBSE**, as an executive body, lacks the authority to impose such a sweeping educational mandate without backing from parliamentary legislation, regardless of what the **NEP** says, being an executive policy intent and not a statute.
  याचिकाकर्ताओं का यह भी तर्क है कि **CBSE**, एक कार्यपालिका निकाय होने के नाते, संसदीय कानून के समर्थन के बिना इतनी व्यापक शैक्षिक अनिवार्यता लागू करने का अधिकार नहीं रखता, चाहे **NEP** में कुछ भी कहा गया हो, क्योंकि वह केवल एक कार्यकारी नीति है, कोई विधिक अधिनियम नहीं।
- School administrators have flagged a shortage of trained language teachers and the unavailability of appropriate textbooks.
  विद्यालय प्रशासन ने प्रशिक्षित भाषा शिक्षकों की कमी तथा उपयुक्त पाठ्यपुस्तकों की अनुपलब्धता की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया है।

GS Paper II: International Relations	**01 June 2026**
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	**Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory** **नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री के बयान से विवाद, कहा उनके देश ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है**
01J6	**Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations** **भारत-कनाडा संबंधों के अगले अध्याय को आकार देना**
01J6	**Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian** **रोमानिया ने अपार्टमेंट इमारत पर हमले वाले ड्रोन को रूसी बताया**
01J6	**Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion** **इज़राइल ने लेबनान में ब्यूफोर्ट किले पर कब्जा किया, यह उसकी सबसे गहरी घुसपैठ**
01J6	**Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts** **रूस नए यूक्रेनी आक्रमण के लिए बेलारूस का इस्तेमाल लॉन्चपैड के रूप में कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ**

PATRIOTIC IAS

Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory

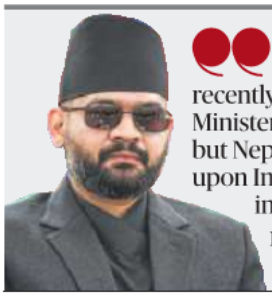
GS II: IR

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah said on Sunday that Nepal too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country.

Mr. Shah was responding to a question in Parliament regarding the Kalapani region, which remains disputed between Nepal and India.

"You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently – after becoming Prime Minister – that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places," Mr. Shah said, prompting an uproar in Parliament as the Opposition objected to the statement.



> You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently — after becoming Prime Minister — that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places
>
> **BALENDRA SHAH**
> Nepal Prime Minister

Kailash Yatra

Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route. Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China. India maintains that the territories are part of Uttarakhand.

Lawmakers from the Nepali Congress and the Nepali Communist Party demanded that Mr. Shah clarify where exactly Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory and sought the removal of his remarks from the record. "The Prime Minister said Nepal has encroached upon Indian territory," Nepali Congress Chief Whip Basana Thapa said. "Where exactly has this happened? The Prime Minister must make the House aware of this. This is a serious and objectionable statement."

Nepal Communist Party lawmaker Ramesh Malla said Mr. Shah's remarks could damage national integrity.

Sunday's address to Parliament was the first by Mr. Shah of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) since he took office on March 27 following the election held earlier that month, the first since the Gen Z protests in September last year.

He had previously faced criticism for his reluctance to address Parliament and his absence from House sessions.

RSP DELEGATION VISIT
» PAGE 6

01J6. Nepal PM sparks row, says his country has encroached upon Indian territory

नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री के बयान से विवाद, कहा उनके देश ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है

- **Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah** said on Sunday that Nepal too had encroached upon Indian territory, in what is considered to be the first such public statement by a head of government of the neighbouring country.
  नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री बलेंद्र शाह ने रविवार को कहा कि नेपाल ने भी भारतीय क्षेत्र पर अतिक्रमण किया है, जिसे पड़ोसी देश के किसी सरकार प्रमुख द्वारा इस प्रकार का पहला सार्वजनिक बयान माना जा रहा है।
- Mr. Shah was responding to a question in Parliament regarding the **Kalapani region**, which remains disputed between Nepal and India.
  श्री शाह संसद में **कालापानी क्षेत्र** को लेकर पूछे गए प्रश्न का उत्तर दे रहे थे, जो नेपाल और भारत के बीच अब भी विवादित बना हुआ है।
- "You might find it strange, but I also learned only recently — after becoming Prime Minister — that it is not just India but Nepal too has encroached upon Indian territories in many places," Mr. Shah said, prompting an uproar in Parliament as the Opposition objected to the statement.
  "आपको यह अजीब लग सकता है, लेकिन मुझे भी हाल ही में — प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद — यह पता चला कि केवल भारत ही नहीं बल्कि नेपाल ने भी कई स्थानों पर भारतीय क्षेत्रों पर अतिक्रमण किया है," श्री शाह ने कहा, जिसके बाद विपक्ष द्वारा इस बयान पर आपत्ति जताने से संसद में हंगामा शुरू हो गया।

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Kailash Yatra
कैलाश यात्रा

- Nepal and India have a long-pending boundary dispute over **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani** and the dispute resurfaced recently when India announced the revival of the **Kailash Manasarovar Yatra** pilgrimage via the Lipulekh route.
  नेपाल और भारत के बीच **लिपुलेख, लिम्पियाधुरा और कालापानी** को लेकर लंबे समय से सीमा विवाद चला आ रहा है और यह विवाद हाल ही में फिर उभर आया जब भारत ने लिपुलेख मार्ग से **कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा** को फिर से शुरू करने की घोषणा की।
- Nepal then sent diplomatic notes to both India and China.
  इसके बाद नेपाल ने भारत और चीन दोनों को कूटनीतिक नोट भेजे।
- India maintains that the territories are part of **Uttarakhand**.
  भारत का कहना है कि ये क्षेत्र **उत्तराखंड** का हिस्सा हैं।

Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations

GS II: IR

Chandrajit Banerjee
Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

Trade, technology and trust mark a revitalised partnership

India and Canada are turning the page together, opening a vibrant new chapter as two democratic, multicultural, and innovation-driven nations. Both governments are signalling a fresh resolve to deepen cooperation and pursue common goals. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent trip to India (February 27-March 2, 2026) and the just-concluded visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, to Canada highlight the importance both nations attach to their relationship in an evolving global order. These engagements reflect the growing strategic depth of the India-Canada bilateral partnership, built around four strategic pillars - economic cooperation, technological collaboration, energy security, and people-to-people connectivity.

The economic promise of a stronger India-Canada partnership has never been brighter. Mr. Carney's visit also reignited talks for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), and both nations' determination to finalise it by the end of 2026, along with the ambitious target of reaching $50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, signals a new era of economic confidence.

The view from Ottawa

For Canada, India represents not only a vast consumer market but also a cornerstone in its Indo-Pacific diversification ambitions. As shifting supply chains and global uncertainties reshape trade, India offers Canada a gateway to new opportunities and a chance to deepen ties with a vibrant economy. India's surging appetite for energy, infrastructure, technology, and advanced manufacturing dovetails with Canada's expertise in natural resources, clean energy, critical minerals, agriculture, and innovation. Moreover, India's rapid ascent as a global growth engine pairs strongly with Canada's wealth of resources, cutting-edge technologies, world-class universities, and robust investment capital. The ongoing talks on uranium, critical minerals, clean energy, and resilient supply chains further highlight just how strategically vital this partnership has become.

To this end, Mr. Goyal's visit to Canada comes at a particularly significant juncture in the bilateral economic relationship. Accompanied by a delegation of over 100 Indian industry leaders, the visit signals a renewed intent on both sides to strengthen economic engagement and impart fresh momentum to the CEPA negotiations. Equally important, it seeks to deepen business-to-business linkages, enhance investor confidence, and encourage industry on both sides to translate strategic intent into tangible commercial partnerships and long-term economic collaboration.

India is fast becoming a driving force in Canada's future prosperity. Indian companies have invested significantly in Canada and created thousands of jobs across the country, in sectors ranging from technology and life sciences to manufacturing and mining, highlighting the depth and diversification of bilateral business relations. This two-way business presence is an important marker of trust and long-term commercial confidence.

The diaspora link

The Indian diaspora stands as a living bridge between the two nations. Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students, and community leaders have left an incredible mark on Canada's economic and social landscape. Their achievements reflect the spirit of entrepreneurship, innovation, and multiculturalism that both countries hold dear. The diaspora should be recognised as a strategic asset, ready to drive trade, investment, innovation, talent exchange and cultural understanding.

Meanwhile, Canadian pension funds are supporting India's growth story, investing in everything from infrastructure and logistics to clean energy, financial services, and digital ventures. This vibrant two-way investment proves that when these economies engage, both nations reap the rewards of growth, innovation, and opportunity.

Strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation

The India-Canada partnership resonates far beyond their borders, carrying weight across the Indo-Pacific. Canada's Indo-Pacific strategy places India at its heart, recognising its economic potential, youthful population, and strategic clout. Both nations champion a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based region. By joining forces in maritime security, advanced technologies, artificial intelligence, clean energy, resilient supply chains, and climate action, they can drive prosperity at home and stability throughout the region.

The path ahead calls for steady engagement, trust, and a relentless focus on real-world outcomes. The most resilient economic partnerships are built on lasting commercial interests and vibrant people-to-people connections. The momentum from the recent high-level visits shows that both countries are eager to invest in a shared future. The partnership must also become more inclusive for small and medium enterprises on both sides. As the backbone of their respective economies, these enterprises hold immense untapped potential to drive bilateral trade and investment.

India and Canada are natural allies, innovation collaborators, and pivotal players in shaping the Indo-Pacific's future. India's drive for growth, energy transformation, and manufacturing expansion opens a wealth of opportunities for Canadian businesses and investors. This is the moment to transform goodwill into action and promise into partnership. With shared vision and determination, these two nations can forge one of the decade's most influential economic alliances.

01J6. Shaping the next chapter in India-Canada relations
भारत-कनाडा संबंधों के अगले अध्याय को आकार देना

- **India and Canada are turning the page together, opening a vibrant new chapter as two democratic, multicultural, and innovation-driven nations.**
  भारत और कनाडा साथ मिलकर एक नया अध्याय आरंभ कर रहे हैं, जो दो लोकतांत्रिक, बहुसांस्कृतिक और नवाचार-प्रेरित राष्ट्रों के रूप में एक सशक्त नई शुरुआत का प्रतीक है।
- Both governments are signalling a fresh resolve to deepen cooperation and pursue common goals.
  दोनों सरकारें सहयोग को और गहरा करने तथा साझा लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए नई प्रतिबद्धता का संकेत दे रही हैं।
- Canadian Prime Minister **Mark Carney's** recent trip to India (February 27-March 2, 2026) and the just-concluded visit of India's Commerce and Industry Minister, **Piyush Goyal**, to Canada highlight the importance both nations attach to their relationship in an evolving global order.
  कनाडा के प्रधानमंत्री **मार्क कार्नी** की हाल की भारत यात्रा (27 फरवरी-2 मार्च, 2026) तथा भारत के वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** की हाल ही में संपन्न कनाडा यात्रा इस बात को रेखांकित करती है कि बदलती वैश्विक व्यवस्था में दोनों देश अपने संबंधों को कितना महत्व देते हैं।
- Mr. Carney's visit also reignited talks for a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, and both nations' determination to finalise it by the end of 2026, along with the ambitious target of reaching **$50 billion** in bilateral trade by 2030, signals a new era of economic confidence.
  श्री कार्नी की यात्रा ने **व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी समझौते (CEPA)** पर वार्ता को पुनः गति प्रदान की, और 2026 के अंत तक इसे अंतिम रूप देने तथा 2030 तक द्विपक्षीय व्यापार को **50 अरब डॉलर** तक पहुँचाने के महत्वाकांक्षी लक्ष्य ने आर्थिक विश्वास के एक नए युग का संकेत दिया है।

The view from Ottawa
ओटावा का दृष्टिकोण

- Equally important, it seeks to deepen business-to-business linkages, enhance investor confidence, and encourage industry on both sides to translate strategic intent into tangible commercial partnerships and long-term economic collaboration.
  समान रूप से महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि यह यात्रा व्यापार-से-व्यापार संबंधों को और गहरा करने, निवेशकों के विश्वास को बढ़ाने तथा दोनों पक्षों के उद्योगों को रणनीतिक उद्देश्यों को ठोस व्यावसायिक साझेदारियों और दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक सहयोग में परिवर्तित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करती है।
- Indian companies have invested significantly in Canada and created thousands of jobs across the country, in sectors ranging from technology and life sciences to manufacturing and mining, highlighting the depth and diversification of bilateral business relations.
  भारतीय कंपनियों ने कनाडा में महत्वपूर्ण निवेश किया है तथा प्रौद्योगिकी, जीवन विज्ञान, विनिर्माण और खनन जैसे क्षेत्रों में देशभर में हजारों रोजगार सृजित किए हैं, जो द्विपक्षीय व्यापारिक संबंधों की गहराई और विविधता को दर्शाते हैं।

The diaspora link
प्रवासी समुदाय का संबंध

- Indian-origin entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, students, and community leaders have left an incredible mark on Canada's economic and social landscape.

