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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

10 JULY 2026

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PCS Special:		10 July
10J7	Total Eclipse singer Bonnie Tyler, queen of the 80s power ballad, dies 'Total Eclipse' की गायिका Bonnie Tyler, 80 के दशक की पावर बैलेड की रानी, का निधन	
10J7	U.S., Iran exchange more attacks across West Asia, threatening deal पश्चिम एशिया में अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच फिर हमले, समझौते पर संकट	



Total Eclipse singer Bonnie Tyler, queen of the 80s power ballad, dies



PCS REUTERS
Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler, best known for her powerful, haunting love song *Total Eclipse of the Heart*, has died aged 75 in hospital in Portugal, her family announced on Thursday. With her distinctive husky voice, tousled mane of blonde hair and black eyeliner, Tyler was instantly recognisable as the queen of 1980s power ballad. AFP

10J7. Total Eclipse singer Bonnie Tyler, queen of the 80s power ballad, dies

'Total Eclipse' की गायिका Bonnie Tyler, 80 के दशक की पावर बैलेड की रानी, का निधन

- Welsh singer Bonnie Tyler, best known for her powerful, haunting love song *Total Eclipse of the Heart*, has died aged 75 in hospital in Portugal, her family announced on Thursday.

वेल्श गायिका Bonnie Tyler, जो अपने शक्तिशाली और भावपूर्ण प्रेम गीत *Total Eclipse of the Heart* के लिए सबसे अधिक प्रसिद्ध थीं, का 75 वर्ष की आयु में पुर्तगाल के एक अस्पताल में निधन हो गया। उनके परिवार ने गुरुवार को इसकी घोषणा की।

U.S., Iran exchange more attacks across West Asia, threatening deal

Iran reports U.S. strikes around the perimeter of **Bushehr nuclear plant** as U.S. officials say they hit about 90 Iranian military targets; new fighting erupted hours before the burial of Khamenei; Tehran officials report that U.S. attacks killed 17 people

PCS
Agence France-Presse
MASHHAD

New fighting erupted between the United States and Iran hours ahead of the burial of long-time Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Thursday, with Tehran targeting U.S. allies in the region and American strikes hitting the perimeter of an Iranian nuclear power plant.

The renewed hostilities, triggered by tensions over the Strait of Hormuz, sparked concerns of a return to full-scale war after an April ceasefire and a June U.S.-Iran accord ended five weeks of conflict.



Mourners carry a banner against Donald Trump as they gather on the day of Khamenei's burial in Mashhad on Thursday. REUTERS

This was the second day in a row that the decades-old foes exchanged attacks, with Iranian officials reporting the U.S. attacks had killed 17 people.

The Islamic republic said it had resumed its attacks targeting U.S. assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, while sirens blared in Jordan – another U.S. ally

– where the military said it had intercepted eight missiles launched from Iran.

The fighting came with Iran preparing to bury Khamenei, who was killed alongside close family members on the first day of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran on February 28, in his hometown of Mashhad.

'Effort to overshadow'
The United States targeted the perimeter of Iran's only civilian nuclear plant with a strike on Thursday, Iranian state media reported, citing the deputy governor of Bushehr province.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. attacks

targeted civilian infrastructure, including railway bridges, and described the strikes as a "gross war crime".

U.S. military officials said Thursday's strikes hit approximately 90 Iranian military targets, including air defence systems, missile and drone storage sites.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards accused the United States of an "effort to overshadow" Khamenei's funeral with its attacks.

In a sign of the security tensions, at least one fighter jet escorted the plane carrying Khamenei's coffin to its final burial in Mashhad.

10J7. U.S., Iran exchange more attacks across West Asia, threatening deal

पश्चिम एशिया में अमेरिका और ईरान के बीच फिर हमले, समझौते पर संकट

- Iran reports U.S. strikes around the perimeter of **Bushehr nuclear plant** as U.S. officials say they hit about 90 Iranian military targets; new fighting erupted hours before the burial of Khamenei; Tehran officials report that U.S. attacks killed 17 people.

ईरान ने Bushehr nuclear plant के आसपास अमेरिकी हमलों की सूचना दी, जबकि अमेरिकी अधिकारियों

का कहना है कि उन्होंने लगभग 90 ईरानी सैन्य ठिकानों को निशाना बनाया; Khamenei के दफन से कुछ घंटे पहले नई लड़ाई शुरू हुई; तेहरान के अधिकारियों के अनुसार अमेरिकी हमलों में 17 लोगों की मौत हुई।

- The Islamic republic said it had resumed its attacks targeting **U.S. assets in Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar, while sirens blared in Jordan — another U.S. ally** — where the military said it had intercepted **eight missiles** launched from Iran.

इस्लामिक गणराज्य ने कहा कि उसने कुवैत, बहरीन और कतर में अमेरिकी परिसंपत्तियों पर अपने हमले फिर शुरू कर दिए हैं, जबकि जॉर्डन, जो एक अन्य अमेरिकी सहयोगी है, में सायरन बजे, जहाँ सेना ने ईरान से दागी गई आठ मिसाइलों को रोकने का दावा किया।

GS Paper 1: History		10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
10J7	Australia announces repatriation of three antiquities taken from Tamil Nadu temples ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने तमिलनाडु के मंदिरों से ले जाई गई तीन प्राचीन धरोहरों की भारत वापसी की घोषणा की	

Australia announces repatriation of three antiquities taken from Tamil Nadu temples

GS I: History
R. Sivaraman
CHENNAI

Australia will repatriate three ancient artefacts stolen from temples in Tamil Nadu, including a Chola-era bronze trident, a granite Nandi idol and a Karthikeya sculpture, in a move announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country.

The Union Ministry of Culture said in a press statement, "In a profound testament to the civilisational resonance anchoring modern diplomacy, Australia is set to repatriate three culturally significant ancient antiquities to India. These artefacts include a ceremonial bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali, a majestic granite idol of Nandi, and a basalt sculpture depicting the six-headed Karthikeya." All these items date back to the 11th and 12th Centuries and were originally sourced from temples in Tamil Nadu. The official



Precious legacy: A Nandi sculpture, a Karthikeya (Shanmukha) idol and a Bhadrakali trident are among the antiquities that are to be returned. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

announcement of the repatriation coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia, further emphasising the strong cultural alignment between the two nations, the Ministry said.

The three antiquities, currently housed in the National Gallery of Australia, are being repatriated under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) after investigations by the Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID established that they had been removed from temples in Tamil Nadu and trafficked

overseas. Commenting on the repatriation of the idols, S. Vijaya Kumar, cultural enthusiast and co-founder of India Pride, said the return of these three artefacts marks the conclusion of a process that should have happened many years ago.

More than a decade has passed since the National Gallery of Australia's independent provenance review by former High Court Justice Susan Crennan AC identified significant shortcomings in the provenance of these objects. The

view concluded that the ownership histories of two idols did not establish lawful export from India.

The Bhadrakali Trident was acquired from Temple Gallery, New York, with a provenance tracing ownership only to Dr. P.S. Rao, Chennai, before entering the gallery in 1993. Justice Crennan concluded that this ownership history did not establish that the object had been legally exported. It has now been identified as originating from Sri Kasi Viswanatha Swamy Temple, Kolluman-

gudi, Tiruvur district.

The Stone Nandi was purchased from Carlton Rochell Asian Art based on an elaborate provenance claiming that Mexican diplomat Mario Calderon had assembled the sculpture in Goa before it passed through inheritance to Pedro Silva Villasenor in Mexico. The Crennan Review found that this ownership chain was not convincingly corroborated, and subsequent investigation identified the sculpture as originating from the temple in Tamil Nadu.

The Karthikeya (Shanmukha) followed a provenance similar to the Bhadrakali Trident, again relying upon ownership through Dr. P.S. Rao and Temple Gallery. Justice Crennan's review concluded that there was insufficient evidence to establish a lawful export from India. It has now been identified as originating from Naganathaswamy Temple, Manambadi, Thanjavur.

10J7. Australia announces repatriation of three antiquities taken from Tamil Nadu temples

ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने तमिलनाडु के मंदिरों से ले जाई गई तीन प्राचीन धरोहरों की भारत वापसी की घोषणा की



- **Australia** will repatriate three ancient **artefacts** stolen from temples in **Tamil Nadu**, including a **Chola-era bronze trident**, a **granite Nandi idol** and a **Karthikeya sculpture**, in a move announced during **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit to the country.
ऑस्ट्रेलिया तमिलनाडु के मंदिरों से चोरी की गई तीन प्राचीन कलाकृतियों (artefacts) — एक चोलकालीन कांस्य त्रिशूल (Chola-era bronze trident), एक ग्रेनाइट नंदी प्रतिमा (granite Nandi idol) और एक कार्तिकेय की मूर्ति (Karthikeya sculpture) — को भारत लौटाएगा। इसकी घोषणा प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की ऑस्ट्रेलिया यात्रा के दौरान की गई।
- These artefacts include a ceremonial **bronze trident of Goddess Bhadrakali**, a majestic **granite idol of Nandi**, and a **basalt sculpture** depicting the **six-headed Karthikeya**.
इन कलाकृतियों में देवी भद्रकाली का एक अनुष्ठानिक कांस्य त्रिशूल (bronze trident), नंदी की एक भव्य ग्रेनाइट प्रतिमा, तथा छः मुख वाले कार्तिकेय को दर्शाती एक बेसाल्ट मूर्ति (basalt sculpture) शामिल है।
- All these items date back to the **11th and 12th Centuries** and were originally sourced from temples in **Tamil Nadu**.
ये सभी वस्तुएँ 11वीं और 12वीं शताब्दी की हैं और मूल रूप से तमिलनाडु के मंदिरों से प्राप्त हुई थीं।
- The three **antiquities**, currently housed in the **National Gallery of Australia**, are being repatriated under the **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** after investigations by the **Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID** established that they had been removed from temples in **Tamil Nadu** and trafficked overseas.
ये तीनों प्राचीन धरोहरें (antiquities), जो वर्तमान में **National Gallery of Australia** में रखी गई हैं, **Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT)** के तहत भारत लौटाई जा रही हैं, क्योंकि **Tamil Nadu Idol Wing CID** की जांच में यह सिद्ध हुआ कि इन्हें तमिलनाडु के मंदिरों से हटाकर विदेशों में तस्करी की गई थी।

GS Paper 1: Geography	10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J7	Monsoon has covered the entire country, a day later than normal, says IMD IMD के अनुसार, मानसून ने सामान्य समय से एक दिन बाद पूरे देश को कवर किया

Monsoon has covered the entire country, a day later than normal, says IMD

GS 1: Geography
Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Thursday, a day later than its normal date, after advancing into the remaining parts of the north Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said.

The nationwide coverage came 35 days after the monsoon reached Kerala

on June 5. While the advance was slower than in recent years, the July 9 date is not unusual historically.

Since 1971, the monsoon has covered the country on dates ranging from June 16 in 2013 to August 15 in 2002, according to IMD data.

The monsoon's progress has accelerated over the past week, accompanied by widespread heavy rainfall across several parts of

the country.

Delhi and the National Capital Region received significant rainfall overnight and on Thursday, causing waterlogging and traffic disruptions in several areas.

The recent wet spell, however, does not necessarily indicate how rainfall will evolve through the rest of the month.

The IMD has forecast below-normal rainfall for the country as a whole in



Water traffic: Children have fun in a waterlogged road after a heavy spell of rain in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

July, defined as less than 94% of the long-period average, even as some parts of northwest and north-

east India, east-central India and the eastern peninsula may receive normal to above-normal rainfall. July receives the highest rainfall among the monsoon months and is critical for agriculture.

India's current monsoon rainfall deficit stands at 15%, a sharp improvement from 38% on June 30.

Historical data show no simple relationship between the date of nationwide monsoon coverage

and the eventual June-September rainfall.

However, some prominent El Niño years associated with deficient monsoons also saw delayed coverage.

In 2002, one of India's most severe monsoon drought years, the monsoon covered the country only on August 15, the latest date in the 1971-2025 record.

In 2009, another major drought year, coverage was

completed on July 3, while in 2015 it occurred relatively early, on June 26.

The contrasting dates underline that the speed of the monsoon's geographical advance is not, by itself, a reliable indicator of seasonal rainfall.

El Niño can weaken monsoon circulation and affect the amount and distribution of rainfall even after the monsoon has formally covered the entire country.

