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THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

07 AUGUST 2026

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No to bloodshed: Students participate in a peace rally to commemorate Hiroshima Day at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai on Thursday. During the event they pledged to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons.



No to bloodshed: Students participate in a peace rally to commemorate Hiroshima Day at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai on Thursday. During the event they pledged to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons. PTI

Hiroshima Day & the Atomic Bombings of Japan

Hiroshima — 6 August 1945

- During the final phase of the **Second World War**, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**.
- The **B-29 bomber Enola Gay**, piloted by **Colonel Paul Tibbets**, dropped the bomb at approximately **8:15 a.m. local time**.
- The bomb was nicknamed **“Little Boy.”** It was a **uranium-235 gun-type fission weapon** with an explosive yield of roughly **15 kilotons of TNT**.
- The explosion and its immediate effects killed **tens of thousands of people**. By the end of **1945**, estimates commonly put Hiroshima's death toll at around **140,000**, although precise numbers are inherently uncertain. Survivors subsequently experienced burns, radiation sickness, cancers and other long-term consequences.

Nagasaki — 9 August 1945

Just **three days later**, on **9 August 1945**, the United States dropped another atomic bomb on **Nagasaki**.

This bomb was called **“Fat Man.”** Unlike Little Boy, it was a **plutonium-239 implosion-type weapon**, with a yield of approximately **21 kilotons**.

It was **dropped by the B-29 Bockscar**, commanded by **Major Charles Sweeney**. Approximately **70,000 people** in Nagasaki are estimated to have died by the end of 1945.

Key Comparison

Feature	Hiroshima	Nagasaki
Date	6 August 1945	9 August 1945
Bomb	Little Boy	Fat Man
Fissile material	Uranium-235	Plutonium-239
Design	Gun-type	Implosion-type
Aircraft	Enola Gay	Bockscar
Approx. yield	15 kilotons	21 kilotons
Estimated deaths by end-1945	~140,000	~70,000

What happened after the bombings?



On **8 August 1945**, the **Soviet Union declared war on Japan** and entered the war against Japanese forces in Asia.

On **15 August 1945**, Emperor **Hirohito** announced Japan's acceptance of the Allied terms of surrender. The formal surrender was signed aboard the **USS Missouri** on **2 September 1945**, bringing the Second World War formally to an end.

Hibakusha

- **Hibakusha**, literally referring to **people affected by the atomic bombings**.
- It is commonly used for survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings.
- Many Hibakusha suffered not merely immediate injuries but also the long-term **consequences of ionising radiation**, including increased risks of certain cancers. Survivors also faced significant social discrimination.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

- **Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (1903–1988)** was an Indian **freedom fighter, social reformer, women's rights activist and major promoter of Indian handicrafts and handlooms**.
- She was born on **3 April 1903 in Mangalore** (present-day Karnataka).



PCS
Visual Question:
Name this social reformer affectionately called 'Hatkargha Maa' (Handloom Mother) for her monumental role in reviving and promoting handlooms.

Why is she associated with handlooms?

- Kamaladevi strongly believed that India's traditional crafts were not merely decorative objects—they represented **livelihoods, cultural heritage and economic independence**, particularly for rural artisans.
- **Following Independence, she worked extensively to revive handloom weaving, handicrafts and traditional artisan industries.**
- She helped provide craftspeople with institutional support, markets and recognition.
- She was closely associated with institutions and initiatives such as the **All India Handicrafts Board** and the development of platforms for marketing traditional crafts.

What does the nickname “Hatkargha Maa” mean?

- **Hatkargha (हथकरघा)** means **handloom**, while **Maa (माँ)** means mother.
- Thus, the title “**Hatkargha Maa**” essentially conveys “**Mother of Handlooms.**”
- It reflects her contribution to protecting and promoting India's handloom and handicraft traditions.

Her contribution was much broader

- She **participated in the Salt Satyagraha/Civil Disobedience Movement** and was **imprisoned by the British.**

- She **advocated women's political and economic empowerment** at a time when women's participation in public life was comparatively limited.
- After **Partition in 1947**, she was **involved in rehabilitation efforts** for refugees and **became associated with the development of Faridabad** as a settlement for displaced people.
- She also contributed to the creation or development of several important cultural and craft institutions.

Important Awards

- She received the **Padma Bhushan in 1955** and the **Padma Vibhushan in 1987**.
- She was also **awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Community Leadership in 1966**.
- She died on **29 October 1988**.

Celebrate National Handloom Day: PM

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged Indians to mark **National Handloom Day**, which falls on Friday, by sharing videos of their favourite handloom products.

Posting on his Instagram account, Mr. Modi was seen handling various pieces of handloom material from different parts of the country, stating that August 7 (1905) was the day the Swadeshi movement of boycotting foreign goods in favour of Indian goods was launched during the freedom struggle.

He urged people to remember handloom workers and their contribution. "Just as you celebrated Friendship Day recently, do mark Handloom Day and share with the world the excellence and variety of India's Handlooms," he said.



Narendra Modi

"Let's make India's handloom diversity popular. Share your videos with your favourite handloom products, including GRWM videos. Don't forget to use #NationalHandloomDay," he said. GRWM (Get Ready With Me) is a popular Internet trend.

Mr. Modi has increasingly been engaging in Instagram as the social media platform of choice of Gen Z following protests by students after the NEET exam paper leak this year.

07A8. Celebrate National Handloom Day: PM राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस मनाएँ: प्रधानमंत्री

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged Indians to mark **National Handloom Day**, which falls on **Friday**, by sharing videos of their favourite **handloom products**.

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को देशवासियों से **राष्ट्रीय हथकरघा दिवस**, जो **शुक्रवार** को मनाया जाएगा, के अवसर पर अपने पसंदीदा **हथकरघा उत्पादों** के वीडियो साझा करने का आग्रह किया।

- Posting on his **Instagram** account, Mr. Modi was seen handling various pieces of **handloom material** from different parts of the country, stating that **August 7 (1905)** was the day the **Swadeshi movement** of boycotting foreign goods in favour of Indian goods was launched during the **freedom struggle**.

अपने **इंस्टाग्राम** खाते पर साझा किए गए एक वीडियो में श्री मोदी देश के विभिन्न भागों के **हथकरघा उत्पादों** को देखते हुए दिखाई दिए और उन्होंने कहा कि **7 अगस्त (1905)** वह दिन था जब **स्वदेशी आंदोलन**, जिसके अंतर्गत विदेशी वस्तुओं के बहिष्कार और भारतीय वस्तुओं के समर्थन का आह्वान किया गया था, **स्वतंत्रता संग्राम** के दौरान प्रारम्भ हुआ था।

Swadeshi Movement

- Swadeshi Movement **1905/11**.
- Swadeshi movement between **1903-05** was in a moderate phase, between **1905-08** was the extremist phase and between **1908-1911** was the revolutionary phase.

Reasons for the Swadeshi Movement:

- **Curzonian Administration 1899-1905**.
- **Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act 1899** decreases the number of elected members.
- **Indian Universities Act 1904**: Brought universities under stronger government control as Curzon, believed that universities are becoming factories of sedition.
- **Indian Officials Secrets Amendment Act 1904**: It reduced freedom of the press.
- Partition of Bengal October 1905.



- The goal was to divide Indians on basis of language and religion i.e. policy of divide and rule.



Visual question: What is this plate of balanced food called? GETTY IMAGES

Answers to previous edition's quiz

1. This number has been doing the rounds in media reports of late: the replacement level of the total fertility rate. **Ans: 2.1** 2. Is

the following statement true or false? A woman's eggs increase until she reaches puberty. **Ans: False** 3. The two hormones necessary for the production of sperm are

_____ and _____. **Ans: FSH and LH**

4. Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS) is a common, but treatable cause of infertility. This condition recently underwent a name change. What is it called now? **Ans: PMOS** 5. What is one of the few temporary organs of the human body that forms part of the reproductive health system? **Ans: Placenta** 6. The reproductive system contains the largest and smallest human cells. Name them. **Ans: Sperm cells and egg cells**

Visual: What is the name of the vital reaction that a sperm must undergo to successfully fertilise an egg? **Ans: Acrosome reaction**

Winners: Viswanathan Neelakantan | Tamal Biswas | C Saravanan

07A8. QUIZ

1. Replacement Level of Total Fertility Rate

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** is the average number of children a woman would bear during her reproductive years if prevailing age-specific fertility rates continued.
- The commonly used **replacement-level fertility** benchmark is approximately **2.1 children per woman** in populations with low mortality.
- The figure is slightly above 2 because not every child survives to reproductive age and because the sex ratio at birth is not exactly equal.
- Replacement fertility means that, in the long run and **without migration**, one generation of parents is approximately replaced by the next.
- Importantly, India has already reached **below-replacement fertility nationally**, although substantial State-level differences remain.

2. Do a Woman's Eggs Increase Until Puberty?

- Females are born with a **finite ovarian reserve**; the number of oocytes does **not progressively increase until puberty**.
- The oocyte population actually reaches its maximum during **fetal life**, at roughly **20 weeks of gestation**, when about **5–7 million** oocytes may be present.
- This falls to approximately **0.5–1 million at birth** and around **400,000 by menarche**.
- Thereafter, the ovarian reserve continues to decline through **atresia and ovulation**.

3. Hormones Necessary for Sperm Production

- Follicle-Stimulating Hormone (FSH)** and **Luteinizing Hormone (LH)** are gonadotropins secreted by the **anterior pituitary gland** under the influence of hypothalamic **GnRH**.
- FSH** primarily acts on **Sertoli cells** in the seminiferous tubules and supports the development of germ cells and quantitatively normal sperm production.
- LH** acts primarily on **Leydig cells**, stimulating the production of **testosterone**.

- Testosterone subsequently acts through androgen receptors, including those in Sertoli cells, and is essential for normal spermatogenesis.
- Therefore, normal sperm production depends on the coordinated action of FSH and LH-driven intratesticular testosterone.

PCOS HAS A NEW NAME: PMOS

WOMAN'S OVARIES & CYSTS

Structure, Function & Common Ovarian Cysts

ANATOMY OF FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



Fallopian Tube
Ovary
Uterus
Cervix
Vagina

OVARY – THE FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN

- A pair of almond-shaped glands located on either side of the uterus.
- Produce eggs (ova) and female hormones – estrogen and progesterone.
- Contain thousands of tiny sacs (follicles) that develop and release eggs.
- Play a crucial role in the menstrual cycle, fertility and overall reproductive health.

TYPES OF OVARIAN CYSTS

1. FUNCTIONAL CYSTS (MOST COMMON)



- Form during the menstrual cycle.
- Follicular cysts – fluid-filled sacs that may prevent ovulation.
- Corpus luteum cysts – form after an egg is released.
- Usually harmless and go away on their own.

2. DERMOID CYSTS (MATURE CYSTIC TERATOMA)



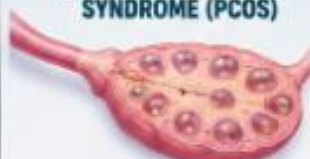
- Contain tissues like hair, skin, teeth or fat.
- Caused by cells that can develop into different types of tissues.
- Usually benign (non-cancerous).
- May need surgical removal if large or symptomatic.

3. CYSTADENOMAS



- Develop from the surface cells of the ovary.
- Can be filled with watery (serous) or mucous fluid.
- Generally benign but can grow quite large.

4. POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME (PCOS)



- Not true cysts, but many small follicles present on ovaries.
- Linked with hormonal imbalance.
- May cause irregular periods, acne, weight gain, infertility.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF OVARIAN CYSTS



- Pelvic pain or heaviness
- Bloating or swollen abdomen
- Irregular periods
- Pain during intercourse
- Frequent urination
- Nausea or vomiting (in severe cases)

DIAGNOSIS



- Pelvic Examination
- Ultrasound
- Blood Tests (if needed)
- MRI/CT Scan (in rare cases)

TREATMENT OPTIONS



- **Observation** – Many cysts resolve on their own.
- **Medications** – Pain relief or hormonal therapy.
- **Surgery** – Required if cysts are large, persistent or causing complications.

PREVENTION & CARE

- Regular gynecological check-ups
- Maintain healthy weight
- Balanced diet & exercise
- Manage stress & hormonal health

IMPORTANT NOTE

Most ovarian cysts are harmless, but persistent pain, rapid growth or other symptoms require medical attention.

- In May 2026, an international consensus renamed **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS)** as **Polyendocrine Metabolic Ovarian Syndrome (PMOS)**.



- The change was published in The Lancet after a global process involving **56 leading academic, clinical and patient organisations** and survey responses from **14,360 patients and multidisciplinary health professionals**.

Why was “PCOS” considered misleading?

- The name **Polycystic Ovary Syndrome** makes it sound as though the fundamental problem is that a woman's ovaries contain many **cysts**.
- That is misleading. **A woman can have this condition without having pathological ovarian cysts.**
- What have traditionally been called “polycystic ovaries” generally involve numerous small **ovarian follicles**, rather than ordinary pathological cysts.
- Consequently, concentrating on “cysts” could give patients an incomplete picture of what is actually a **multisystem hormonal and metabolic disorder**.

What does PMOS mean?

- The new name describes the condition more broadly:
- **P – Polyendocrine:** multiple interconnected **hormonal systems** are involved. Higher **androgen activity**, for example, can contribute to **acne, excess facial/body hair and scalp hair thinning**.
- **M – Metabolic:** metabolism is an important part of the disorder.
- **Insulin resistance and hyperinsulinaemia** are common features, and metabolic health can be affected.
- **O– Ovarian:** the ovaries remain important because **disturbances in follicle development and ovulation** can produce **irregular periods and infertility**.
- **S – Syndrome:** it is a collection of related features rather than one identical disease presentation in every woman.

A simple example

- Imagine three women with PMOS.
- **Woman A** mainly has irregular periods and difficulty ovulating.
- **Woman B** has acne, increased facial hair and elevated androgens.
- **Woman C** has prominent metabolic problems such as insulin resistance.
- Their symptoms can look quite different, yet they may belong to the **same underlying syndrome**.
- This is why describing the condition merely as “polycystic ovaries” was too narrow.

Why does PMOS affect fertility?

- **Normally, an ovarian follicle develops and releases an egg through ovulation. In PMOS, hormonal disturbances can interfere with regular follicular development and ovulation.**
- **If an egg is not released regularly (anovulation), conception becomes more difficult because there may be no egg available for fertilisation during many cycles.** This is why the condition is an important cause of **anovulatory infertility**.



- However, **PMOS does not mean that a woman is necessarily infertile**. Many affected women conceive naturally or with appropriate treatment.

How common is it?

The 2026 consensus estimates that it affects approximately **1 in 8 women**, representing more than **170 million women worldwide**.

5. Temporary Organ of the Human Body

- The **placenta** is a remarkable **temporary organ** that develops during pregnancy and provides the physiological interface between the mother and developing fetus.
- It progressively develops during early pregnancy and performs crucial **respiratory, nutritional, excretory, endocrine and immunological functions**.
- It facilitates the transfer of **oxygen and nutrients** from the maternal circulation while allowing fetal metabolic waste products to be removed.
- The placenta also produces important hormones and growth factors needed to maintain pregnancy and support fetal development.
- Unlike permanent organs, it exists primarily for the duration of pregnancy and is expelled from the uterus following childbirth.

6. Largest and Smallest Human Cells in the Reproductive System

- The female **ovum or mature oocyte** is conventionally described as the **largest human cell**, with a diameter of approximately **0.1 mm (100–120 µm)**.
- Its relatively large cytoplasmic volume contains cellular machinery and substances required during the **earliest stages of embryonic development**.
- The **spermatozoon**, in contrast, is commonly described in elementary biology as among the **smallest human cells by cellular volume**.
- A sperm is highly specialised for motility and delivery of paternal genetic material and consists principally of a **head, connecting region/midpiece and tail**.
- Both gametes are **haploid**, normally containing **23 chromosomes** each before fertilisation.

7. Vital Reaction Required for Fertilisation

- The **acrosome reaction** is a crucial event enabling a sperm to successfully fertilise an oocyte.
- The **acrosome**, situated over the **anterior part of the sperm head**, contains enzymes involved in sperm penetration through structures surrounding the oocyte.
- Following appropriate activation of a **capacitated sperm**, acrosomal exocytosis releases/exposes substances that facilitate penetration and sperm–egg interaction.
- This process helps the sperm negotiate the **zona pellucida** and ultimately participate in fusion with the oocyte membrane.

- Importantly, **capacitation precedes and enables the acrosome reaction**; therefore, the two processes should not be treated as synonymous.

- The acrosome reaction is consequently considered an essential component of normal mammalian fertilisation.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. What were the nicknames of the bombs dropped on the two Japanese cities? Ans: 'Little Boy' and 'Fat Man'. The codenames were chosen by their creator, Robert Serber

2. What were the core nuclear materials used in the two bombs? Ans: Little Boy used uranium-235, whereas Fat Man used plutonium-239

3. Apart from the two unfortunate cities that bore the brunt of the dastardly attack, which other three cities were in the initial list? Ans: Kokura, Kyoto, and Niigata

4. Name the two intended aimpoints in both the cities that were not hit because of weather conditions. Ans: Aioi Bridge and a Mitsubishi arms plant

5. Which flower became the official flower of Hiroshima because it was the first plant to bloom on the scorched earth? Ans: Oleander

6. Which legendary scientist remarked, "Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in developing an atomic bomb, I would have done nothing for the bomb"? Ans: Albert Einstein, whose letter had ushered in the age of the atomic bomb

Visual: This is Tsutomu Yamaguchi, a 'hibakusha'. What is his unique claim to fame as regards the survivors? Ans: The only person officially recognised as a survivor of both the bombings

Early Birds: Prem Nath Tiwari | Varghese Joseph | Deepak Jiloha | Suchit Narottam | Anoop G.

07A8. QUIZ

1. Nicknames of the Atomic Bombs



- The atomic bomb dropped on **Hiroshima on 6 August 1945** was nicknamed “**Little Boy**”, while the bomb dropped on **Nagasaki on 9 August 1945** was called “**Fat Man**.”
- Physicist **Robert Serber**, who worked at Los Alamos under the Manhattan Project, is credited with devising the code names **Little Boy, Thin Man and Fat Man**, based largely on the weapons’ shapes and designs.
- **Little Boy** was a relatively narrow **gun-type uranium weapon**, whereas the more bulbous **Fat Man** employed a **plutonium implosion design**.
- Both weapons were assembled for deployment from **Tinian Island** in the Mariana Islands.

2. Core Nuclear Materials Used

- **Little Boy** was a **gun-type nuclear weapon** whose principal fissile material was enriched **uranium-235 (U-235)**.
- It was dropped by the **B-29 Enola Gay** over Hiroshima at approximately **8:15 a.m. on 6 August 1945**.
- **Fat Man**, by contrast, was an **implosion-type plutonium weapon**, using **plutonium-239 (Pu-239)** as its principal fissile material.
- Plutonium-239 for the Manhattan Project was produced through reactors using uranium, principally at the **Hanford** facilities in Washington State.
- **Fat Man** was detonated over **Nagasaki on 9 August 1945**, three days after Hiroshima.

3. Other Cities Considered as Atomic-Bomb Targets

- This answer requires an important clarification. In **late May 1945**, the Manhattan Project's target-selection group identified **Hiroshima, Kokura Arsenal, Kyoto and Niigata** as the four leading targets.
- Therefore, relative to Hiroshima, the other three on **that particular list** were indeed **Kokura, Kyoto and Niigata**.
- However, **Kyoto was subsequently removed** from consideration, notably following opposition from **U.S. Secretary of War Henry Stimson**.
- The final military order dated **25 July 1945** instead named **Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata and Nagasaki** as targets.

4. Intended Aimpoints at Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- At **Hiroshima**, the distinctive **Aioi Bridge**, with its easily recognisable T-shaped configuration, served as the principal visual aiming reference for the bombing mission.
- **Little Boy** nevertheless exploded approximately **600 metres above Hiroshima**, with the hypocentre located in the vicinity of what is now **Ote-machi**.
- At **Nagasaki**, the intended industrial target was associated with the city's major **Mitsubishi military-industrial facilities**.
- Cloud cover complicated the Nagasaki mission; the crew initially contemplated a radar approach before a break in the clouds permitted visual bombing.
- The bomb consequently detonated away from the intended aiming point, over the **Urakami Valley** area.

5. Official Flower of Hiroshima

- **Oleander (Nerium oleander)** is the official **City Flower of Hiroshima** and became an **enduring symbol of the city's recovery after the atomic bombing**.
- Hiroshima's municipal government states that oleander was regarded as the **first flower to bloom on Hiroshima's scorched earth** after the bombing, when it was popularly believed that vegetation would not return for decades.
- Its reappearance provided residents with a powerful symbol of **hope, survival and reconstruction**.
- In **1973**, Hiroshima residents voted to select the city's representative tree and flower.

- Oleander was officially designated Hiroshima's City Flower on 3 November 1973; the camphor tree simultaneously became the official City Tree.

6. Albert Einstein and the Atomic Bomb

- **Albert Einstein (1879–1955)** made the quoted remark after World War II, expressing regret over his indirect involvement in the events leading toward American atomic research.
- On **2 August 1939**, Einstein signed the famous **Einstein–Szilárd letter** to U.S. President **Franklin D. Roosevelt**, warning about the possibility of Nazi Germany developing nuclear weapons.
- Importantly, **Einstein did not work on the Manhattan Project** and did not design or build the atomic bomb.
- His contribution was therefore indirect rather than technical.
- After Germany failed to develop an atomic weapon, Einstein expressed regret in a **1947 Newsweek interview**, stating that had he known Germany would fail, he would have taken no action.

7. Tsutomu Yamaguchi

- **Tsutomu Yamaguchi (1916–2010)** survived both atomic bombings of Japan and became the best-known **double hibakusha**, meaning a person exposed to both bombings.
- He was in **Hiroshima on 6 August 1945** on a business trip when the Little Boy atomic bomb exploded over the city.
- Despite suffering injuries, he subsequently returned to his home city of **Nagasaki**.
- On **9 August 1945**, he was in Nagasaki when the **Fat Man** bomb exploded there.
- The Japanese government formally recognised Yamaguchi in **2009** as having been exposed to **both atomic bombings**.
- He died on **4 January 2010**, aged **93**, and became an internationally recognised voice against nuclear weapons.

GS Paper 1: History	07 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07A8	Hero stone found in Karnataka sheds light on last day of Hoysala dynasty ruler कर्नाटक में मिला वीरगल्लु होयसल वंश के शासक के अंतिम दिवस पर प्रकाश डालता है

Hero stone found in Karnataka sheds light on last day of Hoysala dynasty ruler

GS I: History
Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The villagers in Neeragunda in Arsikere taluk of Karnataka have stumbled upon a centuries-old *veeragallu* (hero stone) bearing a Kannada inscription that could resolve the long-standing confusion over the date of the death of Vishnuvardhana, the ruler of the Hoysala dynasty.

The village has two Hoysala-era temples – Malleshwara and Lakshmi Narayana Swamy. The latter had fallen into a dilapidated state, prompting residents to undertake its restoration and raise funds for the same. Hoysala is the prominent dynasty that ruled many parts of today's Kar-



The *veeragallu* found at Neeragunda in Arsikere taluk refers to the death of Hoysala ruler Vishnuvardhana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nataka and Tamil Nadu between the 11th and the 14th centuries.

While workers were engaged in foundation work on June 28, they unearthed two stone slabs bearing sculptural work, which were later brought to the

notice of researchers.

Shashidhar H.G., who has documented over 600 Hoysala temples so far, visited the site and identified the two slabs as *veeragallus*, one of which carried a significant inscription. *Veeragallus* are memorial

stones placed in honour of warriors.

"... Going by the text, one can say it is a *veeragallu* installed in memory of a soldier, who sacrificed his life soon after Vishnuvardhana's death at Bankapura. The date mentioned in the inscription corresponds to December 11, 1141, as per the Gregorian calendar," Mr. Shashidhar said.

Vishnuvardhana is believed to have died at Bankapura, now in Haveri district. There has been confusion over the date of his death, with some scholars placing it in 1152 and others in 1149. "However, we believe the inscription found in Neeragunda will help resolve the confusion," Mr. Shashidhar said.



07A8. Hero stone found in Karnataka sheds light on last day of Hoysala dynasty ruler

कर्नाटक में मिला वीरगल्लु होयसल वंश के शासक के अंतिम दिवस पर प्रकाश डालता है

- The villagers in **Neeragunda** in **Arsikere taluk** of **Karnataka** have stumbled upon a centuries-old **veera gallu (hero stone)** bearing a **Kannada inscription** that could resolve the long-standing confusion over the date of the death of **Vishnuvardhana**, the ruler of the **Hoysala dynasty**.

कर्नाटक के अरसीकेरे तालुक के नीरगुंडा गाँव के निवासियों को एक सदियों पुराना वीरगल्लु (वीर शिला) मिला है, जिस पर कन्नड़ अभिलेख अंकित है। यह होयसल वंश के शासक विष्णुवर्धन की मृत्यु-तिथि को लेकर लंबे समय से चली आ रही भ्रम की स्थिति को दूर करने में सहायक हो सकता है।

- The village has two **Hoysala-era temples** — **Malleshwara** and **Lakshmi Narayana Swamy**. इस गाँव में होयसल काल के दो मंदिर हैं — मल्लेश्वर और लक्ष्मी नारायण स्वामी।
- The latter had fallen into a dilapidated state, prompting residents to undertake its **restoration** and raise funds for the same. इनमें से दूसरा मंदिर अत्यंत जर्जर अवस्था में पहुँच गया था, जिसके कारण स्थानीय लोगों ने उसके पुनरुद्धार का कार्य प्रारम्भ किया और इसके लिए धन एकत्रित किया।
- Hoysala** is the prominent **dynasty** that ruled many parts of today's **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu** between the **11th** and the **14th centuries**.

