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## THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

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| PCS Special: |                                                                                                                                                                | 23 July |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 23J7         | Ready infrastructure sealed India's 2030 CWG bid: Sadleir<br>तैयार अवसंरचना ने भारत की 2030 राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों की मेजबानी की बोली को सुनिश्चित किया:<br>सैडलियर |         |



## Ready infrastructure sealed India's 2030 CWG bid: Sadleir



**PCS** COMMONWEALTH SPORT  
Ahmedabad's ready-made world-class sporting infrastructure played a decisive role in securing the hosting rights for the centenary 2030 Commonwealth Games, said Commonwealth Sport CEO Katie Sadleir, adding that the bid perfectly aligned with the governing body's revamped low-cost hosting model.

## 23J7. Ready infrastructure sealed India's 2030 CWG bid: Sadleir

तैयार अवसंरचना ने भारत की 2030 राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों की मेजबानी की बोली को सुनिश्चित किया: सैडलियर

• **Ahmedabad's ready-made world-class sporting infrastructure** played a decisive role in securing the hosting rights for the **centenary 2030 Commonwealth Games**, said Commonwealth Sport CEO Katie Sadleir, adding that the bid perfectly aligned with the governing body's revamped **low-cost hosting model**.

कॉमनवेल्थ स्पोर्ट की सीईओ केटी सैडलियर ने कहा कि अहमदाबाद की

पहले से तैयार विश्वस्तरीय खेल अवसंरचना ने 2030 के शताब्दी राष्ट्रमंडल

खेलों की मेजबानी का अधिकार दिलाने में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाई। उन्होंने कहा कि यह बोली संचालन संस्था के संशोधित कम-लागत मेजबानी मॉडल के साथ पूरी तरह मेल खाती है।

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GS Paper II: Polity</b> | <b>23 July 2026</b>                                                                                  |
| <b>TOPICS COVERED</b>      |                                                                                                      |
| <b>23J7</b>                | <b>Where does the law stand on internet shutdowns?</b><br>इंटरनेट शटडाउन पर कानून की स्थिति क्या है? |

## Where does the law stand on internet shutdowns?

What questions arise following the internet shutdown in Delhi during the CJP protest?

**GS II: Polity**

Rizmi Lia M.

**The story so far:**

**M**obile internet services were shut down in parts of Central Delhi during the 'Chalo Sansad' protest organised by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP). Thousands of people gathered on the opening day of the Parliament's Monsoon Session, to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan following the NEET paper leaks and irregularities in the CBSE school examination process. The internet shutdown, which remained in place until the evening, drew condemnation from the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) and the Software Freedom Law Centre, India (SFLC).

**What is an internet shutdown?**  
According to web rights advocacy organisation Access Now, an internet shutdown is defined as "an intentional

disruption of internet or electronic communications, rendering them inaccessible or effectively unusable, for a specific population or within a location, often to control the flow of information." They take many forms, from full network disruptions to slowing down internet speed or blocking platforms.

Most internet shutdowns are ordered when large numbers of people are expected to gather for political reasons, peaceful demonstrations, violent protests or religious celebrations, according to the International Federation of Journalists.

Under Section 20(2)(b) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, telecommunication services may be suspended only on the occurrence of a public emergency or in the interest of public safety, on the grounds specified in that provision, and for reasons recorded in writing. "A protest, by itself, is not a lawful ground for suspending internet services. Under Section 20(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023, a

suspension may be ordered only during a public emergency or in the interest of public safety, and only for specified purposes such as maintaining public order. The order must be reasoned, published, limited in area and duration, and issued by the competent authority under the Telecommunications Suspension Rules, 2024. The government must also consider whether less restrictive measures would be sufficient," said Arup Gupta, Advocate and Founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation.

**Which law governs internet shutdowns?**

Internet shutdowns in India were earlier governed by Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. These have now been replaced by Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024.

Despite the updated legal framework, a review by the Digital Defenders Network found that several shutdown orders issued by State governments since late 2024 continue to invoke the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the 2017 Rules.

For instance, the Secretary, Home Department, Uttar Pradesh, issued an internet suspension order applicable to the district of Bareilly on October 2, 2025, invoking Section 7 of the Telegraph Act read with Rule 2(1) of the 2017 Rules.

By continuing to rely on these outdated provisions, some States appear to have bypassed the procedural safeguards introduced under the 2024 Rules.

The current suspension order accessed by *The Hindu* as released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, was imposed across 150 cell sites according to an industry source. It stated that the order was imposed under Clause (b) of Sub-section (2) of Section 20 of The Telecommunication Act, 2023 read with 2024 Rules.

**Where does India stand in terms of internet shutdowns?**

India continues to record one of the highest numbers of internet shutdowns in the world. Access Now's 2025 report recorded 65 shutdowns across 12 States and Union Territories.

Jammu & Kashmir has recorded the highest number of internet shutdowns in the country, with about 449 since 2012, followed by Rajasthan (115) and Manipur (62), as per the SFLC Internet Shutdown

Tracker. India has recorded about 24 shutdowns in 2026 (as of July 22).

**What limits has the SC placed?**

In *Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India* (2020), the Supreme Court held that access to the internet is closely connected to the freedoms of speech and trade under Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g).

The Court held that any shutdown must be backed by law, pursue a legitimate objective, be necessary and proportionate, and be the least restrictive measure available. Orders must also be limited in scope and duration, accompanied by detailed reasons, published and reviewed by a competent committee. The Court observed that "complete broad suspension of telecom services, be it the internet or otherwise, must be considered by the State only if 'necessary' and 'unavoidable'."

**Can orders be challenged in court?**

Yes. A shutdown may be challenged before a High Court under Article 226 or, in an appropriate case, before the Supreme Court under Article 32. Courts can examine whether the order was lawful, proportionate and properly limited in area and duration.

"Indefinite suspensions are unlawful. The government must publish its orders and provide reasons capable of judicial review. Under the 2024 Rules, a suspension order cannot remain in force for over 15 days," Mr. Gupta said.

## 23J7. Where does the law stand on internet shutdowns?

इंटरनेट शटडाउन पर कानून की स्थिति क्या है?

- Under **Section 20(2)(b)** of the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**, telecommunication services may be suspended only on the occurrence of a **public emergency** or in the interest of **public safety**, on the grounds specified in that provision, and for reasons recorded in writing.

**Telecommunications Act, 2023 की धारा 20(2)(b)** के अंतर्गत दूरसंचार सेवाओं को केवल सार्वजनिक आपातस्थिति (public emergency) या सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा (public safety) के हित में, उस प्रावधान में निर्दिष्ट आधारों पर तथा लिखित कारण दर्ज करके ही निलंबित किया जा सकता है।

- “A protest, by itself, is not a lawful ground for suspending internet services. Under **Section 20(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023**, a suspension may be ordered only during a **public emergency** or in the interest of **public safety**, and only for specified purposes such as maintaining **public order**. The order must be reasoned, published, limited in area and duration, and issued by the competent authority under the **Telecommunications Suspension Rules, 2024**. The government must also consider whether less restrictive measures would be sufficient,” said **Apar Gupta**, Advocate and Founder of the **Internet Freedom Foundation**.

**Internet Freedom Foundation** के संस्थापक एवं अधिवक्ता **अपर गुप्ता** ने कहा, “केवल विरोध प्रदर्शन अपने आप में इंटरनेट सेवाएँ निलंबित करने का वैध आधार नहीं है। **Telecommunications Act, 2023** की धारा 20(2) के अंतर्गत निलंबन केवल सार्वजनिक आपातस्थिति या सार्वजनिक सुरक्षा के हित में तथा लोक व्यवस्था (public order) बनाए रखने जैसे निर्दिष्ट उद्देश्यों के लिए ही किया जा सकता है। आदेश कारणयुक्त, प्रकाशित, क्षेत्र एवं अवधि में सीमित तथा **Telecommunications Suspension Rules, 2024** के अंतर्गत सक्षम प्राधिकारी द्वारा जारी किया जाना चाहिए। सरकार को यह भी विचार करना चाहिए कि क्या इससे कम प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय पर्याप्त होंगे।”

### Which law governs internet shutdowns?

#### इंटरनेट शटडाउन को कौन-सा कानून नियंत्रित करता है?

- Internet shutdowns in India were earlier governed by Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017.**  
भारत में इंटरनेट शटडाउन पहले **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** की धारा 5(2) तथा **Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017** के अंतर्गत नियंत्रित होते थे।
- These have now been replaced by Section 20 of the Telecommunications Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024.**  
अब इन्हें **Telecommunications Act, 2023** की धारा 20 तथा **Telecommunications (Temporary Suspension of Services) Rules, 2024** ने प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया है।
- Despite the updated legal framework, a review by the **Digital Defenders Network** found that several shutdown orders issued by State governments **since late 2024 continue to invoke the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the 2017 Rules.**  
अद्यतन कानूनी ढाँचे के बावजूद, **Digital Defenders Network** की समीक्षा में पाया गया कि 2024 के अंत से राज्य सरकारों द्वारा जारी कई शटडाउन आदेश अब भी **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885** तथा **2017 Rules** का ही हवाला देते हैं।
- For instance, the Secretary, Home Department, Uttar Pradesh, issued an internet suspension order applicable to the district of Bareilly on October 2, 2025, invoking Section 7 of the Telegraph Act read with Rule 2(1) of the 2017 Rules.**  
उदाहरण के लिए, **उत्तर प्रदेश गृह विभाग** के सचिव ने 2 अक्टूबर, 2025 को **बरेली** जिले के लिए इंटरनेट निलंबन आदेश जारी किया, जिसमें **Telegraph Act** की धारा 7 तथा **2017 Rules** के **Rule 2(1)** का हवाला दिया गया।
- By continuing to rely on these outdated provisions, some States appear to have bypassed the procedural safeguards introduced under the 2024 Rules.**  
इन पुराने प्रावधानों पर निर्भर रहकर कुछ राज्य **2024 Rules** के अंतर्गत लाए गए प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपायों को दरकिनार करते प्रतीत होते हैं।

### Where does India stand in terms of internet shutdowns?

#### इंटरनेट शटडाउन के मामले में भारत की स्थिति क्या है?



- India continues to record one of the highest numbers of **internet shutdowns** in the world.  
भारत दुनिया में इंटरनेट शटडाउन की सबसे अधिक घटनाओं वाले देशों में बना हुआ है।
- Access Now's 2025 report** recorded **65 shutdowns** across **12 States and Union Territories**.  
Access Now की 2025 की रिपोर्ट में 12 राज्यों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों में 65 शटडाउन दर्ज किए गए।
- Jammu & Kashmir** has recorded the highest number of **internet shutdowns** in the country, with about **449** since **2012**, followed by **Rajasthan (115)** and **Manipur (62)**, as per the **SFLC Internet Shutdown Tracker**.  
SFLC Internet Shutdown Tracker के अनुसार, जम्मू-कश्मीर में 2012 से अब तक लगभग 449 इंटरनेट शटडाउन दर्ज किए गए हैं, इसके बाद राजस्थान (115) और मणिपुर (62) का स्थान है।
- India has recorded about **24 shutdowns** in **2026 (as of July 22)**.  
भारत में 2026 में (22 जुलाई तक) लगभग 24 शटडाउन दर्ज किए गए हैं।

### What limits has the SC placed?

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने क्या सीमाएँ निर्धारित की हैं?

- In **Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020)**, the **Supreme Court** held that access to the **internet** is closely connected to the freedoms of **speech and trade** under **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(g)**.  
Anuradha Bhasin v. Union of India (2020) मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि इंटरनेट तक पहुँच अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a) के तहत अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता तथा अनुच्छेद 19(1)(g) के तहत व्यापार की स्वतंत्रता से घनिष्ठ रूप से जुड़ी हुई है।
- The **Court** held that any shutdown must be backed by law, pursue a legitimate objective, be necessary and proportionate, and be the least restrictive measure available.  
न्यायालय ने कहा कि कोई भी शटडाउन कानून द्वारा समर्थित होना चाहिए, उसका उद्देश्य वैध होना चाहिए, वह आवश्यक एवं आनुपातिक होना चाहिए तथा उपलब्ध विकल्पों में सबसे कम प्रतिबंधात्मक उपाय होना चाहिए।
- Orders** must also be limited in scope and duration, accompanied by detailed reasons, published and reviewed by a competent committee.  
आदेश क्षेत्र और अवधि में सीमित होने चाहिए, विस्तृत कारणों के साथ होने चाहिए, प्रकाशित किए जाने चाहिए तथा सक्षम समिति द्वारा उनकी समीक्षा की जानी चाहिए।
- The **Court** observed that "complete broad suspension of telecom services, be it the internet or otherwise, must be considered by the State only if 'necessary' and 'unavoidable'".  
न्यायालय ने कहा कि "दूरसंचार सेवाओं का व्यापक एवं पूर्ण निलंबन, चाहे वह इंटरनेट हो या अन्य सेवा, राज्य द्वारा केवल तभी किया जाना चाहिए जब वह 'आवश्यक' और 'अपरिहार्य' हो।"

### Can orders be challenged in court?

क्या ऐसे आदेशों को न्यायालय में चुनौती दी जा सकती है?