10J7. Monsoon has covered the entire country, a day later than normal, says IMD

IMD के अनुसार, मानसून ने सामान्य समय से एक दिन बाद पूरे देश को कवर किया

- The **southwest monsoon** covered the entire country on Thursday, a day later than its normal date, after advancing into the remaining parts of the north Arabian Sea, Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said.
भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) के अधिकारियों ने कहा कि दक्षिण-पश्चिम मानसून ने उत्तर अरब सागर,



राजस्थान, हरियाणा और पंजाब के शेष हिस्सों में आगे बढ़ने के बाद गुरुवार को सामान्य तिथि से एक दिन बाद पूरे देश को कवर कर लिया।

- The nationwide coverage came **35 days** after the monsoon reached Kerala on June 5. पूरे देश में मानसून का विस्तार 5 जून को केरल पहुँचने के **35 दिन** बाद हुआ।
- While the advance was slower than in recent years, the **July 9 date** is not unusual historically.
हालाँकि इसकी प्रगति हाल के वर्षों की तुलना में धीमी रही, लेकिन ऐतिहासिक रूप से **9 जुलाई** की तारीख असामान्य नहीं है।
- Since 1971, the monsoon has covered the country on dates ranging from **June 16 in 2013 to August 15 in 2002**, according to IMD data.
IMD के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, 1971 के बाद से मानसून ने देश को **2013 में 16 जून से लेकर 2002 में 15 अगस्त** तक की विभिन्न तारीखों पर कवर किया है।
- Historical data show no simple relationship between the date of nationwide monsoon coverage and the eventual **June-September rainfall**.
ऐतिहासिक आँकड़े बताते हैं कि पूरे देश में मानसून के फैलने की तारीख और अंतिम **जून-सितंबर वर्षा** के बीच कोई सीधा संबंध नहीं है।

GS Paper II: Governance		10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
10J7	IPS trainee moves SC on postpartum hiatus rule प्रसवोत्तर अवकाश नियम को लेकर IPS प्रशिक्षु ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया	
10J7	Why is the Centre revising the NFSA? केंद्र सरकार NFSA में संशोधन क्यों कर रही है?	



IPS trainee moves SC on postpartum hiatus rule

GS II: Governance
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India is scheduled to hear on July 10 the appeal of a woman Indian Police Service (IPS) probationer who has questioned a 36-year-old policy of the Home Ministry which requires new mothers like her to take a year's postpartum break from training.

On July 8, a Bench headed by Justice Manoj Misra had sought the government's response to a petition filed by Urvashi Sengar. The court's order, published on July 9, highlighted Ms. Sengar's query on whether the policy aims to disentitle new parents like her rather than protecting them.

Ms. Sengar, who gave birth on September 29 last year, submitted that she had volunteered for the requisite training, which was to commence on June 22 this year. However, the department concerned had refused her permission, citing the Ministry's Office Memorandum of August 23, 1993, which provided for "a year's hiatus in training post delivery".

10J7. IPS trainee moves SC on postpartum hiatus rule प्रसवोत्तर अवकाश नियम को लेकर IPS प्रशिक्षु ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट का रुख किया

- The **Supreme Court of India** is scheduled to hear on **July 10** the appeal of a woman **Indian Police Service (IPS)** probationer who has questioned a **36-year-old policy** of the **Home Ministry** which requires **new mothers like her to take a year's postpartum break from training**.

भारत का सुप्रीम कोर्ट 10 जुलाई को एक महिला **भारतीय पुलिस सेवा (IPS)** प्रशिक्षु की अपील पर सुनवाई करेगा, जिसने **गृह मंत्रालय** की **36 वर्ष पुरानी नीति** को चुनौती दी है, जिसके तहत उसके जैसी नई माताओं को प्रशिक्षण से **एक वर्ष का प्रसवोत्तर अवकाश (postpartum break)** लेना अनिवार्य है।

- On **July 8**, a **Bench** headed by **Justice Manoj Misra** had sought the government's response to a petition filed by **Urvashi Sengar**.

8 जुलाई को न्यायमूर्ति Manoj Misra की अध्यक्षता वाली **पीठ (Bench)** ने **Urvashi Sengar** द्वारा दायर याचिका पर सरकार से जवाब मांगा था।

- Ms. Sengar**, who gave birth on **September 29** last year, submitted that she had volunteered for the requisite training, which was to commence on **June 22** this year.

सुश्री Sengar, जिन्होंने पिछले वर्ष **29 सितंबर** को बच्चे को जन्म दिया था, ने प्रस्तुत किया कि उन्होंने आवश्यक प्रशिक्षण के लिए स्वयं इच्छा व्यक्त की थी, जो इस वर्ष **22 जून** से प्रारम्भ होना था।

Why is the Centre revising the NFSA?

Why has the Centre proposed changing AAY foodgrain entitlements? How will the proposed amendment affect households? Why are Tamil Nadu and Kerala opposing? Could the amendment widen regional disparities in foodgrain allocation?

SS II: Governance

EXPLAINER

T. Ramakrishnan

The story so far:

On July 6, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay urged the Centre to retain the present provision of 35 kg of foodgrains per household per month under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) meant for the poorest of the poor, and not to make it a per capita system. The next day, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau voiced its concern and demanded that the proposed amendment to the entitlement criteria be dropped. About 10 days ago, immediately after the Union government made public its plan to amend the National Food Security Act (NFSA), Kerala's Food Minister Anoop Jacob expressed reservations over the move.

What is the amendment mooted?

On June 24, the Union Food and Public Distribution (F&PD) Department, while publishing a draft amendment Bill to the NFSA, said every person belonging to AAY households would be entitled to seven kg of foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household per month. At present, the entitlement is for the entire household with a ceiling of 35 kg per month. The proposed amendment covers the first proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 3 (Right to receive foodgrains at subsidised prices by persons belonging to eligible households) of the Act. The public can comment on the amendments till July 13 and send their views by email to suneel.sachdeva@nic.in and saurabhomar.edu@gov.in.

Why is the change being proposed?

The existing household-based entitlement, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household, according to the F&PD Department. Smaller households receive a higher per-capita entitlement, whereas larger households receive a lower per-capita entitlement, which may fall below the entitlement available to priority households.

The aim and purpose are to remove intra-category inequities, provide for more rational foodgrain allocation, and better align entitlements with nutritional requirements, a note prepared by the department said.

However, the proposed amendment does not seek to address the inclusion of ineligible persons as beneficiaries, a problem that persists at the State level.

What is the story behind the two southern States' opposition?

It is not for the first time that the two States are articulating their opposition to matters concerning the food policy, as their contemporary political history has an important ingredient – the politics of food. Kerala, which has a long history of the public distribution system (PDS) dating back to the now-abolished princely State of Travancore, introduced informal food distribution mechanisms to mitigate the food shortage of the poor and vulnerable, and was perhaps the first to launch a formal PDS in 1962, three years before the establishment of the Food Corporation of India (FCI). At least on two occasions – 1952 and 1967 – Tamil Nadu saw political upsets, the incumbent regime getting reduced to a minority in 1952 and being shown the door (in 1967). The reason was that the governments of

Grains of debate

The Centre's proposed amendment to the National Food Security Act has triggered concerns that foodgrain allocations under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana could fall for many households in the southern States



Table 1: AAY coverage, beneficiaries and foodgrain allocation

State	Ceiling of AAY households (lakhs)	AAY coverage		Allocation of foodgrains** for 2026-27 (in tonnes)
		No. of AAY households (in lakh)	No. of persons (in lakh)	
Andhra Pradesh	9.09	8.48	22.48	3,81,557
Karnataka	12	10.3	42.72	4,60,740
Kerala	5.96	5.93	18.53	2,50,236
Tamil Nadu	18.65	18.57	62.21	7,82,771
Telangana	6.49	5.64	15.66	2,38,074
Puducherry* (U.T.)	0.32	0.24	0.77	0*
Share of the South	52.51	49.16	162.37	21,13,378
All India	250	217.01	777.41	99,33,042

Source: Foodgrain bulletin for May 2026, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India

*As Puducherry follows the concept of direct benefit transfer, no allocation has been made.
** foodgrains - rice, wheat and coarse grains

Fine balance: The aim and purpose of the amendment are to remove intra-category inequities, provide for more rational foodgrain allocation, and better align entitlements with nutritional requirements. M. SRINATH

Table 2: Off-take and distribution in the Southern States

How the South fared during the current financial year up to the month of May 2026 (tonnes)

State	Allocation	Off take (drawal)	Distributed
Andhra Pradesh	63,593	63,593	57,837
Karnataka	76,790	57,316	35,003
Kerala	41,706	39,812	20,458
Tamil Nadu	1,30,462	1,90,135	1,21,709
Telangana	39,679	59,519	38,893
Share of the South	3,52,230	4,10,375	2,73,900
All India	16,55,505	17,24,185	13,75,621

the periods in question were not being swift in handling the rice shortage. Since 1967, successive Chief Ministers of the State have been cautious in taking decisions with regard to the subject of rice.

It was no wonder that the two States were vociferous in their stand in the run-up to the formulation of the NFSA. Though the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) took charge in 2011 in Kerala, the government did not agree to the implementation of the 2013 law – an Act of Parliament – despite the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance regime at the Centre pushing the legislation. The main reservation it had was that the NFSA would lead to the removal of a “large number of poor families” from the list of beneficiaries and put an “enormous financial burden” on the State. However, the then Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy, at one point in time, committed himself to the enforcement of the law in his State, though it was left to his successor, Pinarayi Vijayan, to take the formal decision.

In Tamil Nadu, Jayalalithaa, as Chief Minister, virulently opposed the law because immediately after she came to power in May 2011, her government started the distribution of rice, free to all the ration cardholders, regardless of their economic status. She had criticised the government for stating that those who would be left out of the NFSA would not

'The existing household-based entitlement, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household'

be eligible to receive free rice. Eventually, she extracted a major concession from the Union government that the existing allocations, as they stood in 2013, for all the States would be legally safeguarded.

Hence, it was no surprise that the two southern neighbours joined the rest of the country in November 2016 in implementing the law.

Why are Tamil Nadu and Kerala opposing the amendment to NFSA?

Explaining how Kerala would be affected by the latest move, Mr. Jacob has pointed out that States such as his, characterised by nuclear families, will be at a disadvantage as there will be a reduction in the quantity of free foodgrains for families with fewer than five members. He has recalled that even in 2013, when the law took effect, his State took the stand that the AAY cardholders deserved “special consideration,” a position that it continues. “As a consumption State, any cut in Kerala's allocation is a matter of concern,” Mr. Jacob stated.

Mr. Vijay, who referred in his letter to Mr. Modi about how the amendment

would cause a fall in the monthly allocation of foodgrains from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes, stated that the number of AAY cardholders below the family size of five members is 15.75 lakh (out of a total of 18.64 lakhs), covering 58.51 lakh beneficiaries (total: 69.27 lakhs). “Rice provided to the AAY cardholders is a staple ingredient of all three meals of the day and cannot be substituted with any other commodity from the open market, resulting in substantial out of pocket expenses,” he said.

Besides, Anuradha Talwar, a functionary of the Right to Food Campaign, said that the amendment would bring a “North-South divide” in foodgrain allocation, as families in northern States would get higher allocations as their average family size was bigger than that of the southern States.

What is the way forward?

Ideally, such a change should have been subjected to greater public scrutiny to arrive at a consensus. However, T. Sadagopan, president, Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumer Centre and veteran activist who served on the State government's panels on food, suggests that the Centre chalk out a middle path by making the allocation of 30 kg per family, irrespective of family members. This would help the Union government to cut down its subsidy bill.

THE GIST

The Centre has proposed amending the NFSA to change AAY foodgrain entitlements from a household-based system to a per capita allocation of 7 kg per person, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household, to address inequities in the existing system.

Tamil Nadu and Kerala have opposed the proposal, arguing that it will reduce foodgrain allocations for households with fewer than five members and increase the burden on poor families, particularly in States with predominantly nuclear families.

While the Centre says the amendment will make foodgrain distribution more equitable, critics warn it could widen regional disparities, and some have suggested a middle path of a fixed 30 kg allocation per household.

10J7. Why is the Centre revising the NFSA?

केंद्र सरकार NFSA में संशोधन क्यों कर रही है?

- On July 6, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay urged the Centre to retain the present provision of **35 kg of foodgrains per household per month** under the **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY)** meant for the poorest of the poor, and not to make it a per capita system.
6 जुलाई को तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री सी. जोसेफ विजय ने केंद्र से आग्रह किया कि अत्यंत गरीबों के लिए बनाई गई अंत्योदय अन्न योजना (AAY) के तहत प्रति परिवार प्रति माह 35 किलोग्राम खाद्यान्न की वर्तमान व्यवस्था को बनाए रखा जाए और इसे प्रति व्यक्ति प्रणाली में न बदला जाए।
- About 10 days ago, immediately after the Union government made public its plan to amend the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**, Kerala's Food Minister **Anoop Jacob** expressed reservations over the move.
लगभग 10 दिन पहले, केंद्र सरकार द्वारा राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम (NFSA) में संशोधन की योजना सार्वजनिक करने के तुरंत बाद, केरल के खाद्य मंत्री अनूप जैकब ने इस कदम पर आपत्ति व्यक्त की।

What is the amendment mooted?

प्रस्तावित संशोधन क्या है?