होयसल एक प्रमुख वंश था, जिसने 11वीं से 14वीं शताब्दी के बीच वर्तमान कर्नाटक और तमिलनाडु के अनेक भागों पर शासन किया।

- While workers were engaged in **foundation work** on **June 28**, they unearthed two **stone slabs** bearing **sculptural work**, which were later brought to the notice of **researchers**. 28 जून को जब श्रमिक नींव निर्माण कार्य में लगे हुए थे, तब उन्हें मूर्तिकला से युक्त दो पत्थर की शिलाएँ मिलीं, जिनकी जानकारी बाद में शोधकर्ताओं को दी गई।
- Shashidhar H.G.**, who has documented over **600 Hoysala temples** so far, visited the site and identified the two slabs as **veeragallus**, one of which carried a significant **inscription**. अब तक 600 से अधिक होयसल मंदिरों का दस्तावेजीकरण कर चुके एच. जी. शशिधर ने स्थल का निरीक्षण किया और इन दोनों शिलाओं की पहचान वीरगल्लु के रूप में की, जिनमें से एक पर महत्वपूर्ण अभिलेख अंकित था।

- Veeragallus** are **memorial stones** placed in honour of **warriors**. वीरगल्लु वे स्मारक शिलाएँ हैं, जिन्हें वीरों के सम्मान में स्थापित किया जाता था।
- "... Going by the text, one can say it is a **veeragallu** installed in memory of a **soldier**, who sacrificed his life soon after **Vishnuvardhana's** death at **Bankapura**. "... अभिलेख के पाठ के आधार पर यह कहा जा सकता है कि यह वीरगल्लु उस सैनिक की स्मृति में स्थापित किया गया था, जिसने बंकापुर में विष्णुवर्धन की मृत्यु के तुरंत बाद अपना जीवन बलिदान कर दिया।
- The date mentioned in the **inscription** corresponds to **December 11, 1141**, as per the **Gregorian calendar**," Mr. **Shashidhar** said.

श्री शशिधर ने कहा, "अभिलेख में उल्लिखित तिथि ग्रेगोरियन कैलेंडर के अनुसार 11 दिसंबर, 1141 के अनुरूप है।"



- **Vishnuvardhana** is believed to have died at **Bankapura**, now in **Haveri district**.
ऐसा माना जाता है कि **विष्णुवर्धन** की मृत्यु **बंकापुर** में हुई थी, जो वर्तमान में **हावेरी ज़िले** में स्थित है।
- There has been confusion over the date of his death, with some **scholars** placing it in **1152** and others in **1149**.
उनकी मृत्यु-तिथि को लेकर लंबे समय से भ्रम रहा है; कुछ **विद्वान** इसे **1152** बताते हैं, जबकि अन्य **1149** मानते हैं।
- "However, we believe the **inscription** found in **Neeragunda** will help resolve the confusion," Mr. **Shashidhar** said.
श्री **शशिधर** ने कहा, "हालाँकि, हमारा विश्वास है कि **नीरगुंडा** में प्राप्त यह **अभिलेख** इस भ्रम को दूर करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा।"

GS Paper 1: Society	07 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	

At a steady pace



Miles to go: A **Rabari shepherd from Rajasthan** leads his herd of cattle in the Bhiwani district in Haryana on August 5. Rabaris are a **nomadic and predominantly pastoralist group** who travel across Gujarat and Rajasthan in search of green pastures.

GS Paper II: Governance	07 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07A8	FCRA Bill is 'religion-neutral', Shah assures Christian bodies एफसीआरए विधेयक 'धर्म-निरपेक्ष' है, शाह ने ईसाई संगठनों को आश्वस्त किया
07A8	Should the Commonwealth Games be scrapped? क्या राष्ट्रमंडल खेलों को समाप्त कर देना चाहिए?
07A8	Govt. Okay ₹23,731 cr. GOBARdhan scheme सरकार ने ₹23,731 करोड़ की गोबरधन योजना को मंजूरी दी
07A8	Why did FSSAI issue prohibition-of-sale orders on liquor firms? एफएसएआई ने शराब कंपनियों के विरुद्ध बिक्री-प्रतिषेध आदेश क्यों जारी किए?

FCRA Bill is 'religion-neutral', Shah assures Christian bodies

Bill likely to be taken up for discussion in Parliament on August 12; Home Minister tells Christian delegations that the govt. has 'no intention to harass the Christian community'; forum requests Bill be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee

GS II: Governance
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns raised by Christian bodies over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 (FCRA), Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday met two delegations, including one representing all Christian denominations and communities, and assured them that the proposed legislation was "religion-neutral".

A member of the delegation said Mr. Shah asserted that the "government has no intention to harass the Christian community, or any faith (or) community for that matter".

The other delegation included Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who said that Mr. Shah had conveyed that the Bill was likely to be taken up for discussion in Parliament on August 12, a day before the Monsoon Session ends. "We were given an assurance that the provisions of the Bill will not be applied retrospectively," he said.

Reverend Asir Ebenezer



Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi, in this file photo. ANI

er, general secretary of National Council of Churches in India, who met Mr. Shah, said the 18-member delegation of the Joint Action Forum on Minorities included representatives from all the three Christian traditions – Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox.

"We had written to the Prime Minister to register our concerns against the FCRA Bill. The Home Minister gave us time and listened to us patiently for an hour. He said it is not against the Christian faith but against anyone who violates the law. We re-

quested him that a comprehensive review of the Act that was introduced in 2010 is required," Mr. Ebenezer told *The Hindu*.

Main concern

One of the key provisions in the FCRA Bill, 2026, is the appointment of a "designated authority" to take over, manage, or dispose of assets created from foreign funds when an NGO's FCRA registration is suspended, cancelled, or not renewed. This authority will have the powers of a civil court and can order the transfer or sale of assets

owned by NGOs to either the government or any other body. The Bill was initially listed for passage in the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Parliament but did not figure in this week's list of business.

Mr. Ebenezer said that the "deemed cessation" of assets in case the FCRA registration is not renewed or cancelled by the government in absence of a formal order was also flagged at the meeting.

"The Minister asked us for a list of cases where registrations of NGOs had been cancelled without any notice. We also sought clarity on the powers of the vesting authority to dispose the assets without a judicial oversight. How can a government authority just take over my property?" he asked.

The meeting is among a series of interactions that the Home Minister has held with the Christian community to assuage concerns over the Bill.

On July 10, Mr. Shah assured the Catholic Bishops Conference of India, the apex body of the Catholic church in India, that the

Bill was not against the Christian NGOs, which receive a little under 15% of the total foreign donations.

DMK MP P. Wilson, chairman of the Joint Forum, who led the delegation, said, "We clearly spelt out the illegalities in the Bill. Even if a registration is going to be cancelled, there was no necessity to take over the properties of these organisations... it was also explained to the Home Minister that these bodies have employed expert hands for running these organisations, institutions, hospitals, and by taking over it will clearly destroy them, including the hospitals..."

The delegation submitted a representation requesting the withdrawal of the Bill in its present form. It requested that the Bill be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee for comprehensive stakeholder consultation.

Government sources ruled out further changes to the Bill adding that the specifics on taking over assets by designated authority will be clarified when the Rules are notified.

07A8. FCRA Bill is 'religion-neutral', Shah assures Christian bodies

एफसीआरए विधेयक 'धर्म-निरपेक्ष' है, शाह ने ईसाई संगठनों को आश्वस्त किया

- Amid concerns raised by Christian bodies over the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 (FCRA), Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday met two delegations, including one representing all Christian denominations and communities, and assured them that the proposed legislation was "religion-neutral".

विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 (FCRA) को लेकर ईसाई संगठनों द्वारा व्यक्त चिंताओं के बीच केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने गुरुवार को दो प्रतिनिधिमंडलों से मुलाकात की, जिनमें एक सभी ईसाई संप्रदायों और समुदायों का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहा था, तथा उन्हें आश्वस्त किया कि प्रस्तावित विधेयक "धर्म-निरपेक्ष" है।

- A member of the delegation said Mr. Shah asserted that the "government has no intention to harass the Christian community, or any faith (or) community for that matter". प्रतिनिधिमंडल के एक सदस्य ने कहा कि श्री शाह ने स्पष्ट किया कि "सरकार का ईसाई समुदाय अथवा किसी भी धर्म या समुदाय को परेशान करने का कोई इरादा नहीं है।"
- The other delegation included Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, who said that Mr. Shah had conveyed that the Bill was likely to be taken up for discussion in Parliament on August 12, a day before the Monsoon Session ends. दूसरे प्रतिनिधिमंडल में मिजोरम के मुख्यमंत्री लालदुहोमा शामिल थे, जिन्होंने बताया कि श्री शाह ने कहा कि विधेयक पर संसद में 12 अगस्त को, मानसून सत्र समाप्त होने से एक दिन पहले, चर्चा होने की संभावना है।

- “We were given an assurance that the provisions of the **Bill** will not be applied **retrospectively**,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “हमें आश्वासन दिया गया कि **विधेयक** के प्रावधान **पूर्वव्यापी प्रभाव** से लागू नहीं किए जाएंगे।”
- Reverend **Asir Ebenezer**, general secretary of the **National Council of Churches in India**, who met Mr. **Shah**, said the **18-member delegation** of the **Joint Action Forum on Minorities** included representatives from all the three **Christian traditions** — **Catholic**, **Protestant**, and **Orthodox**.
श्री शाह से मिलने वाले **नेशनल काउंसिल ऑफ चर्चस इन इंडिया** के महासचिव **रेवरेन्ड आसिर एबेनेज़र** ने बताया कि **जाइंट एक्शन फ़ोरम ऑन माइनॉरिटीज़** के **18 सदस्यीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** में सभी तीन प्रमुख **ईसाई परंपराओं** — **कैथोलिक**, **प्रोटेस्टेंट** और **ऑर्थोडॉक्स** — के प्रतिनिधि शामिल थे।
- “We had written to the **Prime Minister** to register our concerns against the **FCRA Bill**.
“हमने **प्रधानमंत्री** को **एफसीआरए विधेयक** के संबंध में अपनी चिंताओं से अवगत कराने के लिए पत्र लिखा था।
- The **Home Minister** gave us time and listened to us patiently for an hour.
गृह मंत्री ने हमें समय दिया और लगभग एक घंटे तक धैर्यपूर्वक हमारी बातें सुनीं।
- He said it is not against the **Christian faith** but against anyone who violates the **law**.
उन्होंने कहा कि यह **ईसाई धर्म** के विरुद्ध नहीं है, बल्कि उन सभी के विरुद्ध है जो **कानून** का उल्लंघन करते हैं।
- We requested him that a comprehensive review of the **Act** that was introduced in **2010** is required,” Mr. **Ebenezer** told The Hindu.
श्री **एबेनेज़र** ने द हिंदू से कहा, “हमने उनसे अनुरोध किया कि **2010** में लागू किए गए **अधिनियम** की व्यापक समीक्षा की जानी चाहिए।”

Main concern

मुख्य चिंता

- One of the key provisions in the **FCRA Bill, 2026**, is the appointment of a “**designated authority**” to take over, manage, or dispose of **assets** created from **foreign funds** when an **NGO's FCRA registration** is suspended, cancelled, or not renewed.
एफसीआरए विधेयक, 2026 के प्रमुख प्रावधानों में से एक “**नामित प्राधिकरण**” की नियुक्ति है, जो किसी **गैर-सरकारी संगठन (NGO)** का **एफसीआरए पंजीकरण** निलंबित, रद्द या नवीनीकृत न होने की स्थिति में **विदेशी धन** से निर्मित **संपत्तियों** का अधिग्रहण, प्रबंधन अथवा निपटान करेगा।
- This authority will have the powers of a **civil court** and can order the transfer or sale of **assets** owned by **NGOs** to either the **government** or any other body.
इस प्राधिकरण को **दीवानी न्यायालय** जैसी शक्तियाँ प्राप्त होंगी और यह **NGO** की **संपत्तियों** को **सरकार** अथवा किसी अन्य संस्था को हस्तांतरित या विक्रय करने का आदेश दे सकेगा।
- The **Bill** was initially listed for passage in the ongoing **Monsoon Session** of the **Parliament** but did not figure in this week's list of business.
यह **विधेयक** प्रारंभ में **संसद** के वर्तमान **मानसून सत्र** में पारित किए जाने के लिए सूचीबद्ध था, किन्तु इस सप्ताह की कार्यसूची में शामिल नहीं किया गया।
- Mr. **Ebenezer** said that the “**deemed cessation**” of **assets** in case the **FCRA registration** is not renewed or cancelled by the **government** in absence of a formal order was also flagged at the meeting.
श्री **एबेनेज़र** ने कहा कि बैठक में उस प्रावधान पर भी चिंता व्यक्त की गई, जिसके अनुसार औपचारिक आदेश के अभाव में यदि **सरकार** द्वारा **एफसीआरए पंजीकरण** का नवीनीकरण नहीं किया जाता या उसे रद्द कर दिया जाता है, तो **संपत्तियों** का “**माना गया समापन (deemed cessation)**” प्रभावी हो जाएगा।
- “The Minister asked us for a list of cases where registrations of **NGOs** had been cancelled without any notice.
“मंत्री ने हमसे ऐसे मामलों की सूची माँगी, जिनमें **NGO** का पंजीकरण बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के रद्द कर दिया गया था।

- We also sought clarity on the powers of the **vesting authority** to dispose the **assets** without a **judicial oversight**.
हमने वेस्टिंग प्राधिकरण को न्यायिक निगरानी के बिना संपत्तियों का निपटान करने की शक्तियों के संबंध में भी स्पष्टता माँगी।
- How can a government authority just take over my **property**?" he asked.
उन्होंने प्रश्न किया, "कोई सरकारी प्राधिकरण मेरी संपत्ति पर इस प्रकार कैसे अधिकार कर सकता है?"
- The meeting is among a series of interactions that the **Home Minister** has held with the **Christian community** to assuage concerns over the **Bill**.
यह बैठक उन अनेक संवादों में से एक है, जो गृह मंत्री ने ईसाई समुदाय के साथ विधेयक को लेकर उत्पन्न चिंताओं को दूर करने के उद्देश्य से किए हैं।
- On **July 10**, Mr. **Shah** assured the **Catholic Bishops Conference of India**, the apex body of the **Catholic Church** in **India**, that the **Bill** was not against the **Christian NGOs**, which receive a little under **15%** of the total **foreign donations**.
10 जुलाई को श्री शाह ने भारत के कैथोलिक बिशप सम्मेलन, जो भारत में कैथोलिक चर्च की सर्वोच्च संस्था है, को आश्वस्त किया था कि यह विधेयक ईसाई NGO के विरुद्ध नहीं है, जिन्हें कुल विदेशी दान का लगभग **15%** से कुछ कम प्राप्त होता है।
- DMK MP P. Wilson**, chairman of the **Joint Forum**, who led the delegation, said, "We clearly spelt out the illegalities in the **Bill**.
प्रतिनिधिमंडल का नेतृत्व करने वाले संयुक्त मंच के अध्यक्ष एवं **DMK सांसद पी. विल्सन** ने कहा, "हमने विधेयक में निहित अवैधताओं को स्पष्ट रूप से सामने रखा।
- Even if a registration is going to be cancelled, there was no necessity to take over the **properties** of these organisations...
यदि किसी संस्था का पंजीकरण रद्द भी किया जाना हो, तब भी उसकी संपत्तियों का अधिग्रहण करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है...
- it was also explained to the **Home Minister** that these bodies have employed expert hands for running these organisations, institutions, **hospitals**, and by taking over it will clearly destroy them, including the **hospitals**..."
गृह मंत्री को यह भी बताया गया कि इन संस्थाओं, शैक्षणिक प्रतिष्ठानों और अस्पतालों के संचालन के लिए विशेषज्ञ लोगों को नियुक्त किया गया है, और इनका अधिग्रहण करने से ये संस्थाएँ, विशेषकर अस्पताल, नष्ट हो जाएँगे..."
- The delegation submitted a **representation** requesting the withdrawal of the **Bill** in its present form.
प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत करते हुए वर्तमान स्वरूप में विधेयक को वापस लेने का अनुरोध किया।
- It requested that the **Bill** be referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee** for comprehensive **stakeholder consultation**.
प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने अनुरोध किया कि विधेयक को व्यापक हितधारक परामर्श के लिए संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC) के पास भेजा जाए।
- Government** sources ruled out further changes to the **Bill**, adding that the specifics on taking over **assets** by the **designated authority** will be clarified when the **Rules** are notified.
सरकारी सूत्रों ने विधेयक में आगे किसी परिवर्तन की संभावना से इनकार करते हुए कहा कि नामित प्राधिकरण द्वारा संपत्तियों के अधिग्रहण से संबंधित विस्तृत प्रावधान नियमों की अधिसूचना जारी होने पर स्पष्ट किए जाएँगे।

Govt. okays ₹23,371 cr. GOBARdhan scheme

The National Circular Bioenergy Scheme aspires to raise local production of CBG by tenfold, mobilise private investments on a large scale

GS II: Governance

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Union cabinet approved the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme - GOBARdhan, provisioning ₹23,731-crore to catalyse the growth of compressed biogas (CBG).

The GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) outlay, to be in place until FY2035-36 seeks to raise local compressed biogas production almost tenfold via assured offtake, administered pricing, capital subsidies, boosting pipeline infrastructure and easier access to finance, the Centre said.

The government emphasised the scheme would seek to impart a "strong and predictable framework" to fuel the up-tick of the CBG ecosystem.



Energy security: The compressed biogas plant at Brahmapuram currently processes about 50 tonne of biodegradable waste a day.

The programme would involve the use of agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugar industry waste such as press mud, municipal organic waste and other biomass to produce compressed biogas, which can be blended into CNG used in automobiles and also piped natural gas (PNG).

Three imperatives

Welcoming the government initiative, A.R. Shuk-

la, President of the Indian Biogas Association said the scheme addresses three imperatives – remunerative price, assured offtake and capital support – sought by the industry.

"This scheme delivers all three," he said, adding, "moving from 300 operating plants towards 5,000 [plants] will create lakhs of rural jobs. Industry must respond with speed, quality and discipline."

07A8. Govt. Okay ₹23,731 cr. GOBARdhan scheme

सरकार ने ₹23,731 करोड़ की गोबरधन योजना को मंजूरी दी

- The **Union Cabinet** approved the **National Circular Bioenergy Scheme – GOBARdhan**, provisioning **₹23,731 crore** to catalyse the growth of **Compressed Biogas (CBG)**.
केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने राष्ट्रीय परिपत्र जैव-ऊर्जा योजना – गोबरधन (GOBARdhan) को मंजूरी दी, जिसके अंतर्गत संपीड़ित जैव गैस (CBG) के विकास को गति देने के लिए **₹23,731 करोड़** का प्रावधान किया गया है।
- The **GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan)** outlay, to be in place until **FY2035-36**, seeks to raise local **Compressed Biogas** production almost **tenfold** via assured **offtake**, administered **pricing**, **capital subsidies**, boosting **pipeline infrastructure** and easier access to **finance**, the Centre said.
केंद्र सरकार के अनुसार, गोबरधन (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) योजना, जो वित्त वर्ष 2035-36 तक लागू रहेगी, का उद्देश्य सुनिश्चित खरीद (ऑफटेक), विनियमित मूल्य निर्धारण, पूंजीगत सब्सिडी, पाइपलाइन अवसंरचना को सुदृढ़ करने तथा वित्त तक आसान पहुँच के माध्यम से स्थानीय संपीड़ित जैव गैस उत्पादन को लगभग दस गुना बढ़ाना है।



- The **government** emphasised the scheme would seek to impart a “strong and predictable framework” to fuel the uptick of the **CBG ecosystem**.
सरकार ने इस बात पर बल दिया कि यह योजना सीबीजी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के विकास को गति देने के लिए एक “मजबूत और पूर्वानुमेय ढाँचा” प्रदान करेगी।
- The **programme** would involve the use of **agricultural residue, cattle dung, sugar industry waste** such as **press mud, municipal organic waste** and other **biomass** to produce **Compressed Biogas**, which can be blended into **CNG** used in automobiles and also **Piped Natural Gas (PNG)**.
इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत कृषि अवशेष, गोबर, चीनी उद्योग के अपशिष्ट जैसे प्रेस मड, नगरपालिका जैविक अपशिष्ट तथा अन्य बायोमास का उपयोग संपीड़ित जैव गैस के उत्पादन के लिए किया जाएगा, जिसे वाहनों में प्रयुक्त सीएनजी (CNG) तथा पाइप्ड नेचुरल गैस (PNG) में मिलाया जा सकेगा।

Three imperatives तीन प्रमुख आवश्यकताएँ

- Welcoming the **government** initiative, **A.R. Shukla**, President of the **Indian Biogas Association**, said the scheme addresses three imperatives — **remunerative price**, assured **offtake** and **capital support** — sought by the industry.
सरकार की इस पहल का स्वागत करते हुए **इंडियन बायोगैस एसोसिएशन** के अध्यक्ष **ए. आर. शुकला** ने कहा कि यह योजना उद्योग की तीन प्रमुख आवश्यकताओं — **लाभकारी मूल्य**, सुनिश्चित ऑफटेक तथा पूंजीगत समर्थन — को पूरा करती है।
- “This scheme delivers all three,”** he said, adding, **“moving from 300 operating plants towards 5,000 plants will create lakhs of rural jobs. Industry must respond with speed, quality and discipline.”**
उन्होंने कहा, **“यह योजना इन तीनों आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करती है।”** उन्होंने आगे कहा, **“300 संचालित संयंत्रों से बढ़कर 5,000 संयंत्रों तक पहुँचना ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लाखों रोजगार उत्पन्न करेगा। उद्योग को तेज़ी, गुणवत्ता और अनुशासन के साथ इसका उत्तर देना चाहिए।”**

Why FSSAI issued prohibition-of-sale orders on liquor firms?

EXPLAINER

Balasubramanyam C.P.
CHENNAI

The story so far: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) initiated enforcement action (prohibition-of-sale orders) on August 2 against several liquor makers, accusing them of two main violations.

One is allegedly adding flavour compounds that re-create a drink's own natural taste instead of allowing those characteristics to develop through distillation and maturation, and another by allegedly making claims of the liquor being “aged” on labels that do not reflect the products' actual age.

Contentious flavouring

According to the FSSAI, a rum or whisky's taste and smell are supposed to come from the real production process, the base ingredient (molasses for rum, malt for whisky), fermentation, yeast, distillation and ageing. The regulator said some producers instead begin with neutral or extra-neutral alcohol, which has no distinctive flavour of its own, and then add flavouring agents later to make it taste like rum or whisky before selling it as a standard product.

FSSAI said this is not a blanket ban on flavourings; additions like coffee or vanilla remain allowed where the law permits them and there's a genuine technical reason for using them.



No blanket ban: FSSAI said this is not a blanket ban on flavourings or additions.

Instead, it objected to adding the flavour of the spirit itself (for example, rum flavour to rum or whisky flavour to whisky). This, since the trait is supposed to arise naturally

from the product, and adding it artificially serves no real technical purpose. The regulator pointed to Regulation 2.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regula-

tions, 2018 (rum must have its own characteristic taste and aroma) and Clauses 3.1.1(4) and 3.1.1(7) of the 2011 Food Additives Regulations as the legal basis.

External mask

The regulator said samples from multiple manufacturers were tested, and the labs reportedly found several products substandard because of external artificial or nature-identical flavours that masked the natural flavour profile. It also flagged that labelling these as plain “rum” or “whisky,” could mislead consumers.

Age-claim problem
The regulator also said some brands used age-related wording, “years old,” “matured,” and similar terms, without following Regulation 13.7 of the 2018 Alcoholic Beverages Regulations, which requires any stated age on a blend to reflect the youngest spirit in that blend, not the oldest

or an average. According to an example it cited, an Old Monk XXX Rum variant labelled “7 years old blended,” where investigators reportedly found the bulk of the liquid was unmaturing neutral spirit, with matured rum making up under 5% of the blend, meaning the age claim did not reflect the youngest component as required.

True nature
The regulator's position is that products built this way should be labelled “rum-flavoured spirit” or “whisky-flavoured spirit” rather than sold under standard names, citing Regulation 5.1 of the FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, which requires the front of every package to state the food's true

nature.

UB's response

On August 3, United Spirits (Diageo India) filed a regulatory disclosure with the NSE and BSE. It said it had filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court on August 1, challenging the FSSAI order, concerning a product made at its Barabati unit. It said legal advice supports its view that its label declarations comply with current law and match long-standing industry practice. The company also noted industry bodies, including the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) and the International Spirits & Wines Association of India (IS-WAI), are also raising this issue with the regulator.

07A8. Why did FSSAI issue prohibition-of-sale orders on liquor firms?

एफएसएसआई ने शराब कंपनियों के विरुद्ध बिक्री-प्रतिषेध आदेश क्यों जारी किए?