- Yes. A shutdown may be challenged before a High Court under Article 226 or, in an appropriate case, before the Supreme Court under Article 32.**  
हाँ। किसी शटडाउन को अनुच्छेद 226 के तहत उच्च न्यायालय में या उपयुक्त मामले में अनुच्छेद 32 के तहत सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी जा सकती है।
- "Indefinite suspensions are unlawful. The government must publish its orders and provide reasons capable of judicial review. Under the 2024 Rules, a suspension order cannot remain in force for over 15 days,"** Mr. Gupta said.  
श्री गुप्ता ने कहा, "अनिश्चितकालीन निलंबन अवैध हैं। सरकार को अपने आदेश प्रकाशित करने चाहिए और ऐसे कारण देने चाहिए जिनकी न्यायिक समीक्षा की जा सके। 2024 Rules के तहत कोई भी निलंबन आदेश 15 दिनों से अधिक प्रभावी नहीं रह सकता।"



| GS Paper II: International Relations |                                                                                                                                                                                 | 23 July 2026 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| TOPICS COVERED                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |              |
| 23J7                                 | <b>'Stable India-China ties will help build multi-polar Asia'</b><br><b>'भारत-चीन के स्थिर संबंध बहुध्रुवीय एशिया के निर्माण में सहायता करेंगे'</b>                             |              |
| 23J7                                 | <b>India Should Play a Greater Role in Securing the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb</b><br><b>भारत को बाब-अल-मंदेब जलडमरूमध्य की सुरक्षा में अधिक सक्रिय भूमिका निभानी चाहिए</b>        |              |
| 23J7                                 | <b>Lithuanians are excavating Red Army graves to bury their Soviet past</b><br><b>लिथुआनियाई अपने सोवियत अतीत को पीछे छोड़ने के लिए रेड आर्मी की कब्रों की खुदाई कर रहे हैं</b> |              |

## 'Stable India-China ties will help build multi-polar Asia'

Peace and tranquillity in the border areas is pre-requisite for normal ties, says Jaishankar during talks with Wang Yi; Minister raises safety of Indian seafarers during discussion with Sergey Lavrov

**GS II: IR**  
**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

**S**table India-China relations will help foster a "multi-polar Asia" and a "multi-polar world", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Manila.

The meeting took place before the Foreign Ministers of the Quad countries, Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S., met on the sidelines of the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in the Philippine capital and reiterated their support for stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

In a separate meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, held days after four Indian seafarers were killed in a Russian projectile strike in the Black Sea, Mr. Jaishankar expressed "strong concern" regarding the safety of Indian seafarers.

"We believe that a stable and cooperative relationship can best be developed on the basis of mutual respect,



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Manila on Wednesday. PTI

mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. Such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world," Mr. Jaishankar said in his remarks, highlighting that "peace and tranquillity in the border areas is obviously the pre-requisite for normal ties".

The comments came against the backdrop of renewed India-China engagement, including the resumption of direct flights, updates to the visa regime, the restart of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, and the resumption of border trade. In this context, Mr.

Jaishankar said, "... the steps in normalisation taken over the last few months must be welcomed." He referred to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping's meeting in Kazan in October 2024 and recalled that the two leaders had "agreed that differences should not become disputes". He also raised the importance of "predictability of supply chains" and "fair market access", which need to be addressed.

The India-China ministerial discussion was followed by the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the

Quad countries that reiterated their support for stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The External Affairs Ministry issued a joint press release on cooperation between the Quad members and the ASEAN countries, stating, "As ASEAN Comprehensive Strategic Partners we, the Secretary of State of the United States and the Foreign Ministers of Australia, India and Japan met today in Manila to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening a free and open Indo-Pacific and our unwavering support for ASEAN unity and centrality."

Mr. Jaishankar held an "in-depth review" of India-Russia bilateral relations with Mr. Lavrov and expressed "strong concern regarding the safety of Indian seafarers in the region".

"Discussed various aspects of our partnership including trade and investment, energy and connectivity, science and technology and mobility," said Mr. Jaishankar about his meeting with Mr. Lavrov.

### 23J7. 'Stable India-China ties will help build multi-polar Asia'

**'भारत-चीन के स्थिर संबंध बहुध्रुवीय एशिया के निर्माण में सहायता करेंगे'**

- **Stable India-China relations will help foster a "multi-polar Asia" and a "multi-polar world",** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Manila.

**स्थिर भारत-चीन संबंध "बहुध्रुवीय एशिया" और "बहुध्रुवीय विश्व" को बढ़ावा देने में सहायता करेंगे, विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने मनीला में अपने चीनी समकक्ष वांग यी के साथ बैठक के दौरान कहा।**



- The meeting took place before the **Foreign Ministers** of the **Quad** countries, **Australia, India, Japan, and the U.S.**, met on the sidelines of the **59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting** in the **Philippine** capital and reiterated their support for stability in the **Indo-Pacific** region.  
यह बैठक क्वाड देशों ऑस्ट्रेलिया, भारत, जापान और अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्रियों की 59वीं आसियान विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक के अवसर पर फिलीपींस की राजधानी में हुई बैठक से पहले हुई, जिसमें उन्होंने हिंद-प्रशांत क्षेत्र में स्थिरता के प्रति अपना समर्थन दोहराया।
- In a separate meeting with **Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**, held days after **four Indian seafarers** were killed in a **Russian projectile strike** in the **Black Sea**, Mr. Jaishankar expressed **"strong concern"** regarding the safety of **Indian seafarers**.  
रूस के विदेश मंत्री सर्गेई लावरोव के साथ एक अलग बैठक में, जो काला सागर में रूसी प्रक्षेपास्त्र हमले में चार भारतीय नाविकों की मृत्यु के कुछ दिनों बाद हुई, श्री जयशंकर ने भारतीय नाविकों की सुरक्षा को लेकर "गहरी चिंता" व्यक्त की।
- The comments came against the backdrop of renewed **India-China engagement**, including the **resumption of direct flights**, updates to the **visa regime**, the **restart of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra**, and the **resumption of border trade**.  
ये टिप्पणियाँ भारत-चीन संबंधों में नए सिरे से बढ़ती सहभागिता की पृष्ठभूमि में आईं, जिसमें सीधी उड़ानों की बहाली, वीजा व्यवस्था में अद्यतन, कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा की पुनः शुरुआत और सीमा व्यापार की बहाली शामिल है।
- He also raised the **importance of "predictability of supply chains" and "fair market access"**, which need to be addressed.  
उन्होंने "आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं की पूर्वानुमेयता" और "निष्पक्ष बाज़ार पहुँच" के महत्व को भी उठाया, जिन पर ध्यान दिए जाने की आवश्यकता है।
- "Discussed various aspects of our **partnership including trade and investment, energy and connectivity, science and technology and mobility**," said Mr. Jaishankar about his meeting with Mr. Lavrov.  
श्री जयशंकर ने श्री लावरोव के साथ अपनी बैठक के बारे में कहा, "हमारी साझेदारी के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर चर्चा हुई, जिनमें व्यापार एवं निवेश, ऊर्जा एवं संपर्क, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी तथा गतिशीलता शामिल हैं।"

## BLACK SEA

Countries bordering the Black Sea (Clockwise from the North)

1. **Ukraine** (North)
2. **Russia** (Northeast)
3. **Georgia** (East)
4. **Turkey** (South)
5. **Bulgaria** (West)
6. **Romania** (Northwest)



## Important Water Connections

- **Bosporus Strait** → Connects the **Black Sea** to the **Sea of Marmara**.
- **Sea of Marmara** → Connected to the **Aegean Sea** through the **Dardanelles Strait**.
- **Aegean Sea** → Part of the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Thus, the route is:





**Black Sea → Bosphorus Strait → Sea of Marmara → Dardanelles Strait → Aegean Sea → Mediterranean Sea**

## Major Rivers Flowing into the Black Sea

- **Danube** (Europe's second-longest river)
- **Dnieper**
- **Dniester**
- **Southern Bug**
- **Don** (indirectly via the **Sea of Azov** and the **Kerch Strait**)

## Important Ports

- **Odesa** (Ukraine)
- **Constanța** (Romania)
- **Varna** (Bulgaria)
- **Novorossiysk** (Russia)
- **Batumi** (Georgia)
- **Samsun** and **Trabzon** (Turkey)



# India must lead in securing the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb

GS II: IR

**I**n the heels of the Strait of Hormuz crisis comes the new threat – a Strait of Bab el-Mandeb crisis. On July 16, Reuters reported that Iran had instructed the Houthis to close the Strait (which is between Yemen and the Horn of Africa) if the United States attacked Iran's power plants.

Whether the Houthis have the capacity to threaten the Strait or whether this is part of Iran's signalling to the U.S. is secondary. What is important is that this represents a risk to one-third of India's entire trade.

### Revisiting 2024

We have been here before. When the Gaza war started in October 2023, the Ansarallah group in Yemen, also known as the Houthis, claimed solidarity with the Palestinians and launched drones and missiles at Israel. From November 2023 to March 2024, the Houthis targeted at least 40 vessels in the Red Sea, claiming that the vessels were linked to or bound for Israel.

In response, the U.S., together with allies including Singapore and Sri Lanka, launched Operation Prosperity Guardian (December 2023) to ensure "freedom of navigation" in the Red Sea. This was followed by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024), which was adopted in January 2024. Israel also carried out unilateral strikes against the Houthis. The Indian Navy rescued the crew of a British tanker after it was set on fire (January 26-27, 2024). By the time the U.S. declared a ceasefire in May 2025, the Houthis had been weakened, but much of the damage had already been done.

Marine insurance companies tend to be highly risk-averse. With over 90% of the world's shipping insured by just 12 protection and indemnity (P&I) clubs, shipowners have limited room to negotiate. Between November 2023 and March 2024, at least 2,000 ships avoided the **Suez Canal** and instead sailed around the **Cape of Good**



**Raja Karthikeya**  
Adjunct Fellow and  
Lead for West Asia  
studies at the  
Takshashila  
Institution

New Delhi's  
leadership can  
help prevent  
another major  
shipping crisis  
in the Red Sea

**Hope.** This delayed critical imports to India. Global shipping routes effectively reverted to what was being done 170 years ago. Egypt lost a quarter of the Suez Canal's revenue. By July 2024, Israel's Red Sea port of Eilat had filed for bankruptcy.

This time around, the situation is more unpredictable. With U.S. forces in the region focused on Iran, it is unclear whether they will seek to secure the Red Sea as they did before.

Even in 2024, when India-bound ships were attacked by the Houthis, New Delhi had to lean directly on Tehran to bring the attacks to a halt. But that was a different time for India-Iran ties. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council is more divided today than ever before, and even if it manages to call for "freedom of navigation" in the Red Sea, it is unlikely to pass a resolution approving a force to implement that call. China is also likely to again take a unilateral approach to protecting its shipping in the Red Sea through quid pro quos with the Houthis.

If the Houthis resume attacks on shipping in the Strait, the impact on India's economy – which is already reeling from the Strait of Hormuz crisis – would be dire. While India has now ordered that no Indian mariner be deployed on ships bound to or from the Strait of Hormuz, extending the same restriction to a busy route such as the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb would not be easy and would adversely affect the safety and welfare of thousands of Indian seafarers.

### What India should do

In 2024, France stayed out of a U.S.-led operation to guard its role in mediating between Hezbollah and Israel in Lebanon. Those conditions no longer exist. However, France and Japan – two countries that need shipping lanes in the Red Sea for their connectivity with Asia and Europe respectively – maintain bases in Djibouti, perched on the Red Sea. Their navies have also

conducted joint drills with the Indian Navy, which creates an opportunity for India to pre-empt a recurrence of the events of 2024.

India therefore needs to pro-actively build a naval taskforce in collaboration with France and Japan to deter attacks on shipping in the Bab el-Mandeb.

India would also do well to engage Egypt and Saudi Arabia. They had refused to join the alliance against the Houthis in 2024, given their own stance on Gaza. This time, with their economies at stake, they may not stand by. On July 20, the Houthis announced a "maritime embargo" on Saudi ships, seen as a threat against their transit through the Bab el-Mandeb. India needs to engage with these nations proactively to help secure the Red Sea, from the Suez to Bab el-Mandeb, while keeping its other partners in the region informed.

### A rules-based maritime response

It needs to be emphasised that this would be a theatre-specific "Trade Protection Task Force" of navies, rather than a strategic alliance. In addition to ships and personnel, the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region hosted by India could provide the necessary maritime domain awareness, while France and Japan could complement these efforts with on-ground logistical support. The constituent navies could agree on joint rules of engagement in response to any hostile attacks. They could provide security cover or escorts requested by commercial and civilian vessels transiting the Strait, especially those bound for Europe, India, or Japan. The task force would serve as a lasting demonstration of India's resolve to ensure "respect for maritime rules and norms" as part of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

India has both the responsibility and the capability to prevent the Bab el-Mandeb from becoming a literal "Gate of Tears" this time.