- On June 24, the Union Food and Public Distribution (F&PD) Department, while publishing a draft amendment Bill to the NFSA, said **every person belonging to AAY households would be entitled to seven kg of foodgrains per month, subject to a maximum of 35 kg per household per month.**
24 जून को केंद्रीय खाद्य एवं सार्वजनिक वितरण (F&PD) विभाग ने NFSA के संशोधन विधेयक का मसौदा प्रकाशित करते हुए कहा कि AAY परिवारों के प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को प्रति माह सात किलोग्राम खाद्यान्न मिलेगा, जिसकी अधिकतम सीमा प्रति परिवार प्रति माह 35 किलोग्राम होगी।
- At present, the entitlement is for the entire household with a ceiling of 35 kg per month.**
वर्तमान में पात्रता पूरे परिवार के लिए है, जिसकी अधिकतम सीमा प्रति माह 35 किलोग्राम है।
- The **existing household-based entitlement**, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household, according to the F&PD Department.
F&PD विभाग के अनुसार, वर्तमान परिवार-आधारित पात्रता, हालांकि सबसे कमजोर परिवारों की सुरक्षा के उपाय के रूप में बनाई गई थी, लेकिन परिवार के आकार के आधार पर महत्वपूर्ण असमानताएं पैदा करती है।
- Smaller households receive a higher per-capita entitlement, whereas larger households receive a lower per-capita entitlement, which may fall below the entitlement available to priority households.**
छोटे परिवारों को अधिक प्रति व्यक्ति पात्रता मिलती है, जबकि बड़े परिवारों को कम प्रति व्यक्ति पात्रता मिलती है, जो प्राथमिकता वाले परिवारों को मिलने वाली पात्रता से भी कम हो सकती है।
- However, the **proposed amendment does not seek to address the inclusion of ineligible persons as beneficiaries**, a problem that persists at the State level.
हालांकि, प्रस्तावित संशोधन अयोग्य व्यक्तियों को लाभार्थियों के रूप में शामिल किए जाने की समस्या को हल करने का प्रयास नहीं करता है, जो राज्य स्तर पर अभी भी बनी हुई है।
- Kerala, which has a long history of the **public distribution system (PDS)** dating back to the now-abolished princely State of Travancore, introduced informal food distribution mechanisms to mitigate the food shortage of the poor and vulnerable, and was perhaps the first to launch a formal PDS in 1962, three years before the establishment of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
केरल, जिसका सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) का लंबा इतिहास अब समाप्त हो चुके त्रावणकोर रियासत के समय से जुड़ा है, ने गरीबों और कमजोर वर्गों की खाद्य कमी को कम करने के लिए अनौपचारिक खाद्य



वितरण व्यवस्थाएँ शुरू की थीं और संभवतः 1962 में औपचारिक PDS शुरू करने वाला पहला राज्य था, जो भारतीय खाद्य निगम (FCI) की स्थापना से तीन वर्ष पहले था।

- Explaining how **Kerala** would be affected by the latest move, Mr. Jacob has pointed out that **States such as his, characterised by nuclear families, will be at a disadvantage as there will be a reduction in the quantity of free foodgrains for families with fewer than five members.**
 इस नए कदम से केरल कैसे प्रभावित होगा, यह समझाते हुए श्री जैकब ने बताया कि उनके जैसे राज्य, जहां एकल परिवारों की अधिकता है, नुकसान की स्थिति में होंगे क्योंकि पांच से कम सदस्यों वाले परिवारों के लिए मुफ्त खाद्यान्न की मात्रा कम हो जाएगी।

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India, Australia move to deepen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

Amid geostrategic uncertainties, Prime Minister Modi, his Australian counterpart, Albanese, adopt declaration to expand maritime security ties and defence collaboration; the countries also seal pacts on civil nuclear energy and critical minerals

GS II: IR
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

India and Australia on Thursday adopted a Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation, committing to significantly deepen military engagement, strengthen defence industrial collaboration, and expand maritime security cooperation amid growing geostrategic uncertainty in the Indo-Pacific region. The two countries also sealed pacts on civil nuclear energy and critical minerals sectors.

The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, outlines an ambitious road map to elevate defence ties through strategic consultations, enhanced interoperability between the armed forces, expanded military exercises, and greater collaboration in defence science, technology, and industrial supply chains.

A statement released by the office of the Australian Prime Minister mentioned that, under the declaration, the two sides agreed to hold regular consulta-



Tactical ties: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, in Melbourne on Thursday. AP

tions on defence-related developments in the Indo-Pacific affecting their shared interests, increase the complexity of bilateral and multilateral military exercises, accelerate efforts to improve interoperability and information sharing between their armed forces, and expand aircraft deployments from each other's territories.

The deal also envisages deeper personnel exchanges through education, training, and liaison appointments, while exploring opportunities to cooperate in recruiting skilled personnel for their respective defence workforces.

Mr. Modi emphasised

the importance of a free and stable Indo-Pacific and highlighted the growing engagement between the two nations in the defence domain. "The Indo-Pacific is not just the confluence of two oceans. It also symbolises the shared aspirations of like-minded democracies like India and Australia," he said.

The agreement on civil nuclear energy to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel nuclear power projects came nearly 12 years after the two countries inked a historic civil nuclear cooperation pact.

"Today, we have signed an important agreement in

the field of nuclear energy. This will open the way for uranium supplies from Australia to India and give new impetus to our clean energy objectives," he said.

He also announced the launch of the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies, and Supply Chains and said both sides will also work together on a critical minerals corridor.

Under the provisions of the energy security framework, India and Australia vowed to strengthen energy security by maintaining a stable, secure and reliable supply of coal, diesel, other liquid fuels and natural gas. The two countries

will implement an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Road Map to strengthen coordination across the Indian Ocean and the wider Indo-Pacific.

Both sides committed to encouraging greater integration between their defence industries, building resilient supply chains and expanding collaboration in defence innovation, science and technology.

The leaders noted that the new declaration builds upon the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009 and complements existing institutional mechanisms, including the Foreign Ministers' Framework Dialogue, 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue, and Defence Ministers' Dialogue. They also reiterated support for regional institutions, including the Indian Ocean Rim Association, ASEAN-led regional architecture and the Pacific Islands Forum, describing them as key platforms for addressing regional challenges. (With inputs from PTI)

RELATED REPORT ON
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10J7. India, Australia move to deepen cooperation in the Indo-Pacific

भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में सहयोग को गहरा करने की दिशा में कदम बढ़ाया

- The two countries also sealed pacts on civil nuclear energy and critical minerals sectors. दोनों देशों ने नागरिक परमाणु ऊर्जा और महत्वपूर्ण खनिज क्षेत्रों पर भी समझौते किए।
- The declaration, adopted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, outlines an ambitious road map to elevate defence ties through strategic consultations, enhanced interoperability between the armed forces, expanded military exercises, and greater collaboration in defence science, technology, and industrial supply chains.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और उनके ऑस्ट्रेलियाई समकक्ष एंथनी अल्बनीज द्वारा अपनाई गई यह घोषणा रणनीतिक परामर्श, सशस्त्र बलों के बीच बेहतर पारस्परिक संचालन क्षमता, विस्तारित सैन्य अभ्यास और रक्षा विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी तथा औद्योगिक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में अधिक सहयोग के माध्यम से रक्षा संबंधों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए एक महत्वाकांक्षी रोडमैप प्रस्तुत करती है।



- The agreement on **civil nuclear energy** to facilitate the commercial supply of uranium from Australia to India to fuel nuclear power projects came nearly 12 years after the two countries inked a historic civil nuclear cooperation pact.
भारत की परमाणु ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की वाणिज्यिक आपूर्ति को सुगम बनाने हेतु **नागरिक परमाणु ऊर्जा** पर यह समझौता दोनों देशों द्वारा ऐतिहासिक नागरिक परमाणु सहयोग समझौता करने के लगभग 12 वर्ष बाद हुआ।
- This will open the way for uranium supplies from Australia to India and give new impetus to our **clean energy objectives**,” he said.
यह ऑस्ट्रेलिया से भारत को यूरेनियम आपूर्ति का मार्ग खोलेगा और हमारे **स्वच्छ ऊर्जा लक्ष्यों** को नई गति देगा,” उन्होंने कहा।
- Under the provisions of the **energy security framework**, India and Australia vowed to strengthen energy security by maintaining a stable, secure and reliable supply of coal, diesel, other liquid fuels and natural gas.
ऊर्जा सुरक्षा ढांचे के प्रावधानों के तहत भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया ने कोयला, डीजल, अन्य तरल ईंधनों और प्राकृतिक गैस की स्थिर, सुरक्षित और विश्वसनीय आपूर्ति बनाए रखते हुए ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने का संकल्प लिया।
- The leaders noted that the **new declaration builds upon the India-Australia Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation signed in 2009** and complements existing institutional mechanisms, including the Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue, 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue.
नेताओं ने उल्लेख किया कि नई घोषणा **2009 में हस्ताक्षरित भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया सुरक्षा सहयोग संयुक्त घोषणा** पर आधारित है और मौजूदा संस्थागत व्यवस्थाओं जैसे विदेश मंत्रियों की रूपरेखा वार्ता, 2+2 विदेश और रक्षा मंत्री संवाद तथा रक्षा मंत्रियों की वार्ता को पूरक बनाती है।

- They also reiterated support for regional institutions, including the **Indian Ocean Rim Association, ASEAN-led regional architecture and the Pacific Islands Forum**, describing them as key platforms for addressing regional challenges.
उन्होंने इंडियन ओशन रिम एसोसिएशन, आसियान-नेतृत्व वाली क्षेत्रीय संरचना और प्रशांत द्वीप समूह मंच सहित क्षेत्रीय संस्थाओं के प्रति समर्थन दोहराया और इन्हें क्षेत्रीय चुनौतियों से निपटने के महत्वपूर्ण मंच बताया।

Building a durable India-Australia partnership

GS II: IR

P rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Australia this week has been big on substance and high on optics. The choreography is familiar now given the warmth in the relationship: a forward-leaning leadership interaction, a massive diaspora event and a joint statement packed with deliverables and road maps. The Australian government sees India as central to its economic diversification strategy. Its new economic road map and packed ministerial calendar for India underwrite this intent. The elite consensus seems bipartisan and the convergence only growing.

Turning convergence into alignment

Yet, the harder part for most strategic relationships is drawing the line between convergence and alignment. The two might sound like synonyms, but they are not. Convergence is two countries arriving at similar conclusions about the world for their own reasons. Alignment is what happens when those separate conclusions are built into matching capabilities, institutions and habits of engagement. India and Australia have achieved a great deal of the first. The real test of this visit, and of the years after it, is whether it endures by delivering the second.

The convergence is not in doubt, and it is easy to see why it has deepened. Both countries are hedging against overdependence in a global order in transition. Australia's dependence on China, and its alliance dependence on an unpredictable Washington, have come under visible strain. This year's Lowy Institute Poll found trust in the United States at a record low of 31%, with a narrow margin of Australians saying that Canberra should distance itself from Washington under U.S. President Donald Trump. India is running its parallel diversification across energy suppliers, defence platforms and critical minerals processing, driven by a similar instinct.

New Delhi wants to limit its exposure; the Iran and Ukraine conflicts have driven home that any single-point dependency, however longstanding, is now a liability. No country can single-handedly balance China or hedge against American unpredictability. Together, and alongside partners such as Japan, they improve their odds. That is genuine convergence.

This visit has produced tangible evidence of that strategic lock-in. A Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation delivers a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Australia's Maritime Border Command and the



Shruti Pandalai

Inaugural India Chair
at The Lowy Institute,
Sydney, Australia

Indian Coast Guard and adopts an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap to address shared threat perceptions. These are practical mechanisms that deepen interoperability without altering the basic character of the relationship: India remains a trusted security partner, not an ally. On energy security, Australian uranium has been legally available to India since the bilateral 2014 civil nuclear agreement, but it never actually moved commercially, largely because India's own nuclear liability law made foreign suppliers nervous about exposure.

That changed with the SHANTI Act last December, which reformed that liability regime. The agreement on uranium has operationalised a deal lying dormant for a decade. The summit also launched the Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS), while reaffirming the complementarity to the Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership as focusing on building resilient technology partnerships through flexible multilateral arrangements. These are examples of alignment beginning to take institutional form.

There are focus areas, there are problems

But for alignment to be durable, convergence must translate into operational overlap. This is most consequential in the Indian Ocean, a region where Australian and Indian interests overlap most naturally. Both are Indian Ocean states with real stakes in the region's sea lanes. India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region has emerged as a key hub for maritime domain awareness, even as Australia pays closer attention to its western seaboard and Indian Ocean approaches. The two navies have converged on similar risk assessments of shadow fleets, threats to undersea cables and coercive activity below the threshold of conflict.