- The story so far:
अब तक की स्थिति:

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) initiated enforcement action (prohibition-of-sale orders) on August 2 against several liquor makers, accusing them of two main violations.
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) ने 2 अगस्त को कई शराब निर्माताओं के विरुद्ध प्रवर्तन कार्रवाई (बिक्री-प्रतिषेध आदेश) प्रारम्भ की और उन पर दो प्रमुख उल्लंघनों का आरोप लगाया।
- One is allegedly adding flavour compounds that recreate a drink's own natural taste instead of allowing those characteristics to develop through distillation and maturation, and another by allegedly making claims of the liquor being "aged" on labels that do not reflect the products' actual age.
पहला आरोप यह है कि निर्माता फ्लेवर यौगिकों का उपयोग करके पेय के प्राकृतिक स्वाद को कृत्रिम रूप से पुनः निर्मित करते हैं, जबकि यह स्वाद आसवन (Distillation) और परिपक्वण (Maturation) की प्रक्रिया से स्वाभाविक रूप से विकसित होना चाहिए। दूसरा आरोप यह है कि उत्पादों के लेबल पर उन्हें "परिपक्व (Aged)" बताया जाता है, जबकि यह उनके वास्तविक परिपक्वण काल को नहीं दर्शाता।

Contentious flavouring विवादित फ्लेवरिंग

- According to the FSSAI, a rum or whisky's taste and smell are supposed to come from the real production process, the base ingredient (molasses for rum, malt for whisky), fermentation, yeast, distillation and ageing.
एफएसएसआई के अनुसार, रम अथवा व्हिस्की का स्वाद और सुगंध वास्तविक उत्पादन प्रक्रिया, आधार सामग्री (रम के लिए शीरा (Molasses) तथा व्हिस्की के लिए माल्ट), किण्वन (Fermentation), यीस्ट, आसवन (Distillation) तथा परिपक्वण (Ageing) से उत्पन्न होना चाहिए।
- The regulator said some producers instead begin with neutral or extra-neutral alcohol, which has no distinctive flavour of its own, and then add flavouring agents later to make it taste like rum or whisky before selling it as a standard product.
नियामक ने कहा कि कुछ निर्माता इसके स्थान पर न्यूट्रल अथवा एक्स्ट्रा-न्यूट्रल अल्कोहल का उपयोग करते हैं, जिसका स्वयं का कोई विशिष्ट स्वाद नहीं होता, और बाद में उसमें फ्लेवरिंग एजेंट मिलाकर उसे रम या व्हिस्की जैसा स्वाद प्रदान कर मानक उत्पाद के रूप में बेचते हैं।
- FSSAI said this is not a blanket ban on flavourings, additions like coffee or vanilla remain allowed where the law permits them and there's a genuine technical reason for using them.
एफएसएसआई ने स्पष्ट किया कि यह फ्लेवरिंग पर पूर्ण प्रतिबंध नहीं है। जहाँ कानून अनुमति देता है और उनका उपयोग तकनीकी रूप से आवश्यक है, वहाँ कॉफी या वनीला जैसे पदार्थों का उपयोग अब भी स्वीकार्य रहेगा।
- Instead, it objected to adding the flavour of the spirit itself (for example, rum flavour to rum or whisky flavour to whisky).
इसके स्थान पर उसने स्वयं मद्य के ही स्वाद (जैसे रम में रम फ्लेवर या व्हिस्की में व्हिस्की फ्लेवर) को कृत्रिम रूप से मिलाने पर आपत्ति जताई।
- This, since the trait is supposed to arise naturally from the product, and adding it artificially serves no real technical purpose.
ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि यह विशेषता उत्पाद में स्वाभाविक रूप से विकसित होनी चाहिए और इसे कृत्रिम रूप से जोड़ने का कोई वास्तविक तकनीकी उद्देश्य नहीं है।
- The regulator pointed to Regulation 2.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations, 2018 (rum must have its own characteristic taste and aroma) and Clauses 3.1.1(4) and 3.1.1(7) of the 2011 Food Additives Regulations as the legal basis.
नियामक ने इसके लिए खाद्य सुरक्षा एवं मानक (मादक पेय) विनियम, 2018 के विनियम 2.5 (रम का अपना विशिष्ट स्वाद और सुगंध होना आवश्यक है) तथा खाद्य योज्य विनियम, 2011 की धारा 3.1.1(4) और 3.1.1(7) को कानूनी आधार बताया।

External mask

बाहरी स्वाद का आवरण

- The regulator said samples from multiple **manufacturers** were tested, and the labs reportedly found several products **substandard** because of external **artificial** or **nature-identical flavours** that masked the natural flavour profile.
नियामक ने बताया कि अनेक **निर्माताओं** के नमूनों की जाँच की गई और प्रयोगशालाओं ने कई उत्पादों को **मानक से निम्न** पाया, क्योंकि उनमें बाहरी **कृत्रिम** अथवा **प्राकृतिक-समान फ्लेवर** मिलाए गए थे, जिन्होंने प्राकृतिक स्वाद की विशेषताओं को ढक दिया था।
- It also flagged that labelling these as plain “rum” or “whisky” could mislead **consumers**.
नियामक ने यह भी कहा कि ऐसे उत्पादों को केवल “रम” अथवा “व्हिस्की” के रूप में लेबल करना **उपभोक्ताओं** को भ्रमित कर सकता है।

Age-claim problem

आयु-दावे से संबंधित समस्या

- The regulator also said some brands used **age-related wording**, “years old,” “matured,” and similar terms, without following **Regulation 13.7** of the **2018 Alcoholic Beverages Regulations**, which requires any stated age on a **blend** to reflect the **youngest spirit** in that blend, not the oldest or an average.
नियामक ने यह भी कहा कि कुछ ब्रांड **आयु-संबंधी शब्दों**, जैसे “वर्ष पुराना”, “परिपक्व (Matured)” आदि का उपयोग करते हैं, जबकि वे **मादक पेय विनियम, 2018 के विनियम 13.7** का पालन नहीं करते। इस विनियम के अनुसार किसी **मिश्रण (Blend)** पर दर्शाई गई आयु उस मिश्रण में उपस्थित **सबसे कम आयु वाले स्पिरिट** को प्रतिबिंबित करनी चाहिए, न कि सबसे अधिक आयु वाले अथवा औसत आयु वाले घटक को।
- According to an example it cited, an **Old Monk XXX Rum** variant labelled “**7 years old blended**,” where investigators reportedly found the bulk of the liquid was **unmatured neutral spirit**, with **matured rum** making up under **5%** of the blend, meaning the age claim did not reflect the **youngest component** as required.
नियामक द्वारा दिए गए उदाहरण के अनुसार, **ओल्ड मॉन्क XXX रम** के एक प्रकार पर “**7 वर्ष पुराना मिश्रित (7 years old blended)**” अंकित था, जबकि जाँच में पाया गया कि उत्पाद का अधिकांश भाग **अपरिपक्व न्यूट्रल स्पिरिट** था तथा **परिपक्व रम** की मात्रा मिश्रण का **5% से भी कम** थी। अतः आयु संबंधी दावा नियमानुसार **सबसे कम आयु वाले घटक** को प्रतिबिंबित नहीं करता था।

True nature

वास्तविक स्वरूप

- The **regulator's** position is that products built this way should be labelled “**rum flavoured spirit**” or “**whisky-flavoured spirit**” rather than sold under standard names, citing **Regulation 5.1** of the **FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020**, which requires the front of every package to state the food's **true nature**.
नियामक का मत है कि इस प्रकार तैयार किए गए उत्पादों को सामान्य नामों से बेचने के बजाय “**रम फ्लेवर्ड स्पिरिट**” या “**व्हिस्की फ्लेवर्ड स्पिरिट**” के रूप में लेबल किया जाना चाहिए। इसके लिए **एफएसएस (लेबलिंग एवं प्रदर्शन) विनियम, 2020 के विनियम 5.1** का उल्लेख किया गया है, जिसके अनुसार प्रत्येक पैकेज के सामने खाद्य पदार्थ का **वास्तविक स्वरूप स्पष्ट रूप से** अंकित होना चाहिए।

UB's response

यूबी की प्रतिक्रिया

- On **August 3**, **United Spirits (Diageo India)** filed a **regulatory disclosure** with the **NSE** and **BSE**.
3 अगस्त को यूनाइटेड स्पिरिट्स (डियाजियो इंडिया) ने एनएसई (NSE) और बीएसई (BSE) के समक्ष एक नियामकीय प्रकटीकरण दायर किया।
- It said it had filed a **writ petition** in the **Bombay High Court** on **August 1**, challenging the **FSSAI** order, concerning a product made at its **Baramati** unit.
कंपनी ने कहा कि उसने **1 अगस्त को बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय** में अपनी **बारामती** इकाई में निर्मित एक उत्पाद से संबंधित **एफएसएसआई (FSSAI)** के आदेश को चुनौती देते हुए एक **रिट याचिका** दायर की है।
- It said legal advice supports its view that its **label declarations** comply with current law and match long-standing **industry practice**.
कंपनी ने कहा कि उसे प्राप्त कानूनी परामर्श उसके इस मत का समर्थन करता है कि उसके **लेबल संबंधी घोषणाएँ** वर्तमान कानून के अनुरूप हैं तथा लंबे समय से प्रचलित **उद्योग प्रथा** से मेल खाती हैं।
- The company also noted **industry bodies**, including the **Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC)** and the **International Spirits & Wines Association of India (ISWAI)**, are also raising this issue with the **regulator**.
कंपनी ने यह भी कहा कि **उद्योग संगठन**, जिनमें **कॉन्फेडरेशन ऑफ इंडियन अल्कोहॉलिक बेवरेज कंपनिज़ (CIABC)** तथा **इंटरनेशनल स्पिरिट्स एंड वाइंस एसोसिएशन ऑफ इंडिया (ISWAI)** शामिल हैं, भी इस मुद्दे को **नियामक** के समक्ष उठा रहे हैं।

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07A8	Taxation bill passed in the Lok Sabha कराधान विधेयक लोकसभा में पारित	
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07A8	Why is the government offloading stake in Life Insurance Corporation? सरकार भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) में अपनी हिस्सेदारी क्यों बेच रही है?	



Why are households pledging gold instead of selling it?

How are rising prices reshaping India's traditional appetite for gold jewellery?

ISSUE ECONOMY
Santosh V. Perumal

The story so far:

For centuries, gold has had a prime position in India's economic and social landscape. Gold has proved its timeless appeal, but global uncertainties and their disruptions have led to a structural change in its holding pattern in India, exhibiting a dual-track economy, one steeped in tradition (as wedding and festival buying to provide seasonal support) and another shaped by modern portfolio management.

How is the demand pattern for gold changing?

India's overall gold demand was up 2% year-on-year (YoY) to 282 tonnes in the first half (H1) of this year, driven by investment demand as ETFs hit a record high; while jewellery demand declined 17.1% to 141.2 tonnes (also the second-lowest first quarter or Q1 on record since 2000), according to the

World Gold Council (WGC) data.

In the second quarter (Q2) alone, India's overall gold demand was down 6% YoY to 131.4 tonnes, with jewellery demand (30% of overall gold demand, the lowest since the WGC began tracking the data in 2000) falling faster at 15% to 75.1 tonnes, the second-lowest in Q2 since 2000. India was the world's largest gold jewellery market in the quarter, accounting for 27% of global demand, WGC data suggest.

Investment demand was seen softening in Q2 to 54 tonnes but was higher than the long-term quarterly average of 49 tonnes, hinting at above-average demand and pointing towards sustained investment interest.

Q1 was a record for Indian gold ETFs, with net demand of 20 tonnes, driven by strong investor participation amid elevated gold prices and subdued domestic financial markets. Similarly, bars and coins saw a 21.3% and 105.5% surge in volume and value, respectively, in H1FY27.

Is investment gold overtaking jewellery?

The shift in allegiance to investment instruments such as ETFs, gold bars, and coins is palpable as the price of the yellow metal increased more than fivefold in the last 10 years, against India's national average (economic growth), and is seen favourably from a current account perspective.

According to IIFL's Capital Outlook 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in 2025, stepped up gold purchases just as global gold prices rallied sharply.

The combination (household gold and the RBI purchases) helped cushion the impact of rupee depreciation and strengthened India's external balance at a time when foreign portfolio flows were under pressure, it said.

Affordability pressures pushed jewellery demand down. Yet, consumers' gold purchases hit a record ₹1.98 lakh crore, reflecting the extraordinary jump in prices.

The domestic MCTX spot gold price was

broadly flat in Q2FY27, supported by the import duty hike and the rupee depreciation (down by 4% QoQ). Even with this quarterly moderation, the domestic prices remained substantially higher than a year earlier. To put it in perspective, 10 grams of gold jewellery bought in 2016 for about ₹28,000 and more than ₹89,000 in H1 last year would cost ₹1.5 lakh or more in 2026.

Given the scenario, jewellery's monopoly as the preferred form of ownership started slowly fading, while financial gold made inroads and gained legitimacy among urban and younger investors, who preferred gold bars, coins and ETFs, which are seen as better investment vehicles.

The rising popularity of investment gold comes amid a previous unsuccessful attempt by the government to encash it, although India has one of the world's largest private gold stocks.

The Gold Monetisation Scheme, introduced in 2015, was designed to mobilise idle household gold by allowing individuals and institutions to deposit gold with banks and earn interest. But was met with lacklustre performance due to taxation concerns and procedural complexities.

Why are households pledging gold instead of selling it?

The apparent contradiction in India's gold market – falling jewellery demand but rising investment appetite – is now accompanied by a third trend as

households increasingly use the existing gold holdings as collateral.

According to the WGC, outstanding retail bank loans backed by pledged gold jewellery reached around ₹4.3 lakh crore by February 2026, rising 124% YoY.

The broader banking system has also seen an extraordinary acceleration in gold-backed lending, with gold loan portfolios reaching about ₹5.4 lakh crore by June 2026, registering close to 94% YoY growth. Despite domestic gold prices being around 60% higher YoY, holders showed limited appetite to sell, preferring to monetise their gold holdings rather than liquidate them, keeping recycled supply "muted", according to WGC.

The rapid expansion of gold loans needs careful monitoring in view of financial vulnerabilities it can create. The RBI strengthened its regulation to promote responsible lending, as it mandated borrowers to make full repayment of the principal and interest before repledging the asset.

What is next?

India's huge household gold stock can evolve from a passive store of wealth into an active financial asset, which could ease some of the traditional pressure that gold imports place on the current account.

Time is not too far for India's financial markets to see a better combination of monetisation schemes, financial innovation, recycling, market reforms and digital transparency for unlocking the huge pile of privately held gold.

07A8. Why are households pledging gold instead of selling it?

परिवार सोना बेचने के बजाय उसे गिरवी क्यों रख रहे हैं?

- For centuries, **gold** has had a prime position in **India's** economic and social landscape. सदियों से **सोने** का **भारत** के आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिदृश्य में प्रमुख स्थान रहा है।
- Gold** has proved its timeless appeal, but global **uncertainties** and their disruptions have led to a structural change in its holding pattern in **India**, exhibiting a **dual-track economy**, one steeped in tradition (as wedding and festival buying to provide seasonal support) and another shaped by modern **portfolio management**.

सोने ने अपनी स्थायी लोकप्रियता सिद्ध की है, किन्तु वैश्विक **अनिश्चितताओं** और उनसे उत्पन्न व्यवधानों ने **भारत** में इसके स्वामित्व के स्वरूप में संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन ला दिया है, जिससे एक **द्वि-पथीय अर्थव्यवस्था** उभरती दिखाई देती है—एक जो परंपराओं (जैसे विवाह एवं त्योहारों के अवसर पर होने वाली खरीदारी) पर आधारित है और दूसरी जो आधुनिक **पोर्टफोलियो प्रबंधन** से प्रभावित है।

How is the demand pattern for gold changing?

सोने की मांग का स्वरूप किस प्रकार बदल रहा है?

- India's** overall gold demand was up 2% year-on-year (YoY) to 282 tonnes in the first half (H1) of this year, driven by investment demand as ETFs hit a record high; while jewellery demand declined 17.1% to 141.2 tonnes (also the second-lowest first quarter (Q1) on record since 2000), according to the **World Gold Council (WGC)** data.

विश्व स्वर्ण परिषद (WGC) के अनुसार, इस वर्ष की **प्रथम छमाही (H1)** में **भारत** की कुल **सोने की मांग वर्ष-दर-वर्ष (YoY) 2% बढ़कर 282 टन** हो गई, जिसका प्रमुख कारण **निवेश मांग** तथा **ETF** में रिकॉर्ड स्तर की वृद्धि रही; जबकि **आभूषणों की मांग 17.1% घटकर 141.2 टन** रह गई, जो 2000 के बाद का दूसरा सबसे निम्न **प्रथम तिमाही (Q1)** का स्तर था।

- In the **second quarter (Q2)** alone, **India's** overall gold demand was down 6% YoY to 131.4 tonnes, with jewellery demand (30% of overall gold demand, the lowest since the **WGC** began tracking the data in 2000) falling faster at 15% to 75.1 tonnes, the second-lowest in Q2 since 2000.

केवल **द्वितीय तिमाही (Q2)** में ही **भारत** की कुल **सोने की मांग वर्ष-दर-वर्ष 6% घटकर 131.4 टन** रह गई, जबकि **आभूषणों की मांग** (जो कुल सोने की मांग का 30% थी और 2000 से **WGC** द्वारा आँकड़े संकलित



किए जाने के बाद का सबसे निम्न स्तर है) 15% घटकर 75.1 टन रह गई, जो 2000 के बाद की दूसरी सबसे कम Q2 मांग थी।

- India was the world's largest **gold jewellery market** in the quarter, accounting for 27% of global demand, WGC data suggest.
WGC के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, इस तिमाही में भारत विश्व का सबसे बड़ा **स्वर्ण आभूषण बाजार** रहा, जिसने वैश्विक मांग में 27% का योगदान दिया।
- Investment demand was seen softening in Q2 to 54 tonnes but was higher than the long-term quarterly average of 49 tonnes, hinting at above-average demand and pointing towards sustained investment interest.
Q2 में निवेश मांग घटकर 54 टन रही, किन्तु यह दीर्घकालिक त्रैमासिक औसत 49 टन से अधिक थी, जो औसत से अधिक मांग तथा निरंतर निवेश रुचि का संकेत देती है।
- Q1 was a record for Indian **gold ETFs**, with net demand of 20 tonnes, driven by strong investor participation amid elevated gold prices and subdued domestic financial markets.
Q1 भारतीय **गोल्ड ETF** के लिए रिकॉर्ड अवधि रही, जिसमें 20 टन की शुद्ध मांग दर्ज की गई। इसका प्रमुख कारण ऊँची सोने की कीमतों तथा कमजोर घरेलू वित्तीय बाजारों के बीच निवेशकों की मजबूत भागीदारी थी।
- Similarly, bars and coins saw a 21.3% and 105.5% surge in volume and value, respectively, in H1FY27.
इसी प्रकार, H1FY27 में स्वर्ण बिस्कुट एवं सिक्कों की मात्रा में 21.3% तथा मूल्य में 105.5% की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई।

Is investment gold overtaking jewellery?

क्या निवेश के रूप में सोना आभूषणों से आगे निकल रहा है?

- The shift in allegiance to investment instruments such as ETFs, gold bars, and coins is palpable as the price of the yellow metal increased more than fivefold in the last 10 years, against India's national average (economic growth), and is seen favourably from a current account perspective.
ETF, स्वर्ण बिस्कुट और सिक्कों जैसे निवेश साधनों की ओर झुकाव स्पष्ट दिखाई देता है, क्योंकि पिछले 10 वर्षों में सोने की कीमत पाँच गुना से अधिक बढ़ी है, जो भारत की औसत आर्थिक वृद्धि से कहीं अधिक है तथा चालू खाते के दृष्टिकोण से भी इसे अनुकूल माना जाता है।
- According to IIFL's Capital Outlook 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in 2025, stepped up gold purchases just as global gold prices rallied sharply.
IIFL Capital Outlook 2026 के अनुसार, 2025 में भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) ने वैश्विक सोने की कीमतों में तेज़ वृद्धि के दौरान सोने की खरीद बढ़ा दी।
- The combination (household gold and the RBI purchases) helped cushion the impact of rupee depreciation and strengthened India's external balance at a time when foreign portfolio flows were under pressure, it said.
रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, घरेलू स्वर्ण भंडार और RBI की खरीद के इस संयोजन ने रुपये के अवमूल्यन के प्रभाव को कम करने तथा भारत के बाह्य संतुलन को मजबूत करने में सहायता की, ऐसे समय में जब विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेश प्रवाह दबाव में था।
- Affordability pressures pushed jewellery demand down.
वहनीयता पर बढ़ते दबाव ने आभूषणों की मांग को कम कर दिया।
- Yet, consumers' gold purchases hit a record ₹1.98 lakh crore, reflecting the extraordinary jump in prices.
फिर भी, उपभोक्ताओं की सोने की खरीद रिकॉर्ड ₹1.98 लाख करोड़ तक पहुँच गई, जो कीमतों में असाधारण वृद्धि को दर्शाती है।
- The domestic MCX spot gold price was broadly flat in Q2FY27, supported by the import duty hike and the rupee depreciation (down by 4% QoQ).



घरेलू MCX स्पॉट सोना मूल्य Q2FY27 में लगभग स्थिर रहा, जिसे आयात शुल्क में वृद्धि तथा रुपये के अवमूल्यन (तिमाही-दर-तिमाही 4% की गिरावट) का समर्थन मिला।

- Even with this quarterly moderation, the domestic **prices** remained substantially higher than a year earlier.

इस त्रैमासिक स्थिरता के बावजूद, घरेलू कीमतें एक वर्ष पूर्व की तुलना में काफी अधिक रहीं।

- To put it in perspective, **10 grams of gold jewellery** bought in **2016** for about **₹28,000** and more than **₹89,000** in **H1** last year would cost **₹1.5 lakh** or more in **2026**.

यदि तुलना करें, तो **2016** में लगभग **₹28,000** में खरीदे गए **10 ग्राम सोने के आभूषण**, जिनकी कीमत पिछले वर्ष की **H1** में **₹89,000** से अधिक थी, उनकी कीमत **2026** में **₹1.5 लाख** या उससे अधिक हो गई है।

- Given the scenario, **jewellery's** monopoly as the preferred form of ownership started slowly fading, while **financial gold** made inroads and gained legitimacy among urban and younger investors, who preferred **gold bars, coins** and **ETFs**, which are seen as better **investment vehicles**.

इस परिस्थिति में स्वामित्व के सबसे पसंदीदा माध्यम के रूप में **आभूषणों** का एकाधिकार धीरे-धीरे कम होने लगा, जबकि **वित्तीय स्वर्ण** ने अपनी जगह बनाई और शहरी तथा युवा निवेशकों के बीच स्वीकार्यता प्राप्त की, जिन्होंने **स्वर्ण बिस्कुट, सिक्कों** और **ETF** को बेहतर निवेश विकल्प माना।

- The rising popularity of **investment gold** comes amid a previous unsuccessful attempt by the **government** to encash it, although **India** has one of the world's largest private **gold stocks**. **निवेश स्वर्ण** की बढ़ती लोकप्रियता ऐसे समय में सामने आई है, जब **सरकार** द्वारा इसे उपयोग में लाने का पूर्व प्रयास असफल रहा था, जबकि **भारत** के पास विश्व के सबसे बड़े निजी **स्वर्ण भंडारों** में से एक है।

- The **Gold Monetisation Scheme**, introduced in **2015**, was designed to mobilise idle **household gold** by allowing individuals and institutions to deposit **gold** with **banks** and earn interest.

2015 में प्रारम्भ की गई **स्वर्ण मुद्राकरण योजना (Gold Monetisation Scheme)** का उद्देश्य निष्क्रिय **घरेलू स्वर्ण** को उपयोग में लाना था, जिसके अंतर्गत व्यक्तियों और संस्थानों को **बैंकों** में **सोना** जमा कर **ब्याज** अर्जित करने की सुविधा प्रदान की गई।

- But was met with lacklustre performance due to **taxation concerns** and **procedural complexities**.

किन्तु **कराधान संबंधी चिंताओं** तथा **प्रक्रियात्मक जटिलताओं** के कारण इस योजना को अपेक्षित सफलता प्राप्त नहीं हो सकी।

Why are households pledging gold instead of selling it?

परिवार सोना बेचने के बजाय उसे गिरवी क्यों रख रहे हैं?

- The apparent contradiction in **India's gold market** — falling **jewellery demand** but rising **investment appetite** — is now accompanied by a third trend as households increasingly use the existing **gold holdings** as collateral.

भारत के स्वर्ण बाज़ार में दिखाई देने वाला विरोधाभास — **आभूषणों की माँग** में गिरावट लेकिन **निवेश की बढ़ती रुचि** — अब एक तीसरी प्रवृत्ति के साथ सामने आ रहा है, क्योंकि परिवार अपनी मौजूदा **स्वर्ण परिसंपत्तियों** का उपयोग बढ़ते हुए **जमानत** के रूप में कर रहे हैं।

- According to the **WGC**, outstanding **retail bank loans** backed by pledged **gold jewellery** reached around **₹4.3 lakh crore** by **February 2026**, rising **124% YoY**.

डब्ल्यूजीसी (WGC) के अनुसार, गिरवी रखे गए **स्वर्ण आभूषणों** के विरुद्ध बकाया **खुदरा बैंक ऋण फ़रवरी 2026** तक लगभग **₹4.3 लाख करोड़** तक पहुँच गए, जो **वर्ष-दर-वर्ष (YoY) 124%** की वृद्धि दर्शाते हैं।

- The broader **banking system** has also seen an extraordinary acceleration in **gold-backed lending**, with **gold loan portfolios** reaching about **₹5.4 lakh crore** by **June 2026**, registering close to **94% YoY** growth.

विस्तृत **बैंकिंग प्रणाली** में भी **स्वर्ण-समर्थित ऋण** देने की गति असाधारण रूप से बढ़ी है, जहाँ **स्वर्ण ऋण**



पोर्टफोलियो जून 2026 तक लगभग ₹5.4 लाख करोड़ तक पहुँच गया, जो लगभग 94% वर्ष-दर-वर्ष वृद्धि को दर्शाता है।

- Despite domestic **gold prices** being around **60% higher YoY**, holders showed limited appetite to sell, preferring to monetise their **gold holdings** rather than liquidate them, keeping **recycled supply** “muted”, according to **WGC**.

डब्ल्यूजीसी के अनुसार, घरेलू स्वर्ण कीमतों में वर्ष-दर-वर्ष लगभग 60% की वृद्धि होने के बावजूद, धारकों ने सोना बेचने में सीमित रुचि दिखाई और उसे बेचने के बजाय अपनी स्वर्ण परिसंपत्तियों का मुद्रिकरण करना अधिक पसंद किया, जिसके कारण पुनर्चक्रित आपूर्ति “कमज़ोर” बनी रही।

- The rapid expansion of **gold loans** needs careful monitoring in view of **financial vulnerabilities** it can create.

स्वर्ण ऋणों के तेजी से विस्तार पर सावधानीपूर्वक निगरानी रखने की आवश्यकता है, क्योंकि इससे वित्तीय संवेदनशीलताएँ उत्पन्न हो सकती हैं।

- The **RBI** strengthened its regulation to promote **responsible lending**, as it mandated borrowers to make full repayment of the **principal** and **interest** before repledging the asset. **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI)** ने उत्तरदायी ऋण वितरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपने नियमों को सुदृढ़ किया है और यह अनिवार्य किया है कि उधारकर्ता परिसंपत्ति को पुनः गिरवी रखने से पहले मूलधन और ब्याज का पूर्ण भुगतान करें।

What is next?

आगे क्या?

- India's huge **household gold stock** can evolve from a passive **store of wealth** into an active **financial asset**, which could ease some of the traditional pressure that **gold imports** place on the **current account**.

भारत का विशाल घरेलू स्वर्ण भंडार निष्क्रिय संपत्ति-संचय से आगे बढ़कर एक सक्रिय वित्तीय परिसंपत्ति में परिवर्तित हो सकता है, जिससे स्वर्ण आयात द्वारा चालू खाते पर पड़ने वाले पारंपरिक दबाव को कुछ हद तक कम किया जा सकता है।

- Time is not too far for **India's financial markets** to see a better combination of **monetisation schemes**, **financial innovation**, **recycling**, **market reforms** and **digital transparency** for unlocking the huge pile of privately held **gold**.

वह समय अधिक दूर नहीं है जब भारत के वित्तीय बाज़ार निजी स्वामित्व वाले विशाल स्वर्ण भंडार को सक्रिय करने के लिए मुद्रिकरण योजनाओं, वित्तीय नवाचार, पुनर्चक्रण, बाज़ार सुधारों और डिजिटल पारदर्शिता के अधिक प्रभावी संयोजन को देखेंगे।



Taxation bill passed in the Lok Sabha

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill, through which the government wants to promote domestic electronics manufacturing, attract foreign funds and modify the zero-MDR framework on digital payments was passed by the Lok Sabha.

The intention of the government behind bringing the Bill is to make India a more attractive and predictable place for global capital, manufacturing and business to come and stay.

The Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, replaces the June 5 Ordinance that provided I-T exemption to interest income and capital gains made by FPIs from invest-



The bill would allow merchant charges on UPI transactions.

ments in G-Secs.

