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PCS Special:	13 August
13A8	In 'era of reels', avoid shortcuts, read autobiographies, Modi tells youth ‘रील्स के युग’ में शॉर्टकट से बचें, आत्मकथाएँ पढ़ें, मोदी ने युवाओं से कहा
13A8	India's first branded train set to run as 'Sprite' Tejas Express भारत की पहली ब्रांडेड ट्रेन 'Sprite' तेजस एक्सप्रेस के रूप में चलेगी
13A8	Italy's Curtis shatters women's 50m backstroke world record इटली की कर्टिस ने महिलाओं की 50 मीटर बैकस्ट्रोक का विश्व रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा
13A8	Blame it on injuries and lack of practice for missing the yellow metal at U-20 Worlds, say Indian athletes भारतीय एथलीटों ने कहा—अंडर-20 विश्व चैंपियनशिप में स्वर्ण पदक चूकने के लिए चोटों और अभ्यास की कमी को जिम्मेदार ठहराएँ

Jaipal Singh Munda (1903–1970)

Jaipal Singh Munda, popularly known as “**Marang Gomke**” (**Great Leader**), was a prominent Adivasi leader, Constituent Assembly member, politician and international-level hockey player. He is particularly important for UPSC/UPPCS because of his role in advocating tribal rights in the Constituent Assembly.



PCS
Unexpected visitors: Police officers interact with student protesters at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi, PTI

Early Life and Education

- Born on **3 January 1903** in **Takra village**, present-day **Jharkhand**.
- He belonged to the **Munda tribal community**.
- He studied at **St. Paul's School, Ranchi**, and later went to **Oxford University**.
- He was selected for the **Indian Civil Service (ICS)** but ultimately did not pursue an ICS career.

Hockey and the 1928 Olympics

Jaipal Singh was an outstanding hockey player and captained the Indian hockey team during part of its campaign at the **1928 Amsterdam Olympics**.

India eventually won the **gold medal**, beginning its extraordinary era of Olympic hockey dominance.

An important factual qualification: although Jaipal Singh was the team's captain initially, **he did not play the final** after leaving the team before the completion of the tournament. So saying simply that he “captained India to the 1928 Olympic gold” can be misleading.

Adivasi Movement

His most significant contribution came through his leadership of India's tribal communities.

In **1939**, he became president of the **Adivasi Mahasabha**. He advocated political representation, protection of tribal land and culture, and greater autonomy for Adivasi regions.

He was an important early advocate of a separate **Jharkhand** state comprising tribal-dominated areas.

After Independence, the Adivasi Mahasabha evolved into the **Jharkhand Party in 1950** under his leadership.

Role in the Constituent Assembly

Jaipal Singh Munda was a powerful Adivasi voice in the **Constituent Assembly (1946–1950)**.



In his famous intervention on **19 December 1946**, he argued that Adivasis were among India's original inhabitants and had historically suffered exploitation and neglect.

In 'era of reels', avoid shortcuts, read autobiographies, Modi tells youth

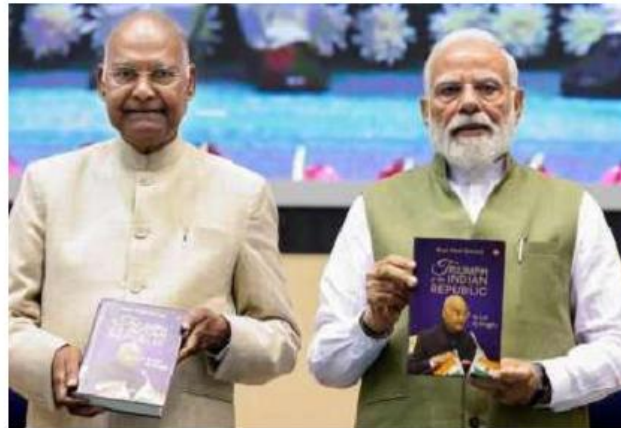
PCS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged young people in the "era of reels" not to take shortcuts, and instead read autobiographies of the people they admired to get a unique perspective on historical events.

Speaking at the launch of former President Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles*, he said Mr. Kovind's life showed how determination could help a person overcome adversity and rise to the highest constitutional office.

Mr. Modi appealed to the youth to read autobiographies as such books offered the opportunity to understand a particular period through the life of someone who had experienced it.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with former president Ram Nath Kovind during the launch of latter's autobiography in New Delhi. PTI

"This is the era of reels. Social media influencers often pull you in and take you down certain paths. In this age of shortcuts, let us remember a message often displayed at railway stations: a shortcut will cut you short. This is written because some people have a habit of jumping onto the

tracks instead of using the railway bridge. However, if there is a shortcut you should take to get ahead in life, it is to read the autobiography of someone you admire," Mr. Modi said.

Engaging with Gen Z

His remarks come at a time when the Centre and the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) have stepped up efforts to engage with Gen Z on social media.

He highlighted Mr. Kovind's continuing public engagement, saying that the former President had not rested after demitting office, and was working on the simultaneous election initiative, which could, Mr. Modi said, "open a new chapter in Indian democracy". "We need many more young people who would be like Kovindji in future – people who are not defeated by circumstances but possess the determination to overcome every challenge," he said.

Mr. Kovind recalled hardships in his childhood and the values he imbibed from his surroundings.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and several Union Ministers attended the event.

13A8. In 'era of reels', avoid shortcuts, read autobiographies, Modi tells youth

‘रील्स के युग’ में शॉर्टकट से बचें, आत्मकथाएँ पढ़ें, मोदी ने युवाओं से कहा

- Speaking at the launch of former President **Ram Nath Kovind's autobiography, *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles***, he said Mr. Kovind's life showed how determination could help a person overcome adversity and rise to the highest constitutional office.

पूर्व राष्ट्रपति राम नाथ कोविंद की आत्मकथा, *Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles* के विमोचन के अवसर पर बोलते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि श्री कोविंद का जीवन दर्शाता है कि दृढ़ संकल्प किस प्रकार किसी व्यक्ति को विपरीत परिस्थितियों से उबरने और सर्वोच्च **संवैधानिक पद** तक पहुँचने में सहायता कर सकता है।

India's first branded train set to run as 'Sprite' Tejas Express

PCS

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

India's first 'private, branded' train, launched by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) between Lucknow and Delhi, will run as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express.

After IRCTC awarded advertisement rights through train branding of the Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to M/s Sprite for a period of six months, the North Eastern Railway was told that Train 82501/82502 Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow IRCTC Tejas Express should be announced as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express, sources in the Railways said.

The advertisement through train branding was given by way of a Letter of Acceptance. The private train will be announced as 'Sprite' Tejas Express at originating and en route stations on both sides of the journey, the sources told *The Hindu* on

Wednesday. The country's first private train was flagged off by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on December 3, 2021.

The much publicised IRCTC's own fully air-conditioned superfast train is equipped with modern facilities. It has an extensive on-board food/beverage and infotainment services, the IRCTC said.

Group booking is allowed in the train where passengers travelling in groups to attend corporate meetings, marriages, social events, etc., could book an entire AC Chair Car coach having 78 seats.

"This is the first time that a train is being named after a brand. Though the Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is a private train, IRCTC pays Indian Railways hauling charges, which includes the use of its infrastructure, such as tracks, railway stations, etc.," a senior Railways official said.

Wednesday.

सूत्रों ने बुधवार को *The Hindu* को बताया कि इस निजी ट्रेन को यात्रा के दोनों दिशाओं में प्रारंभिक और मार्ग के स्टेशनों पर 'Sprite' तेजस एक्सप्रेस के रूप में घोषित किया जाएगा।

- The country's first private train was flagged off by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on December 3, 2021.

देश की पहली निजी ट्रेन को उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने 3 दिसंबर 2021 को हरी झंडी दिखाई थी।

- The much publicised IRCTC's own fully air-conditioned superfast train is equipped with modern facilities.

IRCTC की बहुचर्चित अपनी पूर्णतः वातानुकूलित सुपरफास्ट ट्रेन आधुनिक सुविधाओं से सुसज्जित है।

- It has extensive on-board food/beverage and infotainment services, the IRCTC said.

IRCTC ने कहा कि इसमें व्यापक ऑन-बोर्ड भोजन/पेय और मनोरंजन संबंधी सेवाएँ उपलब्ध हैं।

- Group booking is allowed in the train where passengers travelling in groups to attend corporate meetings, marriages, social events, etc., could book an entire AC Chair Car coach having 78 seats.

इस ट्रेन में समूह बुकिंग की अनुमति है, जिसके तहत कॉर्पोरेट बैठकों, विवाह, सामाजिक कार्यक्रमों आदि में

13A8. India's first branded train set to run as 'Sprite' Tejas Express

भारत की पहली ब्रांडेड ट्रेन 'Sprite' तेजस एक्सप्रेस के रूप में चलेगी

- India's first 'private, branded' train, launched by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) between Lucknow and Delhi, will run as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express.

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

(IRCTC) द्वारा लखनऊ और दिल्ली के बीच शुरू की गई भारत की पहली 'निजी, ब्रांडेड' ट्रेन 'Sprite' तेजस एक्सप्रेस के रूप में चलेगी।

- After IRCTC awarded advertisement rights through train branding of the Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to M/s Sprite for a period of six months, the North Eastern Railway was told that Train 82501/82502 Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow IRCTC Tejas Express should be announced as the 'Sprite' Tejas Express, sources in the Railways said.

रेलवे के सूत्रों ने बताया कि IRCTC द्वारा लखनऊ-दिल्ली-लखनऊ तेजस एक्सप्रेस की ट्रेन ब्रांडिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन अधिकार छह महीने की अवधि के लिए M/s Sprite को दिए जाने के बाद, पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे को निर्देश दिया गया कि ट्रेन 82501/82502 लखनऊ-दिल्ली-लखनऊ IRCTC तेजस एक्सप्रेस को 'Sprite' तेजस एक्सप्रेस के रूप में घोषित किया जाए।

- The advertisement through train branding was given by way of a Letter of Acceptance.

ट्रेन ब्रांडिंग के माध्यम से विज्ञापन का अधिकार Letter of

Acceptance के माध्यम से दिया गया था।

- The private train will be announced as 'Sprite' Tejas Express at originating and en-route stations on both sides of the journey, the sources told *The Hindu* on

शामिल होने के लिए समूह में यात्रा करने वाले यात्री 78 सीटों वाले पूरे AC Chair Car कोच को बुक कर सकते हैं।

- "This is the first time that a train is being named after a brand.
"यह पहली बार है जब किसी ट्रेन का नाम किसी ब्रांड के नाम पर रखा जा रहा है।
- Though the Lucknow-Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express is a private train, IRCTC pays Indian Railways hauling charges, which includes the use of its infrastructure, such as tracks, railway stations, etc., a senior Railways official said.
हालाँकि लखनऊ-दिल्ली-लखनऊ तेजस एक्सप्रेस एक निजी ट्रेन है, IRCTC भारतीय रेलवे को हॉलिंग शुल्क का भुगतान करता है, जिसमें पटरियों, रेलवे स्टेशनों आदि जैसे उसके बुनियादी ढाँचे के उपयोग का शुल्क शामिल है," रेलवे के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा।

Italy's Curtis shatters women's 50m backstroke world record



Italian teenager Sara Curtis set a 50m women's backstroke world record of 26.63s in qualifying at the European swimming championships in Paris on Wednesday. The previous record of 26.86 was set by Australia's Kaylee McKeown at a World Cup meet in Budapest on October 20, 2023.

October 20, 2023.

- इससे पहले 26.86 सेकंड का रिकॉर्ड ऑस्ट्रेलिया की कायली मैककियोन ने 20 अक्टूबर, 2023 को बुडापेस्ट में आयोजित विश्व क

13A8. Italy's Curtis shatters women's 50m backstroke world record

इटली की कर्टिस ने महिलाओं की 50 मीटर बैकस्ट्रोक का विश्व रिकॉर्ड तोड़ा

- Italian teenager Sara Curtis set a 50m women's backstroke world record of 26.63s in qualifying at the European swimming championships in Paris on Wednesday.
- इटली की किशोर तैराक सारा कर्टिस ने बुधवार को पेरिस में यूरोपीय तैराकी चैंपियनशिप के क्वालीफाइंग दौर में 26.63 सेकंड का समय निकालकर महिलाओं की 50 मीटर बैकस्ट्रोक स्पर्धा का विश्व रिकॉर्ड बनाया।
- The previous record of 26.86 was set by Australia's Kaylee McKeown at a World Cup meet in Budapest on

GS Paper 1: History

TOPICS COVERED

13 August 2026



GS I: History
Visual question: Name this leader of the Mexican rebel movement called the Zapatistas. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Visual question: Name this leader of the Mexican rebel movement called the **Zapatistas**. WIKIMEDIA



GS Paper 1: Society	13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13A8	Faith healing poses challenge to authorities as diseases kill 7 tribal children in Madhya Pradesh मध्य प्रदेश में बीमारियों से 7 आदिवासी बच्चों की मौत के बीच आस्था-आधारित उपचार अधिकारियों के लिए चुनौती बना

Faith healing poses challenge to authorities as diseases kill 7 tribal children in Madhya Pradesh

GS I: Society
Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Seven children have lost their lives and about 100 have fallen ill in about 45 days in some tribal villages of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district, due to an outbreak of monsoon-related diseases officials have said. They, however, flagged lack of accessibility in remote areas and the community's reliance on ritualistic healing for the worsening of the situation.

According to officials, about five villages of the Baiga tribe have reported 100 cases of malaria, typhoid, viral infections and skin infections among children aged between one and 13 since June. They have reported symptoms like high fever, stomach infection, and rashes and spots on their bodies. The villages are Bondari, Adori, Machhurda, Korka and



Some of the children of the Baiga tribe who suffered from various illnesses this monsoon. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kundekasa in Baihar tehsil, about 85 kilometres from the district hospital.

Balaghat Additional Collector Abhishek Saraf told *The Hindu* that 24 children are currently undergoing treatment at district and civil hospitals while 76 children have recovered so far.

Official response

Officials said the administration came to know about the problem only after three children died.

The first death occurred on June 26 in Bondari village.

The authorities have collected blood samples from patients and sent them to the ICMR-National Institute of Research in Bacterial Infections, Kolkata, and the ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, to check for the exact cause of the outbreak. A team from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, is conducting investigations.

Mr. Saraf said ICMR laboratories reports have confirmed various rain-related illnesses as well as immunity problems in the patients. He said health camps have been set up in the villages and door-to-door screenings are being conducted.