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भारतीय मूल के उद्यमियों, पेशेवरों, शिक्षाविदों, विद्यार्थियों और सामुदायिक नेताओं ने कनाडा के आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिदृश्य पर उल्लेखनीय प्रभाव छोड़ा है।

- **Strengthening Indo-Pacific cooperation**
  इंडो-पैसिफिक सहयोग को सुदृढ़ बनाना
- India's drive for growth, energy transformation, and manufacturing expansion opens a wealth of opportunities for Canadian businesses and investors.
  भारत की विकास, ऊर्जा परिवर्तन और विनिर्माण विस्तार की दिशा में प्रगति कनाडाई व्यवसायों और निवेशकों के लिए व्यापक अवसर प्रदान करती है।
- This is the moment to transform goodwill into action and promise into partnership.
  यह सद्भावना को कार्य में और संभावनाओं को साझेदारी में परिवर्तित करने का उपयुक्त समय है।

BUCHAREST

Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian

AFP

GS II: IR

Further analysis of a drone that smashed into a Romanian apartment building, sparking furious condemnation of Russia, has shown that it undoubtedly came from Moscow's forces, Bucharest said on Sunday. "The drone that crashed Thursday in Galati is a Geran-2, of Russian origin," President Nicusor Dan said. AFP

01J6. Romania identifies drone behind apartment block strike as Russian
रोमानिया ने अपार्टमेंट इमारत पर हमले वाले ड्रोन को रूसी बताया

- Further analysis of a drone that smashed into a **Romanian** apartment building, sparking furious condemnation of **Russia**, has shown that it undoubtedly came from **Moscow's** forces, **Bucharest** said on Sunday.

एक ड्रोन के और अधिक विश्लेषण से, जिसने एक **रोमानियाई** अपार्टमेंट इमारत को टक्कर मारी थी और जिसके बाद **रूस** की तीखी आलोचना हुई थी, यह स्पष्ट हुआ है कि वह निश्चित रूप से **मॉस्को** की सेनाओं से आया था, ऐसा **बुखारेस्ट** ने रविवार को कहा।

Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion

Defence Minister Katz says Israel will hold the site while targeting 'thousands more homes' and Hezbollah infrastructure in southern Lebanon; the 12th century Crusader-built castle overlooks Litani river and has long-standing strategic importance

GS II: IR

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Israeli troops have captured a strategic mountain topped with a Crusader-built castle in southern Lebanon in the deepest incursion into the country in more than a quarter-century, the military said on Sunday.

The capture of Beaufort castle, near the city of Nabatiyeh, came after days of air strikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought Hezbollah members in the rugged area.

Its capture marks a major development in the latest Israel-Hezbollah war, which began on March 2 when Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel two days after the U.S. and Israel attacked its main backer, Iran.

Holding down the fort: Israeli soldiers operate at Beaufort Ridge in southern Lebanon on Sunday. REUTERS

"The occupation of Beaufort is a dramatic stage and a dramatic shift in the policies we are leading," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Defence Minister Israel Katz wrote on X that they raised an Israeli flag over the castle. Israeli troops previously captured the castle in 1982 and held it until they withdrew from Lebanon in 2000.

"Twenty six years after the withdrawal from the security zone in Lebanon, the Israeli flag has returned to fly on the peaks that overlook the Galilee towns," Mr. Katz said at a memorial ceremony for Israeli soldiers killed in its previous occupation of southern Lebanon.

Mr. Katz said Israel intends to hold the castle as its troops work to destroy thousands more homes that he says were used by Hezbollah and other military infrastructure in southern Lebanon.

The Beaufort fortress, perched high atop Lebanon's rolling green hills and overlooking the Litani River, has been a strategic military asset for centuries.

Built as a Crusader castle around the 12th century on top of previous fortifications, it has also been used by Saladin's Jerusalem army, Mamluks, Ottomans, the French mandate, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Israeli military until 2000, when it was partially restored and opened to visitors.

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01J6. Israel captures Beaufort castle in Lebanon in its deepest incursion
इज़राइल ने लेबनान में ब्यूफोर्ट किले पर कब्जा किया, यह उसकी सबसे गहरी घुसपैठ

- The 12th century Crusader-built castle overlooks **Litani river** and has long-standing strategic importance.
  12वीं शताब्दी में क्रूसेडरों द्वारा निर्मित यह किला **लितानी नदी** के ऊपर स्थित है और लंबे समय से रणनीतिक महत्व रखता है।
- The capture of **Beaufort castle**, near the city of **Nabatiyeh**, came after days of air strikes and intense fighting in nearby villages where Israeli troops fought **Hezbollah** members in the rugged area.
  नबातियेह शहर के पास स्थित **ब्यूफोर्ट किले** पर कब्जा कई दिनों तक चले हवाई हमलों और आसपास के गांवों में हुई भीषण लड़ाई के बाद हुआ, जहां इज़राइली सैनिकों ने कठिन पहाड़ी क्षेत्र में **हिज़्बुल्लाह** सदस्यों से मुकाबला किया।

PATRIOTIC IAS

Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy warns of an attack from Belarus; military cooperation between Moscow and Minsk increasingly worries Kyiv's allies; Lukashenko has backed Putin's war effort by hosting Russia's nuclear weapons, as well as producing munitions, and microchips for ballistic missiles

GS II: IR

Associated Press
TALLINN

An Iskander missile launched by a Belarusian crew from a firing range in Russia during joint nuclear drills (left); Alexander Lukashenko with Vladimir Putin during their meet earlier this month. AP

Over four years ago, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko allowed longtime ally Russia to use his territory to invade Ukraine. Now officials in Kyiv are warning that Mr. Lukashenko could again allow his land to serve as a launchpad for more attacks by the Kremlin's forces.

While Belarus has not contributed troops to battle, Mr. Lukashenko has backed President Vladimir Putin's war effort by hosting Russia's nuclear weapons and military infrastructure, as well as producing components for Moscow's military industries. Earlier this month, the countries held joint drills of nuclear forces involving Russian weapons deployed in Belarus.

Military cooperation between Moscow and Minsk is increasingly worrying Ukraine's allies.

When Mr. Putin began the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian troops that gathered in Belarus under the guise of drills dashed toward Kyiv, only about 90 kilometres south of the border. The Russian leader's hope of capturing Kyiv quickly was shattered by staunch Ukrainian resistance.

A little over a month after the invasion, Russian troops that suffered heavy losses and struggled to maintain their supply lines pulled back from Kyiv and other areas they captured in northeastern Ukraine in what the Kremlin cast as a "goodwill gesture."

When Moscow tried to negotiate a quick end to the conflict weeks after its start, Belarus hosted the first talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations. The talks moved to Istanbul but failed to produce a deal.

As the conflict became a war of attrition, Belarus has played a key role in supporting Moscow's war effort. Belarusian plants have produced important components, including microchips and other electronics, optical guidance systems, artillery munitions and heavy trucks that carry Russian ballistic missiles.

Kremlin's war machine

BELPOL, a group of former military and law enforcement officers who oppose Mr. Lukashenko, said the Belarusian industries have integrated into the Kremlin's war machine. It says that over 500 Belarusian plants are involved in manufacturing weapons and ammunition, repairing military equipment and providing logistics.

In the Gomel region that borders Ukraine, construction has begun of a big firing range and barracks for large numbers of troops, BELPOL head Uladzimir Zhyhar said.

Belarus, which also borders NATO members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, has hosted some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons. In December, Russia announced that its latest intermediate range nuclear-capable Oreshnik missile system entered service in Belarus.

Russia has used a conventionally armed version of the Oreshnik to strike facilities in Ukraine three times – in November 2024 and then again in January and earlier this month.

Ukraine's presidential envoy on sanctions policy, Vladyslav Vlasiuk, said fragments of the missile that Russia fired at Ukraine on May 24 contained microchips from Belarus. He urged Western allies to tighten sanctions enforcement against Belarus.

Nuclear doctrine

In 2024, the Kremlin revised its nuclear doctrine, placing Belarus under the Russian nuclear umbrella. Mr. Putin has said that Moscow will retain control of its nuclear weapons deployed in Belarus but would allow its ally to select the targets in case of conflict.

Earlier this month, Russia and Belarus held massive drills that included the delivery of nuclear warheads to missile units and launch preparations. As part of the exercise, a Belarusian missile crew test-fired a nuclear-capable Iskander missile from a range in southern Russia.

"Belarus lacks military sovereignty, and as soon as Moscow sees it as necessary for its strategy, Moscow will naturally use Belarus as a launchpad for a new invasion of Ukraine or some kind of armed conflict with NATO countries," Mr. Zhyhar said.

Last week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his intelligence services had learned Moscow recently stepped-up efforts to "draw Belarus much deeper into the war and launch additional aggressive operations precisely from Belarusian territory." He said the target could be along the Chernihiv-Kyiv area or against a NATO country bordering Belarus.

Mr. Zelenskyy said he ordered the military and security agencies to prepare a response and strengthen northern defences. Mr. Lukashenko has denied any aggressive plans, declaring Belarus will not enter the conflict unless attacked.

Sergei Shoigu, Russia's former Defence Minister and now secretary of its Security Council, also rejected Mr. Zelenskyy's claim, describing it as a scare tactic to attract more Western aid for Kyiv.

But in a sign of growing Western concern, French President Emmanuel Macron spoke to Mr. Lukashenko on May 24 to underscore the risks for Belarus of being dragged into the war, their first call since the invasion began.

Belarus' Opposition leader-in-exile, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, visited Kyiv last week and emphasised that "Belarus must never again become a springboard for aggression."

According to official data, Belarus' armed forces have 48,600 troops, a tiny force compared with Russia's 1.5 million. In case of war, Belarus is prepared to mobilise 290,000, but they would need weapons and training to become combat-ready.

01J6. Russia may use Belarus as launchpad for new Ukrainian offensive: experts

रूस नए यूक्रेनी आक्रमण के लिए बेलारूस का इस्तेमाल लॉन्चपैड के रूप में कर सकता है: विशेषज्ञ

- Over four years ago, Belarusian President **Alexander Lukashenko** allowed longtime ally Russia to use his territory to invade Ukraine.
  चार साल से अधिक पहले बेलारूस के राष्ट्रपति **अलेक्जेंडर लुकाशेंको** ने अपने लंबे समय के सहयोगी रूस को यूक्रेन पर हमला करने के लिए अपनी भूमि का उपयोग करने की अनुमति दी थी।
- Belarus, which also borders **NATO** members Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, has hosted some of Russia's tactical nuclear weapons.
  बेलारूस, जिसकी सीमाएं **NATO** सदस्य लातविया, लिथुआनिया और पोलैंड से भी मिलती हैं, ने रूस के कुछ सामरिक परमाणु हथियारों की मेजबानी की है।
- In December, Russia announced that its latest intermediate range nuclear-capable **Oreshnik** missile system entered service in Belarus.
  दिसंबर में रूस ने घोषणा की कि उसकी नवीनतम मध्यम दूरी की परमाणु क्षमता वाली **ओरेशनिक** मिसाइल प्रणाली बेलारूस में सेवा में शामिल हो गई है।

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GS Paper III: Science and Technology	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test' 'गाजर का अर्क नकली घी को गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचा सकता है'
01J6	'Transitioning to a human space mission is a change of magnitude' 'मानव अंतरिक्ष मिशन की ओर बढ़ना एक बड़े स्तर का परिवर्तन है'
01J6	Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away वेब टेलीस्कोप ने 700 प्रकाशवर्ष दूर स्थित एक्सोप्लैनेट के मौसम को दर्ज किया
01J6	Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels पश्चिम एशिया के संघर्ष ने यूरोप में बने टिकाऊ विमानन ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ाई
01J6	From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy सटीकता पर प्रश्नों के बावजूद विद्यार्थी से लेकर लेखक तक AI डिटेक्टरों की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं

'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test'

GS III: S&T

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The red-orange pigment from carrots can make fake ghee dodge a popular quality test to pass off as a premium product sourced from cows, a new study has found.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, have demonstrated that non-dairy fats, such as palm oil and lard or rendered pig fat, can be engineered to mimic the Raman spectral signature of authentic cow ghee simply by adding a beta-carotene-rich carrot extract.