The Bill proposes to remove the linkage between the Payment and Settlement Systems Act and the Income Tax Act and give a legal backing to the government to modify the zero-MDR framework on UPI and RuPay card transactions. The move could allow merchant charges on select UPI transactions.

exemption to interest income and capital gains made by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) from investments in Government Securities (G-Secs).

कराधान एवं अन्य विधि (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 ने 5 जून के अध्यादेश का स्थान लिया है, जिसके अंतर्गत सरकारी प्रतिभूतियों (G-Secs) में निवेश से विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों (FPIs) को प्राप्त ब्याज आय और पूंजीगत लाभ पर आयकर छूट प्रदान की गई थी।

- The Bill proposes to remove the linkage between the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act** and the **Income Tax Act** and give a legal backing to the **government** to modify the **zero MDR framework** on **UPI** and **RuPay card** transactions.

यह विधेयक भुगतान एवं निपटान प्रणाली अधिनियम और आयकर अधिनियम के बीच के संबंध को समाप्त करने तथा सरकार को यूपीआई (UPI) और रुपये कार्ड लेन-देन पर लागू शून्य एमडीआर (MDR) ढाँचे में संशोधन करने के लिए विधिक आधार प्रदान करने का प्रस्ताव करता है।

- The move could allow **merchant charges** on select **UPI transactions**. इस कदम से चुनिंदा यूपीआई लेन-देन पर व्यापारी शुल्क (Merchant Charges) लगाए जाने की संभावना बन सकती है।

07A8. Taxation bill passed in the Lok Sabha

कराधान विधेयक लोकसभा में पारित

- The **Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill**, through which the **government** wants to promote **domestic electronics manufacturing**, attract **foreign funds** and modify the **zero MDR framework** on **digital payments**, was passed by the **Lok Sabha**.

कराधान एवं अन्य विधि (संशोधन) विधेयक को लोकसभा ने पारित कर दिया। इस विधेयक के माध्यम से सरकार घरेलू इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देना, विदेशी निवेश कोष आकर्षित करना तथा डिजिटल भुगतान पर लागू शून्य एमडीआर (MDR) ढाँचे में संशोधन करना चाहती है।

- The intention of the **government** behind bringing the Bill is to make **India** a more attractive and predictable place for **global capital, manufacturing** and **business** to come and stay.

इस विधेयक को लाने के पीछे सरकार का उद्देश्य भारत को वैश्विक पूँजी, विनिर्माण तथा व्यापार के लिए अधिक आकर्षक और पूर्वानुमेय गंतव्य बनाना है, ताकि वे यहाँ आएँ और दीर्घकाल तक बने रहें।

- The **Taxation and other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, replaces the **June 5 Ordinance** that provided **Income Tax**



Coal India forays into iron ore mining

GS III: Economy

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-owned CIL emerged as the preferred bidder for the Gadadharpur iron ore block in Odisha, marking the country's largest coal miner's foray into iron ore mining.

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is mainly engaged in mining and production of coal and accounts for over 80% of local output of the dry fuel.

The move further signals CIL's broader diversification plan amid a long-term energy transition.

The lease has been awarded on an auction premium of 114.05% of the value of mineral dispatched.

CIL's entry into iron ore mining aligns with the government's push to boost

local production of critical minerals and secure raw material supply chains for the steel sector, which is central to the country's infrastructure and manufacturing ambitions.

The block is at the G3 exploration stage with a total resource estimated at 288 million tonne, CIL said in a filing with the BSE.

A G3 exploration stage block is a mineral mining area undergoing preliminary exploration. Its purpose is to zoom in on smaller target zones identified during broad regional surveys, using closer-spaced sampling, mapping, pitting, and initial core drilling to estimate mineral content.

The block has been awarded to the PSU by the Government of Odisha.

07A8. Coal India forays into iron ore mining

कोल इंडिया ने लौह अयस्क खनन क्षेत्र में प्रवेश किया

• State-owned CIL emerged as the preferred bidder for the Gadadharpur iron ore block in Odisha, marking the country's largest coal miner's foray into iron ore mining.

सरकारी स्वामित्व वाली कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (CIL)

ओडिशा के गदाधरपुर लौह अयस्क ब्लॉक के लिए

प्राथमिक बोलीदाता के रूप में उभरी, जिससे देश की

सबसे बड़ी कोयला उत्पादक कंपनी ने लौह अयस्क खनन क्षेत्र में प्रवेश किया।

• Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is mainly engaged in mining and production of coal and accounts for over 80% of local output of the dry fuel.

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड (CIL) मुख्यतः कोयला खनन और कोयला उत्पादन में संलग्न है तथा देश में इस शुष्क ईंधन के कुल उत्पादन का 80% से अधिक योगदान करती है।

• The move further signals CIL's broader diversification plan amid a long-term energy transition.

यह कदम दीर्घकालिक ऊर्जा संक्रमण के बीच CIL की व्यापक विविधीकरण योजना का भी संकेत देता है।

- The lease has been awarded on an auction premium of 114.05% of the value of mineral dispatched.

यह पट्टा (लीज़) प्रेषित खनिज के मूल्य पर 114.05% के नीलामी प्रीमियम के आधार पर प्रदान किया गया है।

- CIL's entry into iron ore mining aligns with the government's push to boost local production of critical minerals and secure raw material supply chains for the steel sector, which is central to the country's infrastructure and manufacturing ambitions.

CIL का लौह अयस्क खनन में प्रवेश सरकार की महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों के घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ाने तथा इस्पात क्षेत्र के लिए कच्चे माल की आपूर्ति शृंखला को सुरक्षित करने की नीति के अनुरूप है, जो देश की अवसंरचना और विनिर्माण संबंधी महत्वाकांक्षाओं का प्रमुख आधार है।

- The block is at the G3 exploration stage with a total resource estimated at 288 million tonnes, CIL said in a filing with the BSE.

CIL ने बीएसई (BSE) को दी गई सूचना में बताया कि यह ब्लॉक G3 अन्वेषण चरण में है तथा इसमें कुल अनुमानित संसाधन 288 मिलियन टन है।

- A G3 exploration stage block is a mineral mining area undergoing preliminary exploration.

G3 अन्वेषण चरण का ब्लॉक ऐसा खनिज खनन क्षेत्र होता है जहाँ प्रारंभिक अन्वेषण किया जा रहा होता है।

- Its purpose is to zoom in on smaller target zones identified during broad regional surveys, using closer-spaced sampling, mapping, pitting, and initial core drilling to estimate mineral content.

इसका उद्देश्य व्यापक क्षेत्रीय सर्वेक्षणों के दौरान पहचाने गए छोटे लक्षित क्षेत्रों पर अधिक सटीक अध्ययन करना होता है, जिसके लिए निकट दूरी पर नमूना संग्रह (Sampling), मानचित्रण (Mapping), पिटिंग

(Pitting) तथा प्रारंभिक कोर ड्रिलिंग (Core Drilling) का उपयोग कर खनिज की मात्रा का अनुमान लगाया जाता है।

- The block has been awarded to the PSU by the Government of Odisha.
यह ब्लॉक ओडिशा सरकार द्वारा इस सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम (PSU) को आवंटित किया गया है।

Why is the government offloading stake in Life Insurance Corporation

How will the stake sale benefit the Union government in terms of disinvestment perspective? What triggered the offer for sale (OFS) and is it the right time? What has been the response from investors so far? How will small investors gain from this sale? What are the contours of this offer for sale

GS III: Economy
EXPLAINER

N. Ravi Kumar

The story so far: The Government of India is partially offloading stake in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), one of its crown jewels.

The move, while helping the insurance behemoth comply with capital market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) shareholding norms, ahead of the deadline, will benefit the Centre from a perspective of inching closer to its ₹80,000 crore disinvestment target for FY27.

OFS and contours

When did the LIC offer for sale begin and what were its contours?

The government took the Offer for Sale (OFS) route to shed 6.5% from the 96.5% stake it held in LIC. The two-day OFS opened on August 4 for institutional or non-retail investors. August 5, the second day, was for retail investors to bid.

Under the OFS Offer For Sale, the government decided to disinvest 2.5% equity with an additional 4% as a green shoe option. It had set the floor price at ₹382 per share, which compared to August 3 closing price of ₹424.35 on the BSE translated into a dis-



Adding to kitty: The government took the Offer for Sale route to shed 6.5% from the 96.5% stake it held in LIC. REUTERS

count of 10%.

Trigger

SEBI, as part of the prescribed minimum public shareholding norms, had set a revised May 16, 2027, deadline for LIC to achieve 10% public shareholding.

The OFS will thus make the corporation compliant with the requirement ahead of the deadline, which SEBI had fixed in May 2024.

Besides achieving the MPS norms, the OFS is equally important for the proceeds the sale of more than 82.22 crore shares will fetch the government.

On full subscription at the base price, it would translate into ₹31,000 crore accretion to the disinvestment kitty - since the



With the stake sale in LIC expected to mop up around ₹31,000 crore, the government will move closer to its disinvestment receipts target of ₹80,000 crore in FY27

government is selling stake, LIC will not get anything from the OFS.

Is OFS timing right?

Prevailing market conditions and the shadow cast by recent geopolitical developments as well as the likelihood of the response not being as desired if the OFS is pushed to a later date could have contrib-

uted to the timing.

The debate on the timing can continue, but the response reflects a continued investor interest in the country's leading life insurer. This despite LIC continuing to lose market share to private insurers over the years while maintaining the pole position and reporting growth in new business.

For FY26, the market share of the corporation was a little over 56%.

The Initial Public Offering (IPO) of LIC had hit the market in 2022 with the government fixing the issue price at ₹949 a piece ahead of the May 17, 2022, listing.

As many as 22.13 crore shares, or 3.5% stake, were sold by the government through the IPO. The IPO

was the largest in FY23 and raised ₹20,557 crore.

Spotlight

The OFS follows bonus equity shares that were issued in the ratio of 1:1 to existing shareholders, earlier this year.

Since no new shares are being issued or in other words the number of LIC shares remain the same even after the OFS, the fact that the government is shedding its stake may have a bearing on the share price, at least temporarily.

Given its size and scale of operations as well as one of the Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIs) - thus subjected to enhanced regulatory supervision - LIC will remain under the spotlight and

consequently its shares will generate investor interest. As regards the OFS, a senior official in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said it received an overwhelming response from the institutional investors and was oversubscribed 3.32 times of its base size.

"This enthusiastic participation reflects robust investor confidence and the depth of India's capital markets. In view of the exceptional demand, the government has decided to exercise the green shoe option."

Divestment stake

It is possibly the most important. DIPAM data shows the disinvestment receipts, ahead of the OFS by LIC, totalled ₹21,201.13 crore in 2026-27.

Coal India's 2% OFS generating ₹5,542.36 crore was the highest. With the stake sale in LIC expected to mop up around ₹31,000 crore, the government will move closer to its disinvestment receipts target of ₹80,000 crore in FY27.

The Union Budget documents make no reference to divestment, clubbing them under Miscellaneous Capital Receipts, including receipts on account of management of equity investments and public assets through various mechanisms.

07A8. Why is the government offloading stake in Life Insurance Corporation?

सरकार भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) में अपनी हिस्सेदारी क्यों बेच रही है?

- The story so far:**
अब तक की स्थिति:
- The Government of India is partially offloading stake in the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), one of its crown jewels.
भारत सरकार अपने प्रमुख सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों में से एक भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम (LIC) में अपनी हिस्सेदारी का आंशिक विनिवेश कर रही है।
- The move, while helping the insurance behemoth comply with capital market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s shareholding norms, ahead of the deadline, will benefit the Centre from a perspective of inching closer to its ₹80,000 crore disinvestment target for FY27.

यह कदम जहाँ एक ओर इस विशाल बीमा कंपनी को पूंजी बाज़ार नियामक भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनियम

बोर्ड (SEBI) के शेयरधारिता मानदंडों का समय-सीमा से पहले अनुपालन करने में सहायता करेगा, वहीं दूसरी ओर केंद्र सरकार को वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 (FY27) के लिए निर्धारित ₹80,000 करोड़ के विनिवेश लक्ष्य के निकट पहुँचने में भी लाभ होगा।

OFS and contours

ओएफएस और इसकी प्रमुख विशेषताएँ

- When did the **LIC's Offer for Sale (OFS)** begin and what were its contours?
LIC की ऑफ़र फ़ॉर सेल (OFS) कब प्रारम्भ हुई और इसकी प्रमुख विशेषताएँ क्या थीं?
- The **government** took the **Offer for Sale (OFS)** route to shed **6.5%** from the **96.5% stake** it held in **LIC**.
सरकार ने **LIC** में अपनी **96.5%** हिस्सेदारी में से **6.5%** कम करने के लिए **ऑफ़र फ़ॉर सेल (OFS)** का मार्ग अपनाया।
- The **two-day OFS** opened on **August 4** for **institutional** or **non-retail investors**.
दो दिवसीय **OFS 4 अगस्त** को संस्थागत अथवा गैर-खुदरा निवेशकों के लिए प्रारम्भ हुई।
- August 5**, the second day, was for **retail investors** to bid.
5 अगस्त, अर्थात दूसरे दिन, **खुदरा निवेशकों** के लिए बोली लगाने की व्यवस्था की गई।
- Under the **Offer for Sale**, the **government** decided to disinvest **2.5% equity** with an additional **4%** as a **green shoe option**.
ऑफ़र फ़ॉर सेल के अंतर्गत सरकार ने **2.5% इक्विटी** के विनिवेश का निर्णय लिया, जिसमें अतिरिक्त **4%** का **ग्रीन शू विकल्प** भी शामिल था।
- It had set the **floor price** at **₹382 per share**, which compared to the **August 3** closing price of **₹424.35** on the **BSE** translated into a **10% discount**.
इसने प्रति शेयर **₹382** का न्यूनतम मूल्य (**Floor Price**) निर्धारित किया, जो **3 अगस्त** को **बीएसई (BSE)** पर बंद भाव **₹424.35** की तुलना में लगभग **10%** की छूट दर्शाता है।

Trigger

प्रमुख कारण

- SEBI**, as part of the prescribed **minimum public shareholding (MPS)** norms, had set a revised **May 16, 2027**, deadline for **LIC** to achieve **10% public shareholding**.
SEBI ने निर्धारित न्यूनतम सार्वजनिक शेयरधारिता (**MPS**) मानदंडों के अंतर्गत **LIC** को **10%** सार्वजनिक शेयरधारिता प्राप्त करने के लिए संशोधित अंतिम तिथि **16 मई, 2027** निर्धारित की थी।
- The **OFS** will thus make the corporation compliant with the requirement ahead of the deadline, which **SEBI** had fixed in **May 2024**.
इस प्रकार **OFS** निर्धारित समय-सीमा से पहले ही निगम को इस आवश्यकता के अनुरूप बना देगा, जिसकी समय-सीमा **SEBI** ने **मई 2024** में निर्धारित की थी।
- Besides achieving the **MPS norms**, the **OFS** is equally important for the proceeds the sale of more than **82.22 crore shares** will fetch the **government**.
MPS मानदंडों की पूर्ति के अतिरिक्त, **82.22 करोड़ से अधिक शेयरों** की बिक्री से प्राप्त होने वाली राशि भी सरकार के लिए अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है।
- On full subscription at the **base price**, it would translate into **₹31,000 crore** accretion to the **disinvestment kitty** – since the **government** is selling stake, **LIC** will not get anything from the **OFS**.
यदि आधार मूल्य पर पूर्ण सदस्यता प्राप्त होती है, तो इससे **विनिवेश कोष** में लगभग **₹31,000 करोड़** की वृद्धि होगी। चूँकि सरकार अपनी हिस्सेदारी बेच रही है, इसलिए **LIC** को इस **OFS** से कोई राशि प्राप्त नहीं होगी।

Is OFS timing right? क्या OFS का समय उपयुक्त है?

- Prevailing **market conditions** and the shadow cast by recent **geopolitical developments** as well as the likelihood of the response not being as desired if the **OFS** is pushed to a later date could have contributed to the timing.
वर्तमान बाज़ार परिस्थितियों, हाल के भूराजनैतिक घटनाक्रमों से उत्पन्न अनिश्चितताओं तथा इस संभावना कि यदि **OFS** को आगे टाल दिया जाता तो अपेक्षित प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिलती, ने इसके समय-निर्धारण को प्रभावित किया हो सकता है।
- The debate on the timing can continue, but the response reflects a continued **investor interest** in the country's leading **life insurer**.
समय-निर्धारण पर बहस जारी रह सकती है, किन्तु निवेशकों की प्रतिक्रिया देश की अग्रणी जीवन बीमा कंपनी में निरंतर निवेश रुचि को दर्शाती है।
- This despite **LIC** continuing to lose **market share** to **private insurers** over the years while maintaining the pole position and reporting growth in **new business**.
यह तब है, जबकि **LIC** वर्षों से निजी बीमा कंपनियों के पक्ष में अपना बाज़ार हिस्सा खोती रही है, फिर भी उसने अग्रणी स्थान बनाए रखा है और नए व्यवसाय में वृद्धि दर्ज की है।
- For **FY26**, the **market share** of the corporation was a little over **56%**.
वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 (FY26) में निगम की बाज़ार हिस्सेदारी 56% से कुछ अधिक रही।
- The **Initial Public Offering (IPO)** of **LIC** had hit the market in **2022** with the **government** fixing the **issue price** at **₹949** a piece ahead of the **May 17, 2022**, listing.
LIC का आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निर्गम (IPO) 2022 में बाज़ार में आया था, जिसमें सरकार ने 17 मई, 2022 को सूचीबद्ध होने से पहले प्रति शेयर ₹949 का निर्गम मूल्य निर्धारित किया था।
- As many as **22.13 crore shares**, or **3.5% stake**, were sold by the **government** through the **IPO**.
सरकार ने IPO के माध्यम से 22.13 करोड़ शेयर, अर्थात 3.5% हिस्सेदारी, बेची थी।
- The **IPO** was the largest in **FY23** and raised **₹20,557 crore**.
यह वित्त वर्ष 2022-23 (FY23) का सबसे बड़ा IPO था, जिससे ₹20,557 करोड़ जुटाए गए।

Spotlight मुख्य आकर्षण

- The **OFS** follows **bonus equity shares** that were issued in the ratio of **1:1** to existing shareholders, earlier this year.
ऑफर फॉर सेल (OFS) इस वर्ष की शुरुआत में मौजूदा शेयरधारकों को 1:1 के अनुपात में जारी किए गए बोनस इक्विटी शेयरों के बाद लाया गया है।
- Since no new shares are being issued or in other words the number of **LIC shares** remain the same even after the **OFS**, the fact that the **government** is shedding its stake may have a bearing on the **share price**, at least temporarily.
चूँकि **OFS** के बाद भी कोई नए शेयर जारी नहीं किए जा रहे हैं, अर्थात एलआईसी (LIC) के कुल शेयरों की संख्या समान रहेगी, इसलिए सरकार द्वारा अपनी हिस्सेदारी कम किए जाने का प्रभाव, कम-से-कम अस्थायी रूप से, शेयर मूल्य पर पड़ सकता है।
- Given its size and scale of operations as well as being one of the **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs)** — thus subjected to enhanced **regulatory supervision** — **LIC** will remain under the spotlight and consequently its shares will generate **investor interest**.
अपने विशाल आकार और व्यापक परिचालन के साथ-साथ घरेलू प्रणालीगत रूप से महत्वपूर्ण बीमाकर्ताओं (D-SIIs) में से एक होने के कारण, और इस कारण अधिक कठोर नियामकीय निगरानी के अधीन रहने से, एलआईसी चर्चा के केंद्र में बनी रहेगी और इसके शेयर निवेशकों की रुचि आकर्षित करते रहेंगे।



- As regards the **OFS**, a senior official in the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** said it received an overwhelming response from the **institutional investors** and was oversubscribed **3.32 times** of its base size.
OFS के संबंध में निवेश एवं लोक परिसंपत्ति प्रबंधन विभाग (DIPAM) के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने बताया कि इसे संस्थागत निवेशकों से अत्यधिक उत्साहजनक प्रतिक्रिया मिली और यह अपने मूल आकार की तुलना में **3.32 गुना** अधिक अभिदत्त (Oversubscribed) हुआ।
- "This enthusiastic participation reflects robust **investor confidence** and the depth of **India's capital markets**. In view of the exceptional demand, the **government** has decided to exercise the **green shoe option**."
"यह उत्साहपूर्ण भागीदारी मजबूत निवेशक विश्वास तथा भारत के पूँजी बाजारों की गहराई को दर्शाती है। असाधारण माँग को देखते हुए सरकार ने ग्रीन शू विकल्प का उपयोग करने का निर्णय लिया है।"

Divestment stake विनिवेश हिस्सेदारी

- It is possibly the most important.
संभवतः यही सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलू है।
- DIPAM** data shows the **disinvestment receipts**, ahead of the **LIC OFS**, totalled **₹21,201.13 crore** in **2026-27**.
DIPAM के आँकड़ों के अनुसार, एलआईसी **OFS** से पहले **2026-27** में विनिवेश प्राप्तियाँ कुल **₹21,201.13 करोड़** रहीं।
- Coal India's 2% OFS**, generating **₹5,542.36 crore**, was the highest.
कोल इंडिया के **2% OFS** से प्राप्त **₹5,542.36 करोड़** इस अवधि में सर्वाधिक रहे।
- With the **stake sale** in **LIC** expected to mop up around **₹31,000 crore**, the **government** will move closer to its **disinvestment receipts target** of **₹80,000 crore** in **FY27**.
एलआईसी में हिस्सेदारी बिक्री से लगभग **₹31,000 करोड़** प्राप्त होने की संभावना है, जिससे सरकार वित्त वर्ष **2026-27 (FY27)** के लिए निर्धारित **₹80,000 करोड़** के विनिवेश प्राप्ति लक्ष्य के और निकट पहुँच जाएगी।
- The **Union Budget** documents make no reference to **divestment**, clubbing them under **Miscellaneous Capital Receipts**, including receipts on account of management of **equity investments** and **public assets** through various mechanisms.
केंद्रीय बजट दस्तावेजों में विनिवेश का अलग से कोई उल्लेख नहीं किया गया है। इसे विविध पूँजीगत प्राप्तियों (Miscellaneous Capital Receipts) के अंतर्गत शामिल किया गया है, जिसमें विभिन्न व्यवस्थाओं के माध्यम से इक्विटी निवेशों तथा लोक परिसंपत्तियों के प्रबंधन से प्राप्त आय भी सम्मिलित है।

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TOPICS COVERED		
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Growing your own food, time for leisure: what life is like in a blue zone

A blue zone, a concept introduced by journalist Dan Buettner, demographer Michel Poulain, and physician Gianni Pes, describes a region with high longevity; Ogimi, a village in Okinawa, Japan, is a lush landscape dotted with small farms where residents live with a strong sense of purpose

GS III: S&T
Meenakshy S.

The air is heavy, but the skies are clear on a July afternoon in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost and westernmost prefecture: a tropical paradise, a globally recognised 'blue zone', and home to some of the people who have lived the longest. It has been only a day or two since Typhoon Bavi churned its waters and toppled trees. But Okinawans believe typhoons are not merely inevitable; they are essential. "It cleanses our seas," says Hisami Takayama, 62, who has worked as a travel guide in the region for several years.

A blue zone, a concept introduced by journalist Dan Buettner, demographer Michel Poulain, and physician Gianni Pes, in essence, describes a region with high longevity. Sardinia in Italy and Nicoya in Costa Rica are some of the other recognised blue zones.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this island of longevity is that its nature and culture are so deeply intertwined that they are almost impossible to separate. The greatest living proof of this, is a village less than two hours from Naha city, along the coast overlooking Okinawa's brilliant blue and purple waters: Ogimi.

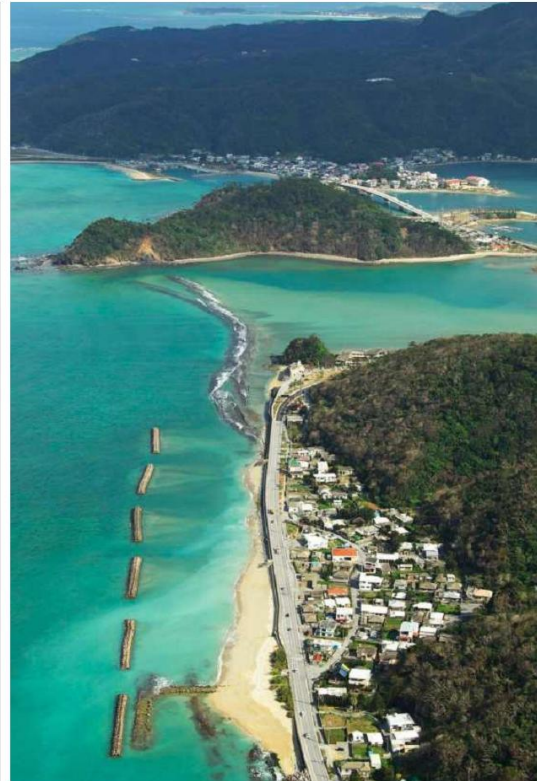
The residents of Ogimi are all about the spirit of *nankuru nai sa* – the Okinawan belief that, in the end, everything will be alright and life should not be taken too seriously

sense of purpose, or *ikigai* – a word many of us became familiar with through the acclaimed self-help book – while embracing a certain slowness unique to the region, starkly different from the bustling city life of Tokyo.

Prevention better than cure

What drives longevity here? Food, of course, is one of the biggest factors. Okinawans follow a basic rule: *hara hachi bu*, which means, eating until you are 80% full. They also believe that good health begins with the food they eat; Okinawans place greater emphasis on prevention than treating illness after it occurs – a philosophy influenced by Chinese culture, which believes that food and medicine come from the same source.

Morio Taira, 91, eats about three meals a day – meat, lots of vegetables, and fruits, whether they are bitter, sour, or sweet. An Ogimi table makes the best use of whatever is grown in the village during that particular season. Their diet is especially rich in green and yellow vegetables, including bitter melon, mugwort, and handama. A local specialty fruit, shikwasa lemon, is used abundantly; it is believed to be high in nobilitin, a compound that may support cognitive function and help manage glucose levels, according to some studies. They also consume protein-rich tofu from the island. Purple sweet potato, which is rich



Blue waters: Ogimi is a lush landscape dotted with small farms. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A typical meal, generally built around a bowl of rice and paired with soup. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in antioxidants, is a staple ingredient in many of their dishes.