Faith healing

The officials, however, highlighted the challenges in tracing the affected children as well as in convincing their families to accept the treatment.

The Baiga community is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) with members of the group often opting for faith healing over modern medicine.

"Apart from being in remote areas, convincing the families to admit the children to hospitals was difficult," Mr. Saraf said, adding that the situation was now improving.

13A8. Faith healing poses challenge to authorities as diseases kill 7 tribal children in Madhya Pradesh

मध्य प्रदेश में बीमारियों से 7 आदिवासी बच्चों की मौत के बीच आस्था-आधारित उपचार अधिकारियों के लिए चुनौती बना

- Seven children have lost their lives and about 100 have fallen ill in about 45 days in some tribal villages of **Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district**, due to an **outbreak of monsoon-related diseases**, officials have said.

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि मध्य प्रदेश के बालाघाट जिले के कुछ आदिवासी गाँवों में मानसून से संबंधित

बीमारियों के प्रकोप के कारण लगभग 45 दिनों में सात बच्चों की मृत्यु हो गई है और लगभग 100 लोग बीमार पड़े हैं।

- According to officials, about five villages of the Baiga tribe have reported 100 cases of **malaria, typhoid, viral infections and skin infections among children aged between one and 13 since June.**

अधिकारियों के अनुसार, जून से बैगा जनजाति के लगभग पाँच गाँवों में एक से 13 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों में मलेरिया, टाइफाइड, वायरल संक्रमण और त्वचा संक्रमण के लगभग 100 मामले सामने आए हैं।

- The **Baiga community is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** with members of the group often opting for faith healing over modern medicine.

बैगा समुदाय एक विशेष रूप से कमजोर जनजातीय समूह (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group—PVTG) है, जिसके सदस्य अक्सर आधुनिक चिकित्सा के बजाय आस्था-आधारित उपचार को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।

GS Paper 1: Geography		13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13A8	Nighttime blitz damaged Russia's Black Sea Naval base: Zelenskyy रात के हमले में रूस के काला सागर नौसैनिक अड्डे को नुकसान पहुँचा: ज़ेलेंस्की	
13A8	Paramilitary force launches drone attacks across Sudan army targets अर्धसैनिक बल ने सूडानी सेना के ठिकानों पर ड्रोन हमले किए	
13A8	Two militants killed as Colombia steps up air strikes against rebels कोलंबिया द्वारा विद्रोहियों के विरुद्ध हवाई हमले तेज़ किए जाने से दो उग्रवादी मारे गए	

Nighttime blitz damaged Russia's Black Sea Naval base: Zelenskyy

Anti-ship missiles, jet-powered aerial drones and sea drones conduct strikes on naval base in Novorossiysk, says Ukrainian leader; he warns of broader strategic moves by Russia; Moscow claims its air defences shot down more than 500 drones

GS I: Geography

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukrainian anti-ship missiles, jet-powered aerial drones and sea drones blitzed a major Russian Naval base on the Black Sea coast in a "unique" nighttime operation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday.

Cutting-edge drones developed by Kyiv since Russia invaded more than four years ago have repeatedly targeted Russian ships in the Black Sea, including warships and oil tankers.



Extensive loss: A damaged private house following a Ukrainian drone strike in Novorossiysk in Russia on Wednesday. REUTERS

Both countries have Black Sea shorelines.

Ukraine's uncrewed fleet has succeeded in lim-

iting the movements of Russia's once-dominant Black Sea navy, Kyiv officials say, in one of the

country's biggest accomplishments of the war.

But Ukrainian officials reckon that Russian President Vladimir Putin is bent on prosecuting the invasion, despite his bigger army's slow and costly progress on the battlefield and U.S. diplomatic efforts to find a settlement.

Mr. Putin is planning "an additional rapid mobilisation of several hundred thousand Russians by the end of the year," Mr. Zelenskyy said on social media late Tuesday, citing Ukrainian intelligence reports.

The Ukrainian military "carried out a unique oper-

ation targeting the Naval base in Novorossiysk – the last major stronghold of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea," Mr. Zelenskyy said. The attack struck air defences, piers and other infrastructure in the Krasnodar region, he added.

Krasnodar region Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev said that hundreds of Ukrainian drones attacked Novorossiysk, Anapa and Gelendzhik and the Temryuk district of the region overnight.

Russian air defences downed more than 500 Ukrainian drones, the Defence Ministry in Moscow said.

13A8. Nighttime blitz damaged Russia's Black Sea Naval base: Zelenskyy रात के हमले में रूस के काला सागर नौसैनिक अड्डे को नुकसान पहुँचा: ज़ेलेंस्की

- Ukrainian anti-ship missiles, jet-powered aerial drones and sea drones blitzed a major **Russian Naval base on the Black Sea coast** in a "unique" nighttime operation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday.



यूक्रेन के जहाज-रोधी मिसाइलों, जेट-चालित हवाई ड्रोनों और समुद्री ड्रोनों ने काला सागर के तट पर स्थित रूस के एक प्रमुख नौसैनिक अड्डे पर “अद्वितीय” रात्रिकालीन अभियान के तहत हमला किया, यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति वोलोदिमीर ज़ेलेन्स्की ने बुधवार को कहा।

- The Ukrainian military “carried out a unique operation targeting the **Naval base in Novorossiysk** — the last major stronghold of the Russian fleet in the Black Sea,” Mr. Zelenskyy said.
श्री ज़ेलेन्स्की ने कहा कि यूक्रेनी सेना ने “नोवोरोस्सियस्क में नौसैनिक अड्डे को निशाना बनाकर एक अद्वितीय अभियान चलाया—जो काला सागर में रूसी बेड़े का अंतिम प्रमुख गढ़ है।”
- The attack struck air defences, piers and other infrastructure in the **Krasnodar region**, he added.
उन्होंने कहा कि इस हमले में क्रास्नोडार क्षेत्र की वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों, घाटों और अन्य बुनियादी ढाँचे को निशाना बनाया गया।
- Krasnodar region** Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev said that hundreds of Ukrainian drones attacked **Novorossiysk, Anapa and Gelendzhik and the Temryuk district of the region** overnight.
क्रास्नोडार क्षेत्र के गवर्नर वेनीअमिन कॉन्ड्रात्येव ने कहा कि रातभर में सैकड़ों यूक्रेनी ड्रोनों ने नोवोरोस्सियस्क, अनापा और गेलेंदज़िक तथा क्षेत्र के तेमर्युक जिले पर हमला किया।

Paramilitary force launches drone attacks across Sudan army targets



REUTERS

GS I: Geography

Sudan's paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** launched drone strikes on the capital **Khartoum** and other army-controlled cities on Wednesday. RSF spokesperson confirmed that the group had targeted the airport and army warehouses in **Atbara**, as well as fuel depots in **Omdurman** and a military airport in the south. AFP

and a military airport in the south.

- RSF के प्रवक्ता ने पुष्टि की कि समूह ने अतबारा में हवाई अड्डे और सेना के गोदामों के साथ-साथ ओमदुरमान में ईंधन डिपो तथा दक्षिण में एक सैन्य हवाई अड्डे को निशाना बनाया था।

13A8. Two militants killed as Colombia steps up air strikes against rebels

कोलंबिया द्वारा विद्रोहियों के विरुद्ध हवाई हमले तेज़ किए जाने से दो उग्रवादी मारे गए

- The strike against the **National Liberation Army** was carried out late Monday in the northeastern **Catatumbo region**, the Defence Ministry said.

13A8. Paramilitary force launches drone attacks across Sudan army targets

अर्धसैनिक बल ने सूडानी सेना के ठिकानों पर ड्रोन हमले किए

- Sudan's paramilitary **Rapid Support Forces (RSF)** launched **drone strikes** on the capital **Khartoum** and other army-controlled cities on Wednesday.
- सूडान के अर्धसैनिक **रैपिड सपोर्ट फोर्सज़ (RSF)** ने बुधवार को राजधानी **खार्तूम** और सेना के नियंत्रण वाले अन्य शहरों पर ड्रोन हमले किए।
- RSF spokesperson confirmed that the group had targeted the **airport and army warehouses in Atbara**, as well as **fuel depots in Omdurman**

Two militants killed as Colombia steps up air strikes against rebels



REUTERS

GS I: Geography

Two rebels were killed in air strikes ordered by Colombia's new government, a military source said on Tuesday, after Bogota pledged to fight a scourge of violence gripping the nation. The strike against the National Liberation Army was carried out late Monday in the northeastern Catatumbo region, the Defence Ministry said. AFP



- रक्षा मंत्रालय ने बताया कि नेशनल लिबरेशन आर्मी के विरुद्ध यह हमला सोमवार देर रात पूर्वोत्तर कैटाटुम्बो क्षेत्र में किया गया।

GS Paper II: Polity		13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13A8	Charges made against Justice Varma 'proved', says probe report जाँच रिपोर्ट में कहा गया, न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा के विरुद्ध लगाए गए आरोप 'सिद्ध' हुए	
13A8	Will have to see if there was split in Shiv Sena: SC शिवसेना में विभाजन हुआ था या नहीं, पहले यह देखना होगा: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय	
13A8	Amid tussle, NCSC panel to probe Centre's de-reservation proposals खींचतान के बीच NCSC पैनल केंद्र के आरक्षण-मुक्ति प्रस्तावों की जाँच करेगा	
13A8	RS passes Bills to change name of Kerala, strengthen co-operative corporation राज्यसभा ने केरल का नाम बदलने और सहकारी निगम को मजबूत करने वाले विधेयक पारित किए	
13A8	Supreme Court clarifies scope of police custody under BNSS सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने BNSS के तहत पुलिस हिरासत के दायरे को स्पष्ट किया	

Charges made against Justice Varma 'proved', says probe report

GS II: Polity
Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

A three-member inquiry committee constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has found the charges "proved" against former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma over the discovery of burnt currency at his official residence, holding that his explanations were "evasive

and unsatisfactory".

The committee's report, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, said Justice Varma had failed to provide a satisfactory explanation regarding the presence, source, or ownership of the cash found in the storeroom of his official residence.

Justice Varma's explanation did not demonstrate the "candour, transparen-



Justice Yashwant Varma

cy and institutional responsibility" expected of a judge, the report said. "It

remained evasive and unsatisfactory when tested against the evidence of independent official witnesses and corroborative material," the committee noted.

The panel also found that material evidence at the site had not been properly secured or preserved, and that the evidentiary condition of the storeroom had been disturbed before it was lawfully

sealed and inspected.

The panel was headed by Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, and had Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and senior advocate of the Karnataka High Court B.V. Acharya as members.

In its consolidated findings on the three articles of charge, the panel recorded: "The Committee there-

fore records its final findings that Articles of charges I, II and III are proved."

Sources indicated that the government may consider carrying forward the process of removal against him since removal proceedings started before he resigned.

'INQUIRY CANNOT JUST END'
» PAGE 4

13A8. Charges made against Justice Varma 'proved', says probe report जाँच रिपोर्ट में कहा गया, न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा के विरुद्ध लगाए गए आरोप 'सिद्ध' हुए

- A three-member inquiry committee constituted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has found the charges "proved" against former Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma over the discovery of burnt currency at his official residence, holding that his explanations were "evasive and unsatisfactory".

लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिरला द्वारा गठित तीन सदस्यीय जाँच समिति ने पूर्व दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा के विरुद्ध उनके आधिकारिक आवास पर जली हुई मुद्रा पाए जाने के संबंध में लगाए गए आरोपों को "सिद्ध" पाया है और कहा है कि उनके स्पष्टीकरण "टालमटोल वाले और असंतोषजनक" थे।

- The committee's report, tabled in both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, said Justice Varma had failed to provide a satisfactory explanation regarding the presence, source, or ownership of the cash found in the storeroom of his official residence. बुधवार को संसद के दोनों सदनों में प्रस्तुत समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा अपने आधिकारिक आवास के भंडार-कक्ष में मिली नकदी की मौजूदगी, उसके स्रोत या स्वामित्व के संबंध में संतोषजनक स्पष्टीकरण देने में विफल रहे।
- The panel was headed by Supreme Court judge Justice Aravind Kumar, and had Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and senior advocate of the



Karnataka High Court B.V. Acharya as members.

समिति की अध्यक्षता सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति अरविंद कुमार ने की, जबकि इसके सदस्यों में बॉम्बे उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश न्यायमूर्ति श्री चंद्रशेखर और कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता बी.वी. आचार्य शामिल थे।

- Sources indicated that the government may consider carrying forward the process of removal against him since removal proceedings started before he resigned.

सूत्रों ने संकेत दिया कि सरकार उनके विरुद्ध पद से हटाने की प्रक्रिया को आगे बढ़ाने पर विचार कर सकती है, क्योंकि उनके इस्तीफा देने से पहले ही हटाने की कार्यवाही शुरू हो चुकी थी।

Will have to see if there was split in Shiv Sena: SC

Division may originate in legislature party and the fissure can percolate into organisation, primary membership, says court; split can never arise merely from division in legislature party: Sena (UBT)

GS II: Polity
Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would have to first see whether there had been a split in the Shiv Sena as such a division may originate in the legislature party and the fissure can percolate into the organisation and the primary membership.

The observations were made by a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana during the final hearing on pleas filed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena (UBT) faction in 2024 over the Election Commission's (EC) February 17, 2023 order recognising the Eknath Shinde-led faction as the original Shiv Sena and allotting it the party's name and "bow and arrow" symbol.

The Bench examined whether a split originating in the legislature party could subsequently manifest itself within the broader party organisation and primary membership, and whether such developments could be considered by the EC while deciding a



In 2022, Eknath Shinde and several MLAs rebelled against the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray (right), leading to a split in the party. FILE PHOTO

dispute under Paragraph 15 of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

'Epicentre of split'

"First, we have to see whether there is a split. A split may originate in the legislature party, but the fissure can percolate into the organisation and the primary membership," Justice Bagchi said.

To this, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Uddhav faction, said, "As a proposition of law, a split in the political party can never arise merely from a split in the legislature party. That has been decided by the Constitution Bench [in a judg-

ment]."

Justice Bagchi said the judgment states that the proposed split cannot be restricted to a split in the legislature party. "But it does not say that if a split begins in the legislature party and subsequently gets reflected in the organisation and the primary membership, it cannot be considered. It may be the epicentre of a larger split," the judge said.

Mr. Sibal said the judgment does not speak of the legislature party.

The Bench said it needed clarity on this aspect.