Cow ghee naturally contains beta-carotene, responsible for its yellowish colour. The researchers are Vineet Sharma, Ajay Kumar Bind, Shreyans K. Jain, and Venkatanarayan Ramanathan. Their study has been published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*.

The findings, although based on a small sample size, raise concerns about fraud in India's premium dairy market. They also challenge the efficacy of Raman spectroscopy, a rapid testing technique widely used by food regulators and laboratories.

Named after Nobel laureate C.V. Raman, Raman spectroscopy is considered a powerful analytical quality test. It acts as a molecular fingerprint to verify the exact chemical composition, crystalline structure, and purity of a substance.

The IIT (BHU) team investigated whether the characteristic Raman signatures associated with cow ghee could be artificially recreated with other fats. Previous studies have treated three Raman spectral peaks of beta-carotene – at 1,006, 1,157, and 1,520 cm^{-1} – as reliable markers for authenticating cow ghee. These peaks are often absent in non-dairy fats.

To test the robustness of these markers, the researchers fortified samples of lard and palm oil with carotenoids extracted from carrots. Both lard and palm oil displayed the same Raman peaks attributed to cow ghee. The fortified fats also acquired the yellow-orange colour similar to cow ghee, making them resemble the dairy product in appearance and spectroscopic profile.

01J6. 'Carrot extract can make fake ghee dodge quality test'

'गाजर का अर्क नकली घी को गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचा सकता है'

- The **red-orange pigment** from carrots can make fake ghee dodge a popular quality test to pass off as a premium product sourced from cows, a new study has found.

गाजर से मिलने वाला **लाल-नारंगी रंगद्रव्य** नकली घी को एक लोकप्रिय गुणवत्ता परीक्षण से बचाकर उसे गाय से प्राप्त प्रीमियम उत्पाद के रूप में पेश कर सकता है, यह एक नए अध्ययन में पाया गया है।

- Researchers from the **Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University)** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, have demonstrated that non-dairy fats, such as palm oil and lard or rendered pig fat, can be engineered to mimic the **Raman spectral signature** of authentic cow ghee simply by adding a **beta-carotene-rich carrot extract**.

उत्तर प्रदेश के वाराणसी स्थित **भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (बनारस हिंदू विश्वविद्यालय)** के शोधकर्ताओं ने प्रदर्शित किया है कि पाम ऑयल और लार्ड या पिघली हुई सूअर की चर्बी जैसे गैर-डेयरी वसा को केवल **बीटा-कैरोटीन युक्त गाजर के अर्क** को मिलाकर असली गाय के घी के **रमन स्पेक्ट्रल सिग्नेचर** जैसा बनाया जा सकता है।

- Cow ghee naturally contains **beta-carotene**, responsible for its yellowish colour.

गाय के घी में प्राकृतिक रूप से **बीटा-कैरोटीन** होता है, जो उसके पीले रंग के लिए जिम्मेदार होता है।

- They also challenge the efficacy of **Raman spectroscopy**, a rapid testing technique widely used by food regulators and laboratories.

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ये निष्कर्ष **रमन स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी** की प्रभावशीलता पर भी सवाल उठाते हैं, जो खाद्य नियामकों और प्रयोगशालाओं द्वारा व्यापक रूप से उपयोग की जाने वाली एक त्वरित परीक्षण तकनीक है।

- Named after **Nobel laureate C.V. Raman**, Raman spectroscopy is considered a powerful analytical quality test.
  नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता सी.वी. रमन के नाम पर आधारित रमन स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी को एक शक्तिशाली विश्लेषणात्मक गुणवत्ता परीक्षण माना जाता है।
- It acts as a molecular fingerprint to verify the exact chemical composition, crystalline structure, and purity of a substance.
  यह किसी पदार्थ की सटीक रासायनिक संरचना, क्रिस्टलीय संरचना और शुद्धता की पुष्टि करने के लिए आणविक फिंगरप्रिंट की तरह कार्य करता है।
- To test the robustness of these markers, the researchers fortified samples of lard and palm oil with carotenoids extracted from carrots.
  इन संकेतकों की मजबूती की जांच करने के लिए शोधकर्ताओं ने लार्ड और पाम ऑयल के नमूनों में गाजर से निकाले गए कैरोटेनॉयड मिलाए।
- Both lard and palm oil displayed the same Raman peaks attributed to cow ghee.
  लार्ड और पाम ऑयल दोनों में वही रमन पीक्स दिखाई दिए जो गाय के घी से जुड़े माने जाते हैं।
- The fortified fats also acquired the **yellow-orange colour** similar to cow ghee, making them resemble the dairy product in appearance and spectroscopic profile.
  इन संवर्धित वसाओं ने भी गाय के घी जैसा **पीला-नारंगी रंग** प्राप्त कर लिया, जिससे वे दिखने और स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपिक प्रोफाइल में डेयरी उत्पाद जैसे प्रतीत होने लगे।

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Webb telescope captures weather on exoplanet 700 lightyears away

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discove many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin

GS III: S&T

Prakash Chandra
KOCHI

"Cloudy with a chance of rain" – imagine astronomers turning into meteorologists and issuing weather reports like this, but for alien planets.

According to a new study published in *Science* on May 21, scientists were able to use the NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) to peer closely at an exoplanet nearly 700 lightyears away, and deciphered the weather patterns on it.

Named WASP-94A b, this exoplanet is almost twice as large as Jupiter but with only half the mass. It orbits very close to its parent star – so close that it takes just four days to complete a whole revolution.

Extreme worlds

Gas giants like WASP-94A b with scorching atmospheric temperatures are called 'hot Jupiters' and have their orbits tidally locked, meaning their rotation is synchronised with their revolution. As a result, the same side of the planet always faces the host star, much like the moon's tidally locked orbit keeps one side always facing the earth.

WASP-94A b's dayside is thus a sweltering desert with temperatures hot enough to melt rock while its nightside is perennially dark and frozen as temperatures dip to nearly absolute zero.

Astronomers have always been intrigued by the bizarre weather patterns on the 6,000 or so exoplanets they have found so far. But in the absence of a sufficiently powerful telescope, they have had no way to study these far-flung bodies.

NASA's launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) in December 2021 was the gamechanger. The unprecedented sensitivity of its instruments – which allow the telescope to discern the details on a small coin from a distance of 50 km – has helped scientists study exoplanets' atmospheres like never before. Many of these worlds have turned out to be rocky; some are even almost earth-like. But on some other exoplanets, scientists have found extreme temperatures and pressures producing rain of molten metal and vaporised rock. Still others have downpours of molten glass pushed by supersonic winds. Some gaseous exoplanets even have crystallised carbon raining down as diamonds.

'A world far beyond'

Hot Jupiters though are the most studied exoplanets. The latest JWST discovery has found that WASP-94A b in particular has a dynamic weather system: its mornings are blanketed in clouds of magnesium silicate, iron, and magnesium sulphide while the evenings sport clear skies.

An artistic rendering of WASP-94A b, a gas giant around 700 lightyears away. On this exoplanet, clouds build as air flows over the night side of the planet, reaching a large swell by daybreak. They dissipate on the dayside, leaving clear skies in the early evening. HANNAH ROBBINS/JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

"The clouds appear to form on the cooler night side of the planet, sweep across the globe with extremely fast winds, and then disappear as they reach the hotter dayside," Sagnick Mukherjee, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University, said. "This is a direct measurement of an extreme weather cycle unfolding on a world far beyond our Solar System." Astronomers characterise the atmospheres of distant exoplanets using spectroscopy: light is split up into its various wavelengths, followed by measuring the intensity of each one. If the planet has an atmosphere, it will absorb some of the light. This will create a gap in the set of wavelengths arriving at the spectrometer. Since each molecule absorbs light of fixed wavelengths, it is easy to identify the compounds present in the atmosphere.

Slow transit

"To do that, we need some way to distinguish the planet's light from the stars," Bruce Macintosh, director of the University of California Observatories and professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said.

Prof. Macintosh, who was not part of the research team, said the astronomers used the transit method for their discovery. "As the planet passes in front of the star, its atmosphere absorbs starlight. By studying exactly how that absorption changes with time, you can see the evidence that one side is cloudy and not the other. And by studying different wavelengths you can understand composition," he explained.

According to University of Göttingen astrophysicist Lisa Nortmann, the researchers seemed to have studied the transit when the exoplanet passed slowly in front of its star.

"Therefore, at different times of observation, different parts of the planet are in front of the star. This effect was used in this study to 'scan' the planet's atmosphere at different locations and this revealed that the atmospheric signal was different for morning and evening sides," Dr. Nortmann, who was also not part of the study, said.

A major challenge in studying exoplanets, according to Dr. Mukherjee, is that clouds can obscure what their atmospheres are really made of.

"By separating the cloudy and clear sides of WASP-94A b, we show that earlier estimates of its composition can be strongly biased," he said. "More broadly, the study demonstrates that understanding weather patterns on distant worlds is essential for learning how planets across a wide range of sizes (from earth-like rocky planets to Neptune-like gas worlds and gas giants) form, evolve, and differ from planets in our own solar system."

History of formation

Research like this could help astronomers learn about the planetary architectures of 4.6 billion years ago when the protoplanetary disk of gas and dust around the Sun started evolving into this Solar System. "The discs of material around a young star form planets. Different parts of that disc have different compositions – ice, gas, dust particles, etc.," Prof. Macintosh said. By measuring the composition, you can tell something about the history of the formation (did it form out of solid material first or gas?) and even the location (did it form somewhere too hot for ice?). And then you can try and understand if the same process that made a big hot Jupiter like this could also make a smaller planet like the earth."

As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.

(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

THE GIST

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वेब दूरबीन ने 700 प्रकाश-वर्ष दूर स्थित बाह्यग्रह पर मौसम का पता लगाया

- **As state-of-the-art instruments like the Extremely Large Telescope, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many exoplanet nurseries around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.**
  जैसे-जैसे यूरोप द्वारा उत्तरी चिली में निर्मित की जा रही एक्स्ट्रीमली लार्ज टेलीस्कोप जैसी अत्याधुनिक उपकरण कार्यशील होंगे, खगोलविद दूरस्थ तारों के आसपास अनेक बाह्यग्रह जन्मस्थलों की खोज कर सकते हैं, जिससे अधिक पृथ्वी-सदृश बाह्य-सौर ग्रहों तथा संभवतः वास्तविक पृथ्वी-जुड़वाँ ग्रह मिलने की संभावना कई गुना बढ़ जाएगी।
- According to a new study published in **Science** on May 21, scientists were able to use the **NASA James Webb Space Telescope (JWST)** to peer closely at an exoplanet nearly 700 lightyears away, and deciphered the weather patterns on it.