Traditional Okinawan cuisine relies heavily on dashi, a broth that forms the base of many dishes and is rich in *umami* (the savoury taste), a term that any food lover associates with Japanese cuisine. Ms. Takayama says that the *umami* in Okinawan cuisine also has much to do with longevity. It adds restraint and harmony to their food and helps reduce

salt intake – by enhancing the perception of saltiness – without sacrificing flavour.

The food grown in Ogimi uses little to no pesticides, says Makoto Takehara, a young farmer. Pointing to an okura (okra) farm, he says: "We even let weeds grow here. They are also life. They bring bugs, and bugs are necessary." Growing food is something children are taught from a young age; it forms part of the the Okinawan school curriculum. Even older



People live with a strong sense of purpose, or *ikigai* – a word many of us became familiar with through the acclaimed self-help book – while embracing a certain slowness unique to the region, starkly different from the bustling city life of Tokyo

people take part in farming, which helps them stay active, says Kenryu Miyagi, chairman of Ogimi Marugoto Tourism Society.

Staying active

But it's not just about food, says Mr. Morio; keeping the mind active is just as important. Even at 91, he plays Japanese chess every day.

Incidentally, it was through the game that he met the love of his life, Etsuko Taira, who is 81. The couple has been married for so long that they no longer remember exactly how many years it has been. They first met when Mr. Morio was working at a radio bullet-casting company, while Ms. Etsuko worked at a souvenir shop. Her father was an avid Japanese chess player, and as Mr. Morio often played with him, he and Ms. Etsuko gradually fell in love.

Living for loved ones is another principle Okinawans value, along with their strong sense of community. Mr. Morio and Ms. Etsuko enjoy karaoke nights and long morning walks along Okinawa's white sandy shores. Ms. Etsuko quips they are almost always together, but a little time apart is healthy too. Every now and then, she enjoys spending time with her girlfriends and indulging in *yuntaku*, which, in the Okinawan dictionary, means 'chatting and laughing', a principle through which local people strengthen their bonds by sharing stories about their day-to-day lives.

Sense of purpose

The residents of Ogimi are all about the spirit of *nankuru nai sa* – the Okinawan belief that, in the end, everything will be alright and life should not be taken too seriously. At the same time, they are guided by a strong sense of *ikigai*.

Hatsuko Yamashiro is a big proponent of the latter. At 83, she still runs her own PR company, employing 15 people. She says her mission is to introduce Okinawa's shikwasa lemons to the rest of the world. Community is very important, says Ms. Hatsuko, adding that she genuinely enjoys going to the office every day. One day, she hopes to see shikwasa become known across the globe.

The biggest secret of all, according to Ms. Takayama, is that all these values – these centuries-old secrets to a long and healthy life – are deeply ingrained in Okinawa's culture and way of life; they are organic. Like all things, life must come to an end, and Okinawans don't live with the goal of living a long life; they instead strive for contentment and a sense of purpose, she adds.

The secret to a long and healthy life is something many want to discover; the answer, says nonagenarian Mr. Morio, who has lived in the region all his life, is many things, all relatively simple. (meenakshy.s@thehindu.co.in)

07A8. Growing your own food, time for leisure: what life is like in a blue zone
अपना भोजन स्वयं उगाना, अवकाश के लिए समय: एक ब्लू ज़ोन में जीवन कैसा होता है



- **The air** is heavy, but the **skies** are clear on a July afternoon in **Okinawa, Japan's** southernmost and westernmost prefecture: a tropical paradise, a globally recognised '**blue zone**', and home to some of the people who have lived the longest.
वायु भारी है, लेकिन जुलाई की एक दोपहर **ओकिनावा, जापान** के सबसे दक्षिणी और सबसे पश्चिमी प्रान्त में आकाश स्वच्छ है; यह एक उष्णकटिबंधीय स्वर्ग, विश्व-प्रसिद्ध '**ब्लू ज़ोन**', तथा विश्व के सबसे अधिक दीर्घायु लोगों में से कुछ का निवास-स्थान है।
- It has been only a day or two since **Typhoon Bavi** churned its waters and toppled trees.
टाइफून बावी द्वारा समुद्री जल को मथने और वृक्षों को गिराने की घटना को केवल एक या दो दिन ही हुए हैं।
- But **Okinawans** believe **typhoons** are not merely inevitable; they are essential.
किन्तु **ओकिनावा** के लोग मानते हैं कि **टाइफून** केवल अपरिहार्य ही नहीं, बल्कि आवश्यक भी हैं।
- "It cleanses our seas," says **Hisami Takayama**, 62, who has worked as a **travel guide** in the region for several years.
"यह हमारे समुद्रों को शुद्ध करता है," 62 वर्षीय **हिसामी ताकायामा**, जिन्होंने कई वर्षों तक इस क्षेत्र में **पर्यटन मार्गदर्शक** के रूप में कार्य किया है, कहती हैं।
- **A blue zone**, a concept introduced by journalist **Dan Buettner**, demographer **Michel Poulain**, and physician **Gianni Pes**, in essence, **describes a region with high longevity**.
ब्लू ज़ोन, एक अवधारणा जिसे पत्रकार **डैन बुएटनर**, जनसांख्यिकीविद् **मिशेल पुलै**, तथा चिकित्सक **जियानी पेस** ने प्रस्तुत किया, मूलतः ऐसे क्षेत्र का वर्णन करती है जहाँ दीर्घायु का स्तर अत्यधिक होता है।
- **Sardinia in Italy and Nicoya in Costa Rica** are some of the other recognised **blue zones**.
इटली का सार्डिनिया तथा कोस्टा रिका का निकोया अन्य मान्यता प्राप्त **ब्लू ज़ोन** हैं।
- Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this **island of longevity** is that its **nature and culture** are so deeply intertwined that they are almost impossible to separate.
दीर्घायु के इस द्वीप की सबसे उल्लेखनीय विशेषता यह है कि इसकी **प्रकृति और संस्कृति** इतनी गहराई से परस्पर जुड़ी हुई हैं कि उन्हें अलग करना लगभग असंभव है।
- The greatest living proof of this, is a village less than two hours from **Naha city**, along the coast overlooking **Okinawa's** brilliant blue and purple waters: **Ogimi**.
इसका सबसे बड़ा जीवंत प्रमाण **नाहा** नगर से दो घंटे से भी कम दूरी पर स्थित वह गाँव है, जो **ओकिनावा** के चमकदार नीले और बैंगनी समुद्री जल की ओर मुख किए हुए तट पर स्थित है: **ओगिमी**।
- Home to an unusually large number of **octogenarians, nonagenarians, and centenarians**, **Ogimi** is a lush landscape dotted with small farms where residents grow much of their own food.
असामान्य रूप से बड़ी संख्या में **अस्सी वर्ष, नब्बे वर्ष, तथा सौ वर्ष या उससे अधिक आयु** के लोगों का निवास-स्थान **ओगिमी** एक हरित एवं समृद्ध क्षेत्र है, जहाँ छोटे-छोटे खेतों में निवासी अपने भोजन का अधिकांश भाग स्वयं उगाते हैं।
- Here, people live with a strong sense of purpose, or **ikigai** — a word many of us became familiar with through the acclaimed self-help book — while embracing a certain **slowness** unique to the region, starkly different from the bustling city life of **Tokyo**.
यहाँ लोग जीवन के स्पष्ट उद्देश्य, अर्थात् **इकिगाई**, के साथ जीवन व्यतीत करते हैं — एक ऐसा शब्द जिससे हममें से अनेक लोग प्रसिद्ध स्व-सहायता पुस्तक के माध्यम से परिचित हुए — और साथ ही इस क्षेत्र की विशिष्ट **धीमी जीवन-शैली** को अपनाते हैं, जो **टोक्यो** के व्यस्त महानगरीय जीवन से बिल्कुल भिन्न है।

Prevention better than cure

उपचार से बेहतर है रोकथाम

- What drives **longevity** here?
यहाँ दीर्घायु का आधार क्या है?
- **Food**, of course, is one of the biggest factors.
निस्संदेह, **भोजन** इसके सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कारकों में से एक है।

- **Okinawans** follow a basic rule: **hara hachi bu**, which means, eating until you are **80% full**. ओकिनावा के लोग एक मूलभूत सिद्धांत का पालन करते हैं: **हारा हाची बु**, जिसका अर्थ है **80% पेट भरने तक** ही भोजन करना।
- They also believe that good **health** begins with the food they eat; **Okinawans** place greater emphasis on **prevention** than treating illness after it occurs – a philosophy influenced by **Chinese culture**, which believes that **food and medicine come from the same source**. वे यह भी मानते हैं कि अच्छा **स्वास्थ्य** भोजन से प्रारम्भ होता है; ओकिनावा के लोग बीमारी होने के बाद उसका उपचार करने की अपेक्षा उसकी **रोकथाम** पर अधिक बल देते हैं — यह विचार **चीनी संस्कृति** से प्रभावित है, जो मानती है कि **भोजन** और **औषधि** का स्रोत एक ही है।
- **Morio Taira**, 91, eats about three meals a day — **meat**, lots of **vegetables**, and **fruits**, whether they are bitter, sour, or sweet. 91 वर्षीय **मोरियो ताइरा** प्रतिदिन लगभग तीन बार भोजन करते हैं — जिसमें **मांस**, भरपूर **सब्जियाँ**, तथा **फल** शामिल होते हैं, चाहे वे कड़वे हों, खट्टे हों या मीठे।
- An **Ogimi** table makes the best use of whatever is grown in the village during that particular season. ओगिमी का भोजन उस विशेष मौसम में गाँव में उगाई जाने वाली उपलब्ध उपज का सर्वोत्तम उपयोग करता है।
- Their **diet** is especially rich in **green and yellow vegetables**, including **bitter melon**, **mugwort**, and **handama**. उनका **आहार** विशेष रूप से **हरी एवं पीली सब्जियों** से समृद्ध होता है, जिनमें **करेला**, **मगवाँट**, तथा **हंडामा** शामिल हैं।
- A local specialty fruit, **shikwasa lemon**, is used abundantly; it is believed to be high in **nobiletin**, a compound that may support **cognitive function** and help manage **glucose levels**, according to some studies. स्थानीय विशेष फल **शिकवासा लेमन** का व्यापक रूप से उपयोग किया जाता है; कुछ अध्ययनों के अनुसार इसमें **नोबिलेटिन** नामक यौगिक प्रचुर मात्रा में पाया जाता है, जो **संज्ञानात्मक क्षमता** को समर्थन देने तथा **ग्लूकोज़ स्तर** के प्रबंधन में सहायक हो सकता है।
- They also consume **protein-rich tofu** from the island. वे द्वीप पर निर्मित **प्रोटीन-समृद्ध टोफू** का भी सेवन करते हैं।
- **Purple sweet potato**, which is rich in **antioxidants**, is a staple ingredient in many of their dishes. **बैंगनी शकरकंद**, जो **एंटीऑक्सीडेंट्स** से भरपूर होता है, उनके अनेक व्यंजनों का प्रमुख घटक है।
- Traditional **Okinawan cuisine** relies heavily on **dashi**, a broth that forms the base of many dishes and is rich in **umami** (the savoury taste), a term that any food lover associates with **Japanese cuisine**. पारंपरिक ओकिनावाई व्यंजन मुख्यतः **दाशी** पर आधारित होते हैं, जो अनेक व्यंजनों का आधार बनने वाला शोरबा है तथा **उमामी** (स्वादिल एवं गाढ़ा स्वाद) से भरपूर होता है; यह ऐसा शब्द है जिसे प्रत्येक भोजन-प्रेमी **जापानी व्यंजनों** से जोड़ता है।
- Ms. **Takayama** says that the **umami** in **Okinawan cuisine** also has much to do with **longevity**. सुश्री **ताकायामा** कहती हैं कि ओकिनावाई व्यंजनों में उपस्थित **उमामी** का भी दीर्घायु से गहरा संबंध है।
- It adds restraint and harmony to their food and helps reduce **salt intake** – by enhancing the perception of **saltiness** – without sacrificing **flavour**. यह उनके भोजन में संतुलन और सामंजस्य जोड़ता है तथा **नमक की मात्रा** कम करने में सहायता करता है — **नमकीन स्वाद** की अनुभूति को बढ़ाकर — बिना **स्वाद** से समझौता किए।
- The food grown in **Ogimi** uses little to no **pesticides**, says **Makoto Takehara**, a young farmer. युवा किसान **मकोतो ताकेहारा** के अनुसार, ओगिमी में उगाए जाने वाले खाद्य पदार्थों में **कीटनाशकों** का बहुत कम अथवा बिल्कुल भी उपयोग नहीं किया जाता।

- Pointing to an **okura (okra)** farm, he says: "We even let **weeds** grow here. They are also life. They bring **bugs**, and bugs are necessary."
ओकुरा (भिंडी) के खेत की ओर संकेत करते हुए वे कहते हैं, "हम यहाँ **खरपतवार** को भी उगने देते हैं। वे भी जीवन हैं। वे **कीटों** को आकर्षित करते हैं, और कीट आवश्यक हैं।"
- Growing food is something children are taught from a young age; it forms part of the Okinawan school curriculum.**
भोजन उगाना बच्चों को छोटी आयु से ही सिखाया जाता है; यह **ओकिनावा के विद्यालयी पाठ्यक्रम** का एक भाग है।
- Even older people take part in farming, which helps them stay active,** says Kenryu Miyagi, chairman of **Ogimi Marugoto Tourism Society.**
ओगिमी मारुगोटो पर्यटन सोसायटी के अध्यक्ष केनर्यु मियागी के अनुसार, वृद्ध लोग भी **कृषि** में भाग लेते हैं, जिससे वे **सक्रिय** बने रहते हैं।

Staying active
सक्रिय बने रहना

MEDICINAL AND IMPORTANT PLANTS		
BITTER GOURD (<i>Momordica charantia</i>)	MUGWORT (<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>)	HANDAMA (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>)
		
Family: Cucurbitaceae Common Names: Bitter Melon, Karela Key Uses: Reduces blood sugar, aids digestion, rich in vitamins and antioxidants.	Family: Asteraceae Common Names: Wormwood, Artemisia Key Uses: Used in traditional medicine, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, aids menstruation.	Family: Balsaminaceae Common Names: Himalayan Balsam, Policeman's Helmet Key Uses: Used in traditional medicine, wound healing, anti-inflammatory.
		
 BENEFITS: Anti-diabetic, detoxifying, improves immunity.	 BENEFITS: Relieves pain, improves digestion, supports liver health.	 BENEFITS: Heals wounds, reduces inflammation, soothing effect.
IMPORTANCE: These plants play a vital role in traditional medicine, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Conservation and sustainable use are essential.		



- But it's not just about **food**, says Mr. **Morio**; **keeping the mind active is just as important**.
श्री **मोरियो** कहते हैं कि यह केवल **भोजन** तक सीमित नहीं है; **मन को सक्रिय** बनाए रखना भी उतना ही महत्वपूर्ण है।
- **Even at 91, he plays Japanese chess every day.**
91 वर्ष की आयु में भी वे प्रतिदिन **जापानी शतरंज** खेलते हैं।
- Incidentally, it was through the game that he met the love of his life, **Etsuko Taira**, who is **81**.
संयोगवश, इसी खेल के माध्यम से उनकी मुलाकात उनके जीवनसाथी **एत्सुको ताइरा** से हुई, जिनकी आयु **81 वर्ष** है।
- The couple has been married for so long that they no longer remember exactly how many years it has been.
यह दम्पति इतने लंबे समय से विवाहित है कि अब उन्हें यह भी ठीक-ठीक याद नहीं कि उनके विवाह को कितने वर्ष हो चुके हैं।
- They first met when Mr. **Morio** was working at a **radio bullet-casting company**, while Ms. **Etsuko** worked at a **souvenir shop**.
उनकी पहली मुलाकात उस समय हुई जब श्री **मोरियो** एक **रेडियो बुलेट-कास्टिंग कंपनी** में कार्यरत थे, जबकि सुश्री **एत्सुको** एक **स्मृति-चिह्नों की दुकान** में कार्य करती थीं।
- Her father was an avid **Japanese chess** player, and as Mr. **Morio** often played with him, he and Ms. **Etsuko** gradually fell in love.
उनके पिता **जापानी शतरंज** के उत्साही खिलाड़ी थे, और चूँकि श्री **मोरियो** अक्सर उनके साथ खेलते थे, इसलिए वे और सुश्री **एत्सुको** धीरे-धीरे एक-दूसरे के प्रेम में पड़ गए।
- Living for **loved ones** is another principle **Okinawans** value, along with their strong sense of **community**.
प्रियजनों के लिए जीवन जीना **ओकिनावा** के लोगों का एक अन्य महत्वपूर्ण सिद्धांत है, साथ ही उनमें **समुदाय** के प्रति गहरी भावना भी होती है।
- Mr. **Morio** and Ms. **Etsuko** enjoy **karaoke** nights and long morning walks along **Okinawa's** white sandy shores.
श्री **मोरियो** और सुश्री **एत्सुको** **कराओके** की शामों तथा **ओकिनावा** के श्वेत रेतीले समुद्री तटों पर लंबी प्रातःकालीन सैर का आनंद लेते हैं।
- Ms. **Etsuko** quips they are almost always together, but a little time apart is healthy too.
सुश्री **एत्सुको** हँसते हुए कहती हैं कि वे लगभग हमेशा साथ रहते हैं, किन्तु कुछ समय अलग बिताना भी स्वास्थ्य के लिए अच्छा होता है।
- Every now and then, she enjoys spending time with her girlfriends and indulging in **yuntaku**, which, in the **Okinawan** dictionary, means '**chatting and laughing**', a principle through which local people strengthen their bonds by sharing stories about their day-to-day lives.
समय-समय पर वे अपनी सहेलियों के साथ समय बिताना और **युन्ताकु** का आनंद लेना पसंद करती हैं, जिसका **ओकिनावाई** शब्दकोश में अर्थ '**बातचीत करना और हँसना**' है; यह एक ऐसी परंपरा है जिसके माध्यम से स्थानीय लोग अपने दैनिक जीवन की कहानियाँ साझा कर आपसी संबंधों को सुदृढ़ करते हैं।

Sense of purpose जीवन का उद्देश्य

PURPLE SWEET POTATO

Nature's Purple Powerhouse

A RICH SOURCE OF ANTIOXIDANTS

WHAT IS PURPLE SWEET POTATO?

Purple sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) is a nutrient-dense superfood known for its vibrant color, natural sweetness, and high antioxidant content.



RICH IN ANTIOXIDANTS

- Contains powerful antioxidants called **Anthocyanins** (gives the purple color)
- Helps fight free radicals and reduces oxidative stress in the body.



NUTRITIONAL PROFILE (Per 100g)

Energy	86 kcal
Carbohydrates	20.1 g
Dietary Fiber	3.0 g
Vitamin C	2.4 mg
Vitamin A	14187 IU
Potassium	337 mg
Antioxidants	High

HEALTH BENEFITS

- BOOSTS IMMUNITY**: Antioxidants help strengthen the immune system.
- SUPPORTS EYE HEALTH**: Rich in Vitamin A and anthocyanins, good for vision.
- IMPROVES HEART HEALTH**: Helps lower blood pressure and supports cardiovascular health.
- AIDS DIGESTION**: High fiber content promotes healthy digestion.
- ANTI-AGING EFFECTS**: Fights oxidative stress and may slow down cell aging.
- MAY HELP IN BLOOD SUGAR CONTROL**: Low glycemic index, supports better blood sugar management.

DELICIOUS & NUTRITIOUS

- Boiled Purple Sweet Potato
- Purple Sweet Potato Mash
- Purple Sweet Potato Smoothie

DID YOU KNOW?

The deeper the purple, the **higher the antioxidant content!**
A simple addition to your diet for a healthier life.

GOOD FOR YOU, GOOD FOR NATURE

- Naturally grown
- Eco-friendly crop
- Supports sustainable agriculture

- The residents of **Ogimi** are all about the spirit of **nankuru nai sa** — the **Okinawan** belief that, in the end, everything will be alright and life should not be taken too seriously.
ओगिमी के निवासी नंकुरु नाई सा की भावना को अपनाते हैं — यह **ओकिनावाई** विश्वास है कि अंततः सब कुछ ठीक हो जाएगा और जीवन को अत्यधिक गंभीरता से नहीं लेना चाहिए।
- At the same time, they are guided by a strong sense of **ikigai**.
साथ ही, वे **इकिगाई** अर्थात् जीवन के स्पष्ट उद्देश्य की गहरी भावना से प्रेरित होते हैं।
- Hatsuko Yamashiro** is a big proponent of the latter.
हात्सुको यामाशिरो इस विचार की प्रमुख समर्थक हैं।
- At **83**, she still runs her own **PR company**, employing **15 people**.
83 वर्ष की आयु में भी वे अपनी **जनसंपर्क (PR) कंपनी** का संचालन करती हैं, जिसमें **15 लोग** कार्यरत हैं।
- She says her mission is to introduce **Okinawa's shikwasa lemons** to the rest of the world.
वे कहती हैं कि उनका उद्देश्य **ओकिनावा के शिकवासा लेमन** को विश्व के शेष भाग से परिचित कराना है।
- Community** is very important, says Ms. **Hatsuko**, adding that she genuinely enjoys going to the **office** every day.
सुश्री हात्सुको कहती हैं कि **समुदाय** अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण है, और वे प्रतिदिन **कार्यालय** जाना वास्तव में पसंद करती हैं।

- One day, she hopes to see **shikwasa** become known across the globe.
वे आशा करती हैं कि एक दिन **शिकवासा** पूरे विश्व में प्रसिद्ध होगा।
- The biggest secret of all, according to Ms. **Takayama**, is that all these values — these centuries-old secrets to a long and healthy life — are deeply ingrained in **Okinawan** culture and way of life; they are organic.
सुश्री **ताकायामा** के अनुसार, सबसे बड़ा रहस्य यह है कि ये सभी मूल्य — लंबे और स्वस्थ जीवन के ये सदियों पुराने रहस्य — **ओकिनावाई** संस्कृति और जीवन-शैली में गहराई से समाहित हैं; वे स्वाभाविक हैं।
- Like all things, **life** must come to an end, and **Okinawans** don't live with the goal of living a long life; they instead strive for **contentment and a sense of purpose**, she adds.
वे आगे कहती हैं कि अन्य सभी वस्तुओं की भाँति **जीवन** का भी अंत निश्चित है, और **ओकिनावा** के लोग लंबे जीवन को ही लक्ष्य बनाकर नहीं जीते; बल्कि वे **संतोष और जीवन के उद्देश्य की प्राप्ति का प्रयास करते हैं**।
- The secret to a long and healthy **life** is something many want to discover; the answer, says **nonagenarian** Mr. **Morio**, who has lived in the region all his life, is many things, all relatively simple.
लंबे और स्वस्थ **जीवन** का रहस्य ऐसी बात है जिसे अनेक लोग जानना चाहते हैं; इस क्षेत्र में अपना पूरा जीवन बिताने वाले **नब्बे वर्ष से अधिक आयु** के श्री **मोरियो** कहते हैं कि इसका उत्तर अनेक बातों में निहित है, और वे सभी अपेक्षाकृत सरल हैं।

1. Ikigai	A reason for living / something that makes life worthwhile
2. Kaizen	Continuous improvement
3. Pomodoro Technique	Work in focused intervals
4. Hara Hachi Bu	Eat until about 80% full
5. Shoshin	Beginner's mind
6. Wabi-Sabi	Appreciation of imperfection and impermanence

Can stress cause acne? Experts explain the science

GS III: S&T

Athira Elssa Johnson

Stress is often blamed for acne breakouts, particularly during high-anxiety periods such as examinations, work deadlines or emotionally difficult life events. While scientific evidence supports an association between psychological stress and worsening acne, dermatologists caution that stress alone is rarely responsible.

Studies show that higher perceived stress is associated with greater acne severity, although the relationship is complex and influenced by hormonal, genetic and environmental factors. Therefore stress is considered an aggravating factor rather than an independent cause of acne.

Stress activates the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis, increasing the production of cortisol and other stress mediators. These mediators can stimulate sebaceous glands, increase sebum production, alter the skin's immune responses and promote inflammatory pathways involved in acne.

"Stress places the body in a pro-inflammatory state, and the skin often reflects this inflammation," says K. R. Sharmatha, senior consultant, dermatology, SIMS Hospital, Chennai. She explains that elevated cortisol may increase inflammation while also reducing certain aspects of the skin's immune defence. This can result in greater sebum production and make acne lesions more susceptible to secondary bacterial infection. Inflammation may also alter the skin microbiome, contributing to inflamed or infected acne lesions in some individuals, she says.

However, not every breakout is stress-related. Hormonal disorders, metabolic abnormalities, medications and other underlying factors should be evaluated before attributing acne solely to stress. Stress affects acne not only through biological pathways but also by changing everyday behaviour.

According to Narayanan A., consultant, dermatology, SRM Prime Hospital, Chennai, patients frequently report worsening acne during examinations, periods of intense work pressure or emotional distress. People with oily skin, inflammatory acne, hormonal acne or a tendency to pick at their skin are particularly likely to experience stress-related flare-ups.

During stressful periods, many people sleep less, consume more high-glycaemic foods, discontinue acne medications, use heavier cosmetic products or repeatedly touch and pick their skin, all of which may aggravate acne. "An acne flare-up is therefore a complex interplay of multiple factors," he says.

Stress management

Evidence increasingly supports lifestyle measures such as adequate sleep, regular physical activity and mindfulness-based stress reduction as part of comprehensive acne care. However, dermatologists caution against viewing stress reduction as a substitute for medical therapy.

"Stress responses are biological and acne is not a character flaw," says Dr. Narayanan. He adds that relaxation alone cannot cure acne because breakouts may also result from hormonal fluctuations, menstruation, pregnancy, medications, occlusive cosmetics, friction, sweating or inappropriate skin care.

The relationship is also bidirectional: stress can worsen acne, while acne itself can increase anxiety, emotional distress and reduced self-esteem.

Experts recommend addressing underlying skin disease and the psychological burden it creates. (athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

07A8. Can stress cause acne? Experts explain the science

क्या तनाव मुँहासों का कारण बन सकता है? विशेषज्ञ इसके वैज्ञानिक आधार की व्याख्या करते हैं।

- **Stress** is often blamed for **acne breakouts**, particularly during high-anxiety periods such as **examinations, work deadlines** or emotionally difficult life events.