"The Shinde group had the support of 11 'Rajya Prabharis'. A Rajya Prabha-

ri is part of the party structure. It is not something outside the Shiv Sena's organisational structure. More importantly, when we consider a political party, we are not concerned only with office-bearers. We also have to consider the primary membership," the Bench said.

Mr. Sibal questioned the EC's approach in determining whether there was a genuine dispute within the party and whether the faction approaching it had exhausted the internal remedies available under the Sena's constitution.

EC view challenged

Mr. Sibal challenged the EC's assessment of the Sena's organisational structure. "The point is, who is the Election Commission to determine at which level, for which posts and how many persons must be elected?" he said.

He added that once a *prima facie* split in the political party was established, subsequent developments could be considered by the EC while reaching its final decision.

The hearing will resume on Thursday.

13A8. Will have to see if there was split in Shiv Sena: SC

शिवसेना में विभाजन हुआ था या नहीं, पहले यह देखना होगा: सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

- The Supreme Court on Wednesday said it would have first see whether there had been a split in the Shiv Sena as such a division may originate in the legislature party and the fissure can percolate into the organisation and the primary membership.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने बुधवार को कहा कि उसे पहले यह देखना होगा कि शिवसेना में विभाजन हुआ था या नहीं, क्योंकि ऐसा विभाजन विधानमंडल दल में शुरू हो सकता है और उसकी दरार संगठन तथा प्राथमिक सदस्यता तक पहुँच सकती है।

- The observations were made by a Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana during the final hearing on pleas filed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena (UBT) faction

in 2024 over the Election Commission's (EC) February 17, 2023 order recognising the Eknath Shinde-led faction as the original Shiv Sena and allotting it the party's name and "bow and arrow" symbol.

ये टिप्पणियाँ मुख्य न्यायाधीश सूर्यकांत तथा न्यायमूर्ति जॉयमाल्या बागची और न्यायमूर्ति वी. मोहना की पीठ ने 2024 में उद्धव ठाकरे के नेतृत्व वाले सेना (UBT) गुट द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं पर अंतिम सुनवाई के दौरान कीं। ये याचिकाएँ निर्वाचन आयोग (EC) के 17 फरवरी, 2023 के आदेश से संबंधित थीं, जिसमें एकनाथ शिंदे के नेतृत्व वाले गुट को मूल शिवसेना के रूप में मान्यता दी गई थी और उसे पार्टी का नाम तथा "धनुष-बाण" चुनाव चिह्न आवंटित किया गया था।

- The Bench examined whether a split originating in the legislature party could subsequently manifest itself within the broader party organisation and primary membership, and whether such developments could be considered by the EC while deciding a dispute under Paragraph 15 of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.



पीठ ने इस बात की जाँच की कि क्या विधानमंडल दल में शुरू हुआ विभाजन बाद में व्यापक पार्टी संगठन और प्राथमिक सदस्यता के भीतर भी प्रकट हो सकता है, और क्या संविधान की दसवीं अनुसूची के पैराग्राफ 15 के तहत किसी विवाद का निर्णय करते समय निर्वाचन आयोग ऐसे घटनाक्रमों पर विचार कर सकता है।

‘Epicentre of split’

‘विभाजन का केंद्र’

- To this, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the Uddhav faction, said, “As a proposition of law, a split in the political party can never arise merely from a split in the legislature party. That has been decided by the **Constitution Bench** [in a judgment].”
इसके जवाब में उद्धव गुट की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **कपिल सिब्बल** ने कहा, “कानून के सिद्धांत के रूप में, किसी राजनीतिक दल में विभाजन केवल विधानमंडल दल में विभाजन के कारण उत्पन्न नहीं हो सकता। **संविधान पीठ** ने [एक निर्णय में] यह तय किया है।”
- Justice Bagchi said the **judgment states that the proposed split cannot be restricted to a split in the legislature party**.
न्यायमूर्ति बागची ने कहा कि निर्णय में कहा गया है कि प्रस्तावित विभाजन को केवल **विधानमंडल दल में विभाजन** तक सीमित नहीं किया जा सकता।
- “But it does not say that if a split begins in the legislature party and subsequently gets reflected in the organisation and the primary membership, it cannot be considered. It may be the epicentre of a larger split,” the judge said.
न्यायमूर्ति ने कहा, “लेकिन इसमें यह नहीं कहा गया है कि यदि विभाजन विधानमंडल दल में शुरू होता है और बाद में संगठन तथा प्राथमिक सदस्यता में भी परिलक्षित होता है, तो उस पर विचार नहीं किया जा सकता। यह **बड़े विभाजन का केंद्र** हो सकता है।”
- Mr. Sibal questioned the **EC’s approach in determining whether there was a genuine dispute within the party and whether the faction approaching it had exhausted the internal remedies available under the Sena’s constitution**.
श्री सिब्बल ने यह निर्धारित करने में निर्वाचन आयोग के दृष्टिकोण पर सवाल उठाया कि क्या पार्टी के भीतर कोई वास्तविक विवाद था और क्या उसके समक्ष पहुँचे गुट ने सेना के संविधान के तहत उपलब्ध आंतरिक उपायों का पूरा उपयोग कर लिया था।

EC view challenged

निर्वाचन आयोग के दृष्टिकोण को चुनौती

- Mr. Sibal challenged the EC’s assessment of the Sena’s organisational structure.
श्री सिब्बल ने सेना की **संगठनात्मक संरचना** के निर्वाचन आयोग के आकलन को चुनौती दी।
- “The point is, **who is the Election Commission to determine at which level, for which posts and how many persons must be elected?**” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “मुद्दा यह है कि निर्वाचन आयोग कौन होता है यह निर्धारित करने वाला कि **किस स्तर पर, किन पदों के लिए और कितने व्यक्तियों का चुनाव होना चाहिए?**”



Amid tussle, NCSC panel to probe Centre's de-reservation proposals

GS II: Polity

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Amidst an ongoing tussle over de-reserving Union government quota posts, particularly in promotion vacancies, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has now decided to "comprehensively review" all proposals to de-reserve government posts that have come from the Centre in the last three years. De-reservation is the practice of filling up a reserved vacancy as an unreserved one and is allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

The NCSC and the Centre have been clashing over the issue of de-reserving government posts for the last two years with the Commission saying that de-reservation proposals are often incomplete and do not reveal alternate efforts made to fill the reserved posts, a "recurring issue" that it has decided to examine and make recommendations.

Specific exceptions

The move to investigate de-reservation proposals from

De-reservation is the practice of filling up a reserved vacancy as an unreserved one in exceptional situations

the Centre comes soon after nudging from the Commission led to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) to revise its existing procedure on de-reservation to double the time that Commissions for SCs and STs get to object to such proposals from two weeks to one month.

According to regulations for government recruitment issued by the DoPT, there is a general ban on de-reserving posts with very specific exceptions. The rules allow de-reserving a direct recruitment vacancy only in cases where a "vacancy in a Group 'A' service cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest".

However, for such a de-reservation exercise, a proposal for it has to be examined first by the National Commissions for SCs, STs, or OBCs (whichever is applicable) and then by a

Committee of Secretaries of the concerned Departments, the DoPT and the Social Justice Ministry.

Following this, the final decision is left to the Minister of Personnel and Training.

In case of de-reserving posts for promotion vacancies, the procedure allows for the concerned recruiting Department or Ministry to have the final say even though they are required to submit a proposal to the National Commissions and DoPT.

In the latest Full Commission meeting on June 4, the NCSC noted that it had decided to undertake a full review of all de-reservation proposals with the objective of examining "recurring issues" and formulating "appropriate recommendations for ensuring effective implementation of the reservation policy".

Key agenda in meetings

The current NCSC, headed by Gujarat BJP leader and writer Kishore Makwana, has been grappling with the issue of de-reservation proposals from the Centre

ever since it took charge. In four out of the five Full Commission meetings held since 2024, the issue of de-reservation has featured high on the agenda of the NCSC, according to the meeting minutes.

In these meetings, proposals for de-reservations have come for posts in public sector undertakings, positions in the Ministries of Law, Housing and Urban Affairs, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Central Reserve Police Force, and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, among other Ministries and departments.

According to the minutes of the meetings, none of these proposals was agreed to by the NCSC, which had flagged the consistent shortcomings.

In the June 4 meeting, the NCSC also suggested that the Ministries and departments looking to de-reserve positions should start exploring options like deputation or short-term contracts to fill the reserved vacancies by eligible SC candidates in accordance with the reservation policy.

13A8. Amid tussle, NCSC panel to probe Centre's de-reservation proposals

खींचतान के बीच NCSC पैनल केंद्र के आरक्षण-मुक्ति प्रस्तावों की जाँच करेगा

- Amidst an ongoing tussle over **de-reserving Union government quota posts**, particularly in **promotion vacancies**, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has now decided to "comprehensively review" **all proposals to de-reserve government posts that have come from the Centre in the last three years**.

केंद्र सरकार के कोटा वाले पदों को आरक्षण-मुक्त करने, विशेष रूप से पदोन्नति की रिक्तियों को लेकर जारी



खींचतान के बीच, राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग (NCSC) ने अब पिछले तीन वर्षों में केंद्र से आए सरकारी पदों को आरक्षण-मुक्त करने के सभी प्रस्तावों की “व्यापक समीक्षा” करने का निर्णय लिया है।

- **De-reservation is the practice of filling up a reserved vacancy as an unreserved one and is allowed only in exceptional circumstances.**

आरक्षण-मुक्ति (De-reservation) का अर्थ है आरक्षित रिक्ति को अनारक्षित रिक्ति के रूप में भरना, और इसकी अनुमति केवल असाधारण परिस्थितियों में दी जाती है।

- The rules allow de-reserving a direct recruitment vacancy only in cases where a “**vacancy in a Group ‘A’ service cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest**”.

नियमों के अनुसार, प्रत्यक्ष भर्ती की रिक्ति को केवल ऐसी स्थिति में आरक्षण-मुक्त किया जा सकता है, जहाँ “Group ‘A’ सेवा में किसी रिक्ति को जनहित में खाली नहीं रखा जा सकता।”

- However, for such a de-reservation exercise, a proposal for it has to be examined first by the **National Commissions for SCs, STs, or OBCs** (whichever is applicable) and then by a Committee of Secretaries of the concerned Departments, the DoPT and the Social Justice Ministry.

हालाँकि, ऐसी आरक्षण-मुक्ति प्रक्रिया के लिए प्रस्ताव की पहले SC, ST या OBC के राष्ट्रीय आयोगों (जो भी लागू हो) द्वारा जाँच की जानी होती है और उसके बाद संबंधित विभागों, DoPT तथा सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय के सचिवों की समिति द्वारा इसकी समीक्षा की जाती है।

- **Following this, the final decision is left to the Minister of Personnel and Training.**

इसके बाद अंतिम निर्णय कार्मिक एवं प्रशिक्षण मंत्री पर छोड़ दिया जाता है।

- In case of de-reserving posts for promotion vacancies, the procedure allows for the concerned recruiting Department or Ministry to have the final say even though they are required to submit a proposal to the National Commissions and DoPT.

पदोन्नति की रिक्तियों वाले पदों को आरक्षण-मुक्त करने के मामले में, प्रक्रिया संबंधित भर्ती विभाग या मंत्रालय को अंतिम निर्णय लेने की अनुमति देती है, भले ही उन्हें राष्ट्रीय आयोगों और DoPT को प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक हो।

- In the latest Full Commission meeting on June 4, the NCSC noted that it had decided to undertake a full review of all de-reservation proposals with the objective of examining “**recurring issues**” and formulating “**appropriate recommendations for ensuring effective implementation of the reservation policy**”.

4 जून को हुई नवीनतम पूर्ण आयोग बैठक में NCSC ने दर्ज किया कि उसने सभी आरक्षण-मुक्ति प्रस्तावों की पूर्ण समीक्षा करने का निर्णय लिया है, जिसका उद्देश्य “बार-बार सामने आने वाले मुद्दों” की जाँच करना और “आरक्षण नीति के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सुनिश्चित करने के लिए उचित सिफारिशें” तैयार करना है।

Key agenda in meetings

बैठकों में प्रमुख एजेंडा

- The **current NCSC**, headed by Gujarat BJP leader and writer **Kishore Makwana**, has been grappling with the issue of de-reservation proposals from the Centre ever since it took charge. वर्तमान NCSC, जिसकी अध्यक्षता गुजरात के भाजपा नेता और लेखक **किशोर मकवाना** कर रहे हैं, के पदभार संभालने के बाद से ही केंद्र से प्राप्त आरक्षण-मुक्ति प्रस्तावों का मुद्दा उसके सामने बना हुआ है।
- **In four out of the five Full Commission** meetings held since 2024, the issue of de-reservation has featured high on the agenda of the NCSC, according to the meeting minutes. बैठक के कार्यवृत्त के अनुसार, 2024 से अब तक हुई पाँच पूर्ण आयोग बैठकों में से चार में आरक्षण-मुक्ति का मुद्दा NCSC के एजेंडे में प्रमुखता से शामिल रहा है।

Indra Sawhney v. Union of India, 1992

- This landmark **nine-judge Bench** decision established major principles of reservation.
- The Court held, among other things, that **Article 16(4) is an enabling provision** and ordinarily



applied the **50% ceiling** to reservations.

- It also held that Article 16(4), as then understood, did not provide reservation in promotions.
- Parliament subsequently introduced **Article 16(4A)** for SC/ST promotion reservation.

M. Nagaraj v. Union of India, 2006

- The Supreme Court upheld the constitutional amendments relating to **reservation in promotion**, including Articles **16(4A) and 16(4B)**.
- It emphasised that these are **enabling provisions**, rather than an automatic command requiring every government to provide promotion reservation.
- The State must satisfy constitutional requirements concerning representation and **Article 335/administrative efficiency**.

Jarnail Singh v. Lachhmi Narain Gupta, 1981

- The Court modified an important aspect of *M. Nagaraj*.
- It held that the State **does not have to collect quantifiable data to prove the backwardness of SCs/STs themselves** for reservation in promotion.
- However, the requirement concerning **inadequacy of representation** remained important.

B.K. Pavitra II, 1999

- The Supreme Court further developed the jurisprudence surrounding **reservation in promotion and consequential seniority**, examining adequate representation and administrative efficiency in the context of substantive equality.

Mukesh Kumar v. State of Uttarakhand, 2009

- The Supreme Court held that there is **no fundamental right to claim reservation or reservation in promotion**. **Articles 16(4) and 16(4A) are enabling provisions**; courts cannot simply compel a State to introduce reservation in promotion.
- This does **not**, however, mean that an existing reservation policy can be disregarded arbitrarily. Once a government operates a reservation regime, its actions remain subject to the **Constitution, applicable rules and judicial review**.