**23J7. India Should Play a Greater Role in Securing the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb**

**भारत को बाब-अल-मंदेब जलडमरूमध्य की सुरक्षा में अधिक सक्रिय भूमिका निभानी चाहिए**



- The **Strait of Bab el-Mandeb** has once again emerged as a strategically important maritime chokepoint because of rising tensions in **West Asia**.  
**बाब-अल-मंदेब जलडमरूमध्य** पश्चिम एशिया में बढ़ते तनाव के कारण पुनः एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण सामरिक समुद्री मार्ग के रूप में उभरा है।
- Recent reports indicate that **Iran** has encouraged the **Houthis** to increase pressure in the region if military confrontation with the **United States** intensifies.  
हाल की रिपोर्टों से संकेत मिलता है कि यदि **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** के साथ सैन्य टकराव बढ़ता है, तो **ईरान** ने **हूती विद्रोहियों** को क्षेत्र में दबाव बढ़ाने के लिए प्रेरित किया है।
- Even if the Houthis do not completely block the waterway, the possibility of attacks on commercial vessels creates serious uncertainty for international trade.  
भले ही हूती इस समुद्री मार्ग को पूर्णतः अवरुद्ध न कर सकें, लेकिन व्यापारिक जहाजों पर हमलों की संभावना अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के लिए गंभीर अनिश्चितता उत्पन्न करती है।
- For **India**, the security of this route is extremely important because a substantial share of its international trade passes through the **Red Sea** and the **Suez Canal**.  
**भारत** के लिए इस मार्ग की सुरक्षा अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि उसके अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार का एक बड़ा भाग **लाल सागर** और **स्वेज़ नहर** से होकर गुजरता है।

### Lessons from the Red Sea Crisis लाल सागर संकट से प्राप्त शिक्षाएँ

- Many shipping companies preferred to avoid the **Suez Canal** and instead sailed around the **Cape of Good Hope**, increasing both travel time and transportation costs.  
कई शिपिंग कंपनियों ने **स्वेज़ नहर** से बचते हुए **केप ऑफ़ गुड होप** के मार्ग का उपयोग किया, जिससे यात्रा का समय और परिवहन लागत दोनों बढ़ गए।
- India should also strengthen diplomatic engagement with **Egypt** and **Saudi Arabia**, as stability in the **Red Sea** directly affects their strategic and economic interests.  
**भारत** को **मिस्र** और **सऊदी अरब** के साथ कूटनीतिक सहयोग भी बढ़ाना चाहिए, क्योंकि **लाल सागर** की स्थिरता उनके सामरिक और आर्थिक हितों से प्रत्यक्ष रूप से जुड़ी हुई है।
- Continuous consultation with regional partners would improve coordination and reduce the possibility of misunderstandings during maritime security operations.  
क्षेत्रीय साझेदारों के साथ निरंतर परामर्श समुद्री सुरक्षा अभियानों के दौरान बेहतर समन्वय स्थापित करेगा तथा गलतफहमियों की संभावना को कम करेगा।

### A Rules-Based Maritime Response नियम-आधारित समुद्री प्रतिक्रिया

- India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)** can contribute by sharing maritime information and improving domain awareness among participating countries.  
**भारत का इन्फॉर्मेशन फ्यूजन सेंटर-हिंद महासागर क्षेत्र (IFC-IOR)** समुद्री सूचनाओं का आदान-प्रदान कर सहभागी देशों की समुद्री स्थिति संबंधी जागरूकता बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभा सकता है।
- Partner countries can contribute logistical support, surveillance capabilities, and coordinated naval deployments to strengthen the effectiveness of the initiative.  
साझेदार देश रसद सहायता, निगरानी क्षमता तथा समन्वित नौसैनिक तैनाती के माध्यम से इस पहल को और अधिक प्रभावी बना सकते हैं।
- Commercial ships travelling towards **Europe**, **India**, or **East Asia** may receive coordinated protection whenever security risks increase.  
**यूरोप, भारत** अथवा **पूर्वी एशिया** की ओर जाने वाले व्यापारिक जहाजों को सुरक्षा जोखिम बढ़ने की स्थिति में समन्वित सुरक्षा प्रदान की जा सकती है।





## Lithuanians are excavating Red Army graves to bury their Soviet past

Agence France-Presse  
VIEVIS, LITHUANIA

A wartime grave-site outside Lithuania's capital has become the stage for a political skirmish with Russia, as the Baltic country works to shed the last remnants of Soviet occupation.

Sifting through layers of clay-coloured soil, archaeologists in Vievis, west of Vilnius, carefully uncover the bones of Red Army soldiers at one of the many memorial sites installed by Moscow in the wake of the Second World War.

Lithuania removed most Soviet monuments shortly after regaining independence in 1990, but it was not until the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022 that Kyiv's close ally

Vilnius opted to move the graves — which many saw as the last visible symbols of USSR domination.

"The memorial site served a propaganda purpose," Tadas Simonauskas, the chief archaeologist on site, told AFP as his team conducted the excavations.

Among the bones, the twisted remains of a gas pipe were the only remnant of an eternal flame installed by the Soviets to memorialise what Moscow still refers to as the "Great Patriotic War".

Used to describe one of World War Two's most significant chapters, as the Allies battled Nazi Germany on the Eastern Front, the term has been rejected by many post-Soviet coun-

tries as a distortion of the realities of occupation.

"The memorial stood here to remind us that we were supposedly 'liberated' by the Soviets," Petras Marisius, a local pensioner passing by the dig site, told AFP. "They should have been moved earlier."

'De-Sovietisation' Now an EU and NATO member state, Lithuania — which borders Russia and its ally, Belarus — fears that it risks being invaded next as the war in Ukraine drags on into its fifth year.

At the start of the war that the Lithuanian parliament passed the so-called "de-Sovietisation" law, paving the way for the removal of the last Soviet monuments



Workers excavate a memorial to exhum the remains of Soviet soldiers buried in Vievis, Lithuania, on Monday. AFP

and the relocation of the graves. At the time, there were 157 burial sites of World War II-era Soviet soldiers in the country's cultural heritage register.

Vilnius has revoked four of the sites' protected status — a measure put in place initially to prevent

Russia from altering them without the state's approval.

At some sites, Russians changed plaques, upping the number of buried soldiers, according to Rita Kuneciene, who is responsible for heritage objects at the Lithuanian Cul-

ture Ministry. "The more troops have died, the more (Moscow) can say that Lithuanians do not honour their 'liberators'," she added.

Lithuania first began relocating the Soviet graves from the small northern town of Pumpėnai in July 2023, followed by the northern city of Šiauliai in April this year and the town of Vievis earlier in July.

Moscow was incensed by these excavations, branding them an attempt to rewrite history, and summoned Lithuania's envoy several times to protest what it called a "barbaric plan".

The Kremlin is now preparing for an international court battle over alleged

discrimination against ethnic Russians, according to a recent report by Baltic investigative journalists. The relocation of Soviet graves could reportedly become part of the case.

"Russia is using the international arena as a way to spread its narrative that the Baltic states support nazism and discriminate against ethnic Russian minorities," said Indre Makaraityte, an investigative reporter at Lithuania's public broadcaster, LRT.

'Marks of existence' Following the relocations, Russia accused Lithuania — and the other Baltic states of Estonia and Latvia, which took similar steps — of discriminating against Russian culture and com-

mitting a crime under Russian law. Before that, Lithuania protested the recent destruction of monuments to the tens of thousands of people deported to Siberia, as well as Baltic and Polish victims of Stalinist atrocities.

The relocation of the remains — which will be reburied at a nearby Orthodox cemetery — are permitted under international law, the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry said in a statement to AFP.

Article 17 of the First Geneva Convention stipulates measures "to allow subsequent exhumations and to ensure the identification of bodies, whatever the site of the graves" and the possible repatriation of remains.

### 23J7. Lithuanians are excavating Red Army graves to bury their Soviet past

लिथुआनियाई अपने सोवियत अतीत को पीछे छोड़ने के लिए रेड आर्मी की कब्रों की खुदाई कर रहे हैं

- A wartime **grave-site** outside **Lithuania's** capital has become the stage for a political skirmish with **Russia**, as the **Baltic** country works to shed the last remnants of **Soviet** occupation.

लिथुआनिया की राजधानी के बाहर स्थित एक युद्धकालीन कब्र-स्थल **रूस** के साथ राजनीतिक टकराव का केंद्र बन गया है, क्योंकि यह **बाल्टिक** देश **सोवियत कब्जे** के अंतिम अवशेषों से छुटकारा पाने का प्रयास कर रहा है।

- Sifting through layers of clay-coloured soil, **archaeologists** in **Vievis**, west of **Vilnius**, carefully uncover the bones of **Red Army** soldiers at one of the many memorial sites installed by **Moscow** in the wake of the **Second World War**.

**विलनियस** के पश्चिम में स्थित **विएविस** में पुरातत्वविद् मिट्टी की परतों को हटाकर **रेड आर्मी** के सैनिकों की हड्डियों को सावधानीपूर्वक निकाल रहे हैं। यह उन अनेक स्मारक स्थलों में से एक है जिन्हें **माँस्को** ने **द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के बाद स्थापित किया था।

- Lithuania** removed most **Soviet monuments** shortly after regaining independence in **1990**, but it was not until the full-scale **Russian invasion of Ukraine** in **2022** that Kyiv's close ally **Vilnius** opted to move the graves — which many saw as the last visible symbols of **USSR** domination.

**लिथुआनिया** ने **1990** में स्वतंत्रता प्राप्त करने के तुरंत बाद अधिकांश **सोवियत स्मारकों** को हटा दिया था, लेकिन **2022** में **रूस** द्वारा **यूक्रेन** पर पूर्ण पैमाने के आक्रमण के बाद ही **विलनियस** ने इन कब्रों को हटाने का निर्णय लिया, जिन्हें कई लोग **सोवियत संघ (USSR)** के प्रभुत्व के अंतिम दृश्य प्रतीक मानते थे।

- "The memorial site served a **propaganda** purpose," **Tadas Simonauskas**, the chief archaeologist on site, told AFP as his team conducted the excavations. स्थल के मुख्य पुरातत्वविद् **तादास सिमोनाउसकास** ने AFP से कहा, "यह स्मारक स्थल प्रचार के उद्देश्य की पूर्ति करता था।"

- Among the bones, the twisted remains of a **gas pipe** were the only remnant of an **eternal flame** installed by the Soviets to memorialise what **Moscow** still refers to as the "**Great Patriotic War**".

हड्डियों के बीच एक मुड़ी हुई **गैस पाइप** के अवशेष ही उस **अनन्त ज्योति** के एकमात्र चिन्ह थे जिसे सोवियतों ने उस युद्ध की स्मृति में स्थापित किया था, जिसे **माँस्को** आज भी "**ग्रेट पैट्रियोटिक वॉर**" कहता है।

- Used to describe one of **World War Two's** most significant chapters, as the **Allies** battled **Nazi Germany** on the **Eastern Front**, the term has been rejected by many **post-Soviet** countries as a distortion of the realities of occupation.

**द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध** के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण अध्यायों में से एक, जब **मित्र राष्ट्र** पूर्वी मोर्चे पर **नाज़ी जर्मनी** से लड़



रहे थे, का वर्णन करने के लिए प्रयुक्त इस शब्द को कई उत्तर-सोवियत देशों ने कब्जे की वास्तविकता को विकृत करने वाला बताया है।

- "The memorial stood here to remind us that we were supposedly 'liberated' by the Soviets," **Petras Martisius**, a local pensioner passing by the dig site, told AFP.  
खुदाई स्थल से गुजर रहे स्थानीय पेंशनभोगी **पेत्रास मार्टिसियस** ने AFP से कहा, "यह स्मारक हमें यह याद दिलाने के लिए खड़ा था कि कथित रूप से हमें सोवियतों ने 'मुक्त' कराया था।"
- "They should have been moved earlier."  
"इन्हें बहुत पहले ही हटा दिया जाना चाहिए था।"

## ‘De-Sovietisation’

### ‘डी-सोवियतीकरण’

- **Now an EU and NATO member state, Lithuania** — which borders **Russia** and its ally, **Belarus** — fears that it risks being invaded next as the war in **Ukraine** drags on into its fifth year.  
अब यूरोपीय संघ (EU) और नाटो (NATO) का सदस्य **लिथुआनिया**, जिसकी सीमाएँ **रूस** और उसके सहयोगी **बेलारूस** से लगती हैं, आशंकित है कि **यूक्रेन** में युद्ध के पाँचवें वर्ष में प्रवेश करने के साथ अगला निशाना वही बन सकता है।
- It was shortly after the start of the war that the **Lithuanian parliament** passed the so-called “**de-Sovietisation**” law, paving the way for the removal of the last **Soviet monuments** and the relocation of the graves.  
युद्ध शुरू होने के कुछ ही समय बाद **लिथुआनियाई संसद** ने तथाकथित “डी-सोवियतीकरण” कानून पारित किया, जिससे अंतिम **सोवियत स्मारकों** को हटाने और कब्रों के स्थानांतरण का मार्ग प्रशस्त हुआ।
- At the time, there were **157 burial sites** of **World War II-era Soviet soldiers** in the country’s **cultural heritage register**.  
उस समय देश की सांस्कृतिक विरासत सूची में द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध काल के **सोवियत सैनिकों** के **157 दफन स्थल** दर्ज थे।
- **Vilnius** has revoked four of the sites’ **protected status** — a measure put in place initially to prevent **Russia** from altering them without the state’s approval.  
**विलनियस** ने इन स्थलों में से चार का **संरक्षित दर्जा** समाप्त कर दिया है। यह दर्जा मूल रूप से **रूस** को सरकारी अनुमति के बिना इनमें बदलाव करने से रोकने के लिए दिया गया था।
- At some sites, **Russians** changed plaques, upping the number of buried soldiers, according to **Rita Kuncevičienė**, who is responsible for heritage objects at the **Lithuanian Culture Ministry**.  
**लिथुआनियाई संस्कृति मंत्रालय** में विरासत स्थलों की प्रभारी **रीटा कुन्सेविसिएने** के अनुसार, कुछ स्थानों पर **रूसियों** ने पट्टिकाएँ बदलकर दफन सैनिकों की संख्या बढ़ा दी।
- “The more troops have died, the more (**Moscow**) can say that **Lithuanians** do not honour their ‘**liberators**’,” she added.  
उन्होंने कहा, “जितने अधिक सैनिकों के मरने का दावा किया जाएगा, **मॉस्को** उतना ही अधिक कह सकेगा कि **लिथुआनियाई** अपने कथित ‘**मुक्तिदाताओं**’ का सम्मान नहीं करते।”
- **Lithuania** first began relocating the **Soviet graves** from the small northern town of **Pumpėnai** in **July 2023**, followed by the northern city of **Siauliai** in **April** this year and the town of **Vievis** earlier in **July**.  
**लिथुआनिया** ने **जुलाई 2023** में उत्तरी कस्बे **पुम्पेनाई** से **सोवियत कब्रों** को स्थानांतरित करना शुरू किया, इसके बाद इस वर्ष **अप्रैल** में **शियाउलियाई** और **जुलाई** में **विएविस** में यह प्रक्रिया जारी रही।
- **Moscow** was incensed by these excavations, branding them an attempt to rewrite history, and summoned **Lithuania’s** envoy several times to protest what it called a “**barbaric plan**”.  
**मॉस्को** इन खुदाइयों से बेहद नाराज़ हुआ और इन्हें इतिहास को फिर से लिखने का प्रयास बताते हुए **लिथुआनिया** के राजदूत को कई बार तलब किया तथा इसे “**बर्बर योजना**” कहा।