अक्सर तनाव को मुँहासों के उभरने के लिए उत्तरदायी माना जाता है, विशेषकर परीक्षाओं, कार्य-समयसीमा अथवा भावनात्मक रूप से कठिन जीवन-परिस्थितियों के दौरान।

- While scientific evidence supports an association between **psychological stress** and worsening **acne**, dermatologists caution that **stress** alone is rarely responsible. यद्यपि वैज्ञानिक प्रमाण मनोवैज्ञानिक तनाव और मुँहासों के बढ़ने के बीच संबंध का समर्थन करते हैं, फिर भी त्वचा विशेषज्ञ सावधानीपूर्वक कहते हैं कि केवल तनाव ही इसके लिए विरले ही उत्तरदायी होता है।

- Studies show that higher perceived **stress** is associated with greater **acne severity**, although the relationship is complex and influenced by **hormonal, genetic** and **environmental factors**.

अध्ययनों से ज्ञात होता है कि अधिक अनुभव किए गए तनाव का संबंध अधिक गंभीर मुँहासों से है, यद्यपि यह संबंध जटिल है तथा हार्मोनल, आनुवंशिक और पर्यावरणीय कारकों से प्रभावित होता है।

- Therefore **stress** is considered an **aggravating factor** rather than an independent cause of **acne**.

अतः तनाव को मुँहासों का स्वतंत्र कारण न मानकर एक स्थिति को और अधिक गंभीर बनाने वाला कारक माना जाता है।

- **Stress** activates the **hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis**, increasing the production of **cortisol** and other **stress mediators**.

तनाव हाइपोथैलेमिक-पिट्यूटरी-एड्रिनल (HPA) अक्ष को सक्रिय करता है, जिससे कॉर्टिसोल तथा अन्य तनाव मध्यस्थों का उत्पादन बढ़ जाता है।

- These mediators can stimulate **sebaceous glands**, increase **sebum production**, alter the skin's **immune responses** and promote **inflammatory pathways** involved in **acne**.

ये मध्यस्थ सीबेशियस ग्रंथियों को सक्रिय कर सकते हैं, सीबम उत्पादन बढ़ा सकते हैं, त्वचा की प्रतिरक्षा प्रतिक्रियाओं को परिवर्तित कर सकते हैं तथा मुँहासों से संबंधित सूजन संबंधी प्रक्रियाओं को बढ़ावा दे सकते हैं।

- “Stress places the body in a **pro-inflammatory state**, and the skin often reflects this inflammation,” says **K. R. Sharmatha**, senior consultant, **dermatology**, **SIMS Hospital**, Chennai.
SIMS Hospital, चेन्नई की वरिष्ठ त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ के. आर. शर्मथा कहती हैं, “तनाव शरीर को सूजन-प्रवण अवस्था में ले जाता है और त्वचा प्रायः इस सूजन को प्रदर्शित करती है।”
- She explains that elevated **cortisol** may increase **inflammation** while also **reducing certain aspects of the skin's immune defence**.
वे बताती हैं कि बढ़ा हुआ कॉर्टिसोल सूजन को बढ़ा सकता है तथा साथ ही त्वचा की प्रतिरक्षा सुरक्षा के कुछ पहलुओं को कम कर सकता है।
- This can result in greater **sebum production and make acne lesions** more susceptible to secondary **bacterial infection**.
इसके परिणामस्वरूप सीबम उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है तथा मुँहासों के घाव द्वितीयक जीवाणु संक्रमण के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील हो सकते हैं।
- **Inflammation** may also alter the **skin microbiome**, contributing to **inflamed or infected acne lesions in some individuals**, she says.
वे कहती हैं कि सूजन त्वचा के माइक्रोबायोम को भी परिवर्तित कर सकती है, जिससे कुछ व्यक्तियों में मुँहासों के घाव अधिक सूजनयुक्त अथवा संक्रमित हो सकते हैं।
- However, not every **breakout** is **stress-related**.
हालाँकि प्रत्येक मुँहासे का उभार तनाव से संबंधित नहीं होता।
- **Hormonal disorders, metabolic abnormalities, medications** and other underlying factors should be evaluated before attributing **acne** solely to **stress**.
हार्मोन संबंधी विकारों, चयापचयी असामान्यताओं, औषधियों तथा अन्य अंतर्निहित कारणों का मूल्यांकन किए बिना मुँहासों का कारण केवल तनाव को नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।
- **Stress affects acne not only through biological pathways but also by changing everyday behaviour**.
तनाव मुँहासों को केवल जैविक प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से ही नहीं, बल्कि दैनिक व्यवहार में परिवर्तन के माध्यम से भी प्रभावित करता है।
- According to **Narayanan A.**, consultant, **dermatology**, **SRM Prime Hospital**, Chennai, patients frequently report worsening **acne** during **examinations**, periods of intense **work pressure** or **emotional distress**.
SRM Prime Hospital, चेन्नई के त्वचा रोग विशेषज्ञ नारायणन ए. के अनुसार, रोगी अक्सर परीक्षाओं, अत्यधिक कार्य-दबाव अथवा भावनात्मक तनाव के दौरान मुँहासों के बढ़ने की शिकायत करते हैं।
- People with **oily skin, inflammatory acne, hormonal acne** or a tendency to **pick at their skin** are particularly likely to experience **stress-related flare-ups**.
तैलीय त्वचा, सूजनयुक्त मुँहासे, हार्मोनल मुँहासे अथवा त्वचा को बार-बार कुरेदने की प्रवृत्ति वाले लोगों में तनाव से संबंधित मुँहासों के उभार होने की संभावना अधिक रहती है।
- During stressful periods, many people sleep less, consume more **high-glycaemic foods**, **discontinue acne medications**, use heavier **cosmetic products** or repeatedly touch and pick their skin, all of which may aggravate **acne**.
तनावपूर्ण अवधि के दौरान अनेक लोग कम सोते हैं, अधिक उच्च ग्लाइसेमिक खाद्य पदार्थों का सेवन करते हैं, मुँहासों की दवाएँ बंद कर देते हैं, अधिक भारी सौंदर्य प्रसाधनों का उपयोग करते हैं अथवा बार-बार अपनी त्वचा को छूते और कुरेदते हैं, जिनसे मुँहासे और अधिक गंभीर हो सकते हैं।
- “An **acne flare-up** is therefore a complex interplay of multiple factors,” he says.
वे कहते हैं, “अतः मुँहासों का उभार अनेक कारकों की जटिल पारस्परिक क्रिया का परिणाम होता है।”

Stress management

तनाव प्रबंधन

- Evidence increasingly supports lifestyle measures such as **adequate sleep, regular physical activity and mindfulness-based stress reduction as part of comprehensive acne care.**
प्रमाण लगातार यह दर्शाते हैं कि पर्याप्त नींद, नियमित शारीरिक गतिविधि तथा माइंडफुलनेस-आधारित तनाव-न्यूनन जैसे जीवनशैली उपाय समग्र मुँहासा उपचार का महत्वपूर्ण भाग हैं।
- However, dermatologists caution against viewing **stress reduction** as a substitute for **medical therapy.**
हालाँकि त्वचा विशेषज्ञ तनाव कम करने को चिकित्सीय उपचार का विकल्प मानने के विरुद्ध सावधानी बरतने की सलाह देते हैं।
- “**Stress** responses are biological and **acne** is not a **character flaw**,” says Dr. **Narayanan.**
डॉ. नारायणन कहते हैं, “तनाव की प्रतिक्रियाएँ जैविक होती हैं और मुँहासे किसी चरित्र दोष का संकेत नहीं हैं।”
- He adds that **relaxation** alone cannot cure **acne** because breakouts may also result from **hormonal fluctuations, menstruation, pregnancy, medications, occlusive cosmetics, friction, sweating or inappropriate skin care.**
वे आगे कहते हैं कि केवल विश्राम से मुँहासों का उपचार नहीं हो सकता, क्योंकि इनके उभरने का कारण हार्मोनल उतार-चढ़ाव, मासिक धर्म, गर्भावस्था, औषधियाँ, रोधक सौंदर्य प्रसाधन, घर्षण, पसीना अथवा अनुचित त्वचा देखभाल भी हो सकते हैं।
- The **relationship is also bidirectional: stress can worsen acne, while acne itself can increase anxiety, emotional distress and reduced self-esteem.**
यह संबंध द्विदिशात्मक भी है; तनाव मुँहासों को बढ़ा सकता है, जबकि मुँहासे स्वयं चिंता, भावनात्मक तनाव तथा आत्मसम्मान में कमी का कारण बन सकते हैं।
- Experts recommend addressing underlying **skin disease** and the **psychological burden** it creates.
विशेषज्ञ अंतर्निहित त्वचा रोग तथा उससे उत्पन्न मनोवैज्ञानिक बोझ—दोनों का समुचित समाधान करने की अनुशंसा करते हैं।



The Beijing model of innovation

Beijing's innovation model brings together universities, start-ups, industry and the state to turn research into commercially viable technologies by bridging the valley of death; the ecosystem is driving China's push in AI and humanoid robotics through state-backed funding, talent and industrial clusters

SS III: S&T

WORLD INSIGHT

Ananth Krishnan

If the conventional wisdom about innovation is that it is best left to individuals and private enterprise — and the best thing a government can do is get out of the way — that is certainly not the thinking in Beijing.

How innovation happens in Beijing offers a snapshot into China's model in which research universities, start-ups, the market and the state all have a role to play.

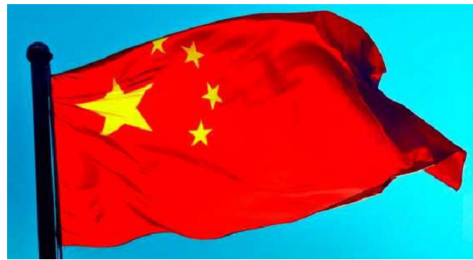
The Chinese capital has always had the country's most important cluster of research universities, with Peking University and Tsinghua leading the list. It is also home to several cutting-edge robotics and AI companies, including Moonshot, which was started by graduates of Tsinghua and made waves over its latest Kimi K3 open-source model.

"A closed loop from project discovery to incubation" is how Yang Xiuling, who as the Director General of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform leads the city's top economic planning body, describes the ecosystem. "Our greatest strength," she says, "is talent and the concentration of top research universities."

The challenge that then follows is how to leverage that talent, or, as she puts it, "how to move results out of the lab". The gap between translating early research into commercially sustainable ventures is known as the "valley of death" for innovation. To cross that valley in Beijing, the state steps in.

Beijing's Zhongguancun research cluster is at the forefront of tech innovation in China, along with clusters in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Hangzhou. A strong undercurrent of competition underpins the national innovation ecosystem, especially when it comes to attracting and keeping talent.

To deal with the "valley of death", Beijing set up what it calls "an intelligent



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platform for results commercialisation" led by a group of tech managers, who, Ms. Yang says, "are a bridge because they understand both the tech and the market". In 2025, the city's platform executed 1.04 lakh tech contracts.

"Markets and companies are still at the centre," Ms. Yang says. "But the way we look at it is that the companies pose questions, and the universities can provide answers. The companies still play a key role in R&D and in taking the lead in collaborative research with institutions".

The universities provide the foundation from which the rest follows, says Zhang Jihong, who is a Director at the state-run Zhongguancun Science Park. "It's the universities that have helped incubate a number of high-tech enterprises," he says. "We have formed a virtuous cycle where the universities produce talent, the talent provides intellectual support for innovation, and innovation again reinforces the growth of universities."

The state as investor

The state's role here is twofold. It provides the hard infrastructure, as seen in the science park and a number of incubators littered around Zhongguancun.

More importantly, it also provides

capital, not only linking start-ups to private venture capital (VC) but also stepping in with state-backed capital to help bear some of the risk.

The state taking a direct stake in companies is a unique feature of this ecosystem. The upside is it helps bear losses and allows for the longer-term, patient kind of support that VC might not afford. This has played a key role in enabling the speed and scale of innovation in China.

The downside is wasteful spending, if state funds do not do their due diligence, which is often the case. So much so that this has emerged as a growing concern for Chinese regulators, who in June issued new rules to tighten how local governments spend these funds.

The intense competition among different clusters, coupled with the collapse in land sales as a source of revenue for local governments, has led to a splurge in spending at the local level, with each province putting in funds with the hope of finding its national champions, even if they lack the capacity to do the needed due diligence. The new rules have now called for stricter control over how these funds are spent and for more approvals from the Central government.

Humanoids on the factory floor

AI and robotics are the twin peaks of Beijing's current innovation drive. If Zhongguancun in the north is the home of tech talent, the Yizhuang industrial cluster in the city's southern suburbs offers a snapshot of how innovation is playing out on the factory floor. Here, a hub-and-spokes model has the state's Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre at its centre, which funnels talent to a number of robotics companies around its periphery. "The idea," explains Che Zhengping, who is Head of Embodied AI at the Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre, "is to build a full supply chain that is ready for mass production". The current focus in humanoids is to "shift from industrial use scenarios to daily use scenarios", including healthcare, which is expected to be a major source of demand in an ageing society.

Among the companies in Yizhuang is Lingyi Tech, which in April started production on humanoid robots and is already planning to scale up. "Advancements in technology are making it more affordable" to scale, says Vice President Philip Yang. "As we move from semi automation to full automation," he estimates, "costs in 2030 will be half of what they are today."

Lingyi already has production capacity "for the next 5 to 6 years". By the end of 2027, it will be making 20,000 robots annually. The plan is to scale up to 1 lakh units by 2028 and 5 lakh by 2030 from this Yizhuang facility (the company has four others), by when it hopes to be "one of the world's top three".

At the state-run innovation centre next door, researchers pore over unfinished humanoid robots, getting them to perfect a range of delicate movements before the latest model is given the green light.

State subsidies of land, policy and tax support are among the more well-known elements of China's industrial policy. The state's enabling of talent and intellectual support are perhaps less well-known, but arguably just as important when it comes to getting innovation right.

THE GIST

Beijing's Zhongguancun and other innovation clusters are using research universities, technology managers and incubators to help move scientific results from laboratories into the market.

The city's push for AI and humanoid robots is being supported by industrial hubs, state-backed capital and policies aimed at building a full supply chain for mass production.

07A8. The Beijing model of innovation

नवाचार का बीजिंग मॉडल

- If the conventional wisdom about **innovation** is that it is best left to individuals and **private enterprise** — and the best thing a **government** can do is get out of the way — that is certainly not the thinking in **Beijing**.
यदि **नवाचार** के संबंध में पारंपरिक धारणा यह है कि इसे व्यक्तियों और **निजी उद्यमों** पर छोड़ देना चाहिए तथा **सरकार** का सर्वोत्तम कार्य इसमें हस्तक्षेप न करना है, तो **बीजिंग** की सोच निश्चित रूप से इससे भिन्न है।
- How **innovation** happens in **Beijing** offers a snapshot into **China's** model in which **research universities**, **start-ups**, the **market** and the **state** all have a role to play.
बीजिंग में **नवाचार** किस प्रकार होता है, यह **चीन** के उस मॉडल की झलक प्रस्तुत करता है जिसमें **अनुसंधान विश्वविद्यालय**, **स्टार्ट-अप**, **बाज़ार** तथा **राज्य** सभी की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका होती है।
- The **Chinese** capital has always had the country's most important cluster of **research universities**, with **Peking University** and **Tsinghua** leading the list.
चीन की राजधानी में सदैव देश का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण **अनुसंधान विश्वविद्यालयों** का समूह रहा है, जिसमें **पेकिंग विश्वविद्यालय** और **त्सिंगहुआ विश्वविद्यालय** अग्रणी हैं।
- It is also home to several cutting-edge **robotics** and **AI companies**, including **Moonshot**, which was started by graduates of **Tsinghua** and made waves over its latest **Kimi K3 open-source model**.
यह अनेक अत्याधुनिक **रोबोटिक्स** और **कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI)** कंपनियों का भी केंद्र है, जिनमें **मूनशॉट** शामिल है, जिसकी स्थापना **त्सिंगहुआ विश्वविद्यालय** के स्नातकों ने की थी और जिसने अपने नवीनतम **किमी K3 ओपन-सोर्स मॉडल** के कारण व्यापक चर्चा प्राप्त की।

- “A closed loop from project discovery to incubation” is how Yang Xiuling, who as the Director General of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform leads the city’s top economic planning body, describes the ecosystem.
बीजिंग नगर विकास एवं सुधार आयोग की महानिदेशक यांग श्यूलिंग, जो शहर की सर्वोच्च आर्थिक योजना संस्था का नेतृत्व करती हैं, इस पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को “परियोजना की खोज से लेकर इनक्यूबेशन तक की बंद चक्र प्रणाली” के रूप में वर्णित करती हैं।
- “Our greatest strength,” she says, “is talent and the concentration of top research universities.”
वे कहती हैं, “हमारी सबसे बड़ी शक्ति प्रतिभा तथा श्रेष्ठ अनुसंधान विश्वविद्यालयों का एक स्थान पर केंद्रित होना है।”
- The challenge that then follows is how to leverage that talent, or, as she puts it, “how to move results out of the lab”.
इसके बाद सबसे बड़ी चुनौती उस प्रतिभा का प्रभावी उपयोग करना है, अथवा उनके शब्दों में, “प्रयोगशाला से परिणामों को बाहर लाना।”
- The gap between translating early research into commercially sustainable ventures is known as the “valley of death” for innovation.
प्रारम्भिक अनुसंधान को व्यावसायिक रूप से टिकाऊ उद्यमों में परिवर्तित करने के बीच की दूरी को नवाचार के क्षेत्र में “वैली ऑफ डेथ” कहा जाता है।
- To cross that valley in Beijing, the state steps in.
बीजिंग में इस दूरी को पार करने के लिए राज्य सक्रिय रूप से हस्तक्षेप करता है।
- Beijing’s Zhongguancun research cluster is at the forefront of tech innovation in China, along with clusters in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Hangzhou.
बीजिंग का झांगगुआनछुन अनुसंधान समूह चीन में प्रौद्योगिकी नवाचार के अग्रणी केंद्रों में है, जिसके साथ शेनझेन, शंघाई और हांगझोउ के नवाचार केंद्र भी प्रमुख हैं।
- A strong undercurrent of competition underpins the national innovation ecosystem, especially when it comes to attracting and keeping talent.
विशेषकर प्रतिभा को आकर्षित करने और बनाए रखने के संदर्भ में, तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा राष्ट्रीय नवाचार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की आधारभूत विशेषता है।
- To deal with the “valley of death”, Beijing set up what it calls “an intelligent platform for results commercialisation” led by a group of tech managers, who, Ms. Yang says, “are a bridge because they understand both the tech and the market”.
“वैली ऑफ डेथ” की समस्या से निपटने के लिए बीजिंग ने “परिणामों के व्यावसायीकरण हेतु बुद्धिमान मंच” स्थापित किया, जिसका संचालन प्रौद्योगिकी प्रबंधकों का एक समूह करता है, जो सुश्री यांग के अनुसार “एक सेतु हैं क्योंकि वे प्रौद्योगिकी और बाज़ार दोनों को समझते हैं।”
- In 2025, the city’s platform executed 1.04 lakh tech contracts.
2025 में इस मंच ने 1.04 लाख प्रौद्योगिकी अनुबंधों का निष्पादन किया।
- “Markets and companies are still at the centre,” Ms. Yang says.
सुश्री यांग कहती हैं, “बाज़ार और कंपनियाँ अब भी केंद्र में हैं।”
- “But the way we look at it is that the companies pose questions, and the universities can provide answers.”
“किन्तु हमारा दृष्टिकोण यह है कि कंपनियाँ समस्याएँ प्रस्तुत करती हैं और विश्वविद्यालय उनके समाधान उपलब्ध कराते हैं।”
- “The companies still play a key role in R&D and in taking the lead in collaborative research with institutions.”
“कंपनियाँ अब भी अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) तथा संस्थानों के साथ सहयोगात्मक अनुसंधान का नेतृत्व करने में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाती हैं।”
- The universities provide the foundation from which the rest follows, says Zhang Jihong, who is a Director at the state-run Zhongguancun Science Park.



राज्य संचालित झोंगगुआनछुन साइंस पार्क के निदेशक झांग जिहोंग के अनुसार, विश्वविद्यालय वह आधार प्रदान करते हैं, जिस पर आगे की पूरी व्यवस्था निर्मित होती है।

- "It's the **universities** that have helped **incubate** a number of **high-tech enterprises**," he says.
वे कहते हैं, "इन्हीं विश्वविद्यालयों ने अनेक उच्च-प्रौद्योगिकी उद्यमों के इनक्यूबेशन में सहायता की है।"
- "We have formed a **virtuous cycle** where the **universities** produce **talent**, the **talent** provides **intellectual support** for **innovation**, and **innovation** again reinforces the growth of **universities**."
"हमने एक सद्गुणी चक्र विकसित किया है, जिसमें विश्वविद्यालय प्रतिभा तैयार करते हैं, प्रतिभा नवाचार को बौद्धिक समर्थन प्रदान करती है, और नवाचार पुनः विश्वविद्यालयों के विकास को सुदृढ़ करता है।"

The state as investor

निवेशक के रूप में राज्य

- The **state's role** here is **twofold**.
यहाँ राज्य की भूमिका दोहरी है।
- It provides the **hard infrastructure**, as seen in the **science park** and a number of **incubators** littered around **Zhongguancun**.
यह हार्ड इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर उपलब्ध कराता है, जैसा कि झोंगगुआनछुन के आसपास स्थित साइंस पार्क और अनेक इनक्यूबेटरों में देखा जा सकता है।
- More importantly, it also provides **capital**, not only linking **start-ups** to private **venture capital (VC)** but also stepping in with **state-backed capital** to help bear some of the risk.
इससे भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि यह पूँजी भी उपलब्ध कराता है, जो केवल स्टार्ट-अप्स को निजी वेंचर कैपिटल (VC) से जोड़ने तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि राज्य समर्थित पूँजी के माध्यम से जोखिम का कुछ भाग स्वयं वहन भी करता है।
- The state taking a direct stake in companies is a unique feature of this ecosystem.
कंपनियों में राज्य द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष हिस्सेदारी लेना इस पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की एक विशिष्ट विशेषता है।
- The upside is it helps bear losses and allows for the longer-term, patient kind of support that **VC** might not afford.
इसका लाभ यह है कि यह हानियों का बोझ साझा करता है तथा दीर्घकालिक और धैर्यपूर्ण सहयोग प्रदान करता है, जो वेंचर कैपिटल सामान्यतः उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकता।
- This has played a key role in enabling the speed and scale of **innovation** in **China**.
इसने चीन में नवाचार की गति और व्यापकता को संभव बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है।
- The downside is wasteful spending, if **state funds** do not do their **due diligence**, which is often the case.
इसका नकारात्मक पक्ष यह है कि यदि राज्य निधियाँ उचित ड्यू डिलिजेंस नहीं करतीं, जैसा कि अक्सर होता है, तो व्यर्थ व्यय होता है।
- So much so that this has emerged as a growing concern for **Chinese regulators**, who in **June** issued new rules to tighten how **local governments** spend these funds.
स्थिति इतनी गंभीर हो गई है कि यह चीनी नियामकों के लिए बढ़ती चिंता का विषय बन गई है, जिन्होंने जून में स्थानीय सरकारों द्वारा इन निधियों के उपयोग को अधिक कड़ा बनाने हेतु नए नियम जारी किए।
- The intense competition among different **clusters**, coupled with the collapse in **land sales** as a source of revenue for local governments, has led to a splurge in spending at the local level, with each province putting in funds with the hope of finding its **national champions**, even if they lack the capacity to do the needed **due diligence**.
विभिन्न क्लस्टरों के बीच तीव्र प्रतिस्पर्धा तथा स्थानीय सरकारों के राजस्व स्रोत के रूप में भूमि बिक्री में आई गिरावट ने स्थानीय स्तर पर अत्यधिक व्यय को बढ़ावा दिया है, जहाँ प्रत्येक प्रांत अपने राष्ट्रीय चैंपियनों की खोज की आशा में धन निवेश कर रहा है, भले ही उसके पास आवश्यक ड्यू डिलिजेंस करने की क्षमता न हो।

- The new rules have now called for stricter control over how these funds are spent and for more approvals from the **Central government**.
नए नियमों में अब इन निधियों के उपयोग पर अधिक कड़ा नियंत्रण तथा **केंद्रीय सरकार** से अधिक अनुमोदन प्राप्त करने की आवश्यकता बताई गई है।

Humanoids on the factory floor कारखाने के उत्पादन क्षेत्र में ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोट

- AI and robotics** are the twin peaks of **Beijing's** current innovation drive.
कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) और रोबोटिक्स बीजिंग के वर्तमान नवाचार अभियान के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ हैं।
- If **Zhongguancun** in the north is the home of **tech talent**, the **Yizhuang** industrial cluster in the city's southern suburbs offers a snapshot of how innovation is playing out on the factory floor.
यदि उत्तर में स्थित **झोंगगुआनखुन तकनीकी प्रतिभा** का केंद्र है, तो शहर के दक्षिणी उपनगरों में स्थित **यीजुआंग औद्योगिक क्लस्टर** यह दर्शाता है कि कारखानों में नवाचार किस प्रकार कार्यान्वित हो रहा है।
- Here, a **hub-and-spokes model** has the state's **Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre** at its centre, which funnels talent to a number of **robotics companies** around its periphery.
यहाँ **हब-एंड-स्पोक्स मॉडल** के केंद्र में राज्य का **ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोट इनोवेशन सेंटर** है, जो अपने आसपास स्थित अनेक **रोबोटिक्स कंपनियों** तक प्रतिभा पहुँचाता है।
- "The idea," explains **Che Zhengping**, who is **Head of Embodied AI** at the **Beijing Humanoid Robot Innovation Centre**, "is to build a full supply chain that is ready for mass production".
बीजिंग ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोट इनोवेशन सेंटर में हेड ऑफ एम्बॉडीड एआई चे झेंगपिंग बताते हैं, "विचार यह है कि ऐसी पूर्ण आपूर्ति श्रृंखला विकसित की जाए जो **बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन** के लिए तैयार हो।"
- The current focus in **humanoids** is to "shift from industrial use scenarios to daily use scenarios", including **healthcare**, which is expected to be a major source of demand in an ageing society.
वर्तमान में **ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोटों** का मुख्य ध्यान "औद्योगिक उपयोग से दैनिक उपयोग की परिस्थितियों" की ओर स्थानांतरित करना है, जिसमें **स्वास्थ्य सेवा** भी शामिल है, जो वृद्ध होती आबादी वाले समाज में प्रमुख माँग का स्रोत बनने की अपेक्षा है।
- Among the companies in **Yizhuang** is **Lingyi iTech**, which in **April** started production on **humanoid robots** and is already planning to scale up.
यीजुआंग की कंपनियों में **लिंगी आईटेक** भी शामिल है, जिसने **अप्रैल** में **ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोटों** का उत्पादन प्रारम्भ किया और अब उत्पादन विस्तार की योजना बना रही है।
- "Advancements in technology are making it more affordable" to scale, says **Vice President Philip Yang**.
उपाध्यक्ष फिलिप यांग के अनुसार, "प्रौद्योगिकी में प्रगति उत्पादन विस्तार को अधिक किफायती बना रही है।"
- "As we move from **semi automation** to **full automation**," he estimates, "costs in **2030** will be half of what they are today."
उनका अनुमान है कि "जैसे-जैसे हम **अर्ध-स्वचालन** से **पूर्ण स्वचालन** की ओर बढ़ेंगे, **2030** तक लागत आज की तुलना में आधी रह जाएगी।"
- Lingyi** already has production capacity "for the next **5 to 6 years**".
लिंगी के पास पहले से ही अगले **5 से 6 वर्षों** के लिए उत्पादन क्षमता उपलब्ध है।
- By the end of **2027**, it will be making **20,000 robots** annually.
2027 के अंत तक यह प्रतिवर्ष **20,000 रोबोट** का निर्माण करेगी।
- The plan is to scale up to **1 lakh units** by **2028** and **5 lakh** by **2030** from this **Yizhuang** facility (the company has four others), by when it hopes to be "one of the world's top three".
योजना है कि **यीजुआंग** स्थित इस इकाई (कंपनी की चार अन्य इकाइयाँ भी हैं) से **2028** तक उत्पादन **1 लाख**



इकाइयों और 2030 तक 5 लाख इकाइयों तक पहुँचाया जाए, तब तक कंपनी स्वयं को “विश्व की शीर्ष तीन” कंपनियों में शामिल करने की आशा रखती है।

- At the **state-run innovation centre** next door, researchers pore over unfinished **humanoid robots**, getting them to perfect a range of delicate movements before the latest model is given the green light.
निकट स्थित राज्य संचालित नवाचार केंद्र में शोधकर्ता अधूरे **ह्यूमनॉइड रोबोटों** पर कार्य करते हुए उन्हें विभिन्न सूक्ष्म गतियों में दक्ष बनाते हैं, जिसके बाद नवीनतम मॉडल को अंतिम स्वीकृति प्रदान की जाती है।
- State subsidies of land, policy and tax support** are among the more well-known elements of **China's industrial policy**.
भूमि, नीतिगत सहायता और कर सहायता के रूप में दी जाने वाली राज्य सब्सिडी, चीन की औद्योगिक नीति के अधिक प्रसिद्ध घटकों में शामिल हैं।
- The state's enabling of **talent and intellectual support** are perhaps less well-known, but arguably just as important when it comes to getting **innovation** right.