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21 मई को **साइंस** पत्रिका में प्रकाशित एक नए अध्ययन के अनुसार, वैज्ञानिकों ने **नासा जेम्स वेब स्पेस टेलीस्कोप (JWST)** का उपयोग करके लगभग 700 प्रकाश-वर्ष दूर स्थित एक बाह्यग्रह का सूक्ष्म अवलोकन किया तथा वहाँ के मौसमीय पैटर्न को समझा।

- Named **WASP-94A b**, this exoplanet is almost twice as large as Jupiter but with only half the mass.
  WASP-94A b नामक यह बाह्यग्रह आकार में बृहस्पति से लगभग दोगुना है, किंतु इसका द्रव्यमान केवल आधा है।
- It orbits very close to its parent star — so close that it takes just four days to complete a whole revolution.
  यह अपने मूल तारे के अत्यंत निकट परिक्रमा करता है — इतना निकट कि इसे एक पूर्ण परिक्रमा करने में केवल चार दिन लगते हैं।

Extreme worlds
चरम संसार

- Gas giants like **WASP-94A b** with scorching atmospheric temperatures are called '**hot Jupiters**' and have their **orbits tidally locked**, meaning their rotation is synchronised with their revolution.
  WASP-94A b जैसे अत्यधिक उष्ण वायुमंडलीय तापमान वाले गैसीय विशाल ग्रहों को '**हॉट ज्यूपिटर्स**' कहा जाता है तथा उनकी कक्षाएँ ज्वारीय रूप से आबद्ध होती हैं, अर्थात् उनका घूर्णन उनकी परिक्रमा के साथ समकालिक होता है।
- As a result, the same side of the planet always faces the host star, much like the **moon's tidally locked orbit** keeps one side always facing the earth.
  इसके परिणामस्वरूप ग्रह का वही भाग सदैव अपने मूल तारे की ओर रहता है, ठीक उसी प्रकार जैसे चंद्रमा की ज्वारीय आबद्ध कक्षा के कारण उसका एक ही भाग सदैव पृथ्वी की ओर रहता है।
- **WASP-94A b's** dayside is thus a sweltering desert with temperatures hot enough to melt rock while its nightside is perennially dark and frozen as temperatures dip to nearly absolute zero.
  इस प्रकार **WASP-94A b** का दिन वाला भाग अत्यंत तप्त मरुस्थल जैसा है, जहाँ तापमान चट्टानों को पिघलाने जितना अधिक है, जबकि इसका रात्रिकालीन भाग सदैव अंधकारमय और जमे हुए रूप में रहता है क्योंकि तापमान लगभग परम शून्य तक गिर जाता है।
- Many of these worlds have turned out to be rocky; **some are even almost earth-like**.
  इनमें से अनेक संसार पथरीले पाए गए हैं; कुछ तो लगभग पृथ्वी-सदृश भी हैं।
- But on some other exoplanets, scientists have found extreme temperatures and pressures producing rain of molten metal and vaporised rock.
  किंतु कुछ अन्य बाह्यग्रहों पर वैज्ञानिकों ने अत्यधिक तापमान एवं दाब की ऐसी परिस्थितियाँ पाई हैं जहाँ पिघली हुई धातु और वाष्पीकृत चट्टानों की वर्षा होती है।
- Still others have downpours of molten glass pushed by supersonic winds.
  कुछ अन्य ग्रहों पर अतिध्वनिक पवनों द्वारा संचालित पिघले हुए काँच की वर्षा होती है।
- Some gaseous exoplanets even have crystallised carbon raining down as diamonds.
  कुछ गैसीय बाह्यग्रहों पर तो क्रिस्टलीकृत कार्बन हीरों के रूप में वर्षा करता है।

'A world far beyond'
'एक अत्यंत दूरस्थ संसार'

- **Hot Jupiters** though are the most studied exoplanets.
  हालाँकि **हॉट ज्यूपिटर्स** सर्वाधिक अध्ययन किए गए बाह्यग्रह हैं।
- The latest **JWST** discovery has found that **WASP-94A b** in particular has a dynamic weather system: its mornings are blanketed in clouds of magnesium silicate, iron, and magnesium

sulphide while the evenings sport clear skies.
नवीनतम **JWST** खोज में पाया गया है कि विशेष रूप से **WASP-94A b** पर एक गतिशील मौसम तंत्र विद्यमान है: वहाँ की सुबहें मैग्नीशियम सिलिकेट, लौह तथा मैग्नीशियम सल्फाइड के बादलों से आच्छादित रहती हैं, जबकि शाम के समय आकाश स्वच्छ रहता है।

- "The clouds appear to form on the cooler night side of the planet, sweep across the globe with extremely fast winds, and then disappear as they reach the hotter dayside," **Sagnick Mukherjee**, lead author of the study and a postdoctoral fellow at **Arizona State University**, said.
अध्ययन के प्रमुख लेखक तथा **एरिज़ोना स्टेट यूनिवर्सिटी** में पोस्टडॉक्टोरल फेलो **साग्निक मुखर्जी** ने कहा, "ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि बादल ग्रह के अपेक्षाकृत शीतल रात्रिकालीन भाग में बनते हैं, अत्यंत तीव्र पवनों के साथ पूरे ग्रह पर फैलते हैं और फिर अधिक उष्ण दिन वाले भाग तक पहुँचने पर विलुप्त हो जाते हैं।"
- Astronomers characterise the atmospheres of distant exoplanets using **spectroscopy**: light is split up into its various wavelengths, followed by measuring the intensity of each one.
खगोलविद दूरस्थ बाह्यग्रहों के वायुमंडल का विश्लेषण **स्पेक्ट्रोस्कोपी** के माध्यम से करते हैं: इसमें प्रकाश को उसकी विभिन्न तरंगदैर्घ्यों में विभाजित किया जाता है तथा प्रत्येक की तीव्रता मापी जाती है।
- If the planet has an atmosphere, it will absorb some of the light.
यदि ग्रह के पास वायुमंडल होता है, तो वह कुछ प्रकाश को अवशोषित कर लेता है।
- This will create a gap in the set of wavelengths arriving at the spectrometer.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप स्पेक्ट्रोमीटर तक पहुँचने वाली तरंगदैर्घ्यों के समूह में एक अंतर उत्पन्न हो जाता है।
- Since each molecule absorbs light of fixed wavelengths, it is easy to identify the compounds present in the atmosphere.
चूँकि प्रत्येक अणु निश्चित तरंगदैर्घ्य के प्रकाश को अवशोषित करता है, इसलिए वायुमंडल में उपस्थित यौगिकों की पहचान करना सरल हो जाता है।

Slow transit
धीमा पारगमन

- "To do that, we need some way to distinguish the planet's light from the stars," **Bruce Macintosh**, director of the **University of California Observatories** and professor of astronomy and astrophysics, said.
"ऐसा करने के लिए हमें ग्रह के प्रकाश को तारों के प्रकाश से अलग पहचानने का कोई तरीका चाहिए," **यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ कैलिफ़ोर्निया ऑब्ज़र्वेटरीज़** के निदेशक तथा खगोल विज्ञान एवं खगोल भौतिकी के प्रोफेसर **ब्रूस मैकिन्टॉश** ने कहा।
- "As the planet passes in front of the star, its atmosphere absorbs starlight."
"जब ग्रह तारे के सामने से गुजरता है, तब उसका वायुमंडल तारों के प्रकाश को अवशोषित करता है।"
- "By studying exactly how that absorption changes with time, you can see the evidence that one side is cloudy and not the other."
"समय के साथ उस अवशोषण में होने वाले परिवर्तनों का सटीक अध्ययन करके यह देखा जा सकता है कि ग्रह का एक भाग बादलों से घिरा है जबकि दूसरा नहीं।"
- "And by studying different wavelengths you can understand composition," he explained.
"और विभिन्न तरंगदैर्घ्यों का अध्ययन करके उसकी संरचना को समझा जा सकता है," उन्होंने स्पष्ट किया।
- According to **University of Göttingen** astrophysicist **Lisa Nortmann**, the researchers seemed to have studied the transit when the exoplanet passed slowly in front of its star.
यूनिवर्सिटी ऑफ गॉटिंगेन की खगोल भौतिकविद् **लीसा नॉर्टमैन** के अनुसार, शोधकर्ताओं ने उस समय पारगमन का अध्ययन किया जब बाह्यग्रह अपने तारे के सामने से धीरे-धीरे गुजर रहा था।
- "Therefore, at different times of observation, different parts of the planet are in front of the star."
"इसलिए, अवलोकन के विभिन्न समयों पर ग्रह के अलग-अलग भाग तारे के सामने होते हैं।"

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- "This effect was used in this study to 'scan' the planet's atmosphere at different locations and this revealed that the atmospheric signal was different for morning and evening sides," Dr. Nortmann, who was also not part of the study, said.
  "इस प्रभाव का उपयोग इस अध्ययन में ग्रह के वायुमंडल को विभिन्न स्थानों पर 'स्कैन' करने के लिए किया गया और इससे यह पता चला कि सुबह और शाम वाले भागों के लिए वायुमंडलीय संकेत अलग-अलग थे," डॉ. नॉर्टमैन, जो इस अध्ययन का हिस्सा भी नहीं थीं, ने कहा।

History of formation
निर्माण का इतिहास

- Research like this could help astronomers learn about the planetary architectures of 4.6 billion years ago when the **protoplanetary disk** of gas and dust around the Sun started evolving into this **Solar System**.
  इस प्रकार का शोध खगोलविदों को 4.6 अरब वर्ष पूर्व की ग्रह संरचनाओं के बारे में जानने में सहायता कर सकता है, जब सूर्य के चारों ओर गैस और धूल की **प्रोटोप्लैनेटरी डिस्क** विकसित होकर इस **सौरमंडल** का निर्माण करने लगी थी।
- "The discs of material around a young star form planets."
  "एक युवा तारे के चारों ओर स्थित पदार्थ की डिस्कें ग्रहों का निर्माण करती हैं।"
- "Different parts of that disc have different compositions — ice, gas, dust particles, etc.," Prof. Macintosh said.
  "उस डिस्क के विभिन्न भागों की संरचना अलग-अलग होती है — जैसे बर्फ, गैस, धूल कण आदि," प्रोफेसर मैकिन्टॉश ने कहा।
- As state-of-the-art instruments like the **Extremely Large Telescope**, which Europe is currently building in northern Chile, become operational, astronomers could discover many **exoplanet nurseries** around distant stars, increasing manifold the possibility of finding more extra-solar earth-like planets and, who knows, even a true earth twin.
  जैसे-जैसे यूरोप द्वारा उत्तरी चिली में निर्मित की जा रही **एक्स्ट्रीमली लार्ज टेलीस्कोप** जैसी अत्याधुनिक उपकरण कार्यशील होंगे, खगोलविद दूरस्थ तारों के आसपास अनेक **बाह्यग्रह जन्मस्थलों** की खोज कर सकते हैं, जिससे अधिक पृथ्वी-सदृश बाह्य-सौर ग्रहों तथा संभवतः वास्तविक पृथ्वी-जुड़वाँ ग्रह मिलने की संभावना कई गुना बढ़ जाएगी।

PATRIOTIC IAS

From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

AI text detectors are used to identify AI-generated writing, but concerns persist over their accuracy as they can produce false positives and false negatives; cases involving authors accused of using AI have triggered debate over whether these tools are reliable enough to determine authenticity

GS III: S&T

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Since OpenAI's ChatGPT debuted in 2022, users have been experimenting with AI to write and publish human-sounding content at scale. According to a May 2026 report by digital consulting firm Graphite, the number of "primarily AI-generated" articles published on the internet equals the number written by humans.

While the research methodology is debatable, its findings point to a growing need for transparency in authorship as readers want to know whether government circulars, work emails, social media captions, academic papers, text messages, news articles, and even books were written by humans or chatbots.

AI-detection toolmakers claim their products are dependable and that readers who want to know whether something was written using AI or not can use them to confirm the authenticity of content. But how accurate are these tools in spotting AI generated text?

How are AI text detectors used?

Popular AI text detection tools are easy to access online, catering to a wide variety of users such as students, educators, social media managers, business experts, and content creators.

They tout high accuracy rates and training standards. Some of these platforms offer free trials or limited checks where the user can paste a short text passage and have it analysed for signs of AI-generated or AI-assisted content. In order to evaluate longer drafts or get help in editing AI text, users will have to sign up for a paid plan.

Multiple AI text detectors also offer plagiarism checking features, or "humanisers" that claim to make AI-generated content look more natural, so as to evade detection by other AI text detectors.

As frontier AI models from companies such as OpenAI, Google, and Anthropic continue to mature and produce more human-sounding text with fewer machine-generated "tells," these AI text detection tools must evolve in tandem or risk throwing out inaccurate results.

Some popular AI text detection tools include Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, and Turnitin.

Can AI text detectors be trusted?

This is the billion-dollar question – literally speaking. As Generative AI tools become accessible to just about anyone with an internet connection, people worldwide are looking for ways to detect AI-generated writing. Meanwhile, many writers want to hide their reliance on AI models for reputational reasons.

AI text detectors are still prone to producing false negatives, where they classify AI-generated work as being human-made, or false positives, where they classify original human work as being partially or wholly AI-generated. The latter is an urgent problem, as it can lead to disciplinary action being taken against students and academics, even if they developed their work through honest means. False positives can also lead to social media trolling and career-impacting consequences.

Turnitin, in particular, has seen several such cases and admitted to the potential for false positives. The company noted that it was a "powerful tool" but "not infallible."