The new Coast Guard MoU and Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap narrow the gap between strategic intent and operational cooperation. Yet, Australia's most consequential force-structure decisions, from AUKUS (trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.) to its broader defence posture, remain oriented towards the Western Pacific, while India's strategic planners continue to divide attention between continental threats and maritime challenges. The shared ground is real; it is simply narrower than the political convergence sometimes suggests.

Economically, the pattern is similar. Trade has

grown sharply since the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement came into force, but industry voices behind closed doors argue that growth sits disproportionately with large firms. Smaller exporters on both sides remain unaware of how to use it. Track 1.5 dialogues have flagged this as an operationalisation gap.

The knowledge deficit is more obvious when one looks at Australian public consciousness on India. This year's Lowy Poll found only 5% of Australians expect India to be the world's most important power a decade from now, against 54% for China, even as trust in India remains comparatively high. Convergence at the top has not yet trickled down into wider awareness of India's strategic heft.

The diaspora opportunity

The diaspora remains the biggest opportunity to change this, but with a caveat. Indian-origin Australians are now the country's largest immigrant-born community, ahead of the U.K.-born population for the first time. Political leadership has celebrated the diaspora's contribution, and a Centre for Australia-India Relations study finds that Australians broadly recognise it as skilled migrants, students and workers. But recognising the diaspora as a cultural asset, or an electoral constituency, is not alignment. Alignment would require translating that diaspora leverage into a public case for why India matters economically to the average Australian. It would require institutionalising the diaspora's comparative advantage in helping Australian Small and Medium-sized Enterprises navigate Indian regulatory and business culture, and vice versa, rather than leaving that work to individual champions. It would also mean untangling the mobility of Indian professionals from Australia's increasingly fraught migration politics.

Mr. Modi's visit has provided fresh ballast for these conversations about the future of the India-Australia partnership. His message on Australian Pension funds investing in India particularly resonated in the room when he said India would not just treat them as capital but as a marker of strategic trust imposed by Australian families in India. These statements matter because they build the broader public consciousness of India as a trusted partner for the future. Convergence got India and Australia to the table; it is these steps that institutionalise engagement incrementally that build alignment that endures.

Beyond warm optics and deepening convergence, India-Australia ties face the challenge of converting trust into alignment

10J7. Building a durable India-Australia partnership

एक स्थायी भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया साझेदारी का निर्माण

- Yet, the harder part for most **strategic relationships** is **drawing the line between convergence and alignment**.
फिर भी, अधिकांश रणनीतिक संबंधों के लिए कठिन हिस्सा समान दृष्टिकोण और समन्वित साझेदारी के बीच अंतर स्पष्ट करना होता है।

- The two might sound like synonyms, but they are not.
ये दोनों शब्द समान लग सकते हैं, लेकिन वे समान नहीं हैं।
- Convergence is two countries arriving at similar conclusions about the world for their own reasons.
समान दृष्टिकोण का अर्थ है कि दो देश अपने-अपने कारणों से विश्व के बारे में समान निष्कर्षों पर पहुंचते हैं।
- Alignment is what happens when those separate conclusions are built into matching capabilities, institutions and habits of engagement.
समन्वित साझेदारी तब होती है जब उन अलग-अलग निष्कर्षों को समान क्षमताओं, संस्थानों और सहयोग की आदतों में बदला जाता है।
- A **Joint Declaration on Defence and Security Cooperation** delivers a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between **Australia's Maritime Border Command and the Indian Coast Guard** and adopts an India-Australia Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap to address shared threat perceptions.
रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग पर संयुक्त घोषणा के तहत ऑस्ट्रेलिया के मैरीटाइम बॉर्डर कमांड और भारतीय तटरक्षक बल के बीच समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) हुआ तथा साझा सुरक्षा खतरों से निपटने के लिए भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया समुद्री सुरक्षा सहयोग रोडमैप अपनाया गया।
- On energy security, **Australian uranium has been legally available to India since the bilateral 2014 civil nuclear agreement**, but it never actually moved commercially, largely because **India's own nuclear liability law made foreign suppliers nervous about exposure**.
ऊर्जा सुरक्षा के क्षेत्र में, **2014 के द्विपक्षीय असैन्य परमाणु समझौते** के बाद से ऑस्ट्रेलियाई यूरेनियम कानूनी रूप से भारत के लिए उपलब्ध था, लेकिन भारत के परमाणु दायित्व कानून के कारण विदेशी आपूर्तिकर्ताओं की चिंताओं से इसका वास्तविक वाणिज्यिक उपयोग नहीं हो पाया।
- That changed with the **SHANTI Act** last December, which reformed that liability regime.
यह स्थिति पिछले दिसंबर में **SHANTI अधिनियम** के साथ बदली, जिसने उस दायित्व व्यवस्था में सुधार किया।
- The agreement on uranium has operationalised a deal lying dormant for a decade.
यूरेनियम पर समझौते ने एक दशक से निष्क्रिय पड़े समझौते को क्रियान्वित कर दिया है।
- The summit also launched the **Australia-India Partnership on Cyber, Critical Technologies and Supply Chains (PACTS)**, while reaffirming the complementarity to the **Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership** as focusing on building resilient technology partnerships through flexible multilateral arrangements.
इस शिखर सम्मेलन ने **साइबर, महत्वपूर्ण प्रौद्योगिकियों और आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया-भारत साझेदारी (PACTS)** की भी शुरुआत की, साथ ही लचीली मिनीलेटरल व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से मजबूत तकनीकी साझेदारियां बनाने पर केंद्रित **ऑस्ट्रेलिया-कनाडा-भारत प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार साझेदारी** की पूरकता की पुष्टि की।
- India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region** has emerged as a key hub for maritime domain awareness, even as Australia pays closer attention to its western seaboard and Indian Ocean approaches.
भारत का **Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region** समुद्री क्षेत्र की जागरूकता का एक प्रमुख केंद्र बनकर उभरा है, जबकि ऑस्ट्रेलिया अपने पश्चिमी समुद्री तट और हिंद महासागर से जुड़े मार्गों पर अधिक ध्यान दे रहा है।
- Yet, Australia's most consequential force-structure decisions, from **AUKUS (trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the U.S.)** to its broader defence posture, remain oriented towards the Western Pacific, while India's strategic planners continue to divide attention between continental threats and maritime challenges.
फिर भी, ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण सैन्य संरचना संबंधी निर्णय, **AUKUS (ऑस्ट्रेलिया, यूनाइटेड किंगडम और अमेरिका के बीच त्रिपक्षीय सुरक्षा साझेदारी)** से लेकर इसकी व्यापक रक्षा नीति तक, पश्चिमी प्रशांत क्षेत्र की ओर केंद्रित हैं, जबकि भारत के रणनीतिक योजनाकारों का ध्यान महाद्वीपीय खतरों और समुद्री चुनौतियों के बीच बंटा हुआ है।

- Trade has grown sharply since the **Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement** came into force, but industry voices behind closed doors argue that growth sits disproportionately with large firms.

Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement लागू होने के बाद व्यापार में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है, लेकिन उद्योग जगत के लोगों का निजी तौर पर कहना है कि इस वृद्धि का लाभ असमान रूप से बड़ी कंपनियों को मिला है।

Should India restart dialogue with Pakistan?



Mani Shankar Aiyar
Former Member of Parliament



Tara Kartha
Former Director at the National Security Council Secretariat

PARLEY

India and Pakistan have not engaged in dialogue since 2016 when talks broke down after the terror attacks at Pathankot and subsequently at Uri. The last 12 years have witnessed major attacks at Pahalgalam (2025) and Pulwama (2019) and that apart, there were several smaller terror attacks. Earlier this month, a group of eminent citizens led by Gandhian O.P. Shah drafted a joint appeal to the leaders of India and Pakistan urging them to engage in dialogue. This has led to a public debate on whether India should restart dialogue with Pakistan. Mani Shankar Aiyar, who was a signatory to the letter, and Tara Kartha discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Kallol Bhattacharjee. Edited excerpts:

Should India and Pakistan restart dialogue at this moment, especially since they haven't spoken to each other at the government level for a decade now?

Mani Shankar Aiyar: It is precisely for that very reason, because we haven't spoken to each other for the best part of the last 12 years, that it is absolutely necessary that we resume the dialogue as soon as possible. And as regards the time, my own view is that any time is as good as any other time. And all times when we don't talk are bad for both of us. So I would urge the governments to talk to each other. And until they do, I think people of goodwill on either side of our border should be in touch with each other. I speak as somebody with nearly 40 years of experience of Pakistan and Pakistanis. I have been through several different Pakistani regimes, and it does not seem to me that it matters who is in power in Pakistan. When we engage with them, we engage with Pakistan, and not with a particular individual.

Tara Kartha: Ideally both countries should talk to each other because they are nuclear powers. These are dangerous times, especially since there was an active phase of hostility last year. But my problem is that the present leadership is basically Field Marshal Asim Munir. Let us forget about Shehbaz Sharif [the Prime Minister of Pakistan], for as much as I regard him, I'm sure he is a fine and good politician in his own right, Mr. Munir is in power and he's even more powerful than General Pervez Musharraf was before him. He holds absolute power; him and a couple of core commanders, such as his ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) chief. It is very important to understand that the rise of Field Marshal Munir began in a very systematic fashion once they carried out the terror strike in Pahalgalam. I won't say after Operation Sindoor;



Tense ties: Army soldiers patrol along the Line of Control between Pakistan and India in the Uri Sector, Jammu and Kashmir in January. IMRAN NISSAR

I'll say after the Pahalgalam attack. I agree with Mr. Aiyar that it doesn't matter who you talk to, provided that person is interested in peace. But the question is, what stake does Field Marshal Munir have in peace? In that case, he'll have to step down for a civilian prime minister. The moment things get peaceful, they'll tell the Pakistani military to go back to the barracks and that the civilians will take over. So why should he [be interested in peace]? It is a systemic issue. I'm not saying the army can never be talked to. This particular man will not. He is very dangerous.

Is it the correct time to go ahead with the dialogue with Pakistan?

MSA: If we don't go ahead, we'll be stuck in the rut in which we are today. There was a mention of one man, Asim Munir, who's been in power for approximately one year. But we haven't talked to Pakistan for 12 years. So I don't see how Asim Munir being there is the biggest obstacle. We could have talked to Nawaz Sharif. We could have talked to Imran Khan. We could have talked to several others.

And if you look at the past, we have had extremely fruitful talks with Pakistani generals but rarely with Pakistani civilians. Let me first



We are currently talking to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who has been indicted by the ICC for war crimes. If we can talk to every dictator around the world, what's the problem in talking to the people next door who have the misfortune of being led by an army commander?

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

run through the Pakistani army men with whom we have had successful interlocations. Ayub Khan was the one who broke the deadlock on the Indus Waters Treaty. It was Zia-ul-Haq who broke the deadlock on Siachen. It was Musharraf, who broke the deadlock on what till then was being projected as the single biggest obstacle in India-Pakistan relations, namely the Kashmir question; they arrived at a four-point solution. However, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed on the dotted line in Simla and then turned his back on it.

This is a false argument – that just because the Pakistani army is in power we can't talk to them. We are currently talking to Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who has been indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes. If we can talk to every dictator around the world, including army dictators, what's the problem in talking to the people next door who have the misfortune of being led by an army commander?

So, the argument is that if the Government of India is in dialogue with several military dictators, then why should it not consider talking to Pakistan led by a military general?

TK: As someone who has been in the security establishment, my problem is how do I deal with terrorism? If a democratically elected government opens the door for dialogue and then gets hit by a terror attack – then the question is how to deal with terror attacks that disrupt dialogue? As a democratically elected government, can you justify dialogue? This is a point that was asked by even Nawaz Sharif who said that a terror attack takes place each time dialogue is attempted.

However, I will agree that a few military generals have shown remarkable good sense. In the recent past, when a BrahMos missile was accidentally fired at Pakistan, the Pakistan army handled it well. While the civilians protested, the Pakistan army took it in their stride and kept quiet. At the moment I am concerned with the timing of this proposal as Mr. Munir is in power. The other issue is that Pakistan is in chaos as

there are daily incidents that are being reported in various parts of the country. It's in chaos. So right now he wants to talk. He may have every incentive to talk. Why should I talk? If there is even one indication from Pakistan that they are going to close down terrorist camps, I'm sure tomorrow the government will be ready to talk.

But if at all we are to go forward, I would like to see, for example, a talk on climate change. We are both countries that are equally in bad shape when it comes to climate vulnerabilities. I would like a talk on air pollution, as during a particular season of the year, both sides start burning crop residues triggering an environmental crisis. That kind of a functional dialogue, which does not involve any territorial issue, no vested or political interests is purely functional and people-centric.

I find the kind of wishful thinking which one sees in the letter as a little idealistic. It's a bit over the top.

Does the current Indian government have the political bandwidth to talk to the Pakistani establishment?