Jarnail Singh-related judgment, 2022

- The Supreme Court clarified that determining inadequate representation requires **quantifiable data**, and assessment should generally relate to the relevant **cadre**, rather than relying merely on broad overall representation across an entire service.

Major Issues Associated with De-reservation

- **Dilution of representation:** Frequent conversion of SC/ST/OBC vacancies into general vacancies can undermine the objective of achieving **adequate representation**.
- **Backlog versus de-reservation:** Where a reserved vacancy cannot immediately be filled, an important policy question is whether it should be **carried forward as a backlog vacancy** rather



than converted into an unreserved post.

- **Promotion bottleneck:** Representation at entry level does not necessarily translate into adequate representation in **senior decision-making positions**. Therefore, de-reservation of promotion vacancies can have a disproportionate impact on representation at higher levels.
- **Administrative efficiency argument:** Departments may argue that strategically important posts cannot remain vacant indefinitely. This is why exceptional de-reservation mechanisms exist.
- **Possibility of misuse:** If “public interest” or non-availability is interpreted too loosely, an exceptional provision could effectively become a **routine route around reservation policy**.
- **Institutional oversight:** Consultation with bodies such as the NCSC provides an institutional safeguard because the Commission has the constitutional responsibility of monitoring safeguards available to Scheduled Castes.

RS passes Bills to change name of Kerala, strengthen co-operative corporation

GS II: Polity
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed two more Bills – the National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026. The House has so far passed about 10 Bills, other than some of the Money Bills which were returned to the Lok Sabha, during the Monsoon Session.

In the reply to a debate on the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Bill was a step in continuation of the Kerala Assembly's resolution in 2024 urging the Union government to change the name of the State to Keralam.

The Minister maintained that the Union government was committed to removing all symbols of slavery, names, signs, flags



Nityanand Rai

of institutions, or statues of great personalities that repeatedly wound the hearts of Indians and establish all things, signs, or works that represent the pride of India's heritage.

Mr. Rai also mentioned a controversy in the State over disciplinary action against a teacher who prepared a quiz questionnaire where he described Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar as the freedom fighter “who received the maximum punishment at the hands of the British”. “If a teacher is dismissed for asking questions about

him, there can be nothing worse than that, and it is an insult to our freedom fighters,” Mr. Rai said.

During the debate, Opposition MPs questioned the absence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was supposed to pilot both the Bills. “I welcome that Bill. At the same time, we ask together, where is the Home Minister?” asked Congress member Jebi Mather. Leader of the House J.P. Nadda questioned this and asked the Chair to expunge her remarks.

The NCDC Bill will broaden the mandate of the National Cooperative Development Corporation to give loans and grants directly to cooperative societies. Minister of State for Cooperation Murlidhar Mohol said the Bill did not have any provision for additional budgetary financial assistance by the government.

13A8. RS passes Bills to change name of Kerala, strengthen co-operative corporation

राज्यसभा ने केरल का नाम बदलने और सहकारी निगम को मजबूत करने वाले विधेयक पारित किए

- The Rajya Sabha on Wednesday passed two more Bills — the **National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, and the **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**.

राज्यसभा ने बुधवार को दो और विधेयक— **National Co-operative Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2026** और **Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, 2026**—पारित किए।

- In the reply to a debate on the Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill, Minister of State for Home Affairs **Nityanand Rai** said the Bill was a step in continuation of the **Kerala Assembly's resolution in 2024 urging the Union government to change the name of the State to Keralam**.

Kerala (Alteration of Name) Bill पर हुई

बहस के जवाब में गृह राज्य मंत्री **नित्यानंद राय** ने कहा कि यह विधेयक 2024 में केरल विधानसभा द्वारा पारित उस प्रस्ताव की निरंतरता में एक कदम है, जिसमें केंद्र सरकार से राज्य का नाम बदलकर **केरलम (Keralam)** करने का आग्रह किया गया था।

- The **NCDC Bill** will broaden the mandate of the National Cooperative Development Corporation to give loans and grants directly to cooperative societies. **NCDC विधेयक** राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम के अधिकार क्षेत्र का विस्तार करेगा, ताकि वह **सहकारी समितियों को सीधे ऋण और अनुदान दे सके**।
- Minister of State for Cooperation **Murlidhar Mohol** said the Bill did not have any provision for additional budgetary financial assistance by the government.



सहायता प्रदान करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

Supreme Court clarifies scope of police custody under BNSS

Court held that Section 187(2) of BNSS enlarges the window during which police custody may be sought

ISSUE POLICY

R.K. Vij

The story so far:

The Supreme Court recently held in *The State of Andhra Pradesh vs Suda Suresh Veera Venkata Naga Raju* that Section 187(2) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), enlarges the window during which police custody may be sought by the investigating agency. Such custody, under the BNSS is now available in parts, though in aggregate not exceeding 15 days during the first 40 or 60 days of the total permissible period of detention, rather than being confined to the first 15 days of remand alone.

Case under consideration by the SC
In a case of custodial death in which the dead body of the deceased-victim remained untraced, the original hard disks of the CCTV system were yet to be

discovered, and discoveries under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) were imminent, the judicial magistrate granted eight days of police custody, and allowed the accused to nominate two advocates of his choice to be present during custody. Out of the two advocates, one was allowed to be present at any given point of time during investigation. The order stated that 'under no circumstances shall the period of police custody granted under this order be extended'.

While on appeal, the Andhra Pradesh High Court modified some conditions pertaining to the period of police custody and presence of an advocate throughout the probe. The State therefore challenged the above conditions in the Supreme Court on the premise that these directly impinged upon the rights of the investigating officer to conduct unhindered investigation.

The Supreme Court held that the

apprehensions expressed by the investigating agency were justified and the statutory scheme under the BNSS which enlarges the window of police custody, must also be borne in mind. A magistrate or a court cannot place an absolute and non-extendable outer limit on custody, since such a limit forecloses recourse to Section 187(2) of the BNSS.

The Court therefore permitted 7 days of (additional) police remand would not exceed 15 days.

Current law on police remand

Section 58 of the BNSS provides that any person arrested by the police without warrant cannot be detained for more than 24 hours, unless authorised by a magistrate under Section 187. Section 187(2) of the BNSS provides that in case it appears to the investigating officer that the probe cannot be

completed within 24 hours, and there are grounds for believing that the accusation is well founded, the magistrate may authorise the detention of the accused for a period not exceeding 15 days in the whole, or in parts, at any time during the initial 40 days or 60 days out of the detention period of 60 days or 90 days.

Section 187(3) provides that the magistrate may authorise the (judicial) detention of an accused person beyond the period of 15 days, if he is satisfied that adequate grounds exist for doing so, for a period exceeding - (i) 90 days, where the investigation relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of 10 years or more; (ii) 60 days, where the investigation relates to any other offence. Thus, in case the probe is not completed within the above stipulated time period, the accused person may be released, which is widely known as default bail.

The Supreme Court in the *Suda Suresh* case held that this legislative change was intended to meet situations where fresh facts, discoveries or leads may emerge during the course of investigation. Therefore, the window of police remand was enlarged beyond the initial 15 days, up to 40 days or 60 days of investigation. Previously, Section 167 of the CrPC provided that the detention of an accused in police custody could not be granted beyond the initial 15 days in the whole.

However, during this first period of 15 days the magistrate could alter the nature of the custody from judicial custody to police custody and vice versa.

On the presence of an advocate
Section 38 of the BNSS provides that 'when any person is arrested and interrogated by the police, he shall be entitled to meet an advocate of his choice during interrogation, though not throughout interrogation'.

The top court held that a plain reading of the provision makes it clear that it does not contemplate the continuous, ongoing physical presence of an advocate for the entirety of each interrogation session. The Court held that an unequalled entitlement to continuous presence, would travel beyond what Section 38 BNSS itself contemplates. The Court therefore modified the condition imposed by the High Court, and held that such a lawyer shall only be allowed to remain present within the site of interrogation where he can see the respondent-accused.

The Court also held that instead of uninterrupted videography of the transit of the accused between locations, the audio-visual recording of the actual interrogation, and of any proceedings of discovery or recovery undertaken with the accused, will satisfy the requirement. (R.K. Vij is a former IPS officer.)

13A8. Supreme Court clarifies scope of police custody under BNSS

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने BNSS के तहत पुलिस हिरासत के दायरे को स्पष्ट किया

- The Supreme Court recently held in *The State of Andhra Pradesh vs Suda Suresh Veera Venkata Naga Raju* that Section 187(2) of the *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)* enlarges the window during which police custody may be sought by the investigating agency.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने हाल ही में *The State of Andhra Pradesh vs Suda Suresh Veera Venkata Naga Raju* मामले में माना कि भारतीय नागरिक सुरक्षा संहिता (BNSS) की धारा 187(2) उस अवधि का विस्तार करती है, जिसके दौरान जाँच एजेंसी द्वारा पुलिस हिरासत की माँग की जा सकती है।

- Such custody, under the BNSS, is now available in parts, though in aggregate not exceeding 15 days during the first 40 or 60 days of the total permissible period of detention, rather than being confined to the first 15 days of remand alone.

BNSS के तहत ऐसी हिरासत अब अलग-अलग अवधियों में दी जा सकती है, हालांकि इसकी कुल अवधि निरुद्ध किए जाने की अनुमेय अवधि के पहले 40 या 60 दिनों के दौरान कुल 15 दिनों से अधिक नहीं हो सकती, न कि केवल रिमांड के शुरुआती 15 दिनों तक सीमित रहेगी।

Case under consideration by the SC

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के विचाराधीन मामला

- In a case of **custodial death** in which the dead body of the deceased-victim remained untraced, the original hard disks of the CCTV system were yet to be discovered, and discoveries under the *Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)* were imminent, the judicial magistrate granted eight days of police custody, and allowed the accused to nominate two advocates of his choice to be present during custody.

हिरासत में मृत्यु के एक मामले में, जिसमें मृतक-पीड़ित का शव अभी तक बरामद नहीं हुआ था, CCTV प्रणाली की मूल हार्ड डिस्क अभी तक प्राप्त नहीं हुई थी और भारतीय साक्ष्य अधिनियम (BSA) के तहत बरामदगियाँ होने की संभावना थी, न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट ने आठ दिनों की पुलिस हिरासत प्रदान की और आरोपी को हिरासत के दौरान उपस्थित रहने के लिए अपनी पसंद के दो अधिवक्ताओं को नामित करने की अनुमति दी।

- Out of the two advocates, one was allowed to be present at any given point of time during investigation.
दोनों अधिवक्ताओं में से एक को जाँच के दौरान किसी भी समय उपस्थित रहने की अनुमति दी गई।
- The order stated that 'under no circumstances shall the period of police custody granted under this order be extended'.
आदेश में कहा गया कि 'किसी भी परिस्थिति में इस आदेश के तहत प्रदान की गई पुलिस हिरासत की अवधि को बढ़ाया नहीं जाएगा।'
- While on appeal, the **Andhra Pradesh High Court** modified some conditions pertaining to the period of police custody and presence of an advocate throughout the probe.
अपील के दौरान, **आंध्र प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय** ने पुलिस हिरासत की अवधि और पूरी जाँच के दौरान अधिवक्ता की उपस्थिति से संबंधित कुछ शर्तों में संशोधन किया।
- The State therefore challenged the above conditions in the Supreme Court on the premise that these directly impinged upon the rights of the investigating officer to conduct unhindered investigation.
इसलिए राज्य ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय में उपर्युक्त शर्तों को इस आधार पर चुनौती दी कि ये जाँच अधिकारी के **बाधारहित जाँच करने के अधिकार** को सीधे प्रभावित करती हैं।
- The Supreme Court held that the apprehensions expressed by the investigating agency were justified and the statutory scheme under the **BNSS**, which enlarges the window of police custody, must also be borne in mind.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने माना कि जाँच एजेंसी द्वारा व्यक्त की गई आशंकाएँ उचित थीं और **BNSS** के तहत उस वैधानिक व्यवस्था को भी ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए, जो पुलिस हिरासत की अवधि के दायरे का विस्तार करती है।
- A magistrate or a court cannot place an absolute and non-extendable outer limit on custody, since such a limit forecloses recourse to **Section 187(2) of the BNSS**.
मजिस्ट्रेट या न्यायालय हिरासत पर पूर्ण और गैर-विस्तार योग्य अंतिम सीमा निर्धारित नहीं कर सकता, क्योंकि ऐसी सीमा **BNSS की धारा 187(2)** के तहत उपलब्ध उपाय का सहारा लेने की संभावना को समाप्त कर देगी।
- The Court therefore permitted 7 days of (additional) police custody so that the total period of police remand would not exceed 15 days.
इसलिए न्यायालय ने 7 दिनों की **अतिरिक्त पुलिस हिरासत** की अनुमति दी, ताकि पुलिस रिमांड की कुल अवधि 15 दिनों से अधिक न हो।

Current law on police remand

पुलिस रिमांड पर वर्तमान कानून

- **Section 58 of the BNSS** provides that any person arrested by the police without warrant cannot be detained for more than 24 hours, unless authorised by a magistrate under **Section 187**.
BNSS की धारा 58 प्रावधान करती है कि पुलिस द्वारा बिना वारंट गिरफ्तार किए गए किसी भी व्यक्ति को 24 घंटे से अधिक समय तक हिरासत में नहीं रखा जा सकता, जब तक कि धारा 187 के तहत मजिस्ट्रेट द्वारा इसकी अनुमति न दी गई हो।
- **Section 187(2) of the BNSS** provides that in case it appears to the investigating officer that the probe cannot be completed within 24 hours, and there are grounds for believing that the accusation is well founded, the magistrate may authorise the detention of the accused for a period not exceeding 15 days in the whole, or in parts, at any time during the initial 40 days or 60 days out of the detention period of 60 days or 90 days.
BNSS की धारा 187(2) प्रावधान करती है कि यदि जाँच अधिकारी को ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि जाँच 24 घंटे के भीतर पूरी नहीं की जा सकती और यह मानने के आधार मौजूद हैं कि आरोप प्रथमदृष्टया उचित हैं, तो मजिस्ट्रेट आरोपी की हिरासत को कुल मिलाकर 15 दिनों से अधिक की अवधि के लिए, या अलग-अलग हिस्सों

में, 60 दिनों या 90 दिनों की निरुद्धि अवधि में से प्रारंभिक 40 दिनों या 60 दिनों के दौरान किसी भी समय अधिकृत कर सकता है।

- Section 187(3) provides that the magistrate may authorise the (judicial) detention of an accused person beyond the period of 15 days, if he is satisfied that adequate grounds exist for doing so, for a period exceeding – (i) 90 days, where the investigation relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment for a term of 10 years or more; (ii) 60 days, where the investigation relates to any other offence.