More worryingly, the company's website noted that "literary flair or a scholarly voice that strays from the norm can throw Turnitin for a loop," leading to confusion when assessing the uniqueness of writing.

When *The Hindu* ran 186 words of a 2010 Pulitzer prize-winning foreign journalism feature through several trending AI detection platforms, the results varied wildly: Pangram and Quillbot both classified the text as being 100% human written, while ZeroGPT said that it was 49.9% AI.

Pangram is often cited as a trusted AI text detector on social media; it claims to detect AI-generated content with 99.98% accuracy, and stated it was reviewed positively by third parties including the University of Maryland and the University of Chicago.

Pangram's popularity is also due to efforts by CEO and co-founder Max Spero, who actively promotes the tool on X (formerly Twitter) and cites its results to claim outright that trending pieces were generated with AI. On the flip side, Pangram has also stated that for text under 75 words, the results may be less accurate.

This brings up another problem: how much trust can everyday users place in the accuracy of commercial AI text detectors when their very business models depend on users signing up to paid plans in order to access AI text "humanisers" and other rewriting tools?

Have AI text detectors been used to accuse authors?

In March 2026, American author Mia Ballard's horror novel *Shy Girl* was cancelled by publisher Hachette over allegations of AI writing, while Ms. Ballard was trolled online. Two months later, the Commonwealth Foundation defended its judging process after a few regional winners of its 2026 Commonwealth Short Story Prize were hit with AI accusations – namely the Trinidadian writer of East Indian heritage, Jamir Nazir, whose story *The Serpent in the Grove* was one of the five shortlisted winners.

In both cases, many social media users cited the results of AI text detectors in order to claim that the works of authors Mia Ballard and Jamir Nazir showed signs of being AI-generated. Specifically, Pangram was used to accuse both Ms. Ballard and Mr. Nazir of submitting AI writing. Though some users feel that being flagged by AI text detectors was clear evidence of creative dishonesty, others fear these still-experimental AI tools could wrongly damage the careers of authors and academics.

Razmi Farook, Director-General of the Commonwealth Foundation, stated that AI checkers were not used in the 2026 short story judging process. She was concerned about the ethical implications of submitting "unpublished original work" to an AI checker.

Ms. Farook further expressed disappointment at how the work of other feted writers and winners had faced scrutiny; Pangram AI published results claiming that it found more stories showing signs of AI use among the 2026 and 2025 Commonwealth short story prize winners.

All the shortlisted writers this year had personally stated that no AI was used, according to Ms. Farook, who highlighted that AI detection tools were "not unfailing or infallible," and that the competition had to operate on the principle of trust until a reliable detection process was available.

01J6. From students to authors, users turn to AI detectors despite questions over accuracy

सटीकता पर प्रश्नों के बावजूद विद्यार्थी से लेकर लेखक तक AI डिटेक्टरों की ओर रुख कर रहे हैं

- **AI text detectors are used to identify AI-generated writing, but concerns persist over their accuracy as they can produce false positives and false negatives; cases involving authors accused of using AI have triggered debate over whether these tools are reliable enough to determine authenticity.**

  AI टेक्स्ट डिटेक्टरों का उपयोग AI-जनित लेखन की पहचान करने के लिए किया जाता है, किंतु उनकी सटीकता को लेकर चिंताएँ बनी हुई हैं क्योंकि वे गलत सकारात्मक और गलत नकारात्मक परिणाम दे सकते हैं; AI के उपयोग के आरोपों से जुड़े लेखकों के मामलों ने इस बात पर बहस को जन्म दिया है कि क्या ये उपकरण प्रामाणिकता निर्धारित करने के लिए पर्याप्त रूप से विश्वसनीय हैं।

- Since **OpenAI's ChatGPT** debuted in 2022, users have been experimenting with AI to write and publish human-sounding content at scale.

  2022 में **OpenAI के ChatGPT** के पदार्पण के बाद से उपयोगकर्ता AI का प्रयोग बड़े पैमाने पर मानव-सदृश सामग्री लिखने और प्रकाशित करने के लिए कर रहे हैं।

- According to a May 2026 report by digital consulting firm **Graphite**, the number of "primarily AI-generated" articles published on the internet equals the number written by humans.

  डिजिटल परामर्श कंपनी **ग्रेफाइट** की मई 2026 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इंटरनेट पर प्रकाशित "मुख्यतः AI-जनित" लेखों की संख्या मानवों द्वारा लिखे गए लेखों के बराबर हो चुकी है।

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- Some popular AI text detection tools include **Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly, and Turnitin**.
  कुछ लोकप्रिय AI टेक्स्ट डिटेक्शन उपकरणों में **Pangram, Quillbot, ZeroGPT, Grammarly और Turnitin** शामिल हैं।

- The latter is an urgent problem, as it can lead to disciplinary action being taken against students and academics, even if they developed their work through honest means.
  दूसरी स्थिति एक गंभीर समस्या है, क्योंकि इसके कारण विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षाविदों के विरुद्ध अनुशासनात्मक कार्रवाई हो सकती है, भले ही उन्होंने अपना कार्य ईमानदार तरीकों से तैयार किया हो।
- False positives can also lead to social media trolling and career-impacting consequences.
  गलत सकारात्मक परिणाम सोशल मीडिया ट्रोलिंग तथा करियर को प्रभावित करने वाले दुष्परिणामों का कारण भी बन सकते हैं।
- When **The Hindu** ran 186 words of a 2010 **Pulitzer prize-winning** foreign journalism feature through several trending AI detection platforms, the results varied wildly: **Pangram** and **Quillbot** both classified the text as being 100% human written, while **ZeroGPT** said that it was 49.9% AI.
  जब **द हिंदू** ने 2010 के **पुलित्जर पुरस्कार विजेता** विदेशी पत्रकारिता लेख के 186 शब्दों को कई लोकप्रिय AI डिटेक्शन प्लेटफॉर्म पर जाँच के लिए प्रस्तुत किया, तो परिणाम अत्यधिक भिन्न रहे: **Pangram** और **Quillbot** ने इसे 100% मानव-लिखित बताया, जबकि **ZeroGPT** ने इसे 49.9% AI-जनित घोषित किया।
- Pangram's popularity is also due to efforts by CEO and co-founder **Max Spero**, who actively promotes the tool on **X** (formerly Twitter) and cites its results to claim outright that trending pieces were generated with AI.
  Pangram की लोकप्रियता उसके CEO और सह-संस्थापक **मैक्स स्पेरो** के प्रयासों के कारण भी है, जो **X** (पूर्व में ट्विटर) पर इस उपकरण का सक्रिय प्रचार करते हैं और इसके परिणामों का उपयोग यह दावा करने के लिए करते हैं कि चर्चित सामग्री AI द्वारा तैयार की गई है।
- Specifically, **Pangram** was used to accuse both Ms. Ballard and Mr. Nazir of submitting AI writing.
  विशेष रूप से **Pangram** का उपयोग सुश्री बैलार्ड और श्री नज़ीर दोनों पर AI-जनित लेखन प्रस्तुत करने का आरोप लगाने के लिए किया गया।
- She was concerned about the ethical implications of submitting "unpublished original work" to an AI checker.
  उन्हें "अप्रकाशित मौलिक रचनाओं" को AI जाँच उपकरणों में प्रस्तुत करने के नैतिक प्रभावों को लेकर चिंता थी।
- Ms. Farook further expressed disappointment at how the work of other feted writers and winners had faced scrutiny; **Pangram AI** published results claiming that it found more stories showing signs of AI use among the 2026 and 2025 Commonwealth short story prize winners.
  सुश्री फारूक ने इस बात पर भी निराशा व्यक्त की कि अन्य प्रतिष्ठित लेखकों और विजेताओं की रचनाएँ भी संदेह के घेरे में आ गईं; **Pangram AI** ने ऐसे परिणाम प्रकाशित किए जिनमें दावा किया गया कि 2026 और 2025 के कॉमनवेल्थ लघुकथा पुरस्कार विजेताओं में AI उपयोग के संकेत वाली और अधिक कहानियाँ पाई गईं।

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Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels

GS III: S&T, Environment

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

At a plant near Frankfurt, in Germany, hydrogen and carbon dioxide sourced from a chlorine factory and a biogas facility nearby are piped into a reactor, and after a few more steps turned into jet fuel.

Interest in such synthetic propellants is growing as the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran pushes Europe to reassess its dependencies, raising hopes of a turnaround for the struggling sector, according to industry experts.

The conflict "made the business case for e-SAF much stronger," said Mariano Berkenwald, head of strategy at Ineratec, the firm operating the Frankfurt facility.

'Climate friendly'

Before the war squeezed Europe's jet fuel supplies, electro-Sustainable Aviation Fuel (e-SAF), was largely touted for its climate friendly credentials.

Doing away with oil, it can reduce by 90% planet warming emissions from aviation – itself responsible for up to 4% of all greenhouse gases released in the European Union, proponents say.

Brussels has made it a key component of a push to green up transport, mandating fuel suppliers to blend at least 1.2% of the stuff into the kerosene made available at EU airports by 2030 and 35% by 2050. But the sector has struggled to take off, bogged down by high costs and low investments.

Founded 10 years ago, Ineratec launched production last year, and its small German facility is currently the only one in Europe making the propellant.

About 40 more projects under development are stuck in a rut, unable to secure the funding needed to start production plants, said Camille Mutrelle of advocacy group Transport & Environment (T&E).

Europe needs roughly nine more bigger factories to meet the 2030 target but "we still have zero", she said.

Ineratec's plant churns out some 2,500 tonnes of fuel a year, enough to power only about 50 transatlantic flights.

Brussels has mandated fuel suppliers to blend 1.2% of the synthetic propellant into kerosene made available at EU airports by 2030. AP

With the clock ticking, Brussels, which recently scaled down the ambition of other climate goals, notably for cars, has been under pressure to scrap the target or at least the hefty fines suppliers would face for not meeting it. The industry was braced for a review of the mandate due next year.

It now believes the war in West Asia and the resulting closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping lane for global gas and oil, might have changed the momentum.

Defence interest

Since its key ingredients can be sourced entirely in Europe, e-SAF has drawn attention from military forces, which worry about the ready availability of fuel to power fighter jets, helicopters and other vehicles – and could pay a premium for it, according to Matteo Mirolo, an aviation consultant specialising in sustainable fuels.

E-SAF costs about 10 times more than kerosene and even supporters concede it is unlikely to ever match the price of its fossil fuel-based rival.

Germany's armed forces recently tested Ineratec's fuel. And other governments are known to have expressed interest in building capacity, said Ms. Mutrelle.

"The current crisis is a wake-up call regarding Europe's energy independence," said Ourania Georgoutsakou, managing director of Airlines for Europe, a civil aviation lobby group.

Making sustainable fuels cheaper and more readily available should be "an urgent strategic priority", she added.

Doubts over the sector and low prospective returns meant that energy majors have so far largely stayed away, preferring to invest in biofuels, said Ms. Mutrelle.

Derived from waste, these propellants are also part of the EU's climate plans.

But production often relies on waste oil and fat imports from China, which makes them less palatable from a security of supply perspective.

The European Commission said it was considering the establishment of an EU financing mechanism for e-SAF to support development. "We need homegrown energy, including fuels and aviation fuels," a commission spokesperson said.