MSA: Talking to them doesn't mean bending our knees before them. If you have the courage to undertake surgical strikes against them, why don't you have the courage to sit across a table and talk to them? That's my simple point. And if you won't do so, as I'm talking to the Government of India, then we will. We've got Zoom. But I am going to talk to my numerous friends in Pakistan. The number of my friends in Pakistan is larger than the number of enemies I have in India. And that's a rather large number.

TK: Before Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we had someone like Atal Bihari Vajpayee who put his career on the line and went to Lahore. Prime Minister Modi tried in 2015 and went to meet Nawaz Sharif and extended an olive branch. But all these have a political cost.

The question is what will we ask of them. If we have a dialogue tomorrow, we will ask them to stop exporting terrorism and they, in turn, will accuse us of doing things in Balochistan etc. whereas the Baloch people have been harassed since 1947. The question is what can India do in terms of the protests happening in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). We should talk to Pakistan if General Munir shows some evidence that he is cutting down on terrorism.



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

10J7. Should India restart dialogue with Pakistan?

क्या भारत को पाकिस्तान के साथ वार्ता फिर से शुरू करनी चाहिए?

- India and Pakistan have not engaged in **dialogue since 2016** when talks broke down after the terror attacks at Pathankot and subsequently at Uri.
भारत और पाकिस्तान ने **2016 से कोई वार्ता नहीं की है**, जब पठानकोट और उसके बाद उरी में हुए आतंकी हमलों के बाद बातचीत बंद हो गई थी।

- The last 12 years have witnessed major attacks at **Pahalgalam (2025)** and **Pulwama (2019)** and that apart, there were several smaller terror attacks.

पिछले 12 वर्षों में **पहलगाम (2025)** और **पुलवामा (2019)** जैसे बड़े हमले हुए हैं और इनके अलावा कई छोटे आतंकी हमले भी हुए।

- Earlier this month, a group of eminent citizens led by Gandhian **O.P. Shah** drafted a joint appeal to the leaders of India and Pakistan urging them to engage in dialogue.
इस महीने की शुरुआत में गांधीवादी ओ.पी. शाह के नेतृत्व में प्रतिष्ठित नागरिकों के एक समूह ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के नेताओं से बातचीत शुरू करने का आग्रह करते हुए एक संयुक्त अपील तैयार की।
- This has led to a **public debate** on whether India should restart dialogue with Pakistan.
इससे यह सार्वजनिक बहस शुरू हो गई है कि क्या भारत को पाकिस्तान के साथ फिर से वार्ता शुरू करनी चाहिए।
- **Mani Shankar Aiyar:** It is precisely for that very reason, because we haven't spoken to each other for the best part of the last 12 years, that it is absolutely necessary that we resume the dialogue as soon as possible.
मणि शंकर अय्यर: ठीक इसी कारण से, क्योंकि हमने पिछले लगभग 12 वर्षों से एक-दूसरे से बातचीत नहीं की है, यह अत्यंत आवश्यक है कि हम जल्द से जल्द वार्ता फिर से शुरू करें।
- **When we engage with them, we engage with Pakistan, and not with a particular individual.**
जब हम उनसे बातचीत करते हैं, तो हम पाकिस्तान से बातचीत करते हैं, किसी विशेष व्यक्ति से नहीं।
- But my problem is that the present leadership is basically **Field Marshal Asim Munir**.
लेकिन मेरी समस्या यह है कि वर्तमान नेतृत्व मूल रूप से **फील्ड मार्शल आसिम मुनीर** के हाथों में है।
- **Let us forget about Shehbaz Sharif [the Prime Minister of Pakistan], for as much as I regard him, I'm sure he is a fine and good politician in his own right, Mr. Munir is in power and he's even more powerful than General Pervez Musharraf was before him.**
शहबाज शरीफ [पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री] को अलग रखें, मैं उनका सम्मान करती हूँ और मुझे विश्वास है कि वे अपने स्तर पर एक अच्छे राजनेता हैं, लेकिन श्री मुनीर सत्ता में हैं और वे अपने से पहले जनरल परवेज मुशर्रफ से भी अधिक शक्तिशाली हैं।
- **He holds absolute power; him and a couple of core commanders, such as his ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) chief.**
उनके पास पूर्ण शक्ति है; उनके साथ कुछ कोर कमांडर, जैसे उनके ISI (इंटर-सर्विसेज इंटेलिजेंस) प्रमुख भी शक्ति रखते हैं।
- **It is very important to understand that the rise of Field Marshal Munir began in a very systematic fashion once they carried out the terror strike in Pahalgam.**
यह समझना बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि फील्ड मार्शल मुनीर का उदय बहुत व्यवस्थित तरीके से तब शुरू हुआ जब उन्होंने पहलगाम में आतंकी हमला किया।
- **Ayub Khan was the one who broke the deadlock on the Indus Waters Treaty.**
अयूब खान ही वह व्यक्ति थे जिन्होंने सिंधु जल संधि पर गतिरोध समाप्त किया था।
- **It was Zia-ul-Haq who broke the deadlock on Siachen.**
जिया-उल-हक ने सियाचिन पर गतिरोध को समाप्त किया था।
- **It was Musharraf, who broke the deadlock on what till then was being projected as the single biggest obstacle in India-Pakistan relations, namely the Kashmir question; they arrived at a four-point solution.**
मुशर्रफ ने उस मुद्दे पर गतिरोध को समाप्त किया था जिसे तब तक भारत-पाकिस्तान संबंधों की सबसे बड़ी बाधा के रूप में प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा था, अर्थात् कश्मीर मुद्दा; वे एक चार-सूत्रीय समाधान तक पहुंचे थे।
- **However, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed on the dotted line in Simla and then turned his back on it.**
हालांकि, जुल्फिकार अली भुट्टो ने शिमला में समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए और फिर उससे पीछे हट गए।
- **But if at all we are to go forward, I would like to see, for example, a talk on climate change.**
लेकिन यदि हमें आगे बढ़ना ही है, तो मैं उदाहरण के लिए जलवायु परिवर्तन पर बातचीत देखना चाहूंगा।
- **We are both countries that are equally in bad shape when it comes to climate vulnerabilities.**
हम दोनों देश जलवायु संवेदनशीलताओं के मामले में समान रूप से खराब स्थिति में हैं।



- I would like a talk on **air pollution**, as during a particular season of the year, both sides start burning crop residues triggering an environmental crisis.
मैं **वायु प्रदूषण** पर बातचीत चाहूंगा, क्योंकि वर्ष के एक विशेष मौसम में दोनों पक्ष फसल अवशेष जलाना शुरू करते हैं, जिससे पर्यावरणीय संकट उत्पन्न होता है।
- That kind of a **functional dialogue**, which does not involve any territorial issue, no vested or political interests is purely functional and people-centric.
इस प्रकार की **व्यावहारिक बातचीत**, जिसमें कोई क्षेत्रीय मुद्दा, निजी या राजनीतिक हित शामिल नहीं होते, पूरी तरह कार्यात्मक और जन-केंद्रित होती है।
- If we have a dialogue tomorrow, we will ask them to stop exporting **terrorism** and they, in turn, will accuse us of doing things in **Balochistan** etc.
यदि कल हमारी बातचीत होती है, तो हम उनसे **आतंकवाद** को बढ़ावा देना बंद करने को कहेंगे और बदले में वे हम पर **बलूचिस्तान** आदि में गतिविधियां करने का आरोप लगाएंगे।

GS Paper III: Economy		10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
10J7	Gujarat launches data centre policy, targets ₹6 lakh crore investments, 7.5 GW capacity गुजरात ने डेटा सेंटर नीति शुरू की, ₹6 लाख करोड़ निवेश और 7.5 GW क्षमता का लक्ष्य रखा	
10J7	Govt. waives levy on key inputs for electronics manufacturing इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण के प्रमुख इनपुट्स पर सरकार ने शुल्क में छूट दी	
10J7	AI poses a relatively lower risk to India's GCC jobs एआई से भारत के जीसीसी रोजगारों को अपेक्षाकृत कम जोखिम	

Gujarat launches data centre policy, targets ₹6 lakh crore investments, 7.5 GW capacity

GS III: Economy
Annamay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Seeking to position itself as India's preferred destination for hyperscale data centres, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven digital infrastructure, the Gujarat government on Thursday unveiled its first-ever Data Centre Policy (2026-29), targeting investments of ₹6 lakh crore and the creation of 7.5 gigawatts (GW) of data centre capacity over the policy period.

The policy, launched by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar, offers a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, including capital subsidy, interest subsidy, power tariff support, reimbursement of State GST (SGST), exemption from stamp duty and registration charges, and financial assistance for cap-



New beginning: Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the launch of Gujarat Data Centre Policy in Gandhinagar. X/@CMOGUJ

tive desalination plants to meet the sector's high water requirements.

'Preferred destination'

The new policy aims to make Gujarat a preferred destination for data centre investments and help it compete with established hubs such as Telangana, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. "Gujarat is the first State to bring this policy. We are confident it will attract investments of ₹6 lakh

crore, create 7.5 GW of data centre capacity and generate significant employment," Chief Secretary M.K. Das said.

The government said the policy has been designed to capitalise on the rapid growth of AI, cloud computing, digital payments, e-commerce, electronics manufacturing and other data-intensive sectors, while strengthening Gujarat's position in India's digital economy.



10J7. Gujarat launches data centre policy, targets ₹6 lakh crore investments, 7.5 GW capacity

गुजरात ने डेटा सेंटर नीति शुरू की, ₹6 लाख करोड़ निवेश और 7.5 GW क्षमता का लक्ष्य रखा

- Seeking to position itself as India's preferred destination for **hyperscale data centres, cloud computing and artificial intelligence (AI)-driven digital infrastructure**, the Gujarat government on Thursday unveiled its first-ever **Data Centre Policy (2026-29)**, targeting investments of **₹6 lakh crore** and the creation of **7.5 gigawatts (GW) of data centre capacity** over the policy period.

भारत में हाइपरस्केल डेटा सेंटर, क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग और कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)-आधारित डिजिटल अवसंरचना के लिए स्वयं को पसंदीदा केंद्र बनाने के उद्देश्य से, गुजरात सरकार ने गुरुवार को अपनी पहली डेटा सेंटर नीति (2026-29) पेश की, जिसका लक्ष्य नीति अवधि के दौरान ₹6 लाख करोड़ का निवेश आकर्षित करना और 7.5 गीगावाट (GW) डेटा सेंटर क्षमता विकसित करना है।

- "Gujarat is the first State to bring this policy. We are confident it will attract investments of ₹6 lakh crore, create 7.5 GW of data centre capacity and generate significant employment," Chief Secretary **M.K. Das** said.

मुख्य सचिव **एम.के. दास** ने कहा, "गुजरात यह नीति लाने वाला पहला राज्य है। हमें विश्वास है कि यह ₹6 लाख करोड़ का निवेश आकर्षित करेगी, 7.5 GW डेटा सेंटर क्षमता बनाएगी और महत्वपूर्ण रोजगार उत्पन्न करेगी।"

- The government said the policy has been designed to capitalise on the rapid growth of **AI, cloud computing, digital payments, e-commerce, electronics manufacturing and other data-intensive sectors**, while strengthening Gujarat's position in India's **digital economy**. सरकार ने कहा कि यह नीति **AI, क्लाउड कंप्यूटिंग, डिजिटल भुगतान, ई-कॉमर्स, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण और अन्य डेटा-केंद्रित क्षेत्रों** की तेज वृद्धि का लाभ उठाने के लिए तैयार की गई है, साथ ही भारत की डिजिटल अर्थव्यवस्था में गुजरात की स्थिति को मजबूत करेगी।



GS III: Economy

Govt. waives levy on key inputs for electronics manufacturing

The Centre has waived basic customs duty on goods used in manufacture of display assemblies, lithium ion cell and inductor coil module as it looks to promote domestic production of electronic devices like smartphones, laptops, wearables and smart TVs. The finance ministry issued three separate notifications giving effect to the basic customs duty (BCD) waiver on the goods used in manufacture of the three key components used in electronic devices. PTI

10J7. Govt. waives levy on key inputs for electronics manufacturing

इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण के प्रमुख इनपुट्स पर सरकार ने शुल्क में छूट दी

- The Centre has waived **basic customs duty** on goods used in manufacture of **display assemblies, lithium ion cell and inductor coil module** as it looks to promote **domestic production** of electronic devices like smartphones, laptops, wearables and smart TVs.

केंद्र सरकार ने डिस्प्ले असेंबली, लिथियम आयन सेल और इंडक्टर कॉइल मॉड्यूल के निर्माण में उपयोग होने वाले सामान पर बेसिक कस्टम्स ड्यूटी को माफ कर दिया है, ताकि स्मार्टफोन, लैपटॉप, वियरेबल्स और स्मार्ट टीवी जैसे इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों के घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ावा दिया जा सके।

- The **finance ministry** issued **three separate notifications** giving effect to the **basic customs duty (BCD) waiver** on the goods used in manufacture of the **three key components** used in electronic devices.