धारा 187(3) प्रावधान करती है कि यदि मजिस्ट्रेट संतुष्ट है कि ऐसा करने के लिए पर्याप्त आधार मौजूद हैं, तो वह 15 दिनों की अवधि से आगे आरोपी व्यक्ति की न्यायिक हिरासत को अधिकृत कर सकता है, जिसकी अवधि—(i) 90 दिनों से अधिक हो सकती है, जहाँ जाँच ऐसे अपराध से संबंधित है जो मृत्यु-दंड, आजीवन कारावास या 10 वर्ष या उससे अधिक की अवधि के कारावास से दंडनीय है; (ii) 60 दिनों से अधिक हो सकती है, जहाँ जाँच किसी अन्य अपराध से संबंधित है।

- Thus, in case the probe is not completed within the above stipulated time period, the accused person may be released, which is widely known as **default bail**. इस प्रकार, यदि उपर्युक्त निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर जाँच पूरी नहीं होती है, तो आरोपी व्यक्ति को रिहा किया जा सकता है, जिसे व्यापक रूप से **डिफॉल्ट जमानत (Default Bail)** के रूप में जाना जाता है।
- The Supreme Court in the **Suda Suresh case** held that this legislative change was intended to meet situations where fresh facts, discoveries or leads may emerge during the course of investigation.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **सुदा सुरेश मामले** में कहा कि यह विधायी परिवर्तन उन परिस्थितियों से निपटने के उद्देश्य से किया गया था, जहाँ जाँच के दौरान नए तथ्य, बरामदगी या सुराग सामने आ सकते हैं।

- Therefore, the window of police remand was enlarged beyond the initial 15 days, up to **40 days or 60 days of investigation**.

इसलिए पुलिस रिमांड की अवधि का दायरा प्रारंभिक 15 दिनों से आगे बढ़ाकर **जाँच के 40 दिनों या 60 दिनों तक** कर दिया गया।

- Previously, Section 167 of the **CrPC** provided that the detention of an accused in police custody could not be granted beyond the initial 15 days in the whole. पूर्व में, **CrPC की धारा 167** में प्रावधान था कि आरोपी को पुलिस हिरासत में प्रारंभिक 15 दिनों की कुल अवधि से आगे नहीं रखा जा सकता था।
- However, during this first period of 15 days the magistrate could alter the nature of the custody from judicial custody to police custody and vice versa. हालाँकि, इन प्रारंभिक 15 दिनों की अवधि के दौरान मजिस्ट्रेट हिरासत की प्रकृति को **न्यायिक हिरासत से पुलिस हिरासत** और इसके विपरीत बदल सकता था।

On the presence of an advocate अधिवक्ता की उपस्थिति के संबंध में

- Section 38 of the **BNSS** provides that 'when any person is arrested and interrogated by the police, he shall be entitled to meet an advocate of his choice during interrogation, though not throughout interrogation'.

BNSS की धारा 38 प्रावधान करती है कि 'जब किसी व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार किया जाता है और पुलिस द्वारा उससे पूछताछ की जाती है, तो उसे पूछताछ के दौरान अपनी पसंद के अधिवक्ता से मिलने का अधिकार होगा, हालाँकि पूरी पूछताछ के दौरान नहीं।'।

- The top court held that a plain reading of the provision makes it clear that it does not contemplate the continuous, ongoing physical presence of an advocate for the entirety of each interrogation session.

शीर्ष न्यायालय ने कहा कि इस प्रावधान को सामान्य रूप से पढ़ने पर यह स्पष्ट होता है कि इसमें प्रत्येक

पूछताछ सत्र की पूरी अवधि के दौरान अधिवक्ता की निरंतर और लगातार भौतिक उपस्थिति की परिकल्पना नहीं की गई है।

- The Court held that an unqualified entitlement to continuous presence, would travel beyond what Section 38 BNSS itself contemplates.
न्यायालय ने कहा कि निरंतर उपस्थिति का अप्रतिबंधित अधिकार स्वयं BNSS की धारा 38 में परिकल्पित व्यवस्था से आगे चला जाएगा।
- The Court therefore modified the condition imposed by the High Court, and held that such a lawyer shall only be allowed to remain present within the site of interrogation where he can see the respondent-accused.
इसलिए न्यायालय ने उच्च न्यायालय द्वारा लगाई गई शर्त में संशोधन किया और कहा कि ऐसे अधिवक्ता को केवल पूछताछ के स्थान पर इस प्रकार उपस्थित रहने की अनुमति दी जाएगी, जहाँ से वह प्रतिवादी-आरोपी को देख सके।
- The Court also held that instead of uninterrupted videography of the transit of the accused between locations, the audio-visual recording of the actual interrogation, and of any proceedings of discovery or recovery undertaken with the accused, will satisfy the requirement.
न्यायालय ने यह भी कहा कि आरोपी को एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर ले जाने की निर्बाध वीडियोग्राफी के बजाय, वास्तविक पूछताछ की ऑडियो-विजुअल रिकॉर्डिंग तथा आरोपी के साथ की जाने वाली किसी भी खोज या बरामदगी की कार्यवाही की रिकॉर्डिंग इस आवश्यकता को पूरा करेगी।

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13A8	A timely reset for the Food Security Act खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम के लिए समयानुकूल पुनर्संयोजन	



GS II: Governance

Troubling bill

The FCRA amendments need redrafting in the JPC

The BJP-led government's relentless zeal in over-regulating civil society organisations is on display again in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, which it had sought to push through Parliament. After strong protests, it has now been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). In 2020, the government got amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, or FCRA, passed that barred a registered body from passing funds to another, even one registered under the same Act, and cut the share of foreign funds that could be spent on administration from half to a fifth, among other restrictions. It now proposes to go further still by taking over the assets that the money built, even on the mere lapse of a certificate. Under the Bill, a donee organisation can lose its registration not only when the government cancels it, but when renewal is refused, not applied for, or not granted before the old certificate runs out. As soon as this happens, the organisation's foreign funds and what was built with them will pass to a government-designated authority automatically. The property returns only if the organisation re-registers within a period the government has yet to specify, failing which it is lost for good. According to the Bill, a building put up only partly with foreign money will be taken over in full. The organisation must then apply to get back the share not paid for with foreign money. The Bill does allow for an appeal to a district judge, but only against what the authority does with the property later. The refusal to renew cannot be appealed against, and the organisation will not be entitled to be heard before the refusal is made. In essence, because the authority acts on the Centre's instructions, the Centre can use opaque reasons to withdraw a licence, take over the property, and then direct the body now holding it.

It is not surprising that minority religious institutions have been the most alarmed. This is true of Christian organisations, which run thousands of schools, colleges and hospitals built and sustained with money from churches and congregations abroad. Hundreds marched in Aizawl, Mizoram, under a newly formed council of churches; organisations in Kerala have objected to the Bill; Nagaland's Chief Minister wrote to the Home Minister seeking a parliamentary review; and the Tamil Nadu Assembly has also unanimously resolved that the Centre should withdraw the Bill. The Home Minister has assured church leaders that the Bill will not apply retrospectively, but the text of his own Bill says otherwise. A hospital built decades ago can still be taken over today because a certificate has been allowed to lapse. The JPC, to which the Bill has been sent, should redraft it to provide organisations with an opportunity to be heard before renewal is refused, as well as a right to appeal against such a refusal, among other changes that would make the regulation fair and transparent.

ऐसा होते ही संस्था के विदेशी धन और उससे निर्मित संपत्तियाँ स्वतः सरकार द्वारा नामित प्राधिकरण को हस्तांतरित हो जाएँगी।

- The property returns only if the organisation re-registers within a period the government has yet to specify, failing which it is lost for good.

13A8. Troubling Bill

चिंताजनक विधेयक

- The BJP-led government's relentless zeal in over-regulating civil society organisations is on display again in the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026**, which it had sought to push through Parliament.

नागरिक समाज संगठनों को अत्यधिक विनियमित करने के लिए भाजपा के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार का निरंतर उत्साह एक बार फिर विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026 में दिखाई देता है, जिसे वह संसद में पारित कराने का प्रयास कर रही थी।

- After strong protests, it has now been referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)**.

तीव्र विरोध के बाद अब इसे संयुक्त संसदीय समिति (JPC) को भेज दिया गया है।

- In 2020, the government got amendments to the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, or FCRA**, passed that barred a registered body from passing funds to another, even one registered under the same Act, and cut the share of foreign funds that could be spent on administration from half to a fifth, among other restrictions.

2020 में सरकार ने विदेशी अंशदान (विनियमन) अधिनियम, या FCRA में ऐसे संशोधन पारित कराए, जिनके तहत किसी पंजीकृत संस्था को किसी अन्य संस्था को धन हस्तांतरित करने से रोक दिया गया, भले ही दूसरी संस्था उसी अधिनियम के तहत पंजीकृत हो, और प्रशासन पर खर्च किए जा सकने वाले विदेशी धन के हिस्से को आधे से घटाकर एक-पाँचवाँ कर दिया गया, इसके अलावा भी कई प्रतिबंध लगाए गए।

- It now proposes to go further still by taking over the assets that the money built, even on the mere lapse of a certificate.

अब यह प्रस्तावित किया जा रहा है कि केवल प्रमाणपत्र की अवधि समाप्त हो जाने पर भी उस धन से निर्मित परिसंपत्तियों को अपने अधीन ले लिया जाए।

- Under the Bill, a donee organisation can lose its registration not only when the government cancels it, but when renewal is refused, not applied for, or not granted before the old certificate runs out.

विधेयक के तहत, किसी प्राप्तकर्ता संस्था का पंजीकरण केवल तब ही समाप्त नहीं होगा जब सरकार उसे रद्द करे, बल्कि तब भी समाप्त हो सकता है जब नवीनीकरण से इनकार कर दिया जाए, उसके लिए आवेदन न किया जाए, या पुराने प्रमाणपत्र की अवधि समाप्त होने से पहले नवीनीकरण प्रदान न किया जाए।

- As soon as this happens, the organisation's foreign funds and what was built with them will pass to a government-designated authority automatically.



संपत्ति तभी वापस मिलेगी जब संस्था सरकार द्वारा अभी निर्धारित की जाने वाली अवधि के भीतर पुनः

पंजीकरण करा ले; ऐसा न करने पर वह स्थायी रूप से उसके हाथ से चली जाएगी।

- According to the Bill, a building put up only partly with foreign money will be taken over in full. विधेयक के अनुसार, यदि किसी भवन का निर्माण केवल आंशिक रूप से **विदेशी धन** से हुआ है, तो भी उस पूरे भवन को अपने अधीन ले लिया जाएगा।

- The organisation must then apply to get back the share not paid for with foreign money. इसके बाद संस्था को उस हिस्से को वापस प्राप्त करने के लिए आवेदन करना होगा, जिसका भुगतान विदेशी धन से नहीं किया गया था।

- The Bill does allow for an appeal to a district judge, but only against what the authority does with the property later.

विधेयक में **जिला न्यायाधीश के समक्ष अपील** का प्रावधान है, लेकिन केवल इस बात के विरुद्ध कि प्राधिकरण बाद में संपत्ति के साथ क्या करता है।

- The refusal to renew cannot be appealed against, and the organisation will not be entitled to be heard before the refusal is made.

नवीनीकरण से इनकार के विरुद्ध अपील नहीं की जा सकती और इनकार किए जाने से पहले संस्था को **अपना पक्ष रखने का अधिकार** भी नहीं होगा।

- In essence, because the authority acts on the Centre's instructions, the Centre can use opaque reasons to withdraw a licence, take over the property, and then direct the body now holding it.

मूलतः, क्योंकि प्राधिकरण केंद्र के निर्देशों पर कार्य करता है, इसलिए केंद्र **अस्पष्ट कारणों** का उपयोग करके लाइसेंस वापस ले सकता है, संपत्ति को अपने अधीन ले सकता है और फिर उस संस्था को निर्देश दे सकता है जो अब उस संपत्ति को अपने पास रखती है।

- It is not surprising that **minority religious institutions** have been the most alarmed.

यह आश्चर्यजनक नहीं है कि **अल्पसंख्यक धार्मिक संस्थान** सबसे अधिक चिंतित हुए हैं।

- This is true of Christian organisations, which run thousands of schools, colleges and hospitals built and sustained with money from churches and congregations abroad.

यह बात **ईसाई संगठनों** के संदर्भ में विशेष रूप से सत्य है, जो विदेशों में स्थित चर्चों और धार्मिक समुदायों से प्राप्त धन से निर्मित और संचालित हजारों स्कूलों, कॉलेजों और अस्पतालों का संचालन करते हैं।

- Hundreds marched in **Aizawl, Mizoram**, under a newly formed council of churches; organisations in Kerala have objected to the Bill; Nagaland's Chief Minister wrote to the Home Minister seeking a parliamentary review; and the Tamil Nadu Assembly has also unanimously resolved that the Centre should withdraw the Bill.

आइजोल, मिजोरम में नवगठित चर्च परिषद के नेतृत्व में सैकड़ों लोगों ने मार्च किया; केरल के संगठनों ने विधेयक पर आपत्ति जताई; **नागालैंड के मुख्यमंत्री** ने संसदीय समीक्षा की मांग करते हुए गृह मंत्री को पत्र लिखा; और **तमिलनाडु विधानसभा** ने भी सर्वसम्मति से प्रस्ताव पारित किया कि केंद्र को विधेयक वापस लेना चाहिए।

- The Home Minister has assured church leaders that the Bill will not apply retrospectively, but the text of his own Bill says otherwise.

गृह मंत्री ने चर्च के नेताओं को आश्वासन दिया है कि विधेयक **पूर्वव्यापी रूप से लागू नहीं होगा**, लेकिन उनके अपने विधेयक का पाठ इसके विपरीत बात कहता है।

- A hospital built decades ago can still be taken over today because a certificate has been allowed to lapse.

दशकों पहले बनाए गए किसी अस्पताल को भी आज केवल इसलिए अपने अधीन लिया जा सकता है क्योंकि उसके **प्रमाणपत्र की अवधि समाप्त** हो गई है।

- The **JPC**, to which the Bill has been sent, should redraft it to provide organisations with an opportunity to be heard before renewal is refused, as well as a right to appeal against such a refusal, among other changes that would make the regulation fair and transparent.