प्रतिभा और बौद्धिक सहयोग उपलब्ध कराने में राज्य की भूमिका अपेक्षाकृत कम चर्चित है, किन्तु नवाचार को सफल बनाने में यह उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण मानी जा सकती है।

Meta announces new AI coding app for developers

GS III: S&T
Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

Meta entered the race for automated coding tools on Wednesday when it announced a new app for developers of artificial intelligence products, as it competes with other major AI labs for customers and revenue.

Dubbed **Muse Code**, Meta said in a blog post that the new product is an **agentic coding tool** that can perform “complex software engineering tasks” with large amounts of data, including planning, writing and validating code.

Agentic tools are software applications which are programmed to handle tasks without human supervision, though often someone will still make the final call on decisions or supervise the execution of tasks. **Muse Code** launched in beta, or in a preview mode.

Flagship model

Meta also released an updated version of its flagship model, known as **Spark**, which it unveiled in April.

The update, called **Spark 1.2**, is “coding-focused” and available through **Muse Code** and another developer application called **Meta Model API**, the social media giant said.

Meta has poured billions into its AI division, now known as **Meta Superintelligence Labs**, as it attempts to keep up with **OpenAI** and **Anthropic**.

- Muse Code** launched in **beta**, or in a preview mode.

म्यूज कोड को बीटा अथवा पूर्ववलोकन (Preview) संस्करण में लॉन्च किया गया है।

Flagship model
प्रमुख मॉडल

07A8. Meta announces new AI coding app for developers

मेटा ने डेवलपर्स के लिए नया एआई कोडिंग ऐप लॉन्च किया

- Meta** entered the race for automated coding tools on **Wednesday** when it announced a new app for developers of **artificial intelligence** products, as it competes with other major **AI labs** for customers and revenue.

मेटा ने बुधवार को कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) उत्पादों के डेवलपर्स के लिए एक नया ऐप घोषित कर **स्वचालित कोडिंग टूल्स** की प्रतिस्पर्धा में प्रवेश किया। कंपनी ग्राहकों और राजस्व के लिए अन्य प्रमुख **एआई प्रयोगशालाओं** के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा कर रही है।

- Dubbed **Muse Code**, Meta said in a blog post that the new product is an **agentic coding tool** that can perform “**complex software engineering tasks**” with large amounts of data, including planning, writing and validating code.

म्यूज कोड (Muse Code) नामक इस नए उत्पाद के बारे में मेटा ने अपने ब्लॉग पोस्ट में कहा कि यह एक **एजेंटिक कोडिंग टूल** है, जो बड़े पैमाने पर डेटा के साथ “**जटिल सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरिंग कार्य**” कर सकता है, जिनमें कोड की योजना बनाना, लिखना और उसका सत्यापन करना शामिल है।

- Agentic tools** are software applications which are programmed to handle tasks without human supervision, though often someone will still make the final call on decisions or supervise the execution of tasks.

एजेंटिक टूल्स ऐसे सॉफ्टवेयर अनुप्रयोग हैं जिन्हें बिना मानवीय निगरानी के कार्य करने के लिए प्रोग्राम किया जाता है, यद्यपि अंतिम निर्णय लेना या कार्यों के निष्पादन की निगरानी करना प्रायः किसी व्यक्ति के हाथ में ही रहता है।



- **Meta** also released an updated version of its **flagship model**, known as **Spark**, which it unveiled in **April**.
मेटा ने अपने प्रमुख मॉडल स्पार्क (Spark) का अद्यतन संस्करण भी जारी किया, जिसे उसने अप्रैल में प्रस्तुत किया था।
- The update, called **Spark 1.2**, is “**coding-focused**” and available through **Muse Code** and another developer application called **Meta Model API**, the social media giant said.
सोशल मीडिया कंपनी ने बताया कि स्पार्क 1.2 नामक यह अद्यतन संस्करण “कोडिंग-केंद्रित” है और यह म्यूज कोड तथा मेटा मॉडल एपीआई (Meta Model API) नामक एक अन्य डेवलपर एप्लिकेशन के माध्यम से उपलब्ध है।
- **Meta** has poured **billions** into its **AI division**, now known as **Meta Superintelligence Labs**, as it attempts to keep up with **OpenAI** and **Anthropic**.
मेटा ने अपने एआई प्रभाग, जिसे अब मेटा सुपरइंटेलिजेंस लैब्स कहा जाता है, में अरबों डॉलर का निवेश किया है, क्योंकि वह ओपनएआई (OpenAI) और एन्थ्रोपिक (Anthropic) के साथ प्रतिस्पर्धा में बने रहने का प्रयास कर रही है।

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TOPICS COVERED		
07A8	HC tells Assam govt. to stop fresh encroachments in Manas reserve उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार को मानस अभयारण्य में नए अतिक्रमण रोकने का निर्देश दिया	
07A8	How will the Supreme Court order impact mining around Ramsar wetland sites? सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का आदेश रामसर आर्द्रभूमि स्थलों के आसपास खनन को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करेगा?	

HC tells Assam govt. to stop fresh encroachments in Manas reserve

GS III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has directed the Assam government and the Bodo-land Territorial Council (BTC) to ensure no further encroachment takes place in the 2,837 sq. km. Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve, which borders Bhutan.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury passed the order on July 31, 2026, seeking *status quo* until the next date of hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by eastern Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury.

In the PIL, the activist sought a writ of mandamus against the Assam government and the BTC to remove encroachments from the transboundary Manas, a UNESCO World Heritage



A PIL has been filed by an environmental activist drawing the court's attention to encroachments in the national park. FILE PHOTO

Site. He submitted that large-scale encroachments have taken place in the core area of Manas National Park, particularly in the Panbari and Betbari areas.

One of the major encroachers, Mr. Choudhury pointed out, was the Kokilabari Seed Farm. “...a big parcel of the land continues to be used for cultivation under the control of the Agriculture Department of the BTC,” the petition read.

Additional Advocate General P.N. Goswami accepted the notice on behalf of the Assam government and the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department, while standing counsel, N. Choudhury, accepted it on behalf of the BTC. The court ordered notices to the other respondents – the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and the Field Director of Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve – returnable on October 7, 2026. The court also directed the authorities to prevent any fresh encroachment within the protected area.

Letters of concern
Mr. Choudhury cited a September 1, 2025 letter by the tiger reserve's Field Director to the Baksa and Chirang District Commissioners, highlighting large-scale encroachment of land measuring more than 18,000 bighas. According to the letter, 7,520 people across 1,522 houses/structures have been illegally occupying a total of 14,545.62 bighas in the Bhuyanpara and Panbari Ranges of the tiger reserve.

07A8. HC tells Assam govt. to stop fresh encroachments in Manas reserve उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार को मानस अभयारण्य में नए अतिक्रमण रोकने का निर्देश दिया

- The Gauhati High Court has directed the Assam government and the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) to ensure no further encroachment takes place in the 2,837 sq. km. Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve, which borders Bhutan.
गुवाहाटी उच्च न्यायालय ने असम सरकार तथा बोडोलैंड प्रादेशिक परिषद (BTC) को निर्देश दिया है कि भूटान की सीमा से लगे 2,837 वर्ग किमी क्षेत्रफल वाले मानस राष्ट्रीय उद्यान एवं टाइगर रिज़र्व में कोई नया अतिक्रमण न होने दिया जाए।
- A Division Bench of Chief Justice Ashutosh Kumar and Justice Arun Dev Choudhury passed the order on July 31, 2026, seeking status quo until the next date of hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by eastern Assam-based environmental activist Rohit Choudhury.
मुख्य न्यायाधीश अशुतोष कुमार और न्यायमूर्ति अरुण देव चौधरी की खंडपीठ ने 31 जुलाई, 2026 को यह आदेश पारित करते हुए पूर्वी असम के पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता रोहित चौधरी द्वारा दायर जनहित याचिका (PIL) की अगली सुनवाई तक यथास्थिति बनाए रखने का निर्देश दिया।
- In the PIL, the activist sought a writ of mandamus against the Assam government and the BTC to remove encroachments from the transboundary Manas, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
जनहित याचिका में कार्यकर्ता ने असम सरकार और BTC के विरुद्ध परमादेश (Writ of Mandamus) जारी करने की मांग की, ताकि सीमा-पार स्थित मानस, जो एक यूनेस्को विश्व धरोहर स्थल है, से अतिक्रमण हटाया जा सके।
- He submitted that large-scale encroachments have taken place in the core area of Manas National Park, particularly in the Panbari and Betbari areas.
उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया कि मानस राष्ट्रीय उद्यान के कोर क्षेत्र में, विशेष रूप से पानबाड़ी और बेटबाड़ी क्षेत्रों में, बड़े पैमाने पर अतिक्रमण हुआ है।
- One of the major encroachers, Mr. Choudhury pointed out, was the Kokilabari Seed Farm.
श्री चौधरी ने बताया कि प्रमुख अतिक्रमणकर्ताओं में से एक कोकिलाबाड़ी सीड फ़ार्म है।
- "...a big parcel of the land continues to be used for cultivation under the control of the Agriculture Department of the BTC," the petition read.
याचिका में कहा गया है, "...भूमि का एक बड़ा भाग अब भी BTC के कृषि विभाग के नियंत्रण में खेती के लिए उपयोग किया जा रहा है।"
- Additional Advocate General P.N. Goswami accepted the notice on behalf of the Assam government and the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department, while standing counsel N. Choudhury accepted it on behalf of the BTC.
अतिरिक्त महाधिवक्ता पी. एन. गोस्वामी ने असम सरकार तथा पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन विभाग की ओर से नोटिस स्वीकार किया, जबकि स्थायी अधिवक्ता एन. चौधरी ने BTC की ओर से इसे स्वीकार किया।
- The court ordered notices to the other respondents — the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), and the Field Director of Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve — returnable on October 7, 2026.
न्यायालय ने अन्य प्रतिवादियों — केंद्रीय पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, राष्ट्रीय बाघ संरक्षण प्राधिकरण (NTCA) तथा मानस राष्ट्रीय उद्यान एवं टाइगर रिज़र्व के फ़ील्ड निदेशक — को 7 अक्टूबर, 2026 तक उत्तर प्रस्तुत करने हेतु नोटिस जारी करने का आदेश दिया।
- The court also directed the authorities to prevent any fresh encroachment within the protected area.
न्यायालय ने अधिकारियों को संरक्षित क्षेत्र के भीतर किसी भी नए अतिक्रमण को रोकने का भी निर्देश दिया।



Letters of concern

चिंता व्यक्त करने वाले पत्र

- Mr. Choudhury cited a **September 1, 2025** letter by the **Field Director** of the **tiger reserve** to the **Baksa and Chirang District Commissioners**, highlighting large-scale **encroachment** of land measuring more than **18,000 bighas**.
श्री चौधरी ने 1 सितंबर, 2025 को टाइगर रिज़र्व के फ़ील्ड निदेशक द्वारा बक्सा और चिरांग के ज़िला आयुक्तों को लिखे गए पत्र का उल्लेख किया, जिसमें 18,000 बीघा से अधिक भूमि पर बड़े पैमाने पर अतिक्रमण की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया गया था।
- According to the letter, **7,520 people** across **1,522 houses/structures** have been illegally occupying a total of **14,545.62 bighas** in the **Bhuyanpara and Panbari Ranges** of the **tiger reserve**.
पत्र के अनुसार, टाइगर रिज़र्व के भुयानपारा और पानबाड़ी रेंजों में 1,522 मकानों/संरचनाओं में रहने वाले 7,520 लोग कुल 14,545.62 बीघा भूमि पर अवैध रूप से कब्ज़ा किए हुए हैं।



How will the Supreme Court order impact mining around Ramsar wetland sites?

What did the Supreme Court clarify on mining near wetlands? What is the significance of the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve? Do Ramsar sites have a statutory buffer zone for mining? How do mining restrictions near protected areas differ?

GS III: Environment
Jacob P Koshiy

The story so far:

The Supreme Court has clarified that its February 2024 direction, requiring prior approval before mining can take place within a 10-km radius of the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve, would, for the sake of parity, apply to wetland conservation reserves across the country. The clarification potentially extends a judicial safeguard that was earlier confined to the Asan Ramsar site in Uttarakhand to similarly notified wetland conservation reserves elsewhere.

What prompted the Supreme Court to dwell on this question?

The clarification arose while the Supreme Court was hearing an application from the Himachal Pradesh government. The State argued that the February 14, 2024 interim order concerning the Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve in Uttarakhand should not automatically apply to it because the Asan reserve was not located within Himachal Pradesh and, unlike national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, wetland conservation reserves do not have a statutory buffer zone.

The Bench, headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, orally clarified that the principle laid down in the Asan case was not confined to Uttarakhand. Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that wherever there is a community reserve or wetland conservation reserve, the directions issued in the Asan case would apply for the sake of parity. At the same time, the court directed the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) or the Ministry of Environment, Forest and

Climate Change (MoEFCC) to determine whether the Asan wetland extends into Himachal Pradesh. If it does, the 2024 directions would apply there as well. If not, mining proposals would be governed by the applicable statutory framework.

What is the background to the Asan wetland case?

The Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve lies at the confluence of the Asan and Yamuna rivers in Uttarakhand and was designated a Ramsar site in 2020. It is an important habitat for migratory waterbirds and supports rich aquatic biodiversity.

In an interim order dated February 14, 2024, the Supreme Court directed that no mining activity should be carried out within a 10-km radius of the reserve unless the project proponent first obtained permission from the Standing Committee of the NBWL and/or the MoEFCC. The Bench said the wetland's designation as a Ramsar site warranted heightened scrutiny of activities that could affect its ecological character. The latest clarification indicates that the same principle would apply to other wetland conservation reserves across India.

What are Ramsar sites?

Ramsar sites are wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty adopted in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands of international importance. India became a Contracting Party to the Convention in 1982. India currently has 101 Ramsar sites, the maximum among Asian countries. On August 3, 2026, Glaw Lake in Arunachal Pradesh became the country's 101st Ramsar site and the State's first, taking

India's tally from 98 earlier this year to 101.

A Ramsar designation does not itself create a separate statutory protection regime under Indian law. Rather, it recognises the international ecological importance of a wetland and commits India to maintaining its ecological character through domestic environmental laws.

What does the law say about mining in Ramsar wetlands?

Neither the Ramsar Convention nor the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 prescribe a statutory buffer around Ramsar sites or expressly prohibit mining within a specified distance of them.

The earlier Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 contained a detailed list of prohibited activities within wetlands, including reclamation, establishment of new industries, dumping of solid waste and any activity likely to adversely affect the wetland ecosystem. They also required prior approval for activities within a wetland's zone of influence and mandated environmental impact assessments for specified projects.

The 2017 Rules replaced this framework with a decentralised system under State Wetland Authorities. They removed the explicit list of prohibited activities contained in the 2010 Rules and shifted responsibility for identifying and regulating wetlands largely to the States. The constitutional validity of these rules is currently under challenge before the Supreme Court.

Petitioners argue that the framework excludes many artificial wetlands recognised under the Ramsar Convention

and weakens protections that existed under the 2010 Rules.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's Asan directions assume significance because they create an additional judicial safeguard by requiring wildlife clearances before mining can proceed within 10 km of wetland conservation reserves.

How does this compare with mining around national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and forests?

Mining around protected forests and wildlife habitats is governed by a combination of statutes and Supreme Court directions.

Within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, mining is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, the Supreme Court has held that mining is impermissible within one kilometre of the boundary of every national park and wildlife sanctuary across India, unless a larger Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) has already been notified, in which case the larger notified buffer prevails. The court extended this prohibition nationwide after observing that mining within one kilometre of protected areas is hazardous for wildlife. Projects located within protected areas or likely to affect wildlife habitats also require scrutiny by the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife.

In forest areas, diversion of forest land for mining requires prior approval of the Union government under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. Mining projects are also generally subject to environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

07A8. How will the Supreme Court order impact mining around Ramsar wetland sites?

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का आदेश रामसर आर्द्रभूमि स्थलों के आसपास खनन को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करेगा?

- The **Supreme Court** has clarified that its **February 2024** direction, requiring prior approval before **mining** can take place within a **10-km radius** of the **Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve**, would, for the sake of parity, apply to **wetland conservation reserves** across the country.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने स्पष्ट किया है कि फ़रवरी 2024 में दिया गया उसका निर्देश, जिसके अनुसार आसन आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्व के 10 किलोमीटर के दायरे में खनन से पूर्व अनुमति आवश्यक होगी, समानता के सिद्धांत के आधार पर देशभर के आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्वों पर भी लागू होगा।
- The clarification potentially extends a judicial safeguard that was earlier confined to the **Asan Ramsar site** in **Uttarakhand** to similarly notified **wetland conservation reserves** elsewhere. यह स्पष्टीकरण उस न्यायिक संरक्षण का विस्तार करता है, जो पहले केवल उत्तराखंड के आसन रामसर स्थल तक सीमित था, और अब समान रूप से अधिसूचित अन्य आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्वों पर भी लागू हो सकता है।

What prompted the Supreme Court to dwell on this question?

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस प्रश्न पर विचार क्यों किया?

- The clarification arose while the **Supreme Court** was hearing an application from the **Himachal Pradesh** government.
यह स्पष्टीकरण उस समय सामने आया जब सर्वोच्च न्यायालय हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार की एक याचिका पर सुनवाई कर रहा था।
- The State argued that the **February 14, 2024** interim order concerning the **Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve** in **Uttarakhand** should not automatically apply to it because the **Asan** reserve was not located within **Himachal Pradesh** and, unlike **national parks** and **wildlife sanctuaries**, **wetland conservation reserves** do not have a statutory **buffer zone**.
राज्य ने तर्क दिया कि **14 फ़रवरी, 2024** का अंतरिम आदेश, जो **उत्तराखंड** के **आसन आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्व** से संबंधित था, स्वतः उस पर लागू नहीं होना चाहिए क्योंकि **आसन रिज़र्व हिमाचल प्रदेश** में स्थित नहीं है तथा **राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों** और **वन्यजीव अभयारण्यों** के विपरीत **आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्वों** के लिए वैधानिक **बफ़र ज़ोन** का प्रावधान नहीं है।
- The Bench, headed by **Chief Justice of India Surya Kant**, orally clarified that the principle laid down in the **Asan** case was not confined to **Uttarakhand**.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ ने मौखिक रूप से स्पष्ट किया कि **आसन** मामले में निर्धारित सिद्धांत केवल **उत्तराखंड** तक सीमित नहीं है।
- Justice **Joymalya Bagchi** observed that wherever there is a **community reserve** or **wetland conservation reserve**, the directions issued in the **Asan** case would apply for the sake of parity.
न्यायमूर्ति **जॉयमाल्य बागची** ने कहा कि जहाँ भी **सामुदायिक रिज़र्व** अथवा **आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्व** होगा, वहाँ समानता के सिद्धांत के आधार पर **आसन** मामले में दिए गए निर्देश लागू होंगे।
- At the same time, the court directed the **Standing Committee** of the **National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)** or the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** to determine whether the **Asan** wetland extends into **Himachal Pradesh**.
साथ ही न्यायालय ने **राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड (NBWL)** की स्थायी समिति अथवा पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (**MoEFCC**) को यह निर्धारित करने का निर्देश दिया कि क्या **आसन आर्द्रभूमि हिमाचल प्रदेश** तक विस्तृत है।
- If it does, the **2024** directions would apply there as well.
यदि ऐसा है, तो **2024** के निर्देश वहाँ भी लागू होंगे।
- If not, **mining** proposals would be governed by the applicable statutory framework.
यदि ऐसा नहीं है, तो **खनन** प्रस्ताव लागू वैधानिक प्रावधानों के अनुसार संचालित होंगे।

What is the background to the Asan wetland case?

आसन आर्द्रभूमि मामले की पृष्ठभूमि क्या है?

- The **Asan Wetland Conservation Reserve** lies at the confluence of the **Asan** and **Yamuna** rivers in **Uttarakhand** and was designated a **Ramsar site** in **2020**.
आसन आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्व उत्तराखंड में **आसन** और **यमुना** नदियों के संगम पर स्थित है तथा इसे **2020** में **रामसर स्थल** घोषित किया गया था।
- It is an important habitat for **migratory waterbirds** and supports rich **aquatic biodiversity**.
यह **प्रवासी जलपक्षियों** का एक महत्वपूर्ण आवास है तथा समृद्ध **जलीय जैव विविधता** का समर्थन करता है।
- In an interim order dated **February 14, 2024**, the **Supreme Court** directed that no **mining** activity should be carried out within a **10-km radius** of the reserve unless the project proponent first obtained permission from the **Standing Committee** of the **NBWL** and/or the **MoEFCC**.
14 फ़रवरी, 2024 के अंतरिम आदेश में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने निर्देश दिया कि रिज़र्व के **10 किलोमीटर** के दायरे में कोई भी **खनन** गतिविधि तब तक नहीं की जाएगी, जब तक परियोजना प्रस्तावक **NBWL** की स्थायी समिति तथा/अथवा **MoEFCC** से पूर्व अनुमति प्राप्त न कर ले।

- The Bench said the wetland's designation as a **Ramsar site** warranted heightened scrutiny of activities that could affect its **ecological character**.
पीठ ने कहा कि इस आर्द्रभूमि को **रामसर स्थल** घोषित किए जाने के कारण ऐसी गतिविधियों की अधिक गहन जाँच आवश्यक है, जो इसके **पारिस्थितिक स्वरूप** को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं।
- The latest clarification indicates that the same principle would apply to other **wetland conservation reserves** across **India**.
नवीनतम स्पष्टीकरण से संकेत मिलता है कि यही सिद्धांत **भारत** के अन्य **आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण रिज़र्वों** पर भी लागू होगा।

What are Ramsar sites?

रामसर स्थल क्या हैं?

- Ramsar sites** are **wetlands** designated under the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**, an international treaty adopted in **Ramsar, Iran**, in **1971** to promote the conservation and wise use of **wetlands** of international importance.
रामसर स्थल वे **आर्द्रभूमियाँ** हैं जिन्हें **रामसर आर्द्रभूमि अभिसमय (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)** के अंतर्गत नामित किया जाता है। यह एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय संधि है, जिसे **1971** में **ईरान** के **रामसर** में अंतरराष्ट्रीय महत्व की **आर्द्रभूमियों** के संरक्षण और विवेकपूर्ण उपयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अपनाया गया था।
- India** became a **Contracting Party** to the Convention in **1982**.
भारत 1982 में इस अभिसमय का **संविदा पक्ष (Contracting Party)** बना।
- India** currently has **101 Ramsar sites**, the maximum among **Asian** countries.
वर्तमान में **भारत** में **101 रामसर स्थल** हैं, जो **एशियाई** देशों में सर्वाधिक हैं।
- On **August 3, 2026**, **Glaw Lake** in **Arunachal Pradesh** became the country's **101st Ramsar site** and the State's first, taking **India's** tally from **98** earlier this year to **101**.
3 अगस्त, 2026 को **अरुणाचल प्रदेश** की **ग्लॉ झील** देश का **101वाँ रामसर स्थल** तथा राज्य का पहला रामसर स्थल बनी, जिससे **भारत** में रामसर स्थलों की संख्या इस वर्ष के प्रारम्भ में **98** से बढ़कर **101** हो गई।
- A **Ramsar** designation does not itself create a separate statutory protection regime under **Indian law**.
रामसर का दर्जा अपने आप में **भारतीय कानून** के अंतर्गत कोई पृथक वैधानिक संरक्षण व्यवस्था स्थापित नहीं करता।
- Rather, it recognises the international **ecological importance** of a **wetland** and commits **India** to maintaining its **ecological character** through domestic **environmental laws**.
इसके बजाय, यह किसी **आर्द्रभूमि** के अंतरराष्ट्रीय **पारिस्थितिक महत्व** को मान्यता देता है तथा **भारत** को घरेलू **पर्यावरणीय कानूनों** के माध्यम से उसके **पारिस्थितिक स्वरूप** को बनाए रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध करता है।

What does the law say about mining in Ramsar wetlands?

रामसर आर्द्रभूमियों में खनन के संबंध में कानून क्या कहता है?