- The **Kremlin** is now preparing for an **international court** battle over alleged discrimination against **ethnic Russians**, according to a recent report by **Baltic investigative journalists**.  
बाल्टिक खोजी पत्रकारों की हालिया रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **क्रेमलिन** अब **जातीय रूसियों** के साथ कथित भेदभाव के मुद्दे पर **अंतरराष्ट्रीय न्यायालय** में कानूनी लड़ाई की तैयारी कर रहा है।
- The relocation of **Soviet graves** could reportedly become part of the case.  
बताया गया है कि **सोवियत कब्रों** का स्थानांतरण भी इस मामले का हिस्सा बन सकता है।
- "**Russia** is using the international arena as a way to spread its narrative that the **Baltic states** support **Nazism** and discriminate against **ethnic Russian minorities**," said **Indre Makaraityte**, an investigative reporter at **Lithuania's** public broadcaster, **LRT**.  
लिथुआनिया के सार्वजनिक प्रसारक **LRT** की खोजी पत्रकार **इंद्रे मकाराइटिते** ने कहा, "रूस अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंच का उपयोग यह प्रचारित करने के लिए कर रहा है कि **बाल्टिक देश** **नाज़ीवाद** का समर्थन करते हैं और **जातीय रूसी अल्पसंख्यकों** के साथ भेदभाव करते हैं।"

### ‘Marks of existence’

#### ‘अस्तित्व के निशान’

- Following the relocations, **Russia** accused **Lithuania — and the other Baltic states of Estonia and Latvia**, which took similar steps — of discriminating against **Russian culture** and committing a crime under **Russian law**.  
स्थानांतरण के बाद **रूस** ने **लिथुआनिया** तथा इसी प्रकार के कदम उठाने वाले अन्य **बाल्टिक देशों** **एस्टोनिया** और **लातविया** पर **रूसी संस्कृति** के विरुद्ध भेदभाव करने और **रूसी कानून** के तहत अपराध करने का आरोप लगाया।
- Before that, **Lithuania** protested the recent destruction of monuments to the tens of thousands of people deported to **Siberia**, as well as **Baltic** and **Polish** victims of **Stalinist atrocities**.  
इससे पहले **लिथुआनिया** ने **साइबेरिया** निर्वासित किए गए हजारों लोगों तथा **स्टालिनवादी अत्याचारों** के **बाल्टिक** और **पोलिश** पीड़ितों के स्मारकों को हाल ही में नष्ट किए जाने का विरोध किया था।
- The relocation of the remains — which will be reburied at a nearby **Orthodox cemetery** — are permitted under **international law**, the **Lithuanian Foreign Ministry** said in a statement to **AFP**.  
**लिथुआनियाई विदेश मंत्रालय** ने **AFP** को दिए एक बयान में कहा कि अवशेषों का स्थानांतरण, जिन्हें निकटवर्ती **ऑर्थोडॉक्स कब्रिस्तान** में पुनः दफनाया जाएगा, **अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून** के तहत अनुमत है।
- Article 17** of the **First Geneva Convention** stipulates measures "to allow subsequent exhumations and to ensure the identification of bodies, whatever the site of the graves" and the possible repatriation of remains.  
**प्रथम जिनेवा कन्वेंशन** का **अनुच्छेद 17** ऐसे उपायों का प्रावधान करता है, जिनसे "बाद में कब्रों की खुदाई की जा सके, शवों की पहचान सुनिश्चित की जा सके, चाहे कब्र कहीं भी हो," तथा आवश्यक होने पर अवशेषों को उनके देश वापस भेजा जा सके।

| GS Paper III: Economy |                                                                                                                                                                              | 23 July 2026 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| TOPICS COVERED        |                                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 23J7                  | Centre considering to lift restrictions on airport ownership<br>केंद्र सरकार हवाईअड्डा स्वामित्व पर प्रतिबंध हटाने पर विचार कर रही है                                        |              |
| 23J7                  | Trump's 200% generic tariff threat would imperil Americans: Indian pharma<br>ट्रंप की 200% जेनेरिक टैरिफ की धमकी अमेरिकी नागरिकों के लिए हानिकारक होगी: भारतीय फार्मा उद्योग |              |
| 23J7                  | Net FDI negative in May on \$74 million excess outflow                                                                                                                       |              |





|      |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | मई में 74 मिलियन डॉलर के अतिरिक्त बहिर्वाह के कारण शुद्ध FDI नकारात्मक रहा                                                                                                   |
| 23J7 | <b>Small banks mull tie-ups with GIFT City IBUs to offer leverage to NRIs</b><br>छोटे बैंक एनआरआई को लीवरेज देने के लिए GIFT City के IBU के साथ साझेदारी पर विचार कर रहे हैं |

# Centre considering to lift restrictions on airport ownership

The current rules cap airline ownership in airports and are inferred to similarly restrict airport operators from owning airlines

**GS III: Economy**  
**Jagriti Chandra**  
NEW DELHI

**T**he Centre is considering removing restrictions on cross-ownership between airport operators and airlines, a move that could allow airport companies to own airlines and airline groups to acquire stakes in airports, according to people familiar with the matter.

"The Ministry of Civil Aviation is preparing a concept note for consultations with NITI Aayog and other government ministries on the proposed changes," a person aware of the discussions said, adding that such a proposal would need the final nod from the Union Cabinet.

The proposal comes amid Air India's interest in expanding into the airport business, one person aware of discussions added but senior Air India sources denied it. Air India is jointly owned by Tata Sons, which holds a 74.9% stake, and Singapore Airlines, which owns the remaining 25.1%.

Some existing airport concession agreements impose limits on airline ownership. For instance, the concession agreements for the Noida International Airport and Navi Mumbai International Airport projects provide that no sche-



**Myriad of protocols:** The ownership restrictions are even tighter for Delhi and Mumbai airports. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

duled airline, cargo airline or their associates may hold more than 26% of the subscribed and paid-up equity of the concessionaire.

The ownership restrictions are even tighter for Delhi and Mumbai airports. Under the original privatisation framework, the aggregate equity held by all Indian scheduled airlines was capped at 10%, while foreign airlines were not permitted to hold any equity in the airport operating companies.

These restrictions also operate in reverse, effectively preventing airport operators from owning or controlling airlines. The Adani Group, which operates eight airports and has businesses spanning ports, power and renewable energy, has so far maintained that it has no interest in entering the airline business amid growing discussions around the dominance of Air India and IndiGo, which have a duopoly

between them.

The discussions come at a time when the Ministry of Civil Aviation has submitted a proposal to the Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) for the third round of airport privatisation of 11 airports, which too will come before the Cabinet for its nod.

In 2019, the Tata Group, through a consortium with Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC, had proposed to acquire a 55.2% stake in GMR Airports, but the deal did not materialise due to a conflict of interest issue involving Tatas' stake in Vistara and AirAsia India.

Since then, Vistara has been merged into Air India, while AirAsia India has been integrated into Air India Express, both of which are part of the Tata Group's airline portfolio.

Queries were sent to Tata Group and Air India, but there was no reply till the time of publication.

## 23J7. Centre considering to lift restrictions on airport ownership

केंद्र सरकार हवाईअड्डा स्वामित्व पर

प्रतिबंध हटाने पर विचार कर रही है

• The **Centre** is considering removing restrictions on **cross-ownership** between **airport operators** and **airlines**, a move that could allow **airport companies** to own **airlines** and **airline groups** to acquire stakes in **airports**, according to people familiar with the matter.

मामले से परिचित लोगों के अनुसार केंद्र सरकार हवाईअड्डा संचालकों और एयरलाइनों के बीच क्रॉस-ओनरशिप संबंधी प्रतिबंध हटाने पर विचार कर रही है, जिससे हवाईअड्डा कंपनियों को एयरलाइनों का स्वामित्व रखने तथा एयरलाइन समूहों को हवाईअड्डों में हिस्सेदारी खरीदने की अनुमति मिल सकती है।

• **Air India** is jointly owned by **Tata Sons**, which holds a **74.9% stake**, and **Singapore Airlines**, which owns the remaining **25.1%**.

एयर इंडिया का संयुक्त स्वामित्व टाटा संस के पास है, जिसकी 74.9% हिस्सेदारी है, जबकि शेष 25.1% हिस्सेदारी सिंगापुर एयरलाइंस के पास है।

• Under the original **privatisation framework**, the aggregate equity held by all **Indian scheduled airlines** was capped at **10%**, while **foreign airlines** were not permitted to hold any equity in the **airport operating companies**.

मूल निजीकरण ढाँचे के तहत सभी भारतीय अनुसूचित एयरलाइनों की कुल इक्विटी हिस्सेदारी 10% तक सीमित थी, जबकि विदेशी एयरलाइनों को हवाईअड्डा संचालन कंपनियों में किसी भी प्रकार की इक्विटी रखने की अनुमति नहीं थी।

• These restrictions also operate in

reverse, effectively preventing **airport operators** from owning or controlling **airlines**.

ये प्रतिबंध विपरीत दिशा में भी लागू होते हैं, जिससे हवाईअड्डा संचालकों को एयरलाइनों का स्वामित्व रखने या उन पर नियंत्रण करने से प्रभावी रूप से रोका जाता है।

- The **Adani Group**, which operates **eight airports** and has businesses spanning **ports, power and renewable energy**, has so far maintained that it has no interest in entering the **airline business** amid growing discussions around the dominance of **Air India** and **IndiGo**,



which have a **duopoly** between them.

**अडानी समूह**, जो **आठ हवाईअड्डों** का संचालन करता है तथा **बंदरगाह**, **बिजली** और **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा** क्षेत्रों में भी व्यवसाय करता है, अब तक यह कहता रहा है कि **एयर इंडिया** और **इंडिगो** के बीच बढ़ते **द्वयाधिकार (डुओपॉली)** की चर्चाओं के बावजूद उसकी **एयरलाइन व्यवसाय** में प्रवेश करने की कोई रुचि नहीं है।

- In 2019, the **Tata Group**, through a consortium with **Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC**, had proposed to acquire a **55.2% stake** in **GMR Airports**, but the deal did not materialise due to a **conflict of interest** issue involving **Tatas' stake** in **Vistara** and **AirAsia India**.

2019 में **टाटा समूह** ने **सिंगापुर के संप्रभु संपत्ति कोष GIC** के साथ एक **कंसोर्टियम** के माध्यम से **GMR Airports** में **55.2% हिस्सेदारी** खरीदने का प्रस्ताव दिया था, लेकिन **विस्तारा** और **एयरएशिया इंडिया** में **टाटा** की हिस्सेदारी से जुड़े **हितों के टकराव** के कारण यह सौदा पूरा नहीं हो सका।

- Since then, **Vistara** has been merged into **Air India**, while **AirAsia India** has been integrated into **Air India Express**, both of which are part of the **Tata Group's airline portfolio**.

तब से **विस्तारा** का विलय **एयर इंडिया** में हो चुका है, जबकि **एयरएशिया इंडिया** को **एयर इंडिया एक्सप्रेस** में एकीकृत कर दिया गया है, और दोनों ही **टाटा समूह के एयरलाइन पोर्टफोलियो** का हिस्सा हैं।

## Trump's 200% generic tariff threat would imperil Americans: Indian pharma

GS III: Economy  
N. Ravi Kumar  
HYDERABAD

U.S. President Donald Trump has given generic pharmaceutical companies a two-year window to establish manufacturing facilities in the United States, warning that products imported after August 2028 could face tariffs of up to 200%.

The announcement, made on Wednesday through a social media post, has significant implications for India, which sends more than a third of its pharmaceutical exports to the U.S. While Indian drugmakers sought to strike a cautious note, they warned that higher tariffs would ultimately increase medicine costs for American consumers.

Mr. Trump said the measure is intended to encourage generic drug production in the U.S. and reduce dependence on overseas supply chains.

"Effective August 1, 2026, all generic drugs being brought into the United States will continue to have a tariff of zero per cent for a two-year period of time, after which the tariff will be raised to 100% for a one-year period of time, and 200% thereafter," he said. The announcement rattled pharmaceutical stocks. The Nifty Pharma index fell 1.31%, with 18 of its 20 constituent companies closing lower.

"It's not practical to move operations like that to the U.S. overnight. If tar-

**Indian companies account for nearly 47% of all generic prescriptions dispensed in the U.S.**

riffs are imposed, we will have to raise prices," said Dr. Reddy's Laboratories CEO Erez Israeli. He added that the company was not planning any immediate changes and noted that policy positions could evolve over time.

**'India most exposed'**  
According to the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), India is among the countries most exposed to the proposed measure. India exported pharmaceutical products worth \$25.8 billion in 2025, of which \$9.7 billion, or 37.7%, went to the U.S. its largest overseas market. Indian firms account for nearly 47% of all generic prescriptions dispensed in the U.S., making India the largest supplier of affordable generic medicines.

Despite this dominance, generics' low pricing means India's share of the value of U.S. generic imports is estimated at only about 30%.

The U.S. imported pharmaceutical products worth \$213 billion in 2025, including \$94.1 billion worth of finished medicines sold in retail packs. GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said many Indian generics could remain competitive despite the tariffs because they are

significantly cheaper than branded alternatives. However, large-scale relocation of generic drug manufacturing to the U.S. would be challenging, given the industry's reliance on global supply chains and imported active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Granules India Executive Director Priyanka Chigurupati said the company's three U.S. facilities position it well to support increased local manufacturing. However, she cautioned that higher generic drug prices could ripple across the healthcare system and affect patient affordability.

Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Secretary General Sudarshan Jain said Indian companies already have a substantial U.S. presence, with more than 40 facilities supporting jobs, manufacturing and research. India, he said, remains a trusted partner in supplying affordable, quality medicines to American patients. GTRI added that building a fully domestic pharmaceutical supply chain in the U.S. would require significant investment and would almost certainly lead to higher medicine prices.

"The zero-tariff window gives the industry a meaningful runway, and we see this as time we can use productively – to keep strengthening our position across multiple markets rather than relying on any single one," said Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi.

**23J7. Trump's 200% generic tariff threat would imperil Americans: Indian pharma**

**ट्रंप की 200% जेनेरिक टैरिफ की धमकी अमेरिकी नागरिकों के लिए हानिकारक होगी: भारतीय फार्मा उद्योग**

- U.S. President Donald Trump has given generic pharmaceutical companies a two-year window to establish manufacturing facilities in the United States, warning that products imported after August 2028 could face tariffs of up to 200%.

**अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने जेनेरिक दवा कंपनियों को दो वर्ष का समय दिया है कि वे संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका में विनिर्माण इकाइयाँ स्थापित करें, चेतावनी देते हुए कि अगस्त 2028 के बाद आयात किए गए उत्पादों पर 200% तक का टैरिफ लगाया जा सकता है।**

- The announcement, made on Wednesday through a social media post, has significant implications for India, which sends more than a third of its pharmaceutical exports to the U.S.

**बुधवार को सोशल मीडिया पोस्ट के माध्यम से की गई इस घोषणा का भारत पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ता है, क्योंकि भारत अपने दवा निर्यात का एक-तिहाई से अधिक हिस्सा अमेरिका को भेजता है।**

- While Indian drugmakers sought to strike a cautious note, they warned that



higher **tariffs** would ultimately increase **medicine costs** for **American consumers**.

हालाँकि **भारतीय दवा निर्माताओं** ने सावधानीपूर्ण रुख अपनाया, उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि अधिक **टैरिफ** अंततः **अमेरिकी उपभोक्ताओं** के लिए **दवाओं की कीमतें** बढ़ा देंगे।

- Mr. **Trump** said the measure is intended to encourage **generic drug production** in the **U.S.** and reduce dependence on **overseas supply chains**.  
श्री **ट्रंप** ने कहा कि इस कदम का उद्देश्य **अमेरिका** में **जेनेरिक दवाओं के उत्पादन** को बढ़ावा देना और **विदेशी आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं** पर निर्भरता कम करना है।
- "Effective **August 1, 2026**, all **generic drugs** being brought into the **United States** will continue to have a **tariff of zero per cent** for a **two-year period of time**, after which the tariff will be raised to **100%** for a **one-year period of time**, and **200% thereafter**," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा, "**1 अगस्त 2026** से **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका** में लाई जाने वाली सभी **जेनेरिक दवाओं** पर **दो वर्षों तक शून्य प्रतिशत टैरिफ** लागू रहेगा, इसके बाद **एक वर्ष** के लिए **टैरिफ 100%** होगा और उसके बाद **200%** कर दिया जाएगा।"
- The announcement rattled **pharmaceutical stocks**.  
इस घोषणा से **फार्मास्यूटिकल शेयरों** में हलचल मच गई।
- The **Nifty Pharma index** fell **1.31%**, with **18** of its **20 constituent companies** closing lower.  
**निफ्टी फार्मा सूचकांक 1.31%** गिर गया, जिसमें इसकी **20 घटक कंपनियों** में से **18** के शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए।
- "It's not practical to move operations like that to the **U.S.** overnight."  
"इस प्रकार के संचालन को रातों-रात **अमेरिका** स्थानांतरित करना व्यावहारिक नहीं है।
- If **tariffs** are imposed, we will have to raise **prices**," said **Dr. Reddy's Laboratories CEO Erez Israeli**.  
यदि **टैरिफ** लगाया जाता है, तो हमें **कीमतें** बढ़ानी पड़ेंगी," डॉ. **रेड्डीज़ लैबोरेट्रीज़** के सीईओ **एरेज़ इस्राइली** ने कहा।
- He added that the company was not planning any immediate changes and noted that **policy positions** could evolve over time.  
उन्होंने कहा कि कंपनी फिलहाल कोई तत्काल बदलाव करने की योजना नहीं बना रही है और **नीतिगत रुख** समय के साथ बदल सकते हैं।

### 'India most exposed'

#### 'भारत सबसे अधिक प्रभावित'

- According to the **Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI)**, **India** is among the countries most exposed to the proposed measure.  
**ग्लोबल ट्रेड रिसर्च इनिशिएटिव (GTRI)** के अनुसार, प्रस्तावित कदम से सबसे अधिक प्रभावित होने वाले देशों में **भारत** शामिल है।
- **India** exported **pharmaceutical products** worth **\$25.8 billion** in **2025**, of which **\$9.7 billion**, or **37.7%**, went to the **U.S.**, its largest overseas market.  
**भारत** ने **2025** में **25.8 अरब डॉलर** मूल्य के **फार्मास्यूटिकल उत्पादों** का निर्यात किया, जिनमें से **9.7 अरब डॉलर**, अर्थात **37.7%**, **अमेरिका** को भेजे गए, जो उसका सबसे बड़ा विदेशी बाज़ार है।
- **Indian firms** account for nearly **47%** of all **generic prescriptions** dispensed in the **U.S.**, making **India** the largest supplier of affordable **generic medicines**.  
**भारतीय कंपनियाँ अमेरिका** में वितरित सभी **जेनेरिक प्रिस्क्रिप्शनों** का लगभग **47%** हिस्सा उपलब्ध कराती हैं, जिससे **भारत सस्ती जेनेरिक दवाओं** का सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता बन गया है।
- Despite this dominance, **generics'** low pricing means **India's** share of the value of **U.S. generic imports** is estimated at only about **30%**.  
इस प्रभुत्व के बावजूद, **जेनेरिक दवाओं** की कम कीमत के कारण **अमेरिकी जेनेरिक आयात** के कुल मूल्य में **भारत** की हिस्सेदारी केवल लगभग **30%** आँकी जाती है।



- The U.S. imported **pharmaceutical products** worth **\$213 billion** in 2025, including **\$94.1 billion** worth of **finished medicines** sold in retail packs.  
अमेरिका ने 2025 में 213 अरब डॉलर मूल्य के फार्मास्यूटिकल उत्पादों का आयात किया, जिसमें खुदरा पैक में बेची गई 94.1 अरब डॉलर मूल्य की तैयार दवाएँ शामिल थीं।
- GTRI founder **Ajay Srivastava** said many **Indian generics** could remain competitive despite the **tariffs** because they are significantly cheaper than **branded alternatives**.  
GTRI के संस्थापक अजय श्रीवास्तव ने कहा कि कई भारतीय जेनेरिक दवाएँ टैरिफ के बावजूद प्रतिस्पर्धी बनी रह सकती हैं क्योंकि वे ब्रांडेड विकल्पों की तुलना में काफी सस्ती हैं।
- However, large-scale relocation of **generic drug manufacturing** to the U.S. would be challenging, given the industry's reliance on **global supply chains** and imported **active pharmaceutical ingredients**.  
हालाँकि, उद्योग की वैश्विक आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं तथा आयातित एक्टिव फार्मास्यूटिकल इंग्रीडिएंट्स (API) पर निर्भरता को देखते हुए जेनेरिक दवा निर्माण को बड़े पैमाने पर अमेरिका स्थानांतरित करना चुनौतीपूर्ण होगा।
- Granules India Executive Director Priyanka Chigurupati** said the company's **three U.S. facilities** position it well to support increased **local manufacturing**.  
ग्रैन्यूल्स इंडिया की कार्यकारी निदेशक प्रियंका चिगुरुपाटी ने कहा कि कंपनी की अमेरिका में तीन इकाइयाँ उसे बड़े हुए स्थानीय विनिर्माण का समर्थन करने की अच्छी स्थिति में रखती हैं।
- However, she cautioned that higher **generic drug prices** could ripple across the **healthcare system** and affect **patient affordability**.  
हालाँकि, उन्होंने चेतावनी दी कि जेनेरिक दवाओं की ऊँची कीमतें पूरे स्वास्थ्य प्रणाली पर प्रभाव डाल सकती हैं और रोगियों की वहनीयता को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance Secretary General Sudarshan Jain** said **Indian companies** already have a substantial **U.S. presence**, with more than **40 facilities** supporting jobs, manufacturing and research.  
इंडियन फार्मास्यूटिकल अलायंस के महासचिव सुदर्शन जैन ने कहा कि भारतीय कंपनियों की पहले से ही अमेरिका में मजबूत उपस्थिति है, जहाँ 40 से अधिक इकाइयाँ रोजगार, विनिर्माण और अनुसंधान का समर्थन कर रही हैं।
- India**, he said, remains a trusted partner in supplying affordable, quality medicines to **American patients**.  
उन्होंने कहा कि भारत, अमेरिकी मरीजों को किफायती और गुणवत्तापूर्ण दवाएँ उपलब्ध कराने में एक विश्वसनीय साझेदार बना हुआ है।
- GTRI added that building a fully domestic **pharmaceutical supply chain** in the U.S. would require significant investment and would almost certainly lead to higher **medicine prices**.  
GTRI ने कहा कि अमेरिका में पूरी तरह घरेलू फार्मास्यूटिकल आपूर्ति शृंखला विकसित करने के लिए बड़े निवेश की आवश्यकता होगी और इससे लगभग निश्चित रूप से दवाओं की कीमतें बढ़ेंगी।
- "The **zero-tariff window** gives the industry a meaningful runway, and we see this as time we can use productively — to keep strengthening our position across **multiple markets** rather than relying on any single one," said **Pharmexcil Chairman Namit Joshi**.  
फार्मेक्सिल के अध्यक्ष नमित जोशी ने कहा, "शून्य-टैरिफ अवधि उद्योग को सार्थक तैयारी का अवसर देती है और हम इसे अनेक बाजारों में अपनी स्थिति मजबूत करने के लिए उपयोगी समय के रूप में देखते हैं, न कि केवल किसी एक बाजार पर निर्भर रहने के लिए।"



# Net FDI negative in May on \$74 million excess outflow

GS III: Economy

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan  
NEW DELHI

Net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows turned negative once again in May with outflows exceeding inflows by \$74 million, according to the latest Reserve Bank of India data.

This snapped a three-month streak of positive net inflows and was driven by a sharp drop in direct investment entering India.

That is, even though outflows fell, inflows fell by a larger amount.

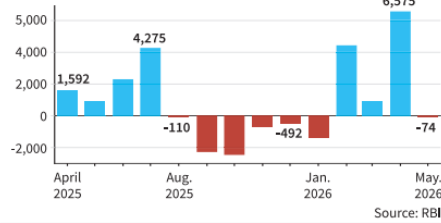
As per the data, the total direct investment entering the country, or gross inflows, stood at about \$6.07 billion in May 2026. This was 60% lower than in April and nearly 23% lower than in May last year.

The RBI's commentary did not speak about May on a standalone basis but instead focused on the April-May 2026 period.

During this period, it said Japan, Singapore, and Mauritius accounted for about 74% of the total equity inflows with financial services receiving the high-

## Negative again

Net FDI turned negative again in May 2026, snapping a 3-month positive streak



(In \$ million)

Source: RBI

est share, followed by manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade and computer services. It added these sectors together accounted for about 80% of total inflows.

### Total outflows

Total outflows stood at \$6.14 billion in May 2026, lower than in April 2026 and May of last year. But total outflows exceeded total inflows by \$74 million.

Within the outflows, outward investment by Indian firms stood at \$2.4 billion in May this year, 49% lower than in April and 9.6% lower than May 2025.

"Of the outward FDI, around 74% of the flows were directed towards the U.S., Cayman Islands and the Netherlands; the major sectors included financial, insurance and business services and manufacturing, accounting for more than 85% of the outward flows during April-May 2026," the RBI said.

The other component of outflows, repatriation and disinvestment by foreign companies operating in India, stood at \$3.7 billion in May 2026. This was 5.1% lower than in April and 13.3% lower than in May of last year.

investment entering the country, or gross inflows, stood at about \$6.07 billion in May 2026. आँकड़ों के अनुसार, मई 2026 में देश में आने वाला कुल प्रत्यक्ष निवेश, अर्थात सकल अंतर्वाह, लगभग 6.07 अरब डॉलर रहा।

- This was 60% lower than in April and nearly 23% lower than in May last year. यह अप्रैल की तुलना में 60% कम तथा पिछले वर्ष के मई की तुलना में लगभग 23% कम था।
- The RBI's commentary did not speak about May on a standalone basis but instead focused on the April-May 2026 period. RBI की टिप्पणी में मई का अलग से उल्लेख नहीं किया गया, बल्कि अप्रैल-मई 2026 की अवधि पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया।
- During this period, it said Japan, Singapore, and Mauritius accounted for about 74% of the total equity inflows with financial services receiving the highest share, followed by manufacturing, retail and wholesale trade and computer services. इस अवधि के दौरान जापान, सिंगापुर और मॉरीशस का कुल इक्विटी निवेश प्रवाह में लगभग 74% योगदान रहा, जबकि वित्तीय सेवाओं को सबसे अधिक हिस्सा मिला, इसके बाद विनिर्माण, खुदरा एवं थोक व्यापार तथा कंप्यूटर सेवाएँ रहीं।
- It added these sectors together accounted for about 80% of total inflows. इसमें यह भी कहा गया कि ये सभी क्षेत्र मिलकर कुल निवेश अंतर्वाह का लगभग 80% हिस्सा थे।

## Total outflows

### कुल बहिर्वाह

- Total outflows stood at \$6.14 billion in May 2026, lower than in April 2026 and May of last year.