जिस **JPC** को यह विधेयक भेजा गया है, उसे इसे इस प्रकार पुनः तैयार करना चाहिए कि नवीनीकरण से

इनकार करने से पहले संगठनों को अपना पक्ष रखने का अवसर मिले और ऐसे इनकार के विरुद्ध अपील का अधिकार भी हो, साथ ही ऐसे अन्य परिवर्तन किए जाएँ जो विनियमन को निष्पक्ष और पारदर्शी बनाएँ।

A timely reset for the Food Security Act

GS II: Governance

India's food security debate has entered a new phase. Estimates based on India's latest household consumption survey suggest that the share of households unable to afford the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) recommended diet fell from about 52% in 2011-12 to about 25% in 2023-24, affecting 25% of rural and 21% of urban households. This is substantial progress, but crores of households still cannot afford an adequate healthy diet. Poverty, hunger and inability to afford a healthy diet overlap; a modern food-security policy must recognise that they are not identical.

The draft National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026 links Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) entitlements to household size. The policy challenge is to correct inequity without reducing existing foodgrain access, while creating a pathway towards nutrition security.

Designing a fairer entitlement

Priority Households receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month, while AAY households receive a flat 35 kg per household. The latter protects smaller and highly vulnerable families but provides progressively less per person as household size grows: a seven-member household receives 5 kg per person and an eight-member household about 4.4 kg, below the Priority Household entitlement. The draft proposes 7 kg per person, capped at 35 kg. This would reduce support for households with one to four members by 20% to 80%, leave those with five or more unchanged, and provide no AAY household with additional foodgrain.

Tamil Nadu illustrates the potential impact. The State government reports that 15.75 lakh of its 18.64 lakh AAY households (84.5%) have fewer than five members. It estimates that the proposal would reduce the monthly AAY allocation from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes, a fall of about 35.6%. Although specific to Tamil Nadu, these projections show why household composition and vulnerability must be considered: a smaller household may include an older person living alone, a widow or a person with disability.

As the proposal is taken forward, the existing 35 kg entitlement should be preserved through an explicit no-loss safeguard. Because retaining 35 kg as both the minimum and maximum would leave the per-person formula with no practical effect, support beyond 35 kg for larger or highly dependent households should be examined as a separate policy question using household-consumption evidence, nutritional requirements and transparent fiscal costing.

Entitlement reform must also address coverage. Although the NFSA allows coverage of up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, its 81.35-crore beneficiary ceiling remains based on Census 2011; about 80 crore people receive free foodgrains. Against the estimated population of 146.4 crore in 2025, this ceiling covers only 55.6%. It should be recalculated when the Census 2027 figures become available. Meanwhile, updated

Viswanathan Mohan

Chairman,
Madras Diabetes
Research Foundation,
Chennai

Soumya Swaminathan

Chairperson,
M.S. Swaminathan
Research Foundation,
Chennai

Nijina M. Nazari

Principal Project
Scientist,
Indian Institute of
Technology Madras,
Chennai

The proposed amendment offers an opportunity to preserve the 35 kg AAY entitlement, assess the needs of larger households, and finance a gradual transition toward more diverse and nutritious diets

population estimates and deprivation criteria could support a transparent review, with accessible inclusion and appeal mechanisms.

Protecting grain while diversifying diets

Protecting the grain entitlement does not mean preserving a cereal-only understanding of food security. NFHS-6 (2023-24) found that stunting among children under five fell from 35.5% to 29.3%, but wasting and underweight barely changed, from 19.3% to 19.0% and 32.1% to 31.8%, respectively. Only about 15% of children (six-23 months) receive a minimally adequate diet. Meanwhile, the ICMR-India Diabetes (INDIAB) study estimated that 101 million Indians had diabetes and 136 million had prediabetes in 2021. These figures reflect India's double burden of malnutrition. Maternal undernutrition and low birth weight are associated with greater risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) later in life, while present-day diet and other behavioural factors add further risk.

Foodgrain entitlement should not itself be equated with diabetes risk. The concern is that a predominantly cereal-based food basket, when combined with diets already high in carbohydrates and low in protein-rich foods, may reinforce dietary imbalance. The solution is not to reduce essential cereal entitlements, but to finance dietary diversification alongside.

The dietary evidence favours balance over simply increasing or substituting cereals. A 2025 ICMR-INDIAB study of 18,090 adults found carbohydrates supplied 62.3% of daily energy nationally and protein 12%. Adults with the highest carbohydrate intake had 30% higher odds of newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes than those with the lowest intake. Replacing refined cereals with whole-wheat or millet flour was not linked to lower risk when the carbohydrate share remained high. Modelling suggested greater benefit from replacing some carbohydrate calories with protein-rich foods.

These observational and modelled findings cannot establish that changing the Public Distribution System (PDS) basket will prevent diabetes, but caution against treating more grain or millets alone as a complete nutrition policy. The ICMR-NIN's 2024 guidelines recommend that cereals and millets provide at most 45% of energy, with greater contributions from pulses, beans, milk, nuts, vegetables, fruits and other protein sources.

The PDS cannot supply the entire healthy plate; it can best provide affordable, shelf-stable foods. States should be supported to offer pulses, local rice, wheat and millet choices and, where feasible, healthy edible oils. Local production and consumption should guide supply chains and effective Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement for pulse, millet and oilseed growers. Sustained public investment should link food, nutrition and health systems through complementary programmes: the PDS, Anganwadi services for young children and pregnant or lactating women, and Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) for

schoolchildren. These programmes could provide eggs, milk or suitable alternatives where locally acceptable and feasible. Dietary diversification must be separately budgeted, not financed by reducing cereal entitlements. The 2026-27 Union Budget allocates ₹2,27,629 crore to food subsidy, underscoring the need for transparent costing. Additions should be tested through phased State pilots assessing actual consumption, dietary diversity, anaemia and glycaemic risk, household spending, wastage, exclusion and supply feasibility. Pilot evidence can guide fiscally sustainable expansion and help assess potential longer-term health and fiscal benefits.

Linking food access with nutrition support

The NFSA's strength lies in guaranteeing reliable, dignified food access. India has built a formidable delivery network. By the end of 2025, 5.50 lakh of 5.51 lakh fair price shops used electronic point-of-sale devices, while One Nation One Ration Card covered nearly all NFSA beneficiaries. These systems support portability and monitoring but must include reliable offline alternatives, assisted or doorstep access for people with limited mobility, and a clear guarantee that authentication failure will not lead to denial of entitled foodgrains.

Fair price shops could support last-mile nutrition information and referral. Simple multilingual receipt, display, voice and mobile messages could promote dietary diversity, appropriate cereal portions, pulses, healthier oils, and less salt and added sugar. Where feasible, trained health workers could undertake periodic outreach through India's primary-health infrastructure, linking willing adults to government diabetes, hypertension and other NCD services. By June 2026, India had over 1.86 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, while government data recorded 41.3 crore diabetes screenings. Fair price shop dealers should facilitate information and referral, not diagnose or counsel. Participation must be voluntary, confidential and unrelated to ration eligibility or authentication.

The amendment should therefore be situated within a broader architecture for food and nutrition security, anchored in three safeguards. First, any per-person formula should preserve the existing 35 kg monthly entitlement for every AAY household through an explicit no-loss guarantee. Second, the adequacy of the 35 kg ceiling should be reviewed periodically for larger households and those with high dependency or nutritional needs, using consumption, nutritional and fiscal evidence. Third, dietary diversification must be separately financed and progressively implemented without reducing existing cereal entitlements.

India's next food security reform must protect people from hunger while also addressing the dietary drivers of diabetes and other NCDs. Its success should be judged not only by the tons of grain moved, but by whether vulnerable families can eat enough, eat healthier and obtain their entitlements with dignity.

13A8. A timely reset for the Food Security Act

खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम के लिए समयानुकूल पुनर्संयोजन

- India's food security debate has entered a **new phase**. भारत में खाद्य सुरक्षा पर बहस एक नए चरण में प्रवेश कर गई है।
- Estimates based on India's latest household consumption survey suggest that the share of households unable to afford the **ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) recommended diet** fell from about 52% in 2011-12 to about 25% in 2023-24, affecting 25% of rural and 21% of urban households.

भारत के नवीनतम घरेलू उपभोग सर्वेक्षण पर आधारित अनुमानों से पता चलता है कि ICMR-राष्ट्रीय पोषण

संस्थान (NIN) द्वारा अनुशंसित आहार का खर्च वहन करने में असमर्थ परिवारों की हिस्सेदारी 2011-12 में लगभग 52% से घटकर 2023-24 में लगभग 25% रह गई, जिससे 25% ग्रामीण और 21% शहरी परिवार प्रभावित हैं।

- This is substantial progress, but crores of households still cannot afford an **adequate healthy diet**.

यह एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति है, लेकिन करोड़ों परिवार अभी भी पर्याप्त एवं स्वस्थ आहार का खर्च वहन नहीं कर सकते।

- Poverty, hunger and inability to afford a healthy diet overlap; a modern food-security policy must recognise that they are **not identical**.

गरीबी, भूख और स्वस्थ आहार का खर्च वहन करने में असमर्थता एक-दूसरे से जुड़ी हुई हैं; आधुनिक खाद्य सुरक्षा नीति को यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि ये समान अवधारणाएँ नहीं हैं।

- The draft **National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026** links Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) entitlements to household size.

प्रस्तावित राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 अंत्योदय अन्न योजना (AAY) के लाभों को परिवार के आकार से जोड़ता है।

- The policy challenge is to correct inequity without reducing existing foodgrain access, while creating a pathway towards **nutrition security**.

नीतिगत चुनौती यह है कि मौजूदा खाद्यान्न पहुँच को कम किए बिना असमानता को दूर किया जाए, साथ ही पोषण सुरक्षा की दिशा में मार्ग तैयार किया जाए।

Designing a fairer entitlement

अधिक न्यायसंगत पात्रता का निर्धारण

- Priority Households receive 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month, while AAY households receive a flat 35 kg per household.

प्राथमिकता वाले परिवारों को प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति माह 5 किलोग्राम खाद्यान्न मिलता है, जबकि AAY परिवारों को प्रति परिवार निश्चित रूप से 35 किलोग्राम खाद्यान्न मिलता है।

- The latter protects smaller and highly vulnerable families but provides progressively less per person as household size grows: a seven-member household receives 5 kg per person and an eight-member household about 4.4 kg, below the Priority Household entitlement.

बाद वाली व्यवस्था छोटे और अत्यधिक संवेदनशील परिवारों की रक्षा करती है, लेकिन जैसे-जैसे परिवार का आकार बढ़ता है, प्रति व्यक्ति उपलब्ध मात्रा क्रमशः कम होती जाती है: सात सदस्यीय परिवार को प्रति व्यक्ति 5 किलोग्राम और आठ सदस्यीय परिवार को लगभग 4.4 किलोग्राम मिलता है, जो प्राथमिकता वाले परिवारों की पात्रता से कम है।

- The draft proposes 7 kg per person, capped at 35 kg.

प्रस्ताव में प्रति व्यक्ति 7 किलोग्राम की मात्रा निर्धारित करने का प्रस्ताव है, जिसकी अधिकतम सीमा 35 किलोग्राम होगी।

- This would reduce support for households with one to four members by 20% to 80%, leave those with five or more unchanged, and provide no AAY household with additional foodgrain.

इससे एक से चार सदस्यों वाले परिवारों के लिए सहायता में 20% से 80% तक कमी आएगी, पाँच या उससे अधिक सदस्यों वाले परिवारों के लिए इसमें कोई परिवर्तन नहीं होगा और किसी भी AAY परिवार को अतिरिक्त खाद्यान्न नहीं मिलेगा।

- Tamil Nadu illustrates the potential impact.

तमिलनाडु संभावित प्रभाव को स्पष्ट करता है।

- The State government reports that 15.75 lakh of its 18.64 lakh AAY households (84.5%) have fewer than five members.

राज्य सरकार के अनुसार, उसके 18.64 लाख AAY परिवारों में से **15.75 लाख (84.5%) परिवारों में पाँच से कम सदस्य हैं।**

- It estimates that the proposal would reduce the monthly AAY allocation from 65,261 tonnes to 42,040 tonnes, a fall of about 35.6%.
उसका अनुमान है कि इस प्रस्ताव से मासिक AAY आवंटन **65,261 टन से घटकर 42,040 टन** हो जाएगा, अर्थात् लगभग 35.6% की कमी आएगी।
- Although specific to Tamil Nadu, these projections show why household composition and vulnerability must be considered: a smaller household may include an older person living alone, a widow or a person with disability.
यद्यपि ये अनुमान तमिलनाडु-विशिष्ट हैं, फिर भी ये दर्शाते हैं कि परिवार की संरचना और **संवर्धनशीलता** पर विचार क्यों किया जाना चाहिए: छोटे परिवार में अकेले रहने वाला वृद्ध व्यक्ति, विधवा या दिव्यांग व्यक्ति हो सकता है।
- As the proposal is taken forward, the existing 35 kg entitlement should be preserved through an explicit **no-loss safeguard**.
जैसे-जैसे इस प्रस्ताव को आगे बढ़ाया जाए, मौजूदा 35 किलोग्राम की पात्रता को स्पष्ट **‘कोई नुकसान नहीं’ सुरक्षा प्रावधान** के माध्यम से संरक्षित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Because retaining 35 kg as both the minimum and maximum would leave the per-person formula with no practical effect, support beyond 35 kg for larger or highly dependent households should be examined as a separate policy question using household-consumption evidence, nutritional requirements and transparent fiscal costing.
क्योंकि 35 किलोग्राम को न्यूनतम और अधिकतम दोनों सीमा के रूप में बनाए रखने से प्रति व्यक्ति सूत्र का कोई व्यावहारिक प्रभाव नहीं रह जाएगा, इसलिए बड़े या अत्यधिक आश्रित परिवारों के लिए 35 किलोग्राम से अधिक सहायता को **घरेलू उपभोग संबंधी साक्ष्य, पोषण संबंधी आवश्यकताओं और पारदर्शी राजकोषीय लागत निर्धारण** के आधार पर एक अलग नीतिगत प्रश्न के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।
- Entitlement reform must also address **coverage**.
पात्रता में सुधार के साथ-साथ **कवरेज** के मुद्दे का भी समाधान किया जाना चाहिए।
- Although the NFSA allows coverage of up to 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population, its 81.35-crore beneficiary ceiling remains based on Census 2011; about 80 crore people receive free foodgrains.
यद्यपि **NFSA** ग्रामीण आबादी के 75% और शहरी आबादी के 50% तक को कवर करने की अनुमति देता है, लेकिन इसकी 81.35 करोड़ लाभार्थियों की सीमा अभी भी **2011 की जनगणना** पर आधारित है; लगभग 80 करोड़ लोगों को निःशुल्क खाद्यान्न मिलता है।
- Against the estimated population of 146.4 crore in 2025, this ceiling covers only 55.6%.
2025 में अनुमानित **146.4 करोड़ की आबादी** की तुलना में यह सीमा केवल 55.6% आबादी को कवर करती है।
- It should be recalculated when the **Census 2027** figures become available.
जब **जनगणना 2027** के आँकड़े उपलब्ध हों, तब इसे पुनर्गणित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Meanwhile, updated population estimates and deprivation criteria could support a transparent review, with accessible inclusion and appeal mechanisms.
इस बीच, अद्यतन जनसंख्या अनुमानों और **वंचना संबंधी मानदंडों** के आधार पर पारदर्शी समीक्षा की जा सकती है, जिसमें सुलभ समावेशन और अपील तंत्र उपलब्ध हों।