- Neither the **Ramsar Convention** nor the **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** prescribe a statutory **buffer** around **Ramsar sites** or expressly prohibit mining within a specified distance of them.
न तो **रामसर अभिसमय** और न ही **आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2017** **रामसर स्थलों** के चारों ओर किसी वैधानिक **बफर क्षेत्र** का प्रावधान करते हैं और न ही उनसे किसी निश्चित दूरी के भीतर खनन पर स्पष्ट रूप से प्रतिबंध लगाते हैं।
- The earlier **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010** contained a detailed list of prohibited activities within wetlands, including **reclamation**, establishment of new industries, dumping of **solid waste** and any activity likely to adversely affect the wetland ecosystem.
पूर्ववर्ती आर्द्रभूमि (संरक्षण एवं प्रबंधन) नियम, 2010 में आर्द्रभूमियों के भीतर प्रतिबंधित गतिविधियों की



विस्तृत सूची थी, जिसमें **भूमि पुनरुद्धार**, नए उद्योगों की स्थापना, **ठोस अपशिष्ट** का निस्तारण तथा आर्द्रभूमि पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को प्रतिकूल रूप से प्रभावित करने वाली किसी भी गतिविधि को शामिल किया गया था।

- They also required prior approval for activities within a wetland's **zone of influence** and mandated **environmental impact assessments** for specified projects.
इन नियमों के अंतर्गत आर्द्रभूमि के **प्रभाव क्षेत्र** में होने वाली गतिविधियों के लिए पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक थी तथा निर्धारित परियोजनाओं के लिए **पर्यावरणीय प्रभाव आकलन** अनिवार्य किया गया था।
- The **2017 Rules** replaced this framework with a decentralised system under **State Wetland Authorities**.
2017 के नियमों ने इस व्यवस्था का स्थान **राज्य आर्द्रभूमि प्राधिकरणों** के अधीन एक विकेन्द्रीकृत प्रणाली से ले लिया।
- They removed the explicit list of prohibited activities contained in the **2010 Rules** and shifted responsibility for identifying and regulating wetlands largely to the **States**.
इन नियमों ने **2010 के नियमों** में दी गई प्रतिबंधित गतिविधियों की स्पष्ट सूची को हटा दिया तथा आर्द्रभूमियों की पहचान और विनियमन की जिम्मेदारी मुख्यतः **राज्यों** को सौंप दी।
- The constitutional validity of these rules is currently under challenge before the **Supreme Court**.
इन नियमों की **संवैधानिक वैधता** वर्तमान में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** के समक्ष चुनौती के अधीन है।
- Petitioners argue that the framework excludes many **artificial wetlands** recognised under the **Ramsar Convention** and weakens protections that existed under the **2010 Rules**.
याचिकाकर्ताओं का तर्क है कि यह व्यवस्था **रामसर अभिसमय** के अंतर्गत मान्यता प्राप्त अनेक **कृत्रिम आर्द्रभूमियों** को बाहर कर देती है तथा **2010 के नियमों** के अंतर्गत उपलब्ध संरक्षण को कमजोर करती है।
- Against this backdrop, the **Supreme Court's Asan directions** assume significance because they create an additional judicial safeguard by requiring **wildlife clearances** before mining can proceed within **10 km** of **wetland conservation reserves**.
इस पृष्ठभूमि में **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के आसन संबंधी निर्देश** महत्वपूर्ण हो जाते हैं क्योंकि वे **आर्द्रभूमि संरक्षण आरक्षित क्षेत्रों के 10 किलोमीटर के भीतर खनन प्रारम्भ करने से पहले वन्यजीव स्वीकृति** अनिवार्य करके एक अतिरिक्त न्यायिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करते हैं।

How does this compare with mining around national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and forests?

राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों, वन्यजीव अभयारण्यों और वनों के आसपास खनन की व्यवस्था से इसकी तुलना कैसे की जा सकती है?

- Mining around **protected forests** and **wildlife habitats** is governed by a combination of statutes and **Supreme Court** directions.
संरक्षित वनों और वन्यजीव आवासों के आसपास खनन का संचालन विभिन्न कानूनों तथा सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के निर्देशों के संयुक्त ढाँचे के अंतर्गत होता है।
- Within **national parks** and **wildlife sanctuaries**, mining is prohibited under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
राष्ट्रीय उद्यानों और वन्यजीव अभयारण्यों के भीतर वन्यजीव (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1972 के अंतर्गत खनन निषिद्ध है।
- In addition, the **Supreme Court** has held that mining is impermissible within **one kilometre** of the boundary of every **national park** and **wildlife sanctuary** across India, unless a larger **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** has already been notified, in which case the larger notified **buffer** prevails.
इसके अतिरिक्त, **सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** ने निर्णय दिया है कि भारत के प्रत्येक **राष्ट्रीय उद्यान और वन्यजीव अभयारण्य** की सीमा से **एक किलोमीटर के भीतर खनन की अनुमति नहीं होगी**, जब तक कि उससे बड़ा



पारिस्थितिक-संवेदनशील क्षेत्र (ESZ) पहले से अधिसूचित न हो; ऐसी स्थिति में वही बड़ा अधिसूचित बफर क्षेत्र लागू होगा।

- The court extended this prohibition nationwide after observing that mining within **one kilometre** of protected areas is hazardous for wildlife.
न्यायालय ने यह प्रतिबंध पूरे देश में लागू किया क्योंकि उसने माना कि संरक्षित क्षेत्रों से **एक किलोमीटर** के भीतर खनन **वन्यजीवों** के लिए हानिकारक है।
- Projects located within protected areas or likely to affect wildlife habitats also require scrutiny by the **Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife**.
संरक्षित क्षेत्रों के भीतर स्थित या **वन्यजीव आवासों** को प्रभावित करने की संभावना वाली परियोजनाओं की **राष्ट्रीय वन्यजीव बोर्ड की स्थायी समिति** द्वारा भी समीक्षा आवश्यक होती है।
- In **forest areas**, diversion of **forest land** for mining requires prior approval of the **Union government** under the **Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980**.
वन क्षेत्रों में खनन हेतु **वन भूमि** के उपयोग परिवर्तन के लिए **वन (संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन) अधिनियम, 1980** के अंतर्गत **केंद्र सरकार** की पूर्व स्वीकृति आवश्यक होती है।
- Mining projects are also generally subject to **environmental clearance** under the **Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006**.
खनन परियोजनाएँ सामान्यतः **पर्यावरण प्रभाव आकलन अधिसूचना, 2006** के अंतर्गत **पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति** प्राप्त करने के अधीन भी होती हैं।

GS Paper III: Internal Security		07 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
07A8	Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile test-fired from Odisha अग्नि-4 मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का ओडिशा से परीक्षण-प्रक्षेपण	
07A8	Stop the scam घोटाले पर रोक लगाएँ	



GS III: Internal Security: Defence

Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile test-fired from Odisha

The medium-range ballistic missile Agni-4 was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha, on Thursday, with the launch validating all operational and technical parameters. The test was carried out under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command, the Defence Ministry said. The successful launch demonstrated the missile's operational readiness and confirmed that all critical systems performed in line with expected parameters, the Ministry said. Agni-4 is an indigenously developed medium-range ballistic missile capable of delivering conventional and nuclear payloads.

07A8. Agni-4 medium-range ballistic missile test-fired from Odisha **अग्नि-4 मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का ओडिशा से परीक्षण-प्रक्षेपण**

- The **medium-range ballistic missile Agni-4** was successfully test-fired from the **Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha**, on Thursday, with the launch validating all operational and technical parameters.

- मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल अग्नि-4** का गुरुवार को **चांदीपुर, ओडिशा** स्थित **एकीकृत परीक्षण रेंज (Integrated Test Range)** से सफलतापूर्वक परीक्षण-प्रक्षेपण किया गया, जिसमें इस प्रक्षेपण ने सभी परिचालन और तकनीकी मापदंडों को सत्यापित किया।

- The test was carried out under the aegis of **Strategic Forces Command**, the **Defence Ministry** said.

- रक्षा मंत्रालय** ने कहा कि यह परीक्षण **सामरिक बल कमान (Strategic Forces Command)** के तत्वावधान में किया गया।



- The successful launch demonstrated the missile's **operational readiness** and confirmed that all **critical systems** performed in line with expected parameters, the Ministry said.
- मंत्रालय ने कहा कि सफल प्रक्षेपण ने मिसाइल की **परिचालन तत्परता** को प्रदर्शित किया और पुष्टि की कि सभी **महत्वपूर्ण प्रणालियों** ने अपेक्षित मापदंडों के अनुरूप कार्य किया।
- **Agni-4** is an indigenously developed **medium-range ballistic missile** capable of delivering **conventional and nuclear payloads**.
- **अग्नि-4** स्वदेशी रूप से विकसित **मध्यम दूरी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल** है, जो **पारंपरिक और परमाणु पेलोड** ले जाने में सक्षम है।

GS III: Internal Security

Stop the scam

The digital arrest scam persists from overseas actors

The Supreme Court of India's order of August 4 on the "digital arrest" menace is notable for not being lured into complacency. After all, the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre's status report showed that complaints on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal fell from 1,23,672 in 2024 to 58,249 in 2025, and stood at 16,377 in the first six months of 2026. The Court called the figures "certainly encouraging" and directed the Reserve Bank of India to circulate a standard operating procedure for temporary debit holds on mule accounts, States to notify cybercrime coordination centres and operationalise e-Zero FIRs, and an inter-departmental committee to examine a victim compensation framework. Thanks to advisories from banks, telecom operators and the police, fewer senior citizens and others are getting victimised by these scams, which have succeeded due to older victims' deference to authority and fear of legal trouble. Yet, scammers find it easy to target youth and professionals, and senior citizens the advisories have not reached. And there have been very few convictions despite scrutiny and investigation, which suggests that law enforcement must move faster in tackling these scams.

The digital scammers have proved nimble in their *modus operandi*. They route calls through SIM boxes to mask their origin, making them appear as Indian numbers, and use multiple mule accounts across many States to move funds swiftly. They are now known to deploy deepfakes on video calls to dupe victims and remain untraceable by investigators. In effect, the fraudsters always seem to be a step ahead of those pursuing them. The Court's insistence on restoring money – completed in 36,290 cases involving ₹18.05 crore – and on the swift disposing of account-freeze cases, alongside detection systems such as MuleHunter.AI, used in over 20 banks, will help limit the damage even when perpetrators are not caught or convicted. But convictions are rare as many of these fraud and extortion schemes are run from overseas "scam compounds" in Myanmar, the wider Golden Triangle, and Cambodia. In Myanmar, scam centres proliferated through direct and indirect official patronage, even as recent scrutiny produced raids that were largely for show with these centres shifting to new areas in the conflict-ridden country. After Beijing's crack-down, in 2023, on scam centres targeting Chinese victims, scammers shifted focus to other countries, with Indians also being trafficked and tortured to commit digital crimes against fellow citizens. New Delhi must use diplomatic pressure in coordination with China, the U.S. and ASEAN to compel Naypyidaw and Phnom Penh to act against the networks that host these compounds.

07A8. Stop the scam

घोटाले पर रोक लगाएँ

- The digital arrest scam persists from **overseas actors**. डिजिटल अरेस्ट घोटाला विदेशी तत्वों द्वारा लगातार जारी है।
- The **Supreme Court of India's** order of **August 4** on the "digital arrest" menace is notable for not being lured into complacency. **भारत के सर्वोच्च न्यायालय** का **4 अगस्त** को "डिजिटल अरेस्ट" के खतरे पर दिया गया आदेश इस दृष्टि से उल्लेखनीय है कि उसने आत्मसंतोष का शिकार होने से परहेज़ किया।
- After all, the **Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre's** status report showed that complaints on the **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal** fell from **1,23,672** in **2024** to **58,249** in **2025**, and stood at **16,377** in the **first six months of 2026**. आखिरकार, **भारतीय साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्र** की स्थिति रिपोर्ट से पता चला कि **राष्ट्रीय साइबर अपराध रिपोर्टिंग पोर्टल** पर शिकायतें **2024** में **1,23,672** से घटकर **2025** में **58,249** रह गईं, और **2026** के पहले छह महीनों में यह संख्या **16,377** रही।
- The Court called the figures "**certainly encouraging**" and directed the **Reserve Bank of India** to circulate a **standard operating procedure** for temporary debit holds on **mule accounts**, States to notify **cybercrime coordination centres** and operationalise **e-Zero FIRs**, and an **inter-departmental committee** to examine a **victim compensation framework**. न्यायालय ने इन आँकड़ों को "**निश्चित रूप से उत्साहवर्धक**" बताया और **भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक** को **म्यूल खातों** पर अस्थायी डेबिट रोक के लिए **मानक संचालन प्रक्रिया** प्रसारित करने, राज्यों को **साइबर अपराध समन्वय केंद्रों** को अधिसूचित करने तथा **ई-ज़ीरो एफआईआर** को क्रियान्वित करने, और एक **अंतर-विभागीय समिति** को **पीड़ित क्षतिपूर्ति ढाँचे** की समीक्षा करने का निर्देश दिया।
- Thanks to advisories from **banks, telecom operators** and the **police**, fewer **senior citizens** and others are getting victimised by these scams, which have succeeded due to older victims' deference to authority and fear of legal trouble. **बैंकों, दूरसंचार सेवा प्रदाताओं और पुलिस** द्वारा जारी परामर्शों के कारण अब कम **वरिष्ठ नागरिक** और अन्य लोग इन घोटालों का शिकार हो रहे हैं, जो पहले बुजुर्ग पीड़ितों के प्राधिकार के प्रति सम्मान और कानूनी परेशानी के भय के कारण सफल होते रहे थे।

- Yet, scammers find it easy to target **youth** and **professionals**, and **senior citizens** the advisories have not reached.
फिर भी, ठगों के लिए युवाओं, पेशेवरों तथा उन वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को निशाना बनाना आसान है, जिन तक ये परामर्श नहीं पहुँच पाए हैं।
- And there have been very few **convictions** despite scrutiny and investigation, which suggests that **law enforcement** must move faster in tackling these scams.
और जाँच-पड़ताल तथा अन्वेषण के बावजूद दोषसिद्धि के मामले बहुत कम रहे हैं, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को इन घोटालों से निपटने में अधिक तेज़ी दिखानी होगी।
- The **digital scammers** have proved nimble in their **modus operandi**.
डिजिटल ठगों ने अपने कार्य करने के तरीके में अत्यधिक चतुराई दिखाई है।
- They route calls through **SIM boxes** to mask their origin, making them appear as **Indian numbers**, and use multiple **mule accounts** across many States to move funds swiftly.
वे कॉलों को सिम बॉक्सों के माध्यम से भेजकर उनके स्रोत को छिपाते हैं, जिससे वे भारतीय नंबरों के रूप में दिखाई देती हैं, और धन को तेज़ी से स्थानांतरित करने के लिए अनेक राज्यों में कई म्यूल खातों का उपयोग करते हैं।
- They are now known to deploy **deepfakes** on video calls to dupe victims and remain untraceable by investigators.
अब यह ज्ञात है कि वे वीडियो कॉल पर डीपफेक का उपयोग करके पीड़ितों को धोखा देते हैं और जाँचकर्ताओं की पहुँच से बाहर बने रहते हैं।
- In effect, the fraudsters always seem to be a step ahead of those pursuing them.
वास्तव में, ये धोखेबाज़ हमेशा उनका पीछा करने वालों से एक कदम आगे दिखाई देते हैं।
- The Court's insistence on restoring money — completed in **36,290 cases** involving **₹18.05 crore** — and on the swift disposing of **account freeze cases**, alongside detection systems such as **MuleHunter.AI**, used in over **20 banks**, will help limit the damage even when perpetrators are not caught or convicted.
न्यायालय का धन की वापसी पर ज़ोर — जो ₹18.05 करोड़ से जुड़े 36,290 मामलों में पूरा किया गया — तथा खाता फ्रीज़ मामलों के शीघ्र निपटान पर बल, साथ ही 20 से अधिक बैंकों में प्रयुक्त MuleHunter.AI जैसी पहचान प्रणालियाँ, तब भी नुकसान को सीमित करने में सहायक होंगी जब अपराधी पकड़े या दोषसिद्ध न किए जा सकें।
- But **convictions** are rare as many of these **fraud** and **extortion** schemes are run from overseas "**scam compounds**" in **Myanmar**, the wider **Golden Triangle**, and **Cambodia**.
लेकिन दोषसिद्धि के मामले दुर्लभ हैं क्योंकि इनमें से अनेक धोखाधड़ी और जबरन वसूली की योजनाएँ म्यांमार, विस्तृत गोल्डन ट्रायंगल और कंबोडिया स्थित विदेशी "स्कैम कंपाउंड्स" से संचालित होती हैं।
- In **Myanmar**, scam centres proliferated through direct and indirect official patronage, even as recent scrutiny produced raids that were largely for show with these centres shifting to new areas in the conflict-ridden country.
म्यांमार में स्कैम केंद्र प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष सरकारी संरक्षण के कारण फैलते गए, जबकि हाल की जाँच के परिणामस्वरूप हुई छापेमारी अधिकांशतः दिखावटी साबित हुई और ये केंद्र संघर्षग्रस्त देश के नए क्षेत्रों में स्थानांतरित हो गए।
- After **Beijing's** crackdown, in **2023**, on scam centres targeting **Chinese victims**, scammers shifted focus to other countries, with **Indians** also being trafficked and tortured to commit digital crimes against fellow citizens.
2023 में बीजिंग द्वारा चीनी पीड़ितों को निशाना बनाने वाले स्कैम केंद्रों पर कार्रवाई के बाद ठगों ने अपना ध्यान अन्य देशों की ओर मोड़ दिया, और भारतीयों की भी तस्करी कर उन्हें प्रताड़ित करते हुए अपने ही नागरिकों के विरुद्ध डिजिटल अपराध करने के लिए विवश किया गया।
- **New Delhi** must use **diplomatic pressure** in coordination with **China**, the **U.S.** and **ASEAN** to compel **Naypyidaw** and **Phnom Penh** to act against the networks that host these compounds.



नई दिल्ली को चीन, अमेरिका और आसियान के साथ समन्वय करते हुए कूटनीतिक दबाव का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि नेपीडॉ और फनोम पेन्ह को इन स्कैम कंपाउंड्स को संरक्षण देने वाले नेटवर्कों के विरुद्ध कार्रवाई करने के लिए बाध्य किया जा सके।

GS Paper IV: Ethics	07 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
07A8	Centre spent over ₹550 cr. on PM Modi's foreign visits केंद्र ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की विदेश यात्राओं पर ₹550 करोड़ से अधिक खर्च किए
07A8	Starvation pushing mother to kill child a 'collective failure': HC भुखमरी के कारण माँ द्वारा बच्चे की हत्या 'सामूहिक विफलता' है: उच्च न्यायालय

Centre spent over ₹550 cr. on PM Modi's foreign visits

GS IV: Ethics
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government spent around ₹557.51 crore between 2021 and July 2026 on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, the External Affairs Ministry stated in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Responding to a question from V. Sivadasan of the CPI(M), Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita said Mr. Modi visited 77 countries during this period.

The 35-page response among other details mentioned that this year for the February 25-26 Israel visit by Mr. Modi, the government spent around ₹11.92 crores. For Mr. Modi's joint France and U.S. visit of February 10-13, 2025, the government spent ₹25.59 crore and ₹16.54 crore, respectively.

The government also informed Parliament that 316 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with various countries during this period. It mentioned that overall FDI inflow during this time was \$381.8 billion.

07A8. Centre spent over ₹550 cr. on PM Modi's foreign visits केंद्र ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी की विदेश यात्राओं पर ₹550 करोड़ से अधिक खर्च किए

- The Centre spent around ₹557.51 crore between 2021 and July 2026 on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign visits, the External Affairs Ministry stated in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

केंद्र सरकार ने 2021 से जुलाई 2026 के बीच प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की विदेश यात्राओं पर लगभग ₹557.51 करोड़ खर्च किए, यह जानकारी विदेश मंत्रालय ने गुरुवार को राज्यसभा में दी।

- Responding to a question from V. Sivadasan of the CPI(M), Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita said Mr. Modi visited 77 countries during this period.

सीपीआई (एम) के वी. शिवदासन के प्रश्न के उत्तर में विदेश राज्य मंत्री पबित्र मार्गेरिता ने बताया कि इस अवधि के दौरान श्री मोदी ने 77 देशों का दौरा किया।

- The 35-page response, among other details, mentioned that this year for the February 25-26 Israel visit by Mr. Modi, the government spent around ₹11.92 crore.

35 पृष्ठों के उत्तर में अन्य विवरणों के साथ यह भी उल्लेख किया गया कि इस वर्ष श्री मोदी की 25-26 फरवरी की इज़राइल यात्रा पर सरकार ने लगभग ₹11.92 करोड़ खर्च किए।

- For Mr. Modi's joint France and U.S. visit of February 10-13, 2025, the government spent ₹25.59 crore and ₹16.54 crore, respectively.

श्री मोदी की 10-13 फरवरी, 2025 की संयुक्त फ्रांस और अमेरिका यात्रा पर सरकार ने क्रमशः ₹25.59 करोड़ और ₹16.54 करोड़ खर्च किए।

- The government also informed Parliament that 316 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with various countries during this period. सरकार ने संसद को यह भी बताया कि इस अवधि के दौरान विभिन्न देशों के साथ 316 समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs) पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए।

- It mentioned that overall FDI inflow during this time was \$381.8 billion. सरकार ने यह भी बताया कि इस अवधि में कुल प्रत्यक्ष विदेशी निवेश (FDI) प्रवाह 381.8 अरब अमेरिकी डॉलर रहा।



Starvation pushing mother to kill child a 'collective failure': HC

GS IV: Ethics

Abhinav Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat High Court has granted regular bail to a Surat woman accused of beating her two-year-old daughter to death, observing that the case exposes a broader failure of the state and society to protect vulnerable families from hunger and extreme poverty.

Granting bail to Lakhiben Solanki, who has been in custody since her arrest in March, Justice Hasmukh D. Suthar last week said the incident should not be viewed solely as an individual crime but as a reflection of systemic shortcomings in ensuring access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare and dignity.

According to the prosecution, Ms. Solanki allegedly assaulted her daughter, Eesha, after the child repeatedly asked for food.

In its order, the court said social justice rests on the principle that every individual is entitled to basic needs, including food and shelter. It observed that when starvation pushes a mother to such an extreme, the failure extends beyond the individual to society as a whole.

The court said the incident underscored shortcomings in social welfare mechanisms and highlighted the constitutional responsibility of the state to safeguard the nutrition, health and welfare of children and other vulnerable sections. Describing the case as a reminder that hunger is not merely an economic issue but one involving human dignity and justice, it said the tragedy should prompt greater compassion and renewed efforts to ensure that no mother or child suffers because of starvation.

07A8. Starvation pushing mother to kill child a 'collective failure': HC

भुखमरी के कारण माँ द्वारा बच्चे की हत्या 'सामूहिक विफलता' है: उच्च न्यायालय

• The Gujarat High Court has granted regular bail to a Surat woman accused of beating her two-year-old daughter to death, observing that the case exposes a broader failure of the State and society to protect vulnerable families from hunger and extreme poverty.

गुजरात उच्च न्यायालय ने सूरत की एक महिला को, जिस पर अपनी दो वर्षीय पुत्री की पीट-पीटकर हत्या करने का आरोप है, नियमित जमानत प्रदान की। न्यायालय ने कहा कि यह मामला राज्य और समाज की उस व्यापक विफलता को उजागर करता है, जिसमें वे भूख और अत्यधिक गरीबी से जूझ रहे कमजोर परिवारों की रक्षा करने में असफल रहे हैं।

• Granting bail to Lakhiben Solanki, who has been in custody since her arrest in March, Justice Hasmukh D. Suthar last week said the incident should not be viewed solely as an individual crime but as a reflection of systemic shortcomings in ensuring access to basic necessities such as food, healthcare and dignity.

मार्च में गिरफ्तारी के बाद से हिरासत में रह रही लखीबेन सोलंकी को जमानत देते हुए न्यायमूर्ति हसमुख डी. सुथार ने पिछले सप्ताह कहा कि इस घटना को केवल व्यक्तिगत अपराध के रूप में नहीं देखा जाना चाहिए, बल्कि इसे प्रणालीगत कमियों के रूप में समझा जाना चाहिए, जिनके कारण भोजन, स्वास्थ्य सेवा और गरिमा जैसी मूलभूत आवश्यकताओं तक पहुँच सुनिश्चित नहीं हो सकी।

- According to the prosecution, Ms. Solanki allegedly assaulted her daughter, Eesha, after the child repeatedly asked for food.

अभियोजन के अनुसार, सुश्री सोलंकी ने कथित रूप से अपनी पुत्री ईशा के बार-बार भोजन माँगने पर उसके साथ मारपीट की।

- In its order, the court said social justice rests on the principle that every individual is entitled to basic needs, including food and shelter. अपने आदेश में न्यायालय ने कहा कि सामाजिक न्याय इस सिद्धांत पर आधारित है कि प्रत्येक व्यक्ति को भोजन और आश्रय सहित मूलभूत आवश्यकताओं का अधिकार है।
- It observed that when starvation pushes a mother to such an extreme, the failure extends beyond the individual to society as a whole. न्यायालय ने कहा कि जब भुखमरी किसी माँ को इस प्रकार की चरम स्थिति तक पहुँचा देती है, तो यह विफलता केवल एक व्यक्ति की नहीं, बल्कि पूरे समाज की होती है।
- The court said the incident underscored shortcomings in social welfare mechanisms and highlighted the constitutional responsibility of the State to safeguard the nutrition, health and welfare of children and other vulnerable sections. न्यायालय ने कहा कि यह घटना सामाजिक कल्याण तंत्र की कमियों को रेखांकित करती है तथा राज्य की उस



संवैधानिक जिम्मेदारी को उजागर करती है, जिसके अंतर्गत **बच्चों** तथा अन्य कमजोर वर्गों के **पोषण**, **स्वास्थ्य** और **कल्याण** की रक्षा की जानी चाहिए।

- Describing the case as a reminder that **hunger** is not merely an economic issue but one involving **human dignity** and **justice**, it said the tragedy should prompt greater **compassion** and renewed **efforts** to ensure that no **mother** or **child** suffers because of **starvation**.
इस मामले को इस बात की याद दिलाने वाला बताते हुए कि **भूख** केवल एक आर्थिक समस्या नहीं, बल्कि **मानवीय गरिमा** और **न्याय** से जुड़ा विषय भी है, न्यायालय ने कहा कि यह त्रासदी अधिक **संवेदनशीलता** और नए **प्रयासों** के लिए प्रेरित करनी चाहिए, ताकि कोई भी **माँ** या **बच्चा** **भुखमरी** के कारण कष्ट न सहे।

PATRIOTIC IAS