मई 2026 में कुल बहिर्वाह 6.14 अरब डॉलर रहा, जो अप्रैल 2026 तथा पिछले वर्ष के मई की तुलना में कम था।

- But total **outflows** exceeded total **inflows** by \$74 million.  
लेकिन कुल बहिर्वाह कुल अंतर्वाह से 74 मिलियन डॉलर अधिक रहा।
- Within the **outflows**, **outward investment** by Indian firms stood at \$2.4 billion in May this year, **49% lower** than in April and **9.6% lower** than May 2025.  
बहिर्वाह के अंतर्गत भारतीय कंपनियों द्वारा किया गया विदेशी निवेश इस वर्ष मई में 2.4 अरब डॉलर रहा, जो अप्रैल की तुलना में 49% कम तथा मई 2025 की तुलना में 9.6% कम था।
- "Of the **outward FDI**, around **74%** of the flows were directed towards the **U.S., Cayman Islands and the Netherlands**; the major sectors included **financial, insurance and business services and manufacturing**, accounting for more than **85%** of the outward flows during April-May 2026," the RBI said.  
RBI ने कहा, "विदेशी प्रत्यक्ष निवेश (Outward FDI) का लगभग 74% प्रवाह अमेरिका, केमैन द्वीपसमूह और नीदरलैंड की ओर गया; जबकि वित्तीय, बीमा, व्यावसायिक सेवाएँ तथा विनिर्माण प्रमुख क्षेत्र रहे, जिनका अप्रैल-मई 2026 के दौरान कुल बाह्य निवेश प्रवाह में 85% से अधिक योगदान था।"
- The other component of **outflows**, **repatriation and disinvestment** by foreign companies operating in India, stood at \$3.7 billion in May 2026.  
बहिर्वाह का दूसरा घटक, अर्थात भारत में कार्यरत विदेशी कंपनियों द्वारा किया गया पूंजी प्रत्यावर्तन (Repatriation) और विनिवेश (Disinvestment), मई 2026 में 3.7 अरब डॉलर रहा।
- This was **5.1% lower** than in April and **13.3% lower** than in May of last year.  
यह अप्रैल की तुलना में 5.1% कम तथा पिछले वर्ष के मई की तुलना में 13.3% कम था।

## Small banks mull tie-ups with GIFT City IBUs to offer leverage to NRIs

GS III: Economy

K Ram Kumar  
MUMBAI

Small and mid-sized private sector banks, which neither have overseas branches nor a GIFT City presence, do not want to be left out of the leverage opportunity when it comes to mobilising fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)/FCNR (B) deposits under the RBI's limited period concessional swap window.

These banks are exploring tie-ups with large Indian banks that have a presence in GIFT City so that their Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers can get the benefit from leverage and place higher amounts as fresh FCNR (B) deposits with a tenor of 3-5 years with them.

If the tie-ups fructify, small and mid-sized private sector banks can issue stand-by letters of credit (SBLs) to their NRI customers.

Based on the strength of the SBLs, customers can obtain loans from large Indian Banks through their

**The banks do not want to be left out when it comes to mobilising fresh FCNR (B) deposits**

International Banking Units (IBUs) in GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City).

The loan proceeds can then be channelised as fresh FCNR (B) deposits with the issuing bank.

Of the 33 banks operating in GIFT City, which is India's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), 18 are Indian, with 10 being private sector banks (PvBs) and 8 public sector banks (PSBs).

Overall, there are 21 PvBs and 11 Small Finance Banks (SFBs) in the country. Several small and mid-sized PvBs along with some SFBs, that do not have a GIFT City presence are considering tie-ups with Indian Banks operating in the IFSC.

As things stand, small and mid-sized PvBs are offering higher interest rates

in the 7.00-7.50% range on fresh FCNR (B) deposits to offset the limitations they face in providing leverage to their NRI customers.

Large banks such as SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Punjab National Bank and Bank of Baroda, which do not face such constraints in providing leverage to their NRI customers, are quoting lower interest rates of about 6%.

P.N. Vasudevan, MD & CEO, Equitas SFB, said: "We have initiated discussions with several banks operating in GIFT City as well as a few foreign banks. Our teams have visited GIFT City and are currently meeting banks in the Middle East to explore possible arrangements."

"However, discussions are still at a very early stage and no agreements have been finalised. We are exploring every possible avenue, but there is no certainty that these discussions will translate into commercial arrangements."

The chief of a PvB observed that GIFT City pri-

marily functions as a funding centre. Therefore, the first priority of banks operating there is to meet the funding requirements of their own customers.

"Only after satisfying internal demand would the IBUs consider extending funding to the customers of other banks. Discussions with the banks there are ongoing," he said.

According to industry estimates, banks are expected to mobilise about \$30-50 billion through fresh FCNR (B) deposits by the end of September 2026 under RBI's limited period measures aimed at boosting dollar liquidity in the banking system and help in stabilising the rupee.

The RBI will bear the full hedging cost for banks raising fresh FCNR (B) deposits with a tenor of three to five years.

It has also exempted these deposits from statutory pre-emptions such as the cash reserve ratio (CRR) and the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

**23J7. Small banks mull tie-ups with GIFT City IBUs to offer leverage to NRIs**

**छोटे बैंक एनआरआई को लीवरेज देने के लिए GIFT City के IBU के साथ साझेदारी पर विचार कर रहे हैं**

- Small and mid-sized private sector banks, which neither have overseas branches nor a GIFT City presence, do not want to be left out of the leverage opportunity when it comes to mobilising fresh Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)/FCNR (B) deposits under the RBI's limited period concessional swap window.



वे छोटे और मध्यम आकार के निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक, जिनकी न तो विदेशी शाखाएँ हैं और न ही GIFT City में उपस्थिति, RBI की सीमित अवधि की रियायती स्वैप सुविधा के तहत नए Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank)/FCNR(B) जमा जुटाने के अवसर से वंचित नहीं रहना चाहते।

- These banks are exploring **tie-ups** with large **Indian banks** that have a presence in **GIFT City** so that their **Non-Resident Indian (NRI)** customers can get the benefit from leverage and place higher amounts as fresh **FCNR (B)** deposits with a tenor of **3-5 years** with them. ये बैंक GIFT City में मौजूद बड़े भारतीय बैंकों के साथ साझेदारी की संभावनाएँ तलाश रहे हैं ताकि उनके अनिवासी भारतीय (NRI) ग्राहक लीवरेज का लाभ प्राप्त कर सकें और 3-5 वर्ष की अवधि के नए FCNR(B) जमा अधिक राशि में कर सकें।
- If the **tie-ups** fructify, small and mid-sized private sector banks can issue **stand-by letters of credit (SBLCs)** to their **NRI** customers. यदि ये साझेदारियाँ सफल होती हैं, तो छोटे और मध्यम निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक अपने NRI ग्राहकों को स्टैंड-बाय लेटर ऑफ क्रेडिट (SBLC) जारी कर सकेंगे।
- Based on the strength of the **SBLCs**, customers can obtain loans from large **Indian Banks** through their **International Banking Units (IBUs)** in **GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City)**. SBLC की विश्वसनीयता के आधार पर ग्राहक GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City) स्थित बड़े भारतीय बैंकों की International Banking Units (IBUs) से ऋण प्राप्त कर सकेंगे।
- The loan proceeds can then be channelised as fresh **FCNR (B)** deposits with the issuing bank. इसके बाद ऋण की राशि को जारी करने वाले बैंक में नए FCNR(B) जमा के रूप में लगाया जा सकेगा।
- Of the **33 banks** operating in **GIFT City**, which is **India's** only **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**, **18** are **Indian**, with **10** being **private sector banks (PvBs)** and **8** **public sector banks (PSBs)**. GIFT City, जो भारत का एकमात्र International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) है, वहाँ कार्यरत 33 बैंकों में से 18 भारतीय हैं, जिनमें 10 निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक (PvBs) और 8 सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक (PSBs) हैं।
- Overall, there are **21 PvBs** and **11 Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** in the country. देश में कुल 21 निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक (PvBs) और 11 स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक (SFBs) हैं।
- Several small and mid-sized **PvBs** along with some **SFBs**, that do not have a **GIFT City** presence are considering tie-ups with **Indian Banks** operating in the **IFSC**. कई छोटे और मध्यम आकार के निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक (PvBs) तथा कुछ स्मॉल फाइनेंस बैंक (SFBs), जिनकी GIFT City में उपस्थिति नहीं है, IFSC में कार्यरत भारतीय बैंकों के साथ साझेदारी पर विचार कर रहे हैं।
- As things stand, small and mid-sized **PvBs** are offering higher interest rates in the **7.00-7.50%** range on fresh **FCNR (B)** deposits to offset the limitations they face in providing leverage to their **NRI** customers. वर्तमान में छोटे और मध्यम आकार के निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक अपने NRI ग्राहकों को लीवरेज न दे पाने की सीमा की भरपाई के लिए नए FCNR(B) जमा पर 7.00-7.50% की उच्च ब्याज दर दे रहे हैं।
- Large banks such as **SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Punjab National Bank** and **Bank of Baroda**, which do not face such constraints in providing leverage to their **NRI** customers, are quoting lower interest rates of about **6%**. SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, पंजाब नेशनल बैंक और बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा जैसे बड़े बैंक, जिन्हें अपने NRI ग्राहकों को लीवरेज देने में ऐसी बाधाओं का सामना नहीं करना पड़ता, लगभग 6% की कम ब्याज दर दे रहे हैं।
- **P. N. Vasudevan, MD & CEO, Equitas SFB**, said: "We have initiated discussions with several banks operating in **GIFT City** as well as a few foreign banks. Equitas SFB के एमडी एवं सीईओ पी. एन. वासुदेवन ने कहा, "हमने GIFT City में कार्यरत कई बैंकों तथा कुछ विदेशी बैंकों के साथ बातचीत शुरू की है।"
- Our teams have visited **GIFT City** and are currently meeting banks in the **Middle East** to explore possible arrangements.



हमारी टीम **GIFT City** का दौरा कर चुकी हैं और वर्तमान में संभावित व्यवस्थाओं की खोज के लिए मध्य पूर्व के बैंकों से मिल रही हैं।

- "However, discussions are still at a very early stage and no agreements have been finalised. "हालाँकि, बातचीत अभी प्रारंभिक चरण में है और कोई समझौता अंतिम रूप नहीं ले पाया है।
- We are exploring every possible avenue, but there is no certainty that these discussions will translate into commercial arrangements."  
हम हर संभव विकल्प की तलाश कर रहे हैं, लेकिन यह निश्चित नहीं है कि ये चर्चाएँ व्यावसायिक व्यवस्थाओं में बदलेंगी।"
- The chief of a **PvB** observed that **GIFT City** primarily functions as a **funding centre**.  
एक निजी क्षेत्र के बैंक के प्रमुख ने कहा कि **GIFT City** मुख्य रूप से फंडिंग सेंटर के रूप में कार्य करता है।
- Therefore, the first priority of banks operating there is to meet the funding requirements of their own customers.  
इसलिए वहाँ कार्यरत बैंकों की पहली प्राथमिकता अपने ग्राहकों की वित्तीय आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करना होती है।
- "Only after satisfying internal demand would the **IBUs** consider extending funding to the customers of other banks.  
"आंतरिक मांग पूरी होने के बाद ही **IBUs** अन्य बैंकों के ग्राहकों को वित्त उपलब्ध कराने पर विचार करेंगे।
- Discussions with the banks there are ongoing," he said.  
उन्होंने कहा कि वहाँ के बैंकों के साथ बातचीत जारी है।
- According to **industry estimates**, banks are expected to mobilise about **\$30-50 billion** through fresh **FCNR (B)** deposits by the end of **September 2026** under **RBI's** limited period measures aimed at boosting **dollar liquidity** in the banking system and help in stabilising the **rupee**.  
उद्योग के अनुमान के अनुसार, बैंकिंग प्रणाली में डॉलर तरलता बढ़ाने और रुपये को स्थिर करने के उद्देश्य से **RBI** की सीमित अवधि की योजना के तहत सितंबर 2026 के अंत तक बैंक नए **FCNR(B)** जमा के माध्यम से लगभग **30-50 अरब डॉलर** जुटा सकते हैं।
- The **RBI** will bear the full **hedging cost** for banks raising fresh **FCNR (B)** deposits with a tenor of **three to five years**.  
**RBI**, तीन से पाँच वर्ष की अवधि वाले नए **FCNR(B)** जमा जुटाने वाले बैंकों का पूरा हेजिंग खर्च वहन करेगा।
- It has also exempted these deposits from statutory pre-emptions such as the **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** and the **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)**.  
इसके अतिरिक्त, इन जमाओं को वैधानिक आवश्यकताओं जैसे कैश रिज़र्व रेशियो (CRR) और स्टैच्यूटरी लिक्विडिटी रेशियो (SLR) से भी छूट प्रदान की गई है।

| <b>GS Paper III: Science and Technology</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>23 July 2026</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>TOPICS COVERED</b>                       |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                     |
| <b>23J7</b>                                 | <b>Convergent Perils: Luminaries Warn Against Outsourcing Human Ethics to AI</b><br>अभिसारी खतरे: प्रख्यात व्यक्तित्वों ने कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को मानवीय नैतिकता सौंपने के प्रति चेताया |                     |
| <b>23J7</b>                                 | <b>Are pellet guns being used at protests?</b><br>क्या विरोध प्रदर्शनों में पेलेट गनों का उपयोग किया जा रहा है?                                                                         |                     |





# Convergent perils: luminaries against human ethics being outsourced to AI

In mid-July, a group of Nobel laureates, AI scientists, and other luminaries signed the 'Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace' which calls for an international treaty to ban autonomous systems from accessing nuclear launches while emphasising that the threat is not so far-fetched

Krishna Ravi Srinivas

The view that artificial intelligence (AI) can pose an existential threat to humankind using technologies like nuclear weapons has been around for some years now. Last year, after examining such threats and risks, one study from the RAND Corporation, a global policy think-tank, argued that such risks could not be ruled out.