Protecting grain while diversifying diets

खाद्यान्न की सुरक्षा के साथ आहार में विविधता लाना

- Protecting the grain entitlement does not mean preserving a **cereal-only understanding of food security**.
खाद्यान्न की पात्रता को संरक्षित करने का अर्थ **खाद्य सुरक्षा की केवल अनाज-केंद्रित अवधारणा** को बनाए रखना नहीं है।

- NFHS-6 (2023-24) found that stunting among children under five fell from 35.5% to 29.3%, but wasting and underweight barely changed, from 19.3% to 19.0% and 32.1% to 31.8%, respectively.
NFHS-6 (2023-24) में पाया गया कि पाँच वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों में **बौनापन (stunting)** 35.5% से घटकर 29.3% हो गया, लेकिन **दुबलापन (wasting)** और **कम वजन (underweight)** में लगभग कोई बदलाव नहीं आया; वे क्रमशः 19.3% से 19.0% और 32.1% से 31.8% हुए।
- Only about 15% of children (six-23 months) receive a **minimally adequate diet**.
केवल लगभग 15% बच्चे (छह से 23 महीने की आयु) **न्यूनतम पर्याप्त आहार** प्राप्त करते हैं।
- Meanwhile, the ICMR-India Diabetes (INDIAB) study estimated that 101 million Indians had diabetes and 136 million had prediabetes in 2021.
इस बीच, **ICMR-India Diabetes (INDIAB) अध्ययन** ने अनुमान लगाया कि 2021 में 10.1 करोड़ भारतीयों को मधुमेह और 13.6 करोड़ भारतीयों को **प्री-डायबिटीज** थी।
- These figures reflect India's **double burden of malnutrition**.
ये आँकड़े भारत में **कुपोषण के दोहरे बोझ** को दर्शाते हैं।
- Maternal undernutrition and low birth weight are associated with greater risk of **non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** later in life, while present-day diet and other behavioural factors add further risk.
मातृ कुपोषण और कम जन्म-वजन का जीवन के बाद के चरणों में **गैर-संचारी रोगों (NCDs)** के अधिक जोखिम से संबंध है, जबकि वर्तमान आहार और अन्य व्यवहारगत कारक अतिरिक्त जोखिम बढ़ाते हैं।
- Foodgrain entitlement should not itself be equated with diabetes risk.
खाद्यान्न की पात्रता को स्वयं **मधुमेह के जोखिम** के बराबर नहीं माना जाना चाहिए।
- The concern is that a predominantly cereal-based food basket, when combined with diets already high in carbohydrates and low in protein-rich foods, may reinforce dietary imbalance.
चिंता यह है कि मुख्यतः **अनाज-आधारित खाद्य टोकरी**, जब पहले से ही कार्बोहाइड्रेट से भरपूर और प्रोटीन-समृद्ध खाद्य पदार्थों में कम आहार के साथ जुड़ती है, तो आहार संबंधी असंतुलन को और बढ़ा सकती है।
- The solution is not to reduce essential cereal entitlements, but to finance **dietary diversification** alongside.
समाधान आवश्यक अनाज की पात्रता को कम करना नहीं है, बल्कि इसके साथ-साथ **आहार विविधीकरण** के लिए वित्तपोषण करना है।
- The dietary evidence favours balance over simply increasing or substituting cereals.
आहार संबंधी साक्ष्य केवल अनाज की मात्रा बढ़ाने या एक अनाज के स्थान पर दूसरे अनाज को रखने की अपेक्षा **संतुलित आहार** को प्राथमिकता देते हैं।
- A 2025 ICMR-INDIAB study of 18,090 adults found carbohydrates supplied 62.3% of daily energy nationally and protein 12%.
18,090 वयस्कों पर किए गए **2025 के ICMR-INDIAB अध्ययन** में पाया गया कि राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कार्बोहाइड्रेट दैनिक ऊर्जा का 62.3% और प्रोटीन 12% प्रदान करता था।
- Adults with the highest carbohydrate intake had 30% higher odds of newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes than those with the lowest intake.
सबसे अधिक कार्बोहाइड्रेट का सेवन करने वाले वयस्कों में सबसे कम सेवन करने वालों की तुलना में **नए निदान किए गए टाइप-2 मधुमेह** की संभावना 30% अधिक थी।
- Replacing refined cereals with whole-wheat or millet flour was not linked to lower risk when the carbohydrate share remained high.
जब कार्बोहाइड्रेट की हिस्सेदारी अधिक बनी रही, तब **परिष्कृत अनाज** को साबुत गेहूँ या बाजरे के आटे से बदलना कम जोखिम से संबद्ध नहीं पाया गया।
- Modelling suggested greater benefit from replacing some carbohydrate calories with **protein-rich foods**.
मॉडलिंग से संकेत मिला कि कुछ कार्बोहाइड्रेट कैलोरी को **प्रोटीन-समृद्ध खाद्य पदार्थों** से बदलने पर अधिक लाभ हो सकता है।

- These observational and modelled findings cannot establish that changing the **Public Distribution System (PDS) basket** will prevent diabetes, but caution against treating more grain or millets alone as a complete nutrition policy.
ये अवलोकनात्मक और मॉडल-आधारित निष्कर्ष यह स्थापित नहीं कर सकते कि **सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS) की खाद्य टोकरी** में बदलाव करने से मधुमेह की रोकथाम होगी, लेकिन ये केवल अधिक अनाज या मोटे अनाज को पूर्ण पोषण नीति मानने के प्रति सावधान करते हैं।
- The **ICMR-NIN's 2024 guidelines** recommend that cereals and millets provide at most 45% of energy, with greater contributions from pulses, beans, milk, nuts, vegetables, fruits and other protein sources.
ICMR-NIN के 2024 के दिशानिर्देश अनुशंसा करते हैं कि अनाज और मोटे अनाज ऊर्जा का अधिकतम 45% प्रदान करें, जबकि दालों, फलियों, दूध, मेवों, सब्जियों, फलों और अन्य प्रोटीन स्रोतों से अधिक योगदान प्राप्त किया जाए।
- The PDS cannot supply the entire healthy plate; it can best provide **affordable, shelf-stable foods**.
PDS पूरी **स्वस्थ भोजन की थाली** उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकता; यह मुख्यतः **किफायती और लंबे समय तक सुरक्षित रखे जा सकने वाले खाद्य पदार्थ** उपलब्ध करा सकता है।
- States should be supported to offer pulses, local rice, wheat and millet choices and, where feasible, healthy edible oils.
राज्यों को दालों, स्थानीय चावल, गेहूँ और मोटे अनाज के विकल्प तथा जहाँ संभव हो, **स्वस्थ खाद्य तेलों** की पेशकश के लिए सहायता दी जानी चाहिए।
- Local production and consumption should guide supply chains and effective **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** procurement for pulse, millet and oilseed growers.
स्थानीय उत्पादन और उपभोग को आपूर्ति शृंखलाओं तथा दाल, मोटे अनाज और तिलहन उत्पादकों के लिए **प्रभावी न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य (MSP) खरीद** का मार्गदर्शन करना चाहिए।
- Sustained public investment should link food, nutrition and health systems through complementary programmes: the PDS, Anganwadi services for young children and pregnant or lactating women, and **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN)** for schoolchildren.
निरंतर सार्वजनिक निवेश के माध्यम से पूरक कार्यक्रमों द्वारा **खाद्य, पोषण और स्वास्थ्य प्रणालियों** को जोड़ा जाना चाहिए: PDS, छोटे बच्चों तथा गर्भवती या स्तनपान कराने वाली महिलाओं के लिए आंगनवाड़ी सेवाएँ और स्कूली बच्चों के लिए **प्रधानमंत्री पोषण शक्ति निर्माण (PM POSHAN)**।
- These programmes could provide eggs, milk or suitable alternatives where locally acceptable and feasible.
इन कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से जहाँ स्थानीय रूप से स्वीकार्य और व्यवहार्य हो, वहाँ **अंडे, दूध या उपयुक्त विकल्प** उपलब्ध कराए जा सकते हैं।
- Dietary diversification must be separately budgeted, not financed by reducing cereal entitlements.
आहार विविधीकरण के लिए अलग से बजट निर्धारित किया जाना चाहिए, न कि अनाज की पात्रता कम करके इसका वित्तपोषण किया जाना चाहिए।
- The 2026-27 Union Budget allocates **₹2,27,629 crore to food subsidy**, underscoring the need for transparent costing.
2026-27 के केंद्रीय बजट में खाद्य सब्सिडी के लिए **₹2,27,629 करोड़** आवंटित किए गए हैं, जो पारदर्शी लागत निर्धारण की आवश्यकता को रेखांकित करता है।
- Additions should be tested through phased State pilots assessing actual consumption, dietary diversity, anaemia and glycaemic risk, household spending, wastage, exclusion and supply feasibility.
अतिरिक्त उपायों का परीक्षण चरणबद्ध **राज्य स्तरीय पायलट परियोजनाओं** के माध्यम से किया जाना चाहिए, जिसमें वास्तविक उपभोग, आहार विविधता, एनीमिया और ग्लाइसेमिक जोखिम, घरेलू व्यय, अपव्यय, बहिष्करण और आपूर्ति की व्यवहार्यता का आकलन किया जाए।

- Pilot evidence can guide fiscally sustainable expansion and help assess potential longer-term health and fiscal benefits.
पायलट परियोजनाओं से प्राप्त साक्ष्य **राजकोषीय रूप से टिकाऊ विस्तार** का मार्गदर्शन कर सकते हैं और दीर्घकालिक संभावित स्वास्थ्य एवं राजकोषीय लाभों का आकलन करने में सहायता कर सकते हैं।

Linking food access with nutrition support

खाद्य पहुँच को पोषण सहायता से जोड़ना

- The NFSA's strength lies in guaranteeing reliable, dignified food access.
NFSA की शक्ति विश्वसनीय और गरिमापूर्ण खाद्य पहुँच की गारंटी देने में निहित है।
- India has built a formidable delivery network.
भारत ने एक **सुदृढ़ वितरण नेटवर्क** का निर्माण किया है।
- By the end of 2025, 5.50 lakh of 5.51 lakh fair price shops used electronic point-of-sale devices, while **One Nation One Ration Card** covered nearly all NFSA beneficiaries.
2025 के अंत तक 5.51 लाख उचित मूल्य की दुकानों में से **5.50 लाख दुकानों** में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पॉइंट-ऑफ-सेल उपकरणों का उपयोग हो रहा था, जबकि **वन नेशन वन राशन कार्ड** ने लगभग सभी NFSA लाभार्थियों को कवर कर लिया था।
- These systems support portability and monitoring but must include reliable offline alternatives, assisted or doorstep access for people with limited mobility, and a clear guarantee that authentication failure will not lead to denial of entitled foodgrains.
ये प्रणालियाँ पोर्टेबिलिटी और निगरानी को समर्थन देती हैं, लेकिन इनमें विश्वसनीय **ऑफलाइन विकल्प**, सीमित गतिशीलता वाले लोगों के लिए सहायता-युक्त या घर तक पहुँच, तथा यह स्पष्ट गारंटी शामिल होनी चाहिए कि प्रमाणीकरण की विफलता से पात्र खाद्यान्न देने से इनकार नहीं किया जाएगा।
- Fair price shops could support **last-mile nutrition information and referral**.
उचित मूल्य की दुकानें **अंतिम छोर तक पोषण संबंधी जानकारी और रेफरल** उपलब्ध कराने में सहायता कर सकती हैं।
- Simple multilingual receipt, display, voice and mobile messages could promote dietary diversity, appropriate cereal portions, pulses, healthier oils, and less salt and added sugar.
सरल बहुभाषी रसीदों, प्रदर्शन सामग्री, वॉयस संदेशों और मोबाइल संदेशों के माध्यम से **आहार विविधता, उचित अनाज मात्रा, दालों, अधिक स्वस्थ तेलों तथा कम नमक और अतिरिक्त चीनी** के सेवन को बढ़ावा दिया जा सकता है।
- Where feasible, trained health workers could undertake periodic outreach through India's primary-health infrastructure, linking willing adults to government diabetes, hypertension and other NCD services.
जहाँ संभव हो, प्रशिक्षित स्वास्थ्यकर्मी भारत के **प्राथमिक स्वास्थ्य ढाँचे** के माध्यम से समय-समय पर संपर्क अभियान चला सकते हैं और इच्छुक वयस्कों को सरकारी मधुमेह, उच्च रक्तचाप तथा अन्य NCD सेवाओं से जोड़ सकते हैं।
- By June 2026, India had over 1.86 lakh **Ayushman Arogya Mandirs**, while government data recorded 41.3 crore diabetes screenings.
जून 2026 तक भारत में **1.86 लाख से अधिक आयुष्मान आरोग्य मंदिर** थे, जबकि सरकारी आँकड़ों में 41.3 करोड़ मधुमेह जाँच दर्ज की गई थीं।
- Fair price shop dealers should facilitate information and referral, not diagnose or counsel.
उचित मूल्य की दुकानों के डीलरों को **जानकारी और रेफरल** की सुविधा प्रदान करनी चाहिए, न कि निदान या परामर्श देना चाहिए।
- Participation must be voluntary, confidential and unrelated to ration eligibility or authentication.
भागीदारी स्वैच्छिक, गोपनीय और राशन पात्रता या प्रमाणीकरण से असंबद्ध होनी चाहिए।