01J6. Conflict in West Asia spurs interest in European-made sustainable aviation fuels

पश्चिम एशिया के संघर्ष ने यूरोप में बने टिकाऊ विमानन ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ाई

- At a plant near **Frankfurt**, in **Germany**, hydrogen and carbon dioxide sourced from a chlorine factory and a biogas facility nearby are piped into a reactor, and after a few more steps turned into jet fuel.
  जर्मनी के **फ्रैंकफर्ट** के पास स्थित एक संयंत्र में क्लोरीन फैक्ट्री और पास की बायोगैस सुविधा से प्राप्त हाइड्रोजन और कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड को रिएक्टर में भेजा जाता है और कुछ प्रक्रियाओं के बाद उसे जेट ईंधन में बदल दिया जाता है।
- Interest in such synthetic propellants is growing as the **U.S.-Israeli** war on **Iran** pushes Europe to reassess its dependencies, raising hopes of a turnaround for the struggling sector, according to industry experts.
  उद्योग विशेषज्ञों के अनुसार **ईरान** पर **अमेरिका-इज़राइल** युद्ध ने यूरोप को अपनी निर्भरताओं का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करने के लिए प्रेरित किया है, जिससे ऐसे कृत्रिम ईंधनों में रुचि बढ़ रही है और संघर्ष कर रहे इस क्षेत्र में सुधार की उम्मीद जगी है।
- The conflict "made the business case for **e-SAF** much stronger," said **Mariano Berkenwald**, head of strategy at **Ineratec**, the firm operating the Frankfurt facility.
  फ्रैंकफर्ट संयंत्र संचालित करने वाली कंपनी **इनरेटेक** के रणनीति प्रमुख **मरियानो बेरकेनवाल्ड** ने कहा कि इस संघर्ष ने "**e-SAF** के व्यावसायिक महत्व को बहुत मजबूत बना दिया है।"

'Climate friendly'
'जलवायु अनुकूल'

- Before the war squeezed Europe's jet fuel supplies, electro-**Sustainable Aviation Fuel (e-SAF)**, was largely touted for its climate friendly credentials.
  युद्ध से पहले जब यूरोप की जेट ईंधन आपूर्ति प्रभावित नहीं हुई थी, तब इलेक्ट्रो-**सस्टेनेबल एविएशन फ्यूल (e-SAF)** को मुख्य रूप से उसके जलवायु अनुकूल गुणों के लिए प्रचारित किया जाता था।
- Doing away with oil, it can reduce by 90% planet warming emissions from aviation — itself responsible for up to 4% of all greenhouse gases released in the **European Union**, proponents say.
  समर्थकों का कहना है कि तेल का उपयोग समाप्त करके यह विमानन से होने वाले वैश्विक ताप वृद्धि उत्सर्जन को 90% तक कम कर सकता है, जबकि विमानन स्वयं **यूरोपीय संघ** में उत्सर्जित कुल ग्रीनहाउस गैसों का लगभग 4% हिस्सा है।

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- **Brussels** has made it a key component of a push to green up transport, mandating fuel suppliers to blend at least 1.2% of the stuff into the kerosene made available at EU airports by 2030 and 35% by 2050.
  ब्रसेल्स ने इसे परिवहन को हरित बनाने की अपनी योजना का प्रमुख हिस्सा बनाया है और ईंधन आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को 2030 तक EU हवाईअड्डों पर उपलब्ध केरोसिन में कम से कम 1.2% और 2050 तक 35% e-SAF मिलाने का निर्देश दिया है।
- But the sector has struggled to take off, bogged down by high costs and low investments.
  लेकिन यह क्षेत्र उच्च लागत और कम निवेश के कारण आगे नहीं बढ़ पाया है।
- Founded 10 years ago, **Ineratec** launched production last year, and its small German facility is currently the only one in Europe making the propellant.
  10 वर्ष पहले स्थापित **इनरेटेक** ने पिछले वर्ष उत्पादन शुरू किया और उसका छोटा जर्मन संयंत्र वर्तमान में यूरोप का एकमात्र ऐसा संयंत्र है जो यह ईंधन बना रहा है।
- About 40 more projects under development are stuck in a rut, unable to secure the funding needed to start production plants, said **Camille Mutrelle** of advocacy group **Transport & Environment (T&E)**.
  एडवोकेसी समूह **ट्रांसपोर्ट एंड एनवायरनमेंट (T&E)** की **कैमिल म्यूट्रेल** ने कहा कि विकासाधीन लगभग 40 अन्य परियोजनाएं वित्तीय सहायता के अभाव में अटकी हुई हैं।
- Europe needs roughly nine more bigger factories to meet the 2030 target but “we still have zero”, she said.
  उन्होंने कहा कि 2030 के लक्ष्य को पूरा करने के लिए यूरोप को लगभग नौ बड़े कारखानों की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन “अभी भी हमारे पास एक भी नहीं है।”
- Ineratec’s plant churns out some 2,500 tonnes of fuel a year, enough to power only about 50 transatlantic flights.
  इनरेटेक का संयंत्र प्रतिवर्ष लगभग 2,500 टन ईंधन बनाता है, जो केवल लगभग 50 ट्रांस-अटलांटिक उड़ानों के लिए पर्याप्त है।
- With the clock ticking, Brussels, which recently scaled down the ambition of other climate goals, notably for cars, has been under pressure to scrap the target or at least the hefty fines suppliers would face for not meeting it.
  समय तेजी से बीतने के साथ ब्रसेल्स, जिसने हाल ही में कारों से जुड़े अन्य जलवायु लक्ष्यों को कम किया है, पर इस लक्ष्य को हटाने या कम से कम इसे पूरा न करने पर लगने वाले भारी जुर्मानों को कम करने का दबाव बढ़ रहा है।
- The industry was braced for a review of the mandate due next year.
  उद्योग अगले वर्ष होने वाली इस नीति की समीक्षा के लिए तैयार था।
- It now believes the war in **West Asia** and the resulting closure of the **Strait of Hormuz**, a key shipping lane for global gas and oil, might have changed the momentum.
  अब उद्योग को विश्वास है कि **पश्चिम एशिया** के युद्ध और वैश्विक तेल एवं गैस के प्रमुख समुद्री मार्ग **हॉर्मुज जलडमरूमध्य** के बंद होने से परिस्थितियां बदल गई हैं।

Defence interest
रक्षा क्षेत्र की रुचि

- Since its key ingredients can be sourced entirely in Europe, **e-SAF** has drawn attention from military forces, which worry about the ready availability of fuel to power fighter jets, helicopters and other vehicles.
  क्योंकि इसके प्रमुख घटक पूरी तरह यूरोप में उपलब्ध हो सकते हैं, इसलिए **e-SAF** ने सैन्य बलों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है, जिन्हें लड़ाकू विमानों, हेलीकॉप्टरों और अन्य वाहनों के लिए ईंधन की उपलब्धता की चिंता है।
- And could pay a premium for it, according to **Matteo Mirolo**, an aviation consultant specialising in sustainable fuels.

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टिकाऊ ईंधनों के विशेषज्ञ विमानन सलाहकार **माटेओ मिरोलो** के अनुसार सैन्य बल इसके लिए अधिक कीमत चुकाने को भी तैयार हो सकते हैं।

- E-SAF costs about 10 times more than kerosene and even supporters concede it is unlikely to ever match the price of its fossil fuel-based rival.
  e-SAF की लागत केरोसिन से लगभग 10 गुना अधिक है और इसके समर्थक भी मानते हैं कि यह शायद कभी जीवाश्म ईंधन आधारित विकल्प की कीमत तक नहीं पहुंच पाएगा।
- Germany's armed forces recently tested Ineratec's fuel.
  जर्मनी की सेना ने हाल ही में इनरेटेक के ईंधन का परीक्षण किया।
- And other governments are known to have expressed interest in building capacity, said Ms. Mutrelle.
  सुश्री म्यूट्रेल ने कहा कि अन्य सरकारों ने भी उत्पादन क्षमता विकसित करने में रुचि दिखाई है।
- "The current crisis is a wake-up call regarding Europe's energy independence," said **Ourania Georgoutsakou**, managing director of **Airlines for Europe**, a civil aviation lobby group.
  नागरिक विमानन लॉबी समूह **एयरलाइंस फॉर यूरोप** की प्रबंध निदेशक **ओरानिया जॉर्जाउत्साकोउ** ने कहा, "वर्तमान संकट यूरोप की ऊर्जा स्वतंत्रता के लिए चेतावनी है।"
- Making sustainable fuels cheaper and more readily available should be "an urgent strategic priority", she added.
  उन्होंने कहा कि टिकाऊ ईंधनों को सस्ता और अधिक उपलब्ध बनाना "एक तात्कालिक रणनीतिक प्राथमिकता" होनी चाहिए।
- Doubts over the sector and low prospective returns meant that energy majors have so far largely stayed away, preferring to invest in biofuels, said Ms. Mutrelle.
  सुश्री म्यूट्रेल ने कहा कि इस क्षेत्र को लेकर संदेह और कम संभावित लाभ के कारण बड़ी ऊर्जा कंपनियां अब तक इससे दूर रही हैं और जैव ईंधनों में निवेश को प्राथमिकता दे रही हैं।
- Derived from waste, these propellants are also part of the **EU's** climate plans.
  कचरे से बने ये ईंधन भी **EU** की जलवायु योजनाओं का हिस्सा हैं।
- But production often relies on waste oil and fat imports from **China**, which makes them less palatable from a security of supply perspective.
  लेकिन इनका उत्पादन अक्सर **चीन** से आयातित अपशिष्ट तेल और वसा पर निर्भर करता है, जिससे आपूर्ति सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से यह कम उपयुक्त हो जाता है।
- The **European Commission** said it was considering the establishment of an EU financing mechanism for e-SAF to support development.
  यूरोपीय आयोग ने कहा कि वह e-SAF के विकास के समर्थन के लिए EU वित्तपोषण तंत्र स्थापित करने पर विचार कर रहा है।
- "We need homegrown energy, including fuels and aviation fuels," a commission spokesperson said.
  आयोग के प्रवक्ता ने कहा, "हमें घरेलू स्तर पर विकसित ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता है, जिसमें ईंधन और विमानन ईंधन भी शामिल हैं।"

GS Paper III: Internal Security	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI' जनरल सुब्रमणि ने CDS का पदभार संभाला; 'JAI' पर दिया जोर
01J6	Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने नौसेना के 27वें प्रमुख के रूप में पदभार संभाला

General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI'

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

NEW DELHI

General N.S. Raja Subramani on Sunday assumed charge as India's third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs.

Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He was later accorded a ceremonial Tri-Services Guard of Honour at South Block.

Addressing reporters, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the armed forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services. "The Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions and all stakeholders stand united as part of the Whole of Nation approach to strengthen India's security," he said.

He said the armed forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "JAI" – Jointness, *Atma Nirbharta* (self-sufficiency), and Innovation. He said organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area. "*Atma Nirbharta* is a central pillar of our national security. We will accelerate the development, induction, and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces," he said, while stressing the need for innovation in thought and action.

Gen. N.S. Raja Subramani

A highly decorated officer with more than four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in December 1985. He has held several key command and staff appointments, including General Officer Commanding 2 Corps, GOC-in-C Central Command, and Vice Chief of the Army Staff.

01J6. General Subramani takes charge as CDS; lays emphasis on 'JAI'

जनरल सुब्रमणि ने CDS का पदभार संभाला; 'JAI' पर दिया जोर

- **General N.S. Raja Subramani** on Sunday assumed charge as India's third **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** and Secretary, **Department of Military Affairs**.

जनरल एन.एस. राजा सुब्रमणि ने रविवार को भारत के तीसरे **चीफ ऑफ डिफेंस स्टाफ (CDS)** तथा **सैन्य मामलों के विभाग** के सचिव के रूप में पदभार संभाला।

- Soon after assuming office, General Subramani paid tribute to fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the **National War Memorial** in **New Delhi**.

पदभार संभालने के तुरंत बाद जनरल सुब्रमणि ने **नई दिल्ली** स्थित **राष्ट्रीय युद्ध स्मारक** पर पुष्पचक्र अर्पित कर शहीद सैनिकों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

- He was later accorded a ceremonial **Tri-Services Guard of Honour** at **South Block**.

इसके बाद उन्हें **साउथ ब्लॉक** में औपचारिक **त्रि-सेवा गार्ड ऑफ ऑनर** प्रदान किया गया।

- Addressing reporters, the new CDS expressed gratitude for the trust reposed in the armed forces and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening national security through greater integration among the services.

पत्रकारों को संबोधित करते हुए नए CDS ने सशस्त्र बलों पर जताए गए विश्वास के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया और सेवाओं के बीच अधिक एकीकरण के माध्यम से राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने की अपनी प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।

- "The **Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, Ministry of Defence, strategic institutions** and all stakeholders stand united as part of the **Whole of Nation approach** to strengthen India's security," he said.

उन्होंने कहा, "**भारतीय सेना, नौसेना, वायुसेना, रक्षा मंत्रालय, रणनीतिक संस्थान** और सभी हितधारक भारत की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए **Whole of Nation approach** के तहत एकजुट हैं।"

- He said the armed forces would work towards implementing Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** vision of "**JAI**" — **Jointness, Atma Nirbharta (self-sufficiency), and Innovation**.