The study also went on to identify four capabilities that it said AI will have to possess in order to pose an existential threat: (i) integration with key cyber-physical systems, (ii) the ability to survive without human maintainers, (iii) the objective to cause human extinction, and (iv) the ability to persuade or deceive humans to avoid detection.

But recent developments, including the conflicts in West and South Asia and in Eastern Europe, have kept concerns that mix nuclear weapons and AI alive.

In the absence of a specific treaty to address such a threat, on July 26, a group of Nobel laureates, AI scientists, religious leaders, and other luminaries signed the so-called 'Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace'. The Declaration calls for an international treaty to ban autonomous systems from accessing nuclear launches while emphasising that the threat is also not so far-fetched.

Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's encyclical *Magna Carta Humana*, which issued a "clarion call" to protect human dignity against technological overreach, the Declaration can be read more as a mudge than as an impactful push for a treaty. At present, there is no consensus among countries on what such a treaty should cover or even on banning AI with autonomous capabilities on the war front.

## Principles of the Declaration

The Declaration articulates six principles (quoted verbatim):

- (i) Disarming the next arms race,
- (ii) Responsible development,
- (iii) Responsible use of AI,
- (iv) Responsible governance,
- (v) Responsible leadership, and
- (vi) Nuclear disarmament.

To these ends, it also put forth five ethical and operational principles, as follows (also quoted verbatim):

1. "Mandatory meaningful human control" – absolutely prohibiting any automated, algorithmic or AI-driven system from making the final decision regarding the use or deployment of nuclear weapons.

2. "The digital commons' model" – based on the fact that those who do not have access or control over technologies such as AI are likely to be affected more by its unintended consequences based on this, the Declaration calls for more data for experts to better understand existential threats, including ungrounded AI.

3. "Responsible development" – a mandate for the developers of AI to publish the ethical frameworks guiding their models and explicitly forbidding the pursuit of fully autonomous and self-improving systems that cannot be monitored, audited or abruptly halted by human operators.

4. "Internal arsenal vulnerability audit" – an urgent request to the world's nuclear states to conduct rigorous internal reviews to protect existing atomic command-and-control systems from AI-driven cyber tampering or unauthorized algorithmic interference.

5. "Time-bound, verifiable disarmament" – a renewal of good-faith international negotiations in pursuit of complete, irreversible, and verifiably eliminating nuclear weapons.

A necessary declaration  
The Declaration is timely and commendable. To understand why, one must look past the standard anti-war rhetoric and towards the contemporary operational realities of geopolitics, military technologies, and the ways in which AI is being used. Indeed, the Declaration text well reflects the concerns over the acute systemic crises that have been fuelled of late by several dangerous factors and growing faultlines.

For instance, the concept of 'mutually assured destruction' – in which opposing sides avoid attacking each other with nuclear weapons because a first strike could trigger devastating retaliation, destroying both parties – relied heavily on human hesitation, diplomatic backchannels, and moral pause. During the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and the 1983 Soviet nuclear false alarm incident involving Stanislav Petrov, disaster was averted precisely because human beings exercised caution, intuition, scepticism,



AI-driven systems operate at speeds that compress decision-making windows to just seconds. So when an algorithm flags what it has concluded is a threat, a human operator may not have the window of time required to critically verify the data or de-escalate. Representative illustration. [www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/ai-driven-systems](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-vector/ai-driven-systems)

and moral choice.

However, AI-driven predictive logistics and autonomous battle management systems operate at speeds that compress decision-making windows from several hours to just seconds. So when an algorithm flags what it has concluded is an incoming missile, a human operator caught in an 'automated loop' may not have the practical window of time required to critically verify the data, consult peers, or de-escalate.

Thus, the Declaration recognises that introducing AI into strategic command structures fundamentally replaces human judgment with computational guidance, and could eliminate the 'safety valve' that is human doubt and hesitation. In these scenarios, the human in the loop may also be overwhelmed with panic or uneasiness and may go with the machine's suggested assessment.

Second, large language models and deep neural networks are plagued by well-documented failure modes such as hallucinations and data poisoning (maliciously corrupting training data to manipulate AI behaviour). In normal circumstances, a malfunctioning algorithm may result in a corrupted image or a faulty prediction, with insufficient time to rectify that. And in a geopolitical crisis, an algorithm misinterpreting an image or a routine network ping as an imminent, clear, and major threat could automatically trigger a retaliatory sequence as the logical response. Worse, an algorithmic false positive that compresses the decision window to a few seconds to respond or decide could result in an unintentional retaliation, with unforeseen or even catastrophic consequences.

Since the reasoning of most AI models also happens within a 'black box', relying on them to guide decisions that could affect millions of lives is the anti-thesis of ethical and scientific responsibility.

Third, the global order is in deep crisis. Decades of hard-won security architecture – whether the

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Open Skies Treaty or New START – are testing. At the same time, an uncontrolled, multipolar arms race is underway as nuclear nations actively expand or modernise their stockpiles. In the absence of a binding moral and legal framework, a dangerous security dilemma could arise in which state actors feel compelled to automate their defence network out of fear that their adversaries already possess or will possess an algorithmic speed advantage.

The Declaration thus speaks on the need to break this cycle of paranoia, and provides an objective baseline of restraint that treats human control not as a binding legal prerequisite.

Fourth, drawing the concept of an "unarmed and disarming peace" from Pope Leo XIV, the signatories point out that the current trajectory of frontier AI development is *prima facie* a destabilising force. When technologies become concentrated in the hands of a few companies and/or nations, and are used to entrench military dominance, they cease to be neutral. In fact, they heighten security anxieties among non-nuclear states. And the Declaration correctly identifies that true peace requires dismantling the underlying motivations for violence, such as fear, systemic hubris, and the illusion of absolute safety through digital dominance.

Iran's nuclear programme  
Real-world geopolitical crises are currently testing the fears that the Declaration seeks to allay – and perhaps no more so than the volatile trajectory of the Iranian nuclear programme, which has been marked by, among other things, direct military engagements and complex diplomatic stalemates.

Following Iran's breaches of its non-proliferation obligations and subsequent major joint military strikes by the U.S. and Israel, the traditional architecture of arms control has been revealed to be completely broken.

In highly contested environments with multiple adversaries, militaries are increasingly leveraging AI for advanced target characterisation and predictive intelligence tracking. When international inspection and diplomatic buffers break down, the states that rely largely on algorithmic data processing to monitor active nuclear facilities also vastly increase the risk of an unverified algorithmic assessment triggering action (as discussed above).

Today, it is possible to use AI to secure underground facilities, optimise advanced centrifuge logistics, and defend against incoming digital intrusions.

However, if the AI system controlling or monitoring an enrichment facility misinterprets a standard network probe or a mere physical strike as the prelude to a devastating attack, its automated defence protocols could trigger an immediate but also disproportionate missile response. And this can happen even before a state has decided on what it should do, including – importantly – whether it should attempt to communicate with other actors.

Asymmetric speed  
A state facing advanced adversaries may also expect more from automating its strategic defence networks. If an actor believes their command structures can be compromised or outpaced by an adversary's AI-driven targeting, they have a strong incentive to pre-delegate response authority to an algorithmic system. The Declaration addresses this fatal scenario and cautions rightly that trying to achieve a tactical speed advantage using automation can pave the way for an unmanageable, spiralling escalation that – beyond a point – no state may be able to safely control.

Thus, in one sense, the 'Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace' is a vital intervention against technological fatalism and blind faith in technology.

It wants humanity to look into a mirror and reflect on the fact that allowing autonomous software to govern nuclear hardware is an existential gamble that humankind can only lose. During the summit when the Declaration was signed, the physicist and Nobel Prize laureate David Gross said the ultimate success of the text lies in generating intense public awareness that then drives grassroots pressure. The Declaration also provides the moral, philosophical, and technical lexicon necessary to challenge the uncontrolled militarisation of the digital frontier. The theory fact is that while technology can be automated, our collective ethical responsibility – required to ensure the survival of future generations – must never be outsourced to a machine or a system driven by AI, no matter how intelligent it is made to be.

How the world's states respond to the Declaration's calls to action remains to be seen. Given the fact that many states are also reluctant to negotiate and sign a treaty that deals with the use and role of AI in warfare, the goals of the Declaration seem ambitious. But there must be no doubt that its warnings are on point. *Krishna Ravi Srinivas is DPhil-IPR Chair Professor and director, Centre of Excellence in AI and Law, NLSIU (University of Law, Hyderabad). [kravsrinivas@gmail.com](mailto:kravsrinivas@gmail.com)*

## 23J7. Convergent Perils: Luminaries Warn Against Outsourcing Human Ethics to AI

अभिसारी खतरे: प्रख्यात व्यक्तित्वों ने कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता को मानवीय नैतिकता सौंपने के प्रति चेताया

• In mid-July, a group comprising Nobel Prize winners, AI researchers, and several other distinguished personalities endorsed the Rome Declaration for an Unarmed and Disarming Peace.

जुलाई के मध्य में नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेताओं, कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता विशेषज्ञों तथा अनेक अन्य प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तित्वों के एक समूह ने 'निःशस्त्र एवं निरस्त्रीकरण शांति हेतु रोम घोषणा' का समर्थन किया।

• The declaration urges countries to negotiate an international treaty that would prohibit autonomous AI systems from having any role in nuclear weapon launch decisions.

इस घोषणा में देशों से आग्रह किया गया है कि वे एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि तैयार करें, जिसके माध्यम से स्वायत्त कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियों को परमाणु हथियारों के प्रक्षेपण संबंधी निर्णयों से पूर्णतः दूर रखा जाए।

• It also stresses that the possibility of AI influencing nuclear weapons should not be dismissed as an unrealistic or distant concern.

घोषणा में यह भी रेखांकित किया गया है कि कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता द्वारा परमाणु हथियारों को प्रभावित करने की आशंका को काल्पनिक या अत्यंत दूर की संभावना मानकर नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं

किया जाना चाहिए।

- The Declaration lays down six core principles that should guide the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in matters affecting global peace and security.

घोषणा में छह प्रमुख सिद्धांतों का उल्लेख किया गया है, जो वैश्विक शांति और सुरक्षा से जुड़े मामलों में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के उत्तरदायी उपयोग का मार्गदर्शन करते हैं।

- The first principle calls for preventing a new global arms race driven by advanced technologies.

पहला सिद्धांत उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकियों के कारण उत्पन्न होने वाली नई वैश्विक हथियारों की दौड़ को रोकने पर बल देता है।



- The second principle stresses the need for the **responsible development of AI**.  
दूसरा सिद्धांत कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के उत्तरदायी विकास पर विशेष जोर देता है।
- The third principle highlights the importance of the **responsible use of AI** in every field.  
तीसरा सिद्धांत प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता के उत्तरदायी उपयोग की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।
- The fourth principle advocates **responsible governance** to regulate emerging technologies effectively.  
चौथा सिद्धांत उभरती प्रौद्योगिकियों के प्रभावी नियमन हेतु उत्तरदायी शासन व्यवस्था का समर्थन करता है।
- The fifth principle places responsibility on **leaders and policymakers** to act with foresight and accountability.  
पाँचवाँ सिद्धांत नेताओं और नीति-निर्माताओं से दूरदर्शिता एवं उत्तरदायित्व के साथ कार्य करने की अपेक्षा करता है।
- The sixth principle reaffirms the long-term objective of **global nuclear disarmament**.  
छठा सिद्धांत वैश्विक परमाणु निरस्त्रीकरण के दीर्घकालिक लक्ष्य की पुनः पुष्टि करता है।
- The declaration also recommends **five ethical and operational principles** to translate these objectives into practical action.  
इन उद्देश्यों को व्यवहार में लागू करने के लिए घोषणा पाँच नैतिक एवं परिचालन संबंधी सिद्धांतों का भी प्रस्ताव करती है।
- The first recommendation requires **meaningful human control**, ensuring that the ultimate decision to use **nuclear weapons** always remains with human beings rather than automated or AI-based systems.  
पहली अनुशंसा सार्थक मानवीय नियंत्रण को अनिवार्य मानती है, ताकि परमाणु हथियारों के उपयोग का अंतिम निर्णय सदैव मनुष्यों के हाथ में रहे, न कि स्वचालित या कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित प्रणालियों के पास।
- The second recommendation promotes the idea of a **digital commons**, encouraging broader access to data so that experts can better understand the dangers posed by **ungoverned AI**.  
दूसरी अनुशंसा डिजिटल कॉमन्स की अवधारणा को बढ़ावा देती है, जिससे विशेषज्ञों को अधिक डेटा उपलब्ध हो सके और वे अनियंत्रित कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता से उत्पन्न खतरों को बेहतर ढंग से समझ सकें।
- The third recommendation expects **AI developers** to publicly explain the ethical standards guiding their systems and discourages the creation of fully autonomous systems beyond meaningful human oversight.  
तीसरी अनुशंसा कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता विकसित करने वालों से अपेक्षा करती है कि वे अपने मॉडलों के नैतिक मानकों को सार्वजनिक करें तथा ऐसे पूर्णतः स्वायत्त तंत्रों के विकास से बचें जिन पर प्रभावी मानवीय निगरानी संभव न हो।
- The fourth recommendation asks **nuclear-armed countries** to thoroughly examine their command-and-control infrastructure for vulnerabilities arising from **AI-enabled cyber interference**.  
चौथी अनुशंसा परमाणु हथियार संपन्न देशों से आग्रह करती है कि वे अपनी कमान एवं नियंत्रण प्रणालियों की कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता आधारित साइबर हस्तक्षेप से जुड़ी कमजोरियों की गहन समीक्षा करें।
- The fifth recommendation urges countries to resume sincere negotiations aimed at achieving **verifiable, irreversible and complete nuclear disarmament**.  
पाँचवीं अनुशंसा देशों से सत्यापन योग्य, अपरिवर्तनीय और पूर्ण परमाणु निरस्त्रीकरण के उद्देश्य से ईमानदार अंतरराष्ट्रीय वार्ता पुनः प्रारम्भ करने का आग्रह करती है।