वित्त मंत्रालय ने तीन अलग-अलग अधिसूचनाएँ जारी कर इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों में उपयोग होने वाले तीन प्रमुख घटकों के निर्माण में प्रयुक्त वस्तुओं पर बेसिक कस्टम्स ड्यूटी (BCD) छूट को प्रभावी कर दिया।

AI poses a relatively lower risk to India's GCC jobs: CEA

Nageswaran says most of India's Global Capability Centres are engaged in cutting-edge work rather than providing low-cost support, which is what AI can easily and cheaply replace

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are not just low-cost support in a new form, but are areas where cutting edge work is taking place, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran said on Thursday. As such, these GCC jobs are also at a relatively lower risk of being replaced by Artificial Intelligence (AI), he added.

However, the CEA did warn against the dangers of complacency, saying that other countries are already copying India's model.

"It is cutting edge and increasingly so," Mr. Nageswaran said while speaking at a session during the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) GCC Business Summit. "Global banks run their risk systems and trading platforms in Mumbai and Bangalore and elsewhere as well, car makers design their vehicles' embedded systems from Chennai and Pune, semiconductor firms carry out chip design, pharmaceutical companies run clinical analytics here, and consumer firms build and own entire digital products here in India," he added.

Mr. Nageswaran said that the intellectual property created in these centers is real, with the patents being filed here, the products shipped from India and global roles increasingly held by people



CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran speaks at the inaugural session of the CII GCC Business Summit 2026 on Thursday. BY ARRANGEMENT

sitting in India.

The CEA also sought to answer whether these GCCs would be under threat from the rise of AI and would these GCC jobs be automated soon.

"Part of the model is indeed exposed," Mr. Nageswaran conceded. "The work that was routine, repetitive and rule bound is exactly the work that AI does most easily and most cheaply as well. If a centre's value rests only on doing simple tasks at low cost, then the value is under real threat. We should not pretend otherwise."

However, he also said that this is not where most Indian centres are today, and that this was not the direction in which they are headed.

"Artificial intelligence does not build, deploy or govern itself," Mr. Nageswaran explained. "Someone has to design these systems, train them, test them, correct them and

hold them to account. Someone has to decide where they should be used and where they must not be used."

"Someone has to carry the responsibility when they fail," he added. "And that work is expanding and not shrinking. And a large and growing share of this kind of work is being done in India."

Complacency matters

The CEA, however, cautioned against complacency, saying that standing still meant allowing others to catch up. "Other countries are watching us and copying us," he asserted. "Our costs are rising. In some skills, our talent is already scarce, so indispensability is not a title that India can hold on to forever."

He added that the move from cost centres to capability centres, and from execution to innovation has to be made by firms and by people, with the govern-

'India aims to be strategic leader in hosting GCCs'

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said India aspires to become a "strategic leader" in hosting global capability centres (GCCs) of MNCs and become indispensable to the world's knowledge economy. India possesses "every ingredient" required to lead this transformation, she said.

ment acting as a support.

"Skilling is the clearest case," Mr. Nageswaran said. "We produce a very large number of graduates each year. We do not yet produce enough of those who are ready on day one. By some estimates, fewer than half of them are ready for the job on the day they arrive."

"Closing that gap means universities, industry and the government working together, not one after the other, but at the same time," he said.

He further said that the position India currently holds in the global capability centre market was one that it has to keep earning, over and over.

"The moment we believe we have arrived is the moment others begin to catch up," he said. "So let us not celebrate too early. Let us treat this success not as a finishing line, but as a foundation or a milestone."

10J7. AI poses a relatively lower risk to India's GCC jobs

एआई से भारत के जीसीसी रोजगारों को अपेक्षाकृत कम जोखिम

- **India's Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** are not just low-cost support in a new form, but are areas where cutting edge work is taking place
भारत के ग्लोबल कैपेबिलिटी सेंटर (GCCs) केवल कम-लागत वाली सहायता का नया रूप नहीं हैं, बल्कि ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहाँ अत्याधुनिक कार्य हो रहा है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
10J7	Why more Indian couples are being diagnosed with secondary infertility क्यों अधिक भारतीय दंपतियों में सेकेंडरी इनफर्टिलिटी का निदान किया जा रहा है	
10J7	Study to contain antimicrobial resistant neonatal sepsis begins in India भारत में एंटीमाइक्रोबियल रेसिस्टेंट नवजात सेप्सिस को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अध्ययन शुरू	
10J7	BSNL announces satellite phone priced at ₹1.34 lakh for 'challenging environments' BSNL ने 'चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों' के लिए ₹1.34 लाख कीमत वाला सैटेलाइट फोन लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की	
10J7	OpenAI launches ChatGPT Work, delving into workplace automation OpenAI ने ChatGPT Work लॉन्च किया, कार्यस्थल स्वचालन की दिशा में बड़ा कदम	

Why more Indian couples are being diagnosed with secondary infertility

Analyses of India's National Family Health Survey data show secondary infertility rose from roughly 19.5% in the early 1990s to about 28.6% by 2015-2016 – close to a doubling in a single generation; there are multiple factors that are contributing to this including age-related issues and changes in the body between the first and the second child

Richika Sahay Shukla

A few weeks ago, a couple sat in my consulting room looking almost apologetic. They already had a bright six-year-old waiting at home. "We feel silly taking your time, doctor," the mother said. "We have one child. Everyone keeps telling us to just be grateful." And then, quietly, she started to cry. I have heard that phrase – "at least you have one" – more times than I can count. It is almost always meant kindly. It almost always lands like a door being shut. And it is one of the reasons the couples I see struggling to conceive a second time carry their grief so silently.

Understanding the condition
The condition has a name: secondary infertility – the difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy after you have already had a baby. For years it was brushed aside as a non-problem. The numbers say otherwise.

Analyses of India's National Family Health Survey data show secondary infertility rose from roughly 19.5% in the early 1990s to about 28.6% by 2015-2016 – close to a doubling in a single generation. It is now one of the most common reasons a "previously fertile" couple walks in, bewildered. "We didn't even try the first time," they say. "Why is it so hard now?"

Part of the answer is the calendar. A generation ago, most couples finished their families in their twenties. Today a first baby often arrives at the age of 31 or 32 – after the degree, the

job, the EMI, the move to a rented flat in a city. By the time life finally feels "ready" for a second child, the mother may be aged 36 or 38, and fertility, unfairly, does not wait for our life plans. Egg numbers and quality fall with every passing year; clinics in cities including Delhi/NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai and others, have reported a sharp rise in women seeking help only after the age of 35.

But age is just one thread. In the years between the first and second child, bodies change. Weight creeps up. The thyroid quietly slips. As many as one in five Indian women now live with Polycystic Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS), which tends to worsen with time. A Caesarean section may have left adhesions; an old, untreated infection may have scarred a fallopian tube. And – this matters – the problem is very often on the man's side. Sperm counts fall with weight, stress, smoking and even the polluted air so many of us breathe. Yet in my experience, Indian men will wait years longer than their wives before agreeing to a simple semen test, convinced that "we already have a child, so it can't be me."

Layered over all of this is something



Growing concern: Secondary infertility is the difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy after you have already had a baby. GETTY IMAGES

newer: our phones. Social media has, in many ways, been a gift for fertility awareness. Couples now arrive far better informed than a decade ago; the taboo is finally cracking; brave women share IVF journeys that once would have been whispered about. But scroll through any feed and you also meet the other side – an unending stream of "Baby No. 2!" announcements, and picture-perfect siblings.

For a woman in her fourth month of trying, or recovering from a second miscarriage,

that scroll is a slow bruise. The comparison is relentless – and so is the family WhatsApp group where an aunt asks, yet again, when the "good news" is coming. I have also watched social media do harm the other way: glossy reels promising IVF "success in one cycle," or home remedies that persuade a couple to delay proper testing by a year they cannot afford to lose.

Telling the truth

So what do I tell the couple crying in my room? First, that their pain is real and they are allowed to feel it. Wanting a sibling for the child you adore is not ingratitude; it is love asking

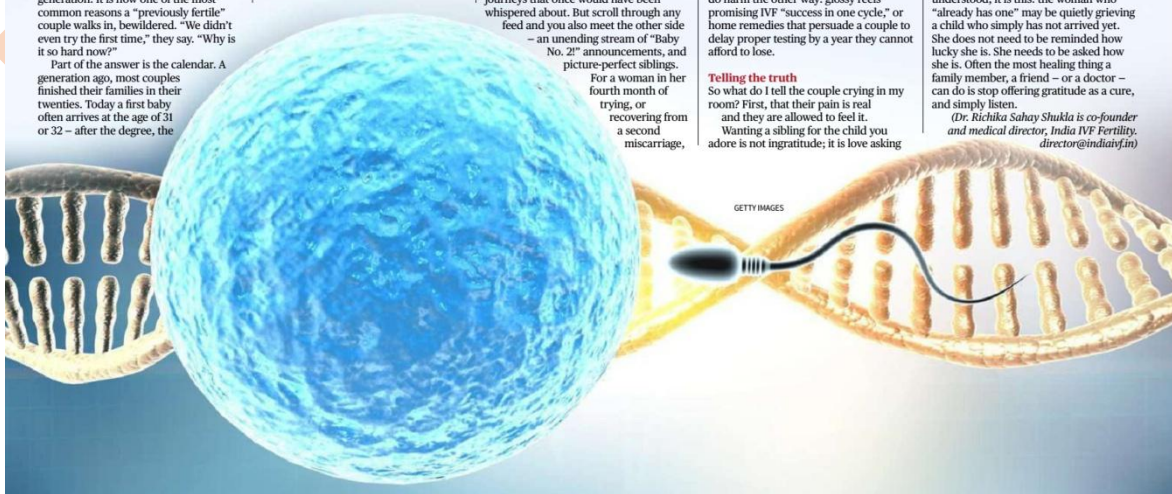
Egg numbers and quality fall with every passing year; clinics in cities including Delhi/National Capital Region, Bengaluru, Mumbai and others, have reported a sharp rise in women seeking help only after the age of 35

for a little more room. Second, that this is a medical condition, not a moral verdict – not a punishment, not *nazar*, not something they did wrong. Third, that timing matters. If a woman is under the age of 35 and has tried for a year, or over the age of 35 and has tried for six months, both partners – together – should be evaluated. Do not let the calendar run, out of politeness.

And I tell them the truth about hope, honestly. Modern fertility care helps a great many couples in exactly this situation, and IVF succeeds for many even in their late thirties and forties. But I will never promise a guaranteed outcome, and I would gently warn anyone against a clinic that does. What I can promise is a clear answer and a plan.

If there is one thing I wish more of us understood, it is this: the woman who "already has one" may be quietly grieving a child who simply has not arrived yet. She does not need to be reminded how lucky she is. She needs to be asked how she is. Often the best healing thing a family member, a friend – or a doctor – can do is stop offering gratitude as a cure, and simply listen.

(Dr. Richika Sahay Shukla is co-founder and medical director, India IVF Fertility. director@indiaivf.in)



10J7. Why more Indian couples are being diagnosed with secondary infertility क्यों अधिक भारतीय दंपतियों में सेकेंडरी इनफर्टिलिटी का निदान किया जा रहा है

- Analyses of India's **National Family Health Survey** data show **secondary infertility** rose from roughly **19.5%** in the early 1990s to about **28.6%** by 2015–2016 — close to a doubling in a single generation; there are multiple factors that are contributing to this including **age-related issues** and changes in the body between the first and the second child.
भारत के राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के आंकड़ों के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि सेकेंडरी इनफर्टिलिटी 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में लगभग 19.5% से बढ़कर 2015–2016 तक लगभग 28.6% हो गई — यानी एक ही पीढ़ी में लगभग दोगुनी; इसमें योगदान देने वाले कई कारक हैं, जिनमें उम्र से संबंधित समस्याएं और पहले तथा दूसरे बच्चे के बीच शरीर में होने वाले परिवर्तन शामिल हैं।