उन्होंने कहा कि सशस्त्र बल प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** के "**JAI**" — **जॉइंटनेस, आत्मनिर्भरता और नवाचार** — के दृष्टिकोण को लागू करने की दिशा में कार्य करेंगे।

- He said organisational reforms aimed at enhancing synergy, integration, and operational effectiveness among the three services would remain a key focus area.

उन्होंने कहा कि तीनों सेनाओं के बीच तालमेल, एकीकरण और परिचालन प्रभावशीलता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से किए जाने वाले संगठनात्मक सुधार प्रमुख फोकस क्षेत्र बने रहेंगे।

- "**Atma Nirbharta** is a central pillar of our national security. We will accelerate the development, induction, and integration of indigenous weapons in our armed forces," he said, while stressing the need for innovation in thought and action.
उन्होंने कहा, "**आत्मनिर्भरता** हमारी राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा का एक केंद्रीय स्तंभ है। हम अपने सशस्त्र बलों में स्वदेशी हथियारों के विकास, शामिल किए जाने और एकीकरण की प्रक्रिया को तेज करेंगे," साथ ही उन्होंने विचार और कार्य में नवाचार की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया।
- A highly decorated officer with more than four decades of service, General Subramani was commissioned into the **Garhwal Rifles** in December 1985.
चार दशकों से अधिक की सेवा वाले अत्यधिक सम्मानित अधिकारी जनरल सुब्रमणि को दिसंबर 1985 में **गढ़वाल राइफल्स** में कमीशन मिला था।
- He has held several key command and staff appointments, including **General Officer Commanding 2 Corps, GOC-in-C Central Command, and Vice Chief of the Army Staff**.
उन्होंने कई महत्वपूर्ण कमांड और स्टाफ पदों पर कार्य किया है, जिनमें **जनरल ऑफिसर कमांडिंग 2 कॉर्प्स, जीओसी-इन-सी सेंट्रल कमांड, और वाइस चीफ ऑफ आर्मी स्टाफ** शामिल हैं।

Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy

GS III: Internal Security: Defence

NEW DELHI

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on Sunday assumed charge as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy, succeeding Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retired after over 41 years of service.

Soon after taking over the command of the maritime force, Admiral Swaminathan reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to protecting national and economic interests amid an increasingly complex regional security environment. Speaking to reporters on the occasion, the new Navy chief said he was honoured to lead the force at a time when maritime security challenges continue to evolve.

"I'm extremely grateful to have this opportunity to serve the Indian Navy and the nation in this capacity. The Indian Navy stands vigilant to protect national interests and is actively deployed in a regional security environment that remains challenging, complex, unpredictable and uncertain," he said.

Adm. Krishna Swaminathan with outgoing Navy chief Adm. Dinesh Kumar Tripathi in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Highlighting his priorities as the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Swaminathan stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness. He said the Navy would continue its ongoing modernisation drive while accelerating the induction of niche and emerging technologies to strengthen its operational capabilities. "The Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation. It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum, consolidate ongoing programmes and sharpen our operational capabilities," he added.

Commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1987, Admiral Swaminathan is a Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist with nearly four decades of distinguished service.

During his career, he has held several key operational and staff appointments, including Commander of Western Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, a position he held prior to becoming the Navy chief.

01J6. Admiral Swaminathan takes charge as 27th chief of Navy
एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने नौसेना के 27वें प्रमुख के रूप में पदभार संभाला

- **Admiral Krishna Swaminathan** on Sunday assumed charge as the 27th **Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)** of the Indian Navy, succeeding **Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**, who retired after over 41 years of service.
  एडमिरल कृष्णा स्वामीनाथन ने रविवार को भारतीय नौसेना के 27वें **चीफ ऑफ द नेवल स्टाफ (CNS)** के रूप में पदभार संभाला। उन्होंने **एडमिरल दिनेश कुमार त्रिपाठी** का स्थान लिया, जो 41 वर्षों से अधिक की सेवा के बाद सेवानिवृत्त हुए।
- Soon after taking over the command of the maritime force, Admiral Swaminathan reaffirmed the Navy's commitment to protecting national and economic interests amid an increasingly complex regional security environment.
  समुद्री बल की कमान संभालने के तुरंत बाद एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने लगातार जटिल होते क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा वातावरण के बीच राष्ट्रीय और आर्थिक हितों की रक्षा के लिए नौसेना की प्रतिबद्धता दोहराई।
- Speaking to reporters on the occasion, the new Navy chief said he was honoured to lead the force at a time when maritime security challenges continue to evolve.
  इस अवसर पर पत्रकारों से बातचीत करते हुए नए नौसेना प्रमुख ने कहा कि ऐसे समय में बल का नेतृत्व करना उनके लिए सम्मान की बात है, जब समुद्री सुरक्षा चुनौतियाँ लगातार बदल रही हैं।
- "I'm extremely grateful to have this opportunity to serve the **Indian Navy** and the nation in this capacity.
  "मैं इस भूमिका में **भारतीय नौसेना** और राष्ट्र की सेवा करने का अवसर मिलने के लिए अत्यंत आभारी हूँ।
- The Indian Navy stands vigilant to protect national interests and is actively deployed in a regional security environment that remains challenging, complex, unpredictable and uncertain," he said.
  उन्होंने कहा, "भारतीय नौसेना राष्ट्रीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए सतर्क है और ऐसे क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा वातावरण में सक्रिय रूप से तैनात है, जो चुनौतीपूर्ण, जटिल, अप्रत्याशित और अनिश्चित बना हुआ है।"
- Highlighting his priorities as the **Chief of the Naval Staff**, Admiral Swaminathan stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of operational readiness and combat effectiveness.
  चीफ ऑफ द नेवल स्टाफ के रूप में अपनी प्राथमिकताओं को रेखांकित करते हुए एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन ने परिचालन तैयारी और युद्धक क्षमता के उच्चतम मानकों को बनाए रखने के महत्व पर जोर दिया।
- He said the Navy would continue its ongoing modernisation drive while accelerating the induction of niche and emerging technologies to strengthen its operational capabilities.
  उन्होंने कहा कि नौसेना अपनी परिचालन क्षमताओं को मजबूत करने के लिए आधुनिकरण अभियान को जारी रखेगी और विशेष तथा उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों को तेजी से शामिल करेगी।
- "The Indian Navy is well set on a course of capability enhancement and modernisation.
  "भारतीय नौसेना क्षमता वृद्धि और आधुनिकीकरण के मार्ग पर अच्छी तरह आगे बढ़ रही है।
- It shall be my endeavour to sustain the growth momentum, consolidate ongoing programmes and sharpen our operational capabilities," he added.
  उन्होंने कहा, "मेरा प्रयास रहेगा कि विकास की गति को बनाए रखा जाए, चल रहे कार्यक्रमों को मजबूत किया जाए और हमारी परिचालन क्षमताओं को और तेज किया जाए।"
- Commissioned into the **Indian Navy** on July 1, 1987, Admiral Swaminathan is a **Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist** with nearly four decades of distinguished service.
  1 जुलाई 1987 को **भारतीय नौसेना** में कमीशन प्राप्त करने वाले एडमिरल स्वामीनाथन लगभग चार दशकों की विशिष्ट सेवा वाले **संचार और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध विशेषज्ञ** हैं।
- During his career, he has held several key operational and staff appointments, including **Commander of Western Fleet, Vice Chief of Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command**, a position he held prior to becoming the Navy chief.

अपने करियर के दौरान उन्होंने कई महत्वपूर्ण परिचालन और स्टाफ पदों पर कार्य किया है, जिनमें **कमांडर ऑफ वेस्टर्न फ्लीट, वाइस चीफ ऑफ नेवल स्टाफ और फ्लैग ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ ऑफ वेस्टर्न नेवल कमांड** शामिल हैं। नौसेना प्रमुख बनने से पहले वे इसी पद पर कार्यरत थे।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	01 June 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
01J6	The prisoner who builds his own cell वह कैदी जो अपनी ही कोठरी बनाता है

The prisoner who builds his own cell

Cave grows grander, yet Man Midas does not realise he is wearing golden handcuffs; he earns, spends more; in the endless game of lifestyle upgrades, he stops living, begins merely maintaining

GS IV: Ethics Essay

GOLDEN HANDCUFFS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Days pass, but Man Midas never finds peace. The cave's grandeur that once was his pride, fills him with dread. What was once a dream has transformed into a burden he can no longer carry easily. Every possession needs upkeep, every upgrade adds another brick to the invisible walls trapping him inside and every sunrise carries an anxiety: what if it all collapses? Midas runs harder simply to stand in the same place.

After observing Midas in silence, Alien Aurum turns to Monk Moneywise and murmurs, "Midas no longer builds a life. He looks like a prisoner, trapped inside the very cage he built."

Monk Moneywise nods, "True Aurum, the trap begins when humans expand standard of living, blurring the line between need and luxury. Extravagance becomes ordinary and options necessities. A cycle turns into a bike which evolves into a small car to finally mature as a sedan."

"With each upgrade, fuel cost, insurance premia and EMIs multiply quietly. Bigger homes turn bigger EMIs, posh schools bring higher fee, club memberships bills, household help is the norm, foreign holidays are rituals. Comfort slowly hardens into financial obligation. Though Midas' income rises, even one interruption in earnings now threatens the entire life built around it."

> "Humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them"

Alien Aurum asks in bewilderment, "Mr. Moneywise, if a family of two needs just a small place to eat and sleep, why do they spend entire lives paying for four or five big rooms?"

Imagined future

Gazing towards the distant human dwellings, Monk Moneywise whispers, "Homes disclose some of the deepest truths about human life. Humans build houses not just for today, but for imagined futures: visiting relatives, children who may settle abroad, grandchildren who may never arrive, prestige and the deep fear of appearing small before the society. The tragedy is rarely the size of the house, but the weight of the imagined future they purchase along with it."

Alien Aurum interrupts, "Weight of the imagined future?"

Nodding gently, the monk explains, "Humans spend decades buying a house believing one day they will finally be relieved of monthly rental burdens. Yet, the irony shows itself years later. For instance, in the gated communities.

> "Whether apartment is lived in or empty sans tenants, maintenance costs keep rising every month, often running into several thousands."

Even after fully owning the flat, charges never truly stop. Whether the apartment is lived in, locked for months, or empty without tenants for years, maintenance charges continue arriving month on month, often running into several thousands. The tragedy deepens further with age."

Alien Aurum cuts in and asks Monk Moneywise, "The tragedy deepens with age? How?"

Mr. Moneywise continues, "Aurum, many elderly residents no longer regularly use the swimming pools, clubhouses or luxury amenities they once proudly paid for, yet the maintenance charges never disappear. During salaried years, these costs appear harmless. But after retirement, the shock slowly emerges. They now have to keep paying significant money monthly simply to continue living inside a house they already fully own but not fully use."

Buried exhaustion

Years of buried exhaustion suddenly erupt through Midas. "Enough of your theories and sermons! It's been years of struggle and do you know what all I have sacrificed to build all these? Missed family moments, sleepless nights, health slowly breaking down, dreams postponed and what not. It's easy for you to mock me. But how can I simply walk away? If I let go of this life, then what is all that pain even for? Every sleepless night and every sacrifice goes into bins? We cannot bleed for something our entire lives and then simply let it go."

Now Master Time interrupts saying, "That pain you cannot let go of, Midas, has a name. Behavioural economists call it the sunk-cost fallacy: humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them."

Crucial questions

Time's voice echoes across the silent valley, "Before every upgrade ask yourself: Can I sustain this if my income falls? Will this matter to me ten years from now? Am I buying this for need or status? What are the recurring charges even after the excitement fades? Am I buying for the present life or the imagined future? Am I here because I want this life, or because leaving it now feels too costly? If Midas had asked these questions before every purchase, he would have built a life not a cage and the golden handcuffs would never have found a wrist to bind itself upon."