## A Necessary Declaration

### एक आवश्यक घोषणा

- The declaration has been released at an appropriate time and addresses an increasingly important global concern.  
यह घोषणा ऐसे समय में प्रस्तुत की गई है जब यह विषय वैश्विक स्तर पर अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बन चुका है।



- For decades, the idea of **Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)** discouraged nuclear conflict because leaders understood that any first strike would inevitably invite devastating retaliation. कई दशकों तक पारस्परिक सुनिश्चित विनाश (MAD) की अवधारणा ने परमाणु युद्ध को रोके रखा, क्योंकि नेताओं को ज्ञात था कि प्रथम हमला विनाशकारी प्रतिघात को अवश्य जन्म देगा।
- Historic events such as the **1962 Cuban Missile Crisis** and the **1983 Soviet nuclear false alarm** demonstrated that human judgment, caution and moral responsibility helped prevent catastrophe.  
**1962 के क्यूबा मिसाइल संकट** तथा **1983 की सोवियत परमाणु झूठी चेतावनी** जैसी घटनाओं ने सिद्ध किया कि मानवीय विवेक, सावधानी और नैतिक निर्णय ने संभावित आपदा को टालने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।
- The declaration warns that replacing **human judgment with algorithmic guidance removes the natural caution that has historically prevented accidental escalation**.  
घोषणा चेतावनी देती है कि **मानवीय निर्णय क्षमता** के स्थान पर **एल्गोरिदमिक मार्गदर्शन** अपनाने से वह स्वाभाविक सावधानी समाप्त हो सकती है जिसने अतीत में अनेक संकटों को बढ़ने से रोका।
- In highly stressful situations, people may simply accept the recommendation generated by a machine without adequate scrutiny.  
अत्यधिक तनावपूर्ण परिस्थितियों में लोग पर्याप्त परीक्षण किए बिना मशीन द्वारा दिए गए सुझाव को स्वीकार कर सकते हैं।
- The declaration also points out that **large language models** and other advanced AI systems continue to suffer from issues such as **hallucinations and data poisoning**.  
घोषणा यह भी इंगित करती है कि **बड़े भाषा मॉडल** तथा अन्य उन्नत कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियाँ अभी भी **हैलुसिनेशन और डेटा पॉइज़निंग** जैसी समस्याओं से प्रभावित हैं।
- Because many AI systems function as black boxes, their internal reasoning cannot always be fully understood or independently verified**.  
चूँकि अनेक कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता प्रणालियाँ **ब्लैक बॉक्स** की तरह कार्य करती हैं, इसलिए उनकी आंतरिक निर्णय प्रक्रिया को पूरी तरह समझना या स्वतंत्र रूप से सत्यापित करना हमेशा संभव नहीं होता।

## Why the Declaration Matters

### यह घोषणा क्यों महत्वपूर्ण है

- The **Rome Declaration** reminds governments that technological progress must always remain consistent with **ethical responsibility**.  
**रोम घोषणा** सरकारों को स्मरण कराती है कि तकनीकी प्रगति सदैव **नैतिक उत्तरदायित्व** के अनुरूप होनी चाहिए।
- Its central message is that machines should assist people rather than replace **human responsibility** in decisions that could affect millions of lives.  
इसका मूल संदेश यह है कि मशीनें मनुष्यों की सहायता करें, न कि करोड़ों लोगों के जीवन को प्रभावित करने वाले निर्णयों में **मानवीय उत्तरदायित्व** का स्थान लें

# Are pellet guns being used at protests?

Pellet guns are used by police and military worldwide as a non-lethal crowd-control measure. They were last known to have been used during the 2024 farmers' protest along the Punjab-Haryana border. Though police denied their use, farmer leaders had alleged that several people were injured.

GS III: S&T

EXPLAINER

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

At least one of the 80 protesters injured in police action during the march to Parliament on Monday (July 20), called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) sustained pellet gun injuries. The victim identified as Shaikh Irshad Mansoori (25), a resident of Gurugram, underwent surgery at a government hospital to remove the pellets lodged under his eye. Most pellets were lodged in the upper part of his body.

Another video of a woman being stunned by a "shock baton," also emerged on Tuesday (July 21). The use of pellet guns and shock batons against civilian protesters, appears to be the first in Delhi.

What are pellet guns?

Pellet guns, whose technical name is 'pump action guns', are a form of non-lethal crowd-control method used by police and military worldwide. The other popular measures are tear gas, water cannon, pepper spray and taser guns among others.

Pellet guns are also popular in hunting and pest control. Intended to immobilise an individual, they are effective over short ranges of up to 500 yards but when fired from close quarters can be lethal, particularly when sensitive parts like the eyes are hit. The pellets can penetrate soft tissues.

What happened during the July 20 protest in Delhi?

There are standing instructions to open minimal fire at protesters and if necessary "below their waist." A cartridge of a pellet gun contains a few hundred pellets made of lead, which disperses a few hundred metres when fired. Pellets can be of various shapes either like ball bearings or irregular. They are manufactured at the Ordnance Factory, Ishapore.



While Delhi Police has denied its use against protesters, pellet guns are part of the RAF's gear. ANI

While the Delhi Police have denied its use against protesters, pellets guns and shock batons are part of the gear of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) – the anti-riot unit under the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) – which was deployed alongside police personnel on July 20 and continues to be deployed near the Jantar Mantar protest site.

On Monday, the victim Shaikh Irshad Mansoori was hit near Palika Bazaar by a RAF official. His friend said that there are around 30-40 injuries on his face and across his body. Four of them, including one in the neck, had penetrated deeply, which is why he underwent surgery.

Originally from Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Mansoori works at a private company in Gurugram and was attending the protests in solidarity. He also had some visa-related work in New Delhi, which he was supposed to finish after the protest.

What is the first known usage of pellet guns?

Pellet guns were first deployed in Jammu

and Kashmir after Kashmir Valley's summer unrest of 2010 that claimed the lives of 112 protesters in police firing. The then Congress-led government at the Centre deployed pellet guns as a "non-lethal" measure to avoid civilian fatalities.

After violent protests broke out in the Kashmir Valley post July 8, 2016 – when the Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander Burhan Wani was killed in an encounter with security forces – several people were blinded due to injuries inflicted by pellet guns, used by the CRPF as a crowd control measure.

Why were its specifications changed?

In 2016, the BJP-PDP government faced severe criticism for using pellet guns, with several political parties asking for its complete withdrawal. Due to the use of pellet guns, 13 people were killed in 2016 and more than 250 were injured, while some lost their vision.

In 2017, a year later, the first batch of less lethal "plastic bullets" were dispatched to the Kashmir Valley. The

plastic bullets were tested at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh and could be fired from the weapons that the security forces already possessed. Instead of metal, this round of ammunition had a plastic head.

In 2016, 1,022 CRPF personnel were also injured in stone-pelting by protesters. Of these, 956 were injured in the Valley between July 8 and 16 during the unrest.

What is the last definitively known use of pellet guns in the country?

They were last known to have been used during the 2024 farmers protest at Khanauri and Shambhu barriers along the Punjab-Haryana border. Though the police denied using pellet guns, farmer leaders had alleged that several persons were injured.

In 2023, they were used against protesters in the ethnic-strife torn Manipur, leading to a massive public outrage.

What about shock batons?

Shock batons are also a part of the RAF personnel gear.

In 2021, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), through the Border Security Force (BSF), prescribed Qualitative Requirements (QRs) for handheld 'Shock Batons' intended for self-defence and operational use by security personnel. It said that the equipment should be light weight, with a maximum weight of 1 kg and a length of 450 mm to 700 mm, ensuring ease of carriage and handling. It must be constructed from high-impact resistant material, capable of functioning reliably in temperatures ranging from -20°C to +50°C and offering a minimum level of water resistance.

The shock baton should have a service life of at least five years and be powered by a rechargeable battery. Additional requirements include the capability to deliver at least 1,000 quarter-second shock bursts on full charge, thereby ensuring sustained operational effectiveness in field conditions.

THE GIST

At least one of the 80 protesters injured in police action during the march to Parliament on Monday, called by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) sustained pellet gun injuries.

Pellet guns were first deployed in Jammu and Kashmir after Kashmir Valley's summer unrest of 2010 that claimed the lives of 112 protesters in police firing.

## 23J7. Are pellet guns being used at protests?

क्या विरोध प्रदर्शनों में पेलेट गनों का उपयोग किया जा रहा है?

- **Pellet guns**, whose technical name is '**pump action guns**', are a form of **non-lethal crowd-control method** used by **police and military** worldwide.

पेलेट गन, जिनका तकनीकी नाम 'पंप एक्शन गन' है, विश्वभर में पुलिस और सैन्य बलों द्वारा प्रयुक्त गैर-घातक भीड़-नियंत्रण उपाय का एक रूप है।

- The other popular measures are **tear gas**, **water cannon**, **pepper spray** and **taser guns** among others.

अन्य लोकप्रिय उपायों में आँसू गैस, वॉटर कैनन, पेपर स्प्रे तथा टेज़र गन आदि शामिल हैं।

- **Pellet guns** are also popular in **hunting** and **pest control**.

पेलेट गनों का उपयोग शिकार और कीट नियंत्रण में भी व्यापक रूप से किया जाता है।

- Intended to immobilise an individual, they are effective over short ranges of up to **500 yards** but when fired from close quarters can be lethal, particularly when sensitive parts like the **eyes** are hit.

किसी व्यक्ति को निष्क्रिय करने के उद्देश्य से बनाई गई ये गन 500 गज तक की कम दूरी पर प्रभावी होती हैं, लेकिन यदि निकट दूरी से चलाई जाएँ तो घातक भी हो सकती हैं, विशेषकर जब आँखों जैसे संवेदनशील अंग प्रभावित हों।





- The pellets can penetrate **soft tissues**.  
पेलेट कोमल ऊतकों (सॉफ्ट टिश्यू) में प्रवेश कर सकते हैं।
- There are standing instructions to **open minimal fire at protesters and if necessary "below their waist."**  
प्रदर्शनकारियों पर न्यूनतम गोलीबारी करने तथा आवश्यकता होने पर "कमर के नीचे" निशाना लगाने के स्थायी निर्देश हैं।
- A cartridge of a **pellet gun** contains a few hundred **pellets made of lead**, which disperses a few hundred metres when fired.  
पेलेट गन के एक कारतूस में सीसे (लेड) से बने कई सौ पेलेट होते हैं, जो चलाने पर कई सौ मीटर तक फैल जाते हैं।
- **Pellets can be of various shapes either like ball bearings or irregular.**  
पेलेट विभिन्न आकारों के हो सकते हैं, जैसे बॉल बेयरिंग के समान या अनियमित आकार के।
- They are manufactured at the **Ordinance Factory, Ishapore.**  
इनका निर्माण ऑर्डिनेंस फैक्टरी, ईशापुर में किया जाता है।
- **Pellet guns were first deployed in Jammu and Kashmir after Kashmir Valley's summer unrest of 2010 that claimed the lives of 112 protesters in police firing.**  
पेलेट गनों को पहली बार जम्मू-कश्मीर में 2010 की कश्मीर घाटी की ग्रीष्मकालीन अशांति के बाद तैनात किया गया, जिसमें पुलिस गोलीबारी में 112 प्रदर्शनकारियों की मृत्यु हुई थी।
- In 2017, a year later, the first batch of less lethal "**plastic bullets**" were dispatched to the Kashmir Valley.  
2017 में, एक वर्ष बाद, कम घातक "प्लास्टिक बुलेट्स" की पहली खेप कश्मीर घाटी भेजी गई।
- The plastic bullets were tested at the **Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh** and could be fired from the weapons that the security forces already possessed.  
इन प्लास्टिक बुलेट्स का परीक्षण चंडीगढ़ स्थित टर्मिनल बैलिस्टिक्स रिसर्च लेबोरेटरी (TBRL) में किया गया और इन्हें सुरक्षा बलों के पास पहले से उपलब्ध हथियारों से दागा जा सकता था।
- **Shock batons are also a part of the RAF personnel gear.**  
शॉक बैटन भी RAF कर्मियों के उपकरणों का हिस्सा हैं।
- It must be constructed from **high-impact resistant material**, capable of functioning reliably in temperatures ranging from **-20°C to +50°C** and offering a minimum level of **water resistance**.  
इसे उच्च आघात-प्रतिरोधी सामग्री से निर्मित होना चाहिए, जो -20°C से +50°C तक के तापमान में विश्वसनीय रूप से कार्य कर सके तथा न्यूनतम स्तर की जल-प्रतिरोधक क्षमता प्रदान करे।
- The **shock baton** should have a service life of at least **five years** and be powered by a **rechargeable battery**.  
शॉक बैटन की सेवा आयु कम-से-कम पाँच वर्ष होनी चाहिए तथा यह रिचार्जबल बैटरी से संचालित होना चाहिए।
- Additional requirements include the capability to deliver at least **1,000 quarter-second shock bursts** on full charge, thereby ensuring sustained operational effectiveness in **field conditions**.  
अतिरिक्त आवश्यकताओं में पूर्ण चार्ज पर कम-से-कम 1,000 क्वार्टर-सेकंड शॉक बर्स्ट देने की क्षमता शामिल है, जिससे मैदानी परिस्थितियों में निरंतर परिचालन प्रभावशीलता सुनिश्चित की जा सके।