Understanding the condition स्थिति को समझना

- The condition has a name: **secondary infertility** — the difficulty conceiving or carrying a pregnancy after you have already had a baby.
इस स्थिति का एक नाम है: सेकेंडरी इनफर्टिलिटी — यानी पहले से बच्चा होने के बाद दोबारा गर्भधारण करने या गर्भावस्था को बनाए रखने में कठिनाई।
- Analyses of India's **National Family Health Survey** data show secondary infertility rose from roughly **19.5%** in the early 1990s to about **28.6%** by 2015–2016 — close to a doubling in a single generation.
भारत के राष्ट्रीय परिवार स्वास्थ्य सर्वेक्षण के आंकड़ों के विश्लेषण से पता चलता है कि सेकेंडरी इनफर्टिलिटी 1990 के दशक की शुरुआत में लगभग 19.5% से बढ़कर 2015–2016 तक लगभग 28.6% हो गई — यानी एक ही पीढ़ी में लगभग दोगुनी।
- Egg numbers and quality fall with every passing year; clinics in cities including Delhi/NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai and others, have reported a sharp rise in women seeking help only after the age of 35.**
हर गुजरते वर्ष के साथ अंडाणुओं की संख्या और गुणवत्ता कम होती जाती है; दिल्ली/एनसीआर, बेंगलुरु, मुंबई और अन्य शहरों के क्लीनिकों ने 35 वर्ष की उम्र के बाद सहायता लेने वाली महिलाओं की संख्या में तेज वृद्धि दर्ज की है।
- As many as one in five Indian women now lives with **Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)**, which tends to worsen with time.
अब लगभग पांच में से एक भारतीय महिला पॉलीएंडोक्राइन मेटाबोलिक ओवेरियन सिंड्रोम (PMOS) से प्रभावित है, जो समय के साथ और खराब हो सकता है।
- A Caesarean section may have left adhesions; an old, untreated infection may have scarred a fallopian tube.**
एक सीजेरियन सेक्शन से शरीर में चिपकाव हो सकता है; कोई पुराना, अनुपचारित संक्रमण फैलोपियन ट्यूब को नुकसान पहुंचा सकता है।
- Sperm counts fall with weight, stress, smoking and even the polluted air** so many of us breathe.
शुक्राणुओं की संख्या वजन, तनाव, धूम्रपान और यहां तक कि हमारे द्वारा सांस ली जाने वाली प्रदूषित हवा के कारण भी कम हो सकती है।
- Yet in my experience, Indian men will wait years longer than their wives before agreeing to a simple semen test, convinced that “we already have a child, so it can't be me.”**
फिर भी मेरे अनुभव में, भारतीय पुरुष एक साधारण सीमन टेस्ट के लिए सहमत होने से पहले अपनी पत्नियों की तुलना में वर्षों अधिक इंतजार करते हैं, यह सोचते हुए कि “हमारा पहले से बच्चा है, इसलिए समस्या मुझमें नहीं हो सकती।”



- **Social media** has, in many ways, been a gift for fertility awareness.
कई मायनों में **सोशल मीडिया** प्रजनन जागरूकता के लिए एक उपयोगी माध्यम रहा है।
- **Couples now arrive far better informed than a decade ago; the taboo is finally cracking; brave women share IVF journeys that once would have been whispered about.**
दंपति अब एक दशक पहले की तुलना में अधिक जानकारी के साथ आते हैं; सामाजिक झिझक धीरे-धीरे कम हो रही है; साहसी महिलाएं अपनी **IVF यात्राएं** साझा कर रही हैं जिनके बारे में पहले केवल धीरे से बात की जाती थी।
- Second, that **this is a medical condition, not a moral verdict — not a punishment, not nazar, not something they did wrong.**
दूसरा, यह एक **चिकित्सीय स्थिति** है, कोई नैतिक निर्णय नहीं — न कोई सजा, न नज़र, और न ही ऐसा कुछ जो उन्होंने गलत किया हो।

Study to contain antimicrobial resistant neonatal sepsis begins in India

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

Striking at the heart of antimicrobial resistance, the international **NeoSep 1** trial to evaluate life-saving antibiotic combinations for newborns with sepsis has expanded to India, with the first baby being recruited at the Jawaharlal Postgraduate Education Institute of Medical and Research (JIPMER) in Puducherry.

This was followed by recruiting an infant for the study in Pt. B.D. Sharma PGIMS in Rohtak. The next on the list is Lokmanya Tilak Municipal College and General Hospital, Mumbai. Globally, the study, sponsored by the GARDP Foundation in collaboration with the UCL Innovative Clinical Trials Unit; City St George's, University of London (SGUL), and Penta Foundation, is also underway in Vietnam and Pakistan, and will soon start in Malaysia, Bangladesh and Uganda.

According to a GARDP statement, NeoSep1 aims to enrol 3,000 newborns across Asia and Africa by the end of 2028. Earlier, newborns were enrolled in Ghana, Kenya and South Africa.

Life-threatening infection
Neonatal sepsis is a life-threatening bloodstream infection that occurs in babies under 90 days old, often affecting premature or low-birth-weight infants. It is categorised into early-onset (occurring within the first 72 hours of life) and late-onset (occurring up to 28-90 days), according to a book on neonatal sepsis, authored by Meenakshi Singh.

"With underdeveloped immune systems, newborns are especially prone to life-threatening sepsis," Sally Ellis, Children's Antibiotics Project Leader for



Addressing a big issue: Neonatal sepsis is a life-threatening bloodstream infection that occurs in babies under 90 days old, often affecting premature or low-birth-weight infants. AP

GARDP, told *The Hindu*, explaining the significance the NeoSep1 has in the context of growing antimicrobial resistance.

"Today, we stand at a tipping point. The antibiotics for newborns that we have relied on for decades are failing against resistant infections, in many hospital settings. This trial, led by GARDP and partners, is about giving neonatologists new tools, and giving babies with sepsis a fighting chance at life," she adds.

Sepsis is the second most common cause of neonatal mortality, globally responsible for over one million deaths annually. In

India, neonatal sepsis remains a leading cause of neonatal mortality, contributing to approximately 30%-40% of all neonatal deaths despite advances in neonatal care, argues a recent paper 'Neonatal Sepsis in India: Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Preventive Strategies from a Public Health Perspective' in the *Journal of Clinical Neonatology*.

The author Ahmed Abdulaziz Almohammadi, writes "In India, neonatal sepsis accounts for an estimated 30%-40% of all neonatal deaths, translating to approximately 2,00,000-2,50,000

Today, we stand at a tipping point. The antibiotics for newborns that we have relied on for decades are failing against resistant infections, in many hospital settings. This trial, led by the GARDP and partners, is about giving neonatologists new tools, and giving babies with sepsis a fighting chance at life

SALLY ELLIS
Children's Antibiotics Project Leader for GARDP

preventable deaths annually. Despite substantial reductions in under-five mortality over the past two decades, progress in reducing neonatal mortality has lagged, with sepsis representing a persistent and largely preventable cause of death."

Divergence from global trends
It turns out that causative agents in India show a divergence from global trends. Dr. Almohammadi notes that the microbiological profile of neonatal sepsis in India differs substantially from that of high-income countries, with gram-negative organisms predominating in most Indian studies. *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Acinetobacter* species and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* constitute the majority of bacterial isolates, often demonstrating multidrug resistance. Group B *Streptococcus* (GBS), which is the leading cause of neonatal sepsis in developed countries, accounts for only 2%-5% of cases in India.

This makes the NeoSep 1 critical – to evaluate and produce a profile that is India

specific, addressing the circumstances that can contribute to, or ameliorate the condition in India. It is pioneering the use of a Personalised Randomised Controlled Trial (PRACtical) design, which will evaluate and rank multiple antibiotic regimens for newborns with sepsis. This approach will help clinicians choose effective treatments best suited to their local context, GARDP spokespersons say.

The goal of the trial is to identify one or more safe, effective, and affordable treatments that can reduce the high number of newborn deaths caused by drug-resistant sepsis, especially in low- and middle-income countries. Part 1 of the NeoSep1 trial, conducted in South Africa and Kenya in 2022, assessed and validated the appropriate dose for fosfomycin and flomoxef for use in newborns, in combination with other antibiotics.

Nishad Plakkal, Principal Investigator of the NeoSep1 trial in India and Head of the Department of Neonatology at JIPMER, explains: "the study is a pragmatic trial and allows clinicians to make the diagnosis of sepsis as they normally would. However, to ensure the inclusion of infants with a high probability of infection, we use a sepsis severity score that we derived from an earlier global observational study (NeoGBS). Our microbiology team cultures the baby's blood (and sometimes spinal fluid) to help identify the organism causing sepsis, typically within a day or two. They also identify antibiotic-resistant infections."

Dr. Plakkal explains that the primary outcome, or the main question the study is designed to answer, is death within 28 days; while secondary outcomes will include death within 90 days, need for additional antibiotics, length of hospital stay, and re-admission.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

10J7. Study to contain antimicrobial resistant neonatal sepsis begins in India भारत में एंटीमाइक्रोबियल रेसिस्टेंट नवजात सेप्सिस को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अध्ययन शुरू

- Striking at the heart of **antimicrobial resistance**, the international **NeoSep 1** trial to evaluate life-saving antibiotic combinations for newborns with **sepsis** has expanded to India, with the first baby being recruited at the **Jawaharlal Postgraduate Education Institute of Medical and Research (JIPMER)** in Puducherry.
एंटीमाइक्रोबियल रेसिस्टेंट की मुख्य समस्या को लक्षित करते हुए, सेप्सिस से पीड़ित नवजात शिशुओं के लिए जीवन रक्षक एंटीबायोटिक संयोजनों का मूल्यांकन करने वाला अंतरराष्ट्रीय **NeoSep 1** परीक्षण भारत तक विस्तारित हो गया है, जिसमें पहला शिशु पुडुचेरी के **जवाहरलाल पोस्टग्रेजुएट एजुकेशन इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मेडिकल एंड रिसर्च (JIPMER)** में शामिल किया गया है।
- **Neonatal sepsis is a life-threatening bloodstream infection that occurs in babies under 90 days old, often affecting premature or low-birth-weight infants.**

नवजात सेप्सिस एक जीवन के लिए खतरा बनने वाला रक्तप्रवाह संक्रमण है, जो 90 दिन से कम आयु के शिशुओं में होता है और अक्सर समय से पहले जन्मे या कम वजन वाले शिशुओं को प्रभावित करता है।

- It is categorised into **early-onset** (occurring within the first 72 hours of life) and **late-onset** (occurring up to 28–90 days), according to a book on neonatal sepsis authored by Meenakshi Singh.

मीनाक्षी सिंह द्वारा लिखित नवजात सेप्सिस पर आधारित पुस्तक के अनुसार, इसे प्रारंभिक शुरुआत वाले (जीवन के पहले 72 घंटों के भीतर होने वाला) और देर से शुरुआत वाले (28–90 दिनों तक होने वाला) वर्गों में विभाजित किया गया है।

- “With underdeveloped immune systems, newborns are especially prone to **life-threatening sepsis**,” Sally Ellis, Children’s Antibiotics Project Leader for GARDP, told The Hindu, explaining the significance the NeoSep1 has in the context of growing antimicrobial resistance.

“अविकसित प्रतिरक्षा प्रणाली के कारण, नवजात शिशु विशेष रूप से जीवन के लिए खतरा बनने वाले सेप्सिस के प्रति संवेदनशील होते हैं,” GARDP की Children’s Antibiotics Project Leader सैली एलिस ने बढ़ते रोगाणुरोधी प्रतिरोध के संदर्भ में NeoSep1 के महत्व को समझाते हुए The Hindu को बताया।

- Sepsis is the second most common cause of **neonatal mortality**, globally responsible for over one million deaths annually.

सेप्सिस नवजात मृत्यु दर का दूसरा सबसे आम कारण है, जो वैश्विक स्तर पर हर वर्ष दस लाख से अधिक मौतों के लिए जिम्मेदार है।

- In India, neonatal sepsis remains a leading cause of neonatal mortality, contributing to approximately **30%–40% of all neonatal deaths** despite advances in neonatal care, argues a recent paper ‘Neonatal Sepsis in India: Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Preventive Strategies from a Public Health Perspective’ in the Journal of Clinical Neonatology.

भारत में, नवजात देखभाल में प्रगति के बावजूद नवजात सेप्सिस नवजात मृत्यु दर का एक प्रमुख कारण बना हुआ है, जो सभी नवजात मौतों में लगभग **30%–40% योगदान** देता है, ऐसा Journal of Clinical Neonatology में प्रकाशित हालिया शोधपत्र ‘Neonatal Sepsis in India: Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Preventive Strategies from a Public Health Perspective’ में कहा गया है।

- Klebsiella pneumoniae, Escherichia coli, Acinetobacter species and Pseudomonas aeruginosa** constitute the majority of bacterial isolates, often demonstrating **multidrug resistance**.

क्लेबसिएला न्यूमोनिया, एस्चेरिचिया कोलाई, एसिनेटोबैक्टर प्रजातियां और स्यूडोमोनास एरुजिनोसा अधिकांश बैक्टीरियल आइसोलेट्स का निर्माण करते हैं, जो अक्सर **मल्टीड्रग रेसिस्टेंस** प्रदर्शित करते हैं।

- It is pioneering the use of a **Personalised Randomised Controlled Trial (PRACTical) design**, which will evaluate and rank multiple antibiotic regimens for newborns with sepsis.

यह **पर्सनलाइज्ड रैंडमाइज्ड कंट्रोल्ड ट्रायल (PRACTical) डिजाइन** के उपयोग की शुरुआत कर रहा है, जो सेप्सिस से पीड़ित नवजात शिशुओं के लिए कई एंटीबायोटिक उपचार व्यवस्थाओं का मूल्यांकन और क्रम निर्धारण करेगा।

- The goal of the trial is to identify one or more **safe, effective, and affordable treatments** that can reduce the high number of newborn deaths caused by **drug-resistant sepsis**, especially in low- and middle-income countries.