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

01J6. The prisoner who builds his own cell
वह कैदी जो अपनी ही कोठरी बनाता है

- Cave grows grander, yet **Man Midas** does not realise he is wearing golden handcuffs.
  गुफा भव्य होती जाती है, फिर भी **मैन मिडास** यह नहीं समझ पाता कि उसने सोने की हथकड़ियां पहन रखी हैं।
- He earns, spends more; in the endless game of lifestyle upgrades, he stops living, begins merely maintaining.
  वह अधिक कमाता है, अधिक खर्च करता है; जीवनशैली को लगातार बेहतर बनाने के अंतहीन खेल में वह जीना छोड़ देता है और केवल बनाए रखने में लग जाता है।
- Days pass, but **Man Midas** never finds peace.
  दिन बीतते जाते हैं, लेकिन **मैन मिडास** को कभी शांति नहीं मिलती।
- The cave's grandeur that once was his pride, fills him with dread.
  गुफा की भव्यता, जो कभी उसका गर्व थी, अब उसे भय से भर देती है।
- What was once a dream has transformed into a burden he can no longer carry easily.
  जो कभी एक सपना था, वह अब ऐसा बोझ बन गया है जिसे वह आसानी से उठा नहीं सकता।
- Every possession needs upkeep, every upgrade adds another brick to the invisible walls trapping him inside and every sunrise carries an anxiety: what if it all collapses?
  हर वस्तु को देखभाल की आवश्यकता होती है, हर नया उन्नयन उसे कैद करने वाली अदृश्य दीवारों में एक और ईंट जोड़ देता है और हर सूर्योदय एक चिंता लेकर आता है: अगर यह सब ढह गया तो क्या होगा?
- Midas runs harder simply to stand in the same place.
  मिडास केवल उसी स्थान पर बने रहने के लिए और तेज भागता है।
- After observing Midas in silence, **Alien Aurum** turns to **Monk Moneywise** and murmurs, "Midas no longer builds a life. He looks like a prisoner, trapped inside the very cage he built."
  मिडास को चुपचाप देखने के बाद **एलियन ऑरम** ने **मोंक मनीवाइज** की ओर मुड़कर कहा, "मिडास अब जीवन नहीं बना रहा। वह एक कैदी जैसा दिखता है, जो उसी पिंजरे में फंसा है जिसे उसने स्वयं बनाया है।"
- Monk Moneywise nods, "True Aurum, the trap begins when humans expand standard of living, blurring the line between need and luxury."
  मोंक मनीवाइज ने सिर हिलाते हुए कहा, "सही कहा ऑरम, जाल तब शुरू होता है जब इंसान जीवन स्तर बढ़ाते हुए जरूरत और विलासिता के बीच की रेखा धुंधली कर देता है।"
- Extravagance becomes ordinary and options necessities.
  फिजूलखर्ची सामान्य बन जाती है और विकल्प आवश्यकताएं बन जाते हैं।
- A cycle turns into a bike which evolves into a small car to finally mature as a sedan."
  साइकिल बाइक में बदलती है, फिर छोटी कार बनती है और अंततः सेडान में परिवर्तित हो जाती है।"
- "With each upgrade, fuel cost, insurance premia and EMIs multiply quietly."
  "हर उन्नयन के साथ ईंधन खर्च, बीमा प्रीमियम और ईएमआई चुपचाप बढ़ते जाते हैं।"
- "Bigger homes turn bigger EMIs, posh schools bring higher fee, club memberships bills, household help is the norm, foreign holidays are rituals."
  "बड़े घर बड़ी ईएमआई में बदल जाते हैं, महंगे स्कूल अधिक फीस लाते हैं, क्लब सदस्यता बिल बन जाती है, घरेलू मदद सामान्य हो जाती है और विदेशी छुट्टियां एक परंपरा बन जाती हैं।"
- "Comfort slowly hardens into financial obligation."
  "सुविधा धीरे-धीरे आर्थिक बाध्यता में बदल जाती है।"
- "Though Midas' income rises, even one interruption in earnings now threatens the entire life built around it."
  "हालांकि मिडास की आय बढ़ती है, लेकिन अब कमाई में एक छोटी रुकावट भी उसके पूरे जीवन को खतरे में डाल देती है।"

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- Alien Aurum asks in bewilderment, "Mr. Moneywise, if a family of two needs just a small place to eat and sleep, why do they spend entire lives paying for four or five big rooms?"
  एलियन ऑरम ने आश्चर्य से पूछा, "मिस्टर मनीवाइज, यदि दो लोगों के परिवार को केवल खाने और सोने के लिए एक छोटी जगह चाहिए, तो वे चार या पांच बड़े कमरों के लिए पूरी जिंदगी भुगतान क्यों करते हैं?"

Imagined future
कल्पित भविष्य

- Gazing towards the distant human dwellings, **Monk Moneywise** whispers, "Homes disclose some of the deepest truths about human life."
  दूर स्थित मानव आवासों की ओर देखते हुए **मोंक मनीवाइज** ने फुसफुसाते हुए कहा, "घर मानव जीवन के कुछ सबसे गहरे सत्य प्रकट करते हैं।"
- "Humans build houses not just for today, but for imagined futures."
  "मनुष्य घर केवल आज के लिए नहीं बल्कि कल्पित भविष्य के लिए बनाते हैं।"
- "Visiting relatives, children who may settle abroad, grandchildren who may never arrive, prestige and the deep fear of appearing small before the society."
  "आने वाले रिश्तेदार, विदेश में बसने वाले बच्चे, शायद कभी न आने वाले पोते-पोतियां, प्रतिष्ठा और समाज के सामने छोटा दिखने का गहरा भय।"
- "The tragedy is rarely the size of the house, but the weight of the imagined future they purchase along with it."
  "त्रासदी शायद ही कभी घर के आकार में होती है, बल्कि उस कल्पित भविष्य के बोझ में होती है जिसे वे उसके साथ खरीदते हैं।"
- Alien Aurum interrupts, "Weight of the imagined future?"
  एलियन ऑरम बीच में बोल पड़ा, "कल्पित भविष्य का बोझ?"
- Nodding gently, the monk explains, "Humans spend decades buying a house believing one day they will finally be relieved of monthly rental burdens."
  धीरे से सिर हिलाते हुए मोंक ने समझाया, "मनुष्य यह सोचकर दशकों तक घर खरीदते हैं कि एक दिन वे मासिक किराए के बोझ से मुक्त हो जाएंगे।"
- "Yet, the irony shows itself years later."
  "लेकिन वर्षों बाद विडंबना सामने आती है।"
- "For instance, in the gated communities."
  "उदाहरण के लिए, गेटेड कम्युनिटीज में।"
- "Even after fully owning the flat, charges never truly stop."
  "फ्लैट का पूर्ण स्वामित्व मिलने के बाद भी खर्च वास्तव में कभी समाप्त नहीं होते।"
- "Whether the apartment is lived in, locked for months, or empty without tenants for years, maintenance charges continue arriving month on month, often running into several thousands."
  "चाहे अपार्टमेंट में लोग रहें, महीनों तक बंद रहे या वर्षों तक बिना किरायेदार के खाली रहे, मेंटेनेंस शुल्क हर महीने आता रहता है, जो अक्सर हजारों रुपये तक पहुंच जाता है।"
- "The tragedy deepens further with age."
  "उम्र बढ़ने के साथ यह त्रासदी और गहरी हो जाती है।"
- Alien Aurum cuts in and asks **Monk Moneywise**, "The tragedy deepens with age? How?"
  एलियन ऑरम ने बीच में टोकते हुए **मोंक मनीवाइज** से पूछा, "उम्र के साथ त्रासदी और गहरी हो जाती है? कैसे?"
- Mr. Moneywise continues, "Aurum, many elderly residents no longer regularly use the swimming pools, clubhouses or luxury amenities they once proudly paid for, yet the maintenance charges never disappear."
  मिस्टर मनीवाइज ने आगे कहा, "ऑरम, कई बुजुर्ग निवासी अब उन स्विमिंग पूलों, क्लब हाउसों या

विलासितापूर्ण सुविधाओं का उपयोग नियमित रूप से नहीं करते जिनके लिए उन्होंने कभी गर्व से भुगतान किया था, फिर भी मेंटेनेंस शुल्क कभी समाप्त नहीं होते।"

- "During salaried years, these costs appear harmless."
  "नौकरी के वर्षों में ये खर्च मामूली लगते हैं।"
- "But after retirement, the shock slowly emerges."
  "लेकिन सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद धीरे-धीरे झटका सामने आता है।"
- "They now have to keep paying significant money monthly simply to continue living inside a house they already fully own but not fully use."
  "अब उन्हें हर महीने बड़ी राशि केवल उस घर में रहने के लिए चुकानी पड़ती है, जिसका वे पूर्ण स्वामित्व रखते हैं लेकिन पूरी तरह उपयोग नहीं करते।"

Buried exhaustion
दबी हुई थकान

- Years of buried exhaustion suddenly erupt through Midas.
  वर्षों की दबी हुई थकान अचानक मिडास के भीतर से फूट पड़ती है।
- "Enough of your theories and sermons!"
  "तुम्हारे सिद्धांतों और उपदेशों से अब बहुत हो गया!"
- "It's been years of struggle and do you know what all I have sacrificed to build all these?"
  "यह वर्षों का संघर्ष है और क्या तुम जानते हो कि यह सब बनाने के लिए मैंने क्या-क्या बलिदान दिए हैं?"
- "Missed family moments, sleepless nights, health slowly breaking down, dreams postponed and what not."
  "परिवार के साथ छूटे पल, बिना नींद की रातें, धीरे-धीरे बिगड़ती सेहत, टलते सपने और न जाने क्या-क्या।"
- "It's easy for you to mock me."
  "तुम्हारे लिए मेरा मजाक उड़ाना आसान है।"
- "But how can I simply walk away?"
  "लेकिन मैं यह सब छोड़कर कैसे चला जाऊं?"
- "If I let go of this life, then what is all that pain even for?"
  "अगर मैं इस जीवन को छोड़ दूं, तो फिर उस सारे दर्द का क्या अर्थ रह जाएगा?"
- "Every sleepless night and every sacrifice goes into bins?"
  "क्या हर जागी हुई रात और हर बलिदान बेकार हो जाएगा?"
- "We cannot bleed for something our entire lives and then simply let it go."
  "हम पूरी जिंदगी किसी चीज के लिए संघर्ष करें और फिर उसे यूं ही छोड़ दें, यह संभव नहीं है।"
- Now **Master Time** interrupts saying, "That pain you cannot let go of, Midas, has a name."
  अब **मास्टर टाइम** बीच में बोलते हुए कहते हैं, "मिडास, उस दर्द का एक नाम है जिसे तुम छोड़ नहीं पा रहे हो।"
- "Behavioural economists call it the sunk-cost fallacy: humans often stay trapped in lives that no longer bring joy because leaving feels like erasing every sacrifice once made to build them."
  "व्यवहारिक अर्थशास्त्री इसे 'संक-कॉस्ट फॉलसी' कहते हैं: इंसान अक्सर ऐसे जीवन में फंसे रहते हैं जो अब खुशी नहीं देता, क्योंकि उसे छोड़ना उन सभी बलिदानों को मिटा देने जैसा लगता है जो उसे बनाने में किए गए थे।"

Crucial questions
महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न

- Time's voice echoes across the silent valley, "Before every upgrade ask yourself: Can I sustain this if my income falls?"

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शांत घाटी में टाइम की आवाज गूंजती है, "हर उन्नयन से पहले स्वयं से पूछो: यदि मेरी आय कम हो जाए तो क्या मैं इसे बनाए रख सकता हूं?"

- "Will this matter to me ten years from now?"
  "क्या यह दस साल बाद भी मेरे लिए मायने रखेगा?"
- "Am I buying this for need or status?"
  "क्या मैं इसे जरूरत के लिए खरीद रहा हूं या प्रतिष्ठा के लिए?"
- "What are the recurring charges even after the excitement fades?"
  "उत्साह खत्म होने के बाद भी बार-बार आने वाले खर्च क्या हैं?"
- "Am I buying for the present life or the imagined future?"
  "क्या मैं वर्तमान जीवन के लिए खरीद रहा हूं या कल्पित भविष्य के लिए?"
- "Am I here because I want this life, or because leaving it now feels too costly?"
  "क्या मैं यहां इसलिए हूं क्योंकि मैं यह जीवन चाहता हूं, या इसलिए क्योंकि अब इसे छोड़ना बहुत महंगा लगता है?"
- "If Midas had asked these questions before every purchase, he would have built a life not a cage and the golden handcuffs would never have found a wrist to bind itself upon."
  "यदि मिडास ने हर खरीदारी से पहले ये प्रश्न पूछे होते, तो वह एक जीवन बनाता, पिंजरा नहीं, और सोने की हथकड़ियों को कभी कोई कलाई नहीं मिलती जिस पर वे खुद को बांध सकें।"

PATRIOTIC IAS