इस परीक्षण का उद्देश्य एक या अधिक सुरक्षित, प्रभावी और किफायती उपचारों की पहचान करना है, जो विशेष रूप से निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों में दवा-प्रतिरोधी सेप्सिस के कारण होने वाली बड़ी संख्या में नवजात मौतों को कम कर सकें।

Sepsis

- Sepsis is a **life-threatening medical emergency** that develops **when the body's response to an infection becomes uncontrolled and begins damaging its own tissues**

and organs.

- Normally, the immune system releases chemicals and activates immune cells to destroy disease-causing microorganisms. In sepsis, this defence response becomes **dysregulated**, producing widespread inflammation, abnormal blood clotting and disturbed blood circulation. Consequently, vital organs may receive insufficient oxygen and nutrients.
- Sepsis itself is **not contagious**. However, the infection that triggers it—such as influenza, COVID-19 or bacterial pneumonia—may sometimes spread between people.

How Sepsis Develops

- An infection begins in a particular part of the body.
- The immune system responds strongly to fight the microorganism.
- Inflammatory chemicals enter the bloodstream and affect the whole body.
- Small blood vessels may become leaky, blood pressure may fall and tiny clots may obstruct circulation.
- Reduced blood flow damages organs such as the **brain, lungs, heart, kidneys and liver**.
- A simple example is severe bacterial pneumonia. The infection begins in the lungs, but the uncontrolled immune response may later reduce blood pressure and impair kidney and brain function.

Common Causes

- Sepsis can arise from **bacterial, viral, fungal or parasitic infections**, although bacterial infections are frequent causes.
- Common starting points include:
 - **Lungs:** Pneumonia.
 - **Urinary system:** Urinary-tract or kidney infection.
 - **Abdomen:** Appendicitis, intestinal perforation or gallbladder infection.
 - **Skin and soft tissues:** Infected wounds, burns or cellulitis.
 - **Bloodstream and medical devices:** Infected intravenous lines or catheters.

Major Warning Signs

- Fever, shivering or feeling unusually cold.
- Rapid heartbeat or weak pulse.
- Fast or difficult breathing.
- Confusion, unusual sleepiness or disorientation.
- Extreme pain or severe discomfort.
- Cold, clammy, pale or sweaty skin.
- Reduced urination, dizziness or a marked fall in blood pressure may indicate worsening organ dysfunction. A suspected case requires **immediate hospital care**.

Septic Shock

- **Septic shock** is an advanced and particularly dangerous form of sepsis in which severe circulatory and metabolic abnormalities cause persistently low blood pressure.
- It may result in **multiple-organ failure** and death unless circulation and infection are treated urgently.



People at Higher Risk

- Newborns, children below five years and older adults.
- Pregnant or recently delivered women.
- People with diabetes, cancer, kidney disease or weakened immunity.
- Patients with major injuries, burns, recent surgery, prolonged hospitalisation or invasive medical devices.

Diagnosis and Treatment

- Doctors assess symptoms, blood pressure, breathing, oxygen level, urine output and signs of organ dysfunction.
- Blood and other samples may be tested to identify the microorganism. Tests may include blood counts, lactate measurements, cultures and imaging.
- Treatment generally includes **rapid antimicrobial therapy**, intravenous fluids, oxygen and control of the infection source, such as draining an abscess or removing an infected device.
- Medicines called **vasopressors** may be needed to raise dangerously low blood pressure. Severe cases may require intensive care, mechanical ventilation or dialysis. Treatment must be repeatedly reassessed, especially because unnecessary or incorrect antibiotic use contributes to **antimicrobial resistance**.

BSNL announces satellite phone priced at ₹1.34 lakh for 'challenging environments'

GS III: S&T
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-run BSNL on Thursday announced the availability of a satellite phone for ₹1.34 lakh, part of its push to expand satellite communication services to defence, maritime and disaster-response users.

In a social media post on Thursday, BSNL mentioned that the satellite phone is priced at ₹1,34,166 apiece, including all taxes, and has been designed for challenging environments, offering voice calls and SMS services in remote areas not covered by conventional mobile networks.

"When conventional



The satphone will offer services in areas not covered by conventional networks

mobile networks can't reach, the BSNL Satellite Phone keeps you connected. Designed for challenging environments, making it an ideal solution for Defence, Maritime, Disaster Response, Mining, Remote Operations and Adventure Travel," the BSNL social

media post displaying the price of a satellite phone said. Users can contact the nearest BSNL office for more details, the telco said while sharing a mobile number in the post.

The mobile number, however, was not responsive. "As Always. No one is responding to the above Given Number," a verified account holder on X commented on the post.

An email query sent to BSNL did not elicit an immediate response. In February, an official statement said that BSNL had been providing voice call and SMS services through the Global Satellite Phone Service (GPS) to the general public and private en-

terprises since January 1, 2018. According to an official statement dated February 11, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) issued the instructions on June 12, 2017, in respect of the provision of satellite-based services, which inter alia mandated that BSNL is required to complete the customer acquisition process prescribed for mobile connections, as amended from time to time. BSNL's satellite phone postpaid plans were available for government and commercial entities at fixed monthly charges of ₹3,500, ₹5,835 and ₹11,670, offering 16, 30 and 60 minutes of free talk time or SMS.

10J7. BSNL announces satellite phone priced at ₹1.34 lakh for 'challenging environments'

BSNL ने 'चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों' के लिए ₹1.34 लाख कीमत वाला सैटेलाइट फोन लॉन्च करने की घोषणा की



- **State-run BSNL** on Thursday announced the availability of a **satellite phone** for **₹1.34 lakh**, part of its push to expand **satellite communication services** to **defence, maritime and disaster-response** users.
सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली BSNL ने गुरुवार को **₹1.34 लाख** कीमत वाले **सैटेलाइट फोन** की उपलब्धता की घोषणा की, जो **रक्षा, समुद्री और आपदा प्रतिक्रिया** उपयोगकर्ताओं तक **सैटेलाइट संचार सेवाओं** का विस्तार करने की उसकी पहल का हिस्सा है।
- In a **social media post** on Thursday, **BSNL** mentioned that the **satellite phone** is priced at **₹1,34,166** apiece, including all taxes, and has been designed for **challenging environments**, offering **voice calls** and **SMS services** in remote areas not covered by conventional mobile networks.
गुरुवार को एक **सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट** में BSNL ने बताया कि **सैटेलाइट फोन** की कीमत सभी करों सहित **₹1,34,166** प्रति इकाई है, और इसे **चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों** के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जो पारंपरिक मोबाइल नेटवर्क से बाहर के दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में **वॉइस कॉल** और **SMS सेवाएँ** प्रदान करता है।
- "When conventional **mobile networks** can't reach, the **BSNL Satellite Phone** keeps you connected."
"जब पारंपरिक **मोबाइल नेटवर्क** नहीं पहुँच पाते, तब **BSNL सैटेलाइट फोन** आपको जुड़े रहने में सक्षम बनाता है।
- Designed for **challenging environments**, making it an ideal solution for **Defence, Maritime, Disaster Response, Mining, Remote Operations and Adventure Travel**," the **BSNL** social media post displaying the price of a satellite phone said.
चुनौतीपूर्ण परिस्थितियों के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया यह फोन **रक्षा, समुद्री क्षेत्र, आपदा प्रतिक्रिया, खनन, दूरस्थ संचालन और एडवेंचर ट्रेवल** के लिए एक आदर्श समाधान है," BSNL की सैटेलाइट फोन की कीमत प्रदर्शित करने वाली सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट में कहा गया।
- **BSNL's satellite phone postpaid plans** were available for **government and commercial entities** at fixed monthly charges of **₹3,500, ₹5,835 and ₹11,670**, offering **16, 30 and 60 minutes** of free talk time or **SMS**.
BSNL के सैटेलाइट फोन पोस्टपेड प्लान सरकारी और व्यावसायिक संस्थाओं के लिए **₹3,500, ₹5,835 और ₹11,670** के निश्चित मासिक शुल्क पर उपलब्ध थे, जिनमें क्रमशः **16, 30 और 60 मिनट** का निःशुल्क टॉक टाइम या **SMS सुविधा** प्रदान की जाती थी।

OpenAI launches ChatGPT Work, delving into workplace automation



GS III: S&T REUTERS
OpenAI on Thursday unveiled ChatGPT Work, an agent in its popular chatbot designed to execute tasks across different applications and files, marking the startup's latest push into workplace automation. The launch reflects intensifying competition to build and sell AI tools for professional use. REUTERS

10J7. OpenAI launches ChatGPT Work, delving into workplace automation

OpenAI ने ChatGPT Work लॉन्च किया, कार्यस्थल स्वचालन की दिशा में बड़ा कदम

- **OpenAI** on Thursday unveiled **ChatGPT Work**, an **agent** in its popular **chatbot** designed to execute tasks across different **applications** and **files**, marking the startup's latest push into **workplace automation**.

OpenAI ने गुरुवार को **ChatGPT Work** पेश किया, जो उसके लोकप्रिय **chatbot** का एक **agent** है। इसे विभिन्न **applications** और **files** में कार्यों को पूरा करने के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया है, जो **workplace automation** की दिशा में स्टार्टअप का नवीनतम प्रयास है।

- The launch reflects intensifying **competition** to

build and sell **AI tools** for **professional use**.

यह लॉन्च **पेशेवर उपयोग (professional use)** के लिए **AI tools** विकसित करने और बेचने की बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा (**competition**) को दर्शाता है।



GS Paper III: Internal Security	10 July 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
10J7	Modi hails Australia's social media ban on minors, signals curbs मोदी ने नाबालिगों पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध की सराहना की, प्रतिबंधों के संकेत दिए

Modi hails Australia's social media ban on minors, signals curbs

GS III: Internal Security
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised Australia's ban on social media access for teenagers, in the clearest indication so far that the Union government is mulling similar curbs.

"I have followed you closely, and the way you have legislated and worked to protect society in IT and social media is inspiring the world," Mr. Modi told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in remarks open to the press.

Australia's Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act, 2024, requires social media platforms to detect and block access to children below the age of 16.

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, had confirmed discussions for similar curbs in India during the AI Impact Summit earlier in February.

'Right way to go'

"Certainly there is a need for protecting our children, protecting our society... we are in a conversation regarding age-based restrictions with the various social media plat-

Digital control

Several countries are following Australia's footsteps to curb social media use by children

Malaysia: under-16s barred from owning social accounts

Indonesia: minors blocked from 'high-risk' platforms

France: Bill passed to ban social media use by under-15s



forms... the right way to go about this," he said.

In conversations and public remarks, officials at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have said that India is exploring a "graded" set of restrictions that would allow some social media access while blocking some categories of content depending on the age cohort of a minor.

It is not yet clear if the government is planning to bring this into action with a law in Parliament or with amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which have been the main legal way for the government to introduce rules for requirements like labelling AI-generated images.

10J7. Modi hails Australia's social media ban on minors, signals curbs

मोदी ने नाबालिगों पर ऑस्ट्रेलिया के सोशल मीडिया प्रतिबंध की सराहना की, प्रतिबंधों के संकेत दिए

• Australia's Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act, 2024, requires social media platforms to detect and block access to children below the age of 16.

ऑस्ट्रेलिया का ऑनलाइन सेफ्टी अमेंडमेंट (सोशल मीडिया मिनिमम एज) एक्ट, 2024 सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्मों को 16 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों की पहचान करने और उनकी पहुंच रोकने के लिए बाध्य करता है।

• In conversations and public remarks, officials at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have said that India is exploring a "graded" set of restrictions that would allow some social media access while blocking some categories of content depending on the age cohort of a minor.

बातचीत और सार्वजनिक टिप्पणियों में, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (MeitY) के अधिकारियों ने कहा है कि भारत "क्रमबद्ध प्रतिबंधों" की व्यवस्था पर विचार कर रहा है, जिसमें नाबालिगों की आयु-श्रेणी के आधार पर कुछ सोशल मीडिया पहुंच की अनुमति होगी जबकि कुछ प्रकार की सामग्री को रोका जाएगा।

• It is not yet clear if the government is planning to bring this into action with a law in Parliament or with amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which have been the main legal way for the government to introduce rules for requirements like labelling AI-generated images.

अभी यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि सरकार इसे संसद में कानून बनाकर लागू करने की योजना बना रही है या सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (मध्यस्थ दिशानिर्देश और डिजिटल मीडिया आचार संहिता) नियम, 2021 में संशोधन के माध्यम से, जो AI-जनित चित्रों को चिह्नित करने जैसी आवश्यकताओं के लिए नियम लागू करने का सरकार का मुख्य कानूनी माध्यम रहे हैं।