- The amendment should therefore be situated within a broader architecture for **food and nutrition security**, anchored in three safeguards.
इसलिए संशोधन को **खाद्य और पोषण सुरक्षा** के लिए एक व्यापक ढाँचे के भीतर रखा जाना चाहिए, जो तीन सुरक्षा उपायों पर आधारित हो।
- First, any per-person formula should preserve the existing 35 kg monthly entitlement for every AAY household through an explicit **no-loss guarantee**.
पहला, किसी भी प्रति व्यक्ति सूत्र को स्पष्ट **‘कोई नुकसान नहीं’ गारंटी** के माध्यम से प्रत्येक AAY परिवार के लिए मौजूदा 35 किलोग्राम मासिक पात्रता को संरक्षित करना चाहिए।
- Second, the adequacy of the 35 kg ceiling should be reviewed periodically for larger households and those with high dependency or nutritional needs, using consumption, nutritional and fiscal evidence.
दूसरा, बड़े परिवारों तथा उच्च निर्भरता या पोषण संबंधी आवश्यकताओं वाले परिवारों के लिए 35 किलोग्राम की सीमा की पर्याप्तता की समय-समय पर **उपभोग, पोषण और राजकोषीय साक्ष्यों** के आधार पर समीक्षा की जानी चाहिए।
- Third, dietary diversification must be separately financed and progressively implemented without reducing existing cereal entitlements.
तीसरा, मौजूदा अनाज पात्रताओं को कम किए बिना **आहार विविधीकरण** के लिए अलग से वित्तपोषण किया जाना चाहिए और इसे क्रमिक रूप से लागू किया जाना चाहिए।
- India's next food security reform must protect people from hunger while also addressing the **dietary drivers of diabetes and other NCDs**.
भारत के अगले खाद्य सुरक्षा सुधार को लोगों को **भूख से बचाने** के साथ-साथ **मधुमेह और अन्य NCDs के आहार संबंधी कारणों** का भी समाधान करना चाहिए।
- Its success should be judged not only by the tons of grain moved, but by whether vulnerable families can eat enough, eat healthier and obtain their entitlements with **dignity**.
इसकी सफलता का आकलन केवल वितरित किए गए अनाज के टन से नहीं, बल्कि इस आधार पर किया जाना चाहिए कि क्या **संवेदनशील परिवार पर्याप्त भोजन, अधिक स्वस्थ भोजन और अपनी पात्रताओं को गरिमा के साथ प्राप्त कर सकते हैं।**

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TOPICS COVERED		
13A8	Panel asks govt. if it will push agenda for de-dollarisation पैनल ने सरकार से पूछा कि क्या वह डॉलर-विमुद्रीकरण के एजेंडे को आगे बढ़ाएगी	
13A8	Why Morocco's youth are risking their lives to move to Spain मोरक्को के युवा स्पेन जाने के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में क्यों डाल रहे हैं	
13A8	Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji dies aged 97 चीन के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री झू रोंगजी का 97 वर्ष की आयु में निधन	



Panel asks govt. if it will push agenda for de-dollarisation

CS II: IR

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, on Tuesday questioned the government on whether it plans to push a de-dollarisation agenda at the 18th BRICS Summit to be held in New Delhi in September.

The questions come against the backdrop of the Reserve Bank of India's repeated advocacy for linking the official digital currencies of BRICS countries to facilitate cross-border trade and tourism payments. The Central bank has argued that such a framework could reduce reliance on the U.S. dollar amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Members of the committee questioned why the government was not pursuing greater "financial sovereignty" that could help countries bypass U.S.



India assumed the rotating chairship of BRICS on January 1 and will lead it till end of 2026.

sanctions, sources said.

India's efforts to establish a similar local currency trade mechanism with Russia had not taken off, they said, and sought to know whether India, as the host nation, would push a "BRICS-led de-dollarisation agenda".

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly warned BRICS countries against creating an alternative currency or taking steps that could challenge the dollar's dominance, threatening punitive tariffs and other measures.

13A8. Panel asks govt. if it will push agenda for de-dollarisation

पैनल ने सरकार से पूछा कि क्या वह डॉलर-विमुद्रीकरण के एजेंडे को आगे बढ़ाएगी

• Members of the **Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs**, headed by senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, on Tuesday questioned the government on whether it plans to push a **de-dollarisation agenda** at the 18th BRICS Summit to be held in New Delhi in September. वरिष्ठ कांग्रेस नेता शशि थरूर की अध्यक्षता वाली **विदेश मामलों संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति** के सदस्यों ने मंगलवार को सरकार से सवाल किया कि क्या वह सितंबर में नई दिल्ली में होने वाले **18वें BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन में डॉलर-विमुद्रीकरण (de-dollarisation) के एजेंडे को आगे बढ़ाने की योजना बना रही है।**

• The questions come against the backdrop of the **Reserve Bank of India's** repeated advocacy for linking the official digital currencies of BRICS countries to facilitate cross-border trade and tourism payments. ये सवाल **भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक (RBI)** द्वारा BRICS देशों की आधिकारिक डिजिटल मुद्राओं को आपस में जोड़ने की बार-बार की जा रही वकालत की पृष्ठभूमि में उठाए गए हैं, ताकि **सीमा-पार व्यापार और पर्यटन भुगतान को सुगम बनाया जा सके।**

• The Central bank has argued that such a framework could reduce reliance on the **U.S. dollar** amid rising geopolitical tensions. **केंद्रीय बैंक ने तर्क दिया है कि बढ़ते भू-राजनीतिक तनावों के बीच ऐसी व्यवस्था अमेरिकी डॉलर पर निर्भरता को कम कर सकती है।**

- Members of the committee questioned why the government was not pursuing greater "**financial sovereignty**" that could help countries bypass U.S. sanctions, sources said. सूत्रों ने बताया कि समिति के सदस्यों ने सवाल किया कि सरकार अधिक "**वित्तीय संप्रभुता**" की दिशा में प्रयास क्यों नहीं कर रही है, जिससे देशों को **अमेरिकी प्रतिबंधों से बचने में सहायता मिल सकती है।**
- India's efforts to establish a similar **local currency trade mechanism with Russia** had not taken off, they said, and sought to know whether India, as the host nation, would push a "**BRICS-led de-dollarisation agenda**". उन्होंने कहा कि रूस के साथ इसी प्रकार की **स्थानीय मुद्रा व्यापार व्यवस्था** स्थापित करने के भारत के प्रयास आगे नहीं बढ़ पाए हैं और यह जानना चाहा कि क्या भारत, मेजबान देश के रूप में, "**BRICS-नेतृत्व वाले डॉलर-विमुद्रीकरण के एजेंडे**" को आगे बढ़ाएगा।
- U.S. President **Donald Trump** has repeatedly warned BRICS countries against creating an alternative currency or taking steps that could challenge the dollar's dominance, threatening punitive tariffs and other measures. अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति **डोनाल्ड ट्रंप** ने BRICS देशों को वैकल्पिक मुद्रा बनाने या ऐसे कदम उठाने के विरुद्ध बार-



बार चेतावनी दी है, जो डॉलर के प्रभुत्व को चुनौती दे सकते हैं, तथा दंडात्मक टैरिफ और अन्य उपायों की धमकी दी है।

Why Morocco's youth are risking their lives to move to Spain

The African country's youth unemployment rate is nearly three times its overall employment rate

CSIR

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis

Between July 30 and 31, approximately 72,000 people from Morocco arrived at Ceuta, Spain's island territory and one of the EU's only land borders with Africa, in hopes of making it to Spain. Pictures and videos of the event flooded the Internet, and within hours, 22 European Union (EU) leaders signed a letter to the European Commission, criticising Spain and demanding an emergency meeting of interior ministers, regarding migration.

Morocco's government has repeatedly stated that a large majority of the people who swam for hours and got to Ceuta, voluntarily returned to Morocco. About 11,000 persons still remain on the island, according to the city's mayor. More than 80 people lost their lives in this incident.

While the reasons for this unprecedented inflow of Moroccans to Ceuta over two days remains unclear, data shed light on the underlying causes that could be driving the youth towards such risky endeavours.

Morocco's economy has improved and poverty has been on the decline over the past few years. However, this has not resulted in reduced unemployment, specifically among its youth population, who comprised a majority of those who fled to Ceuta.

The African country's unemployment rate has only increased in the quarters following the pandemic, and stood at 13% as of Q3 of 2025. Its youth unemployment rate is nearly three times its overall employment rate. About 37% of Moroccans, or two in five persons between the ages of 15 and 24 are not employed. This is nearly 20 percentage points higher than it was a decade ago. Further, about 24.5% of the youth were neither pursuing education nor were employed (Chart 1A and 1B).

Data also show that higher education is not necessarily rewarded with better job prospects in Morocco. More than half of Morocco's youth who have reached higher levels of education are unemployed, with nearly 65% of young women who have completed higher education and about 54% of young men at the same level left unemployed (Table 1).

According to the information released by the Morocco's Interior Ministry, in 2024, the country stopped almost 80,000 attempts by people to reach the EU. In fact, Moroccans made up about 20% of Spain's land and sea arrivals in 2026 so far, according to the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHCR). A majority of arrivals into Spain came from Ceuta and the Balearic Islands via the Western Mediterranean route.

Post the Ceuta migration crisis, Italy's conservative Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, imposed travel restrictions on travellers arriving from Spain from August 1, to which Spain responded with similar restrictions. These moves are symbolic of a broader disagreement between Ms. Meloni and Spain's left-leaning Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on the issue of immigration. The letter signed by the EU Commission argued that Madrid's migration policies had undermined the EU's security.

However, UNHCR data show that out of the 54,316 persons who arrived in the EU by land or sea, about 8% arrived in Ceuta, while about 22% arrived in the Spanish mainland. Italy made up about 30% of these arrivals, while Greece made up 36%.

Chart 2 shows the people arriving via land and sea into Italy, Spain, and Greece, as per their country of nationality, as of June 2026. Most of the 2,589 persons from Morocco who entered the EU via land or sea, arrived in Spain. The same data shows that 586 persons are missing or have died while on the Mediterranean and West African Atlantic routes.

Fleeing crisis

The data were sourced from the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP) of Morocco

Chart 1A: The year-wise rate of unemployment in Morocco across various age groups

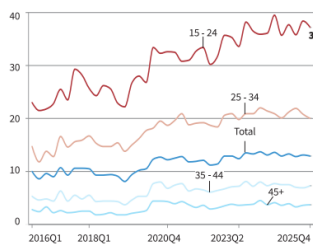


Chart 1B: The share (in %) of youth who are neither employed nor are pursuing education in Morocco in 2025

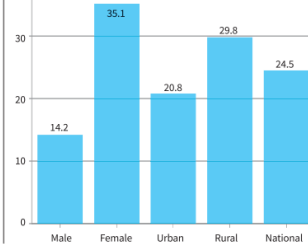


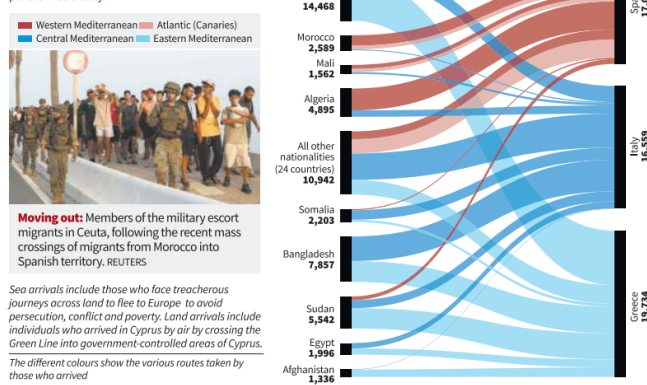
Table 1: The rate of unemployment among people with various levels of educational qualifications

Education level	Male (%)	Female (%)	National (%)	Urban (%)	Rural (%)
No qualification	19.5	16.5	18.9	31.2	11.7
Average level	31.8	42.3	33.7	42.7	20.5
Higher	53.5	64.1	59.1	60.6	52

The chart below does not cover the incident in Ceuta at the end of July

Majority of arrivals to Spain happened in July, as the chart shows

Chart 2: The number of people, who arrived via land and sea into Italy, Spain and Greece in 2026, grouped as per their nationality.



Moving out: Members of the military escort migrants in Ceuta, following the recent mass crossings of migrants from Morocco into Spanish territory. REUTERS

Sea arrivals include those who face treacherous journeys across land to flee to Europe to avoid persecution, conflict and poverty. Land arrivals include individuals who arrived in Cyprus by air by crossing the Green Line into government-controlled areas of Cyprus.

The different colours show the various routes taken by those who arrived

13A8. Why Morocco's youth are risking their lives to move to Spain

मोरक्को के युवा स्पेन जाने के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में क्यों डाल रहे हैं

- Between July 30 and 31, approximately **72,000 people from Morocco** arrived at Ceuta, **Spain's island territory and one of the EU's only land borders with Africa**, in hopes of making it to Spain.
30 और 31 जुलाई के बीच, लगभग **72,000 मोरक्कोवासी** स्पेन के द्वीपीय क्षेत्र और अफ्रीका के साथ यूरोपीय संघ (EU) की कुछ एकमात्र स्थलीय सीमाओं में से एक **सेउटा** पहुँचे, इस आशा में कि वे स्पेन पहुँच सकेंगे।
- Morocco's economy has improved and poverty has been on the decline over the past few years.**
पिछले कुछ वर्षों में **मोरक्को की अर्थव्यवस्था में सुधार** हुआ है और गरीबी में कमी आई है।
- However, this has not resulted in reduced unemployment, specifically among its youth population, who comprised a majority of those who fled to Ceuta.**



हालाँकि, इससे विशेष रूप से उसकी युवा आबादी में बेरोजगारी में कमी नहीं आई है, जबकि सेउटा की ओर भागने वालों में अधिकांश युवा ही थे।

Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji dies aged 97

GS II: IR

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

Zhu Rongji, the former Premier of China who played a key role in driving China's economic reforms and transforming the country into a global economic power, died on Wednesday, aged 97.

Zhu passed away in Beijing from illness, the state-run Xinhua news agency said, adding that an obituary issued by the ruling Communist Party "extolled Zhu as an excellent Party member, a time-tested and loyal communist fighter, and an outstanding proletarian revolutionist, statesman and leader of the Party and the State."

"Boss Zhu", as he came to be known, played a transformative role in driving China's economic restructuring and reforms under then leader Deng Xiaoping, first as the head of the central bank and then as Premier from 1998 until 2003.

"In his one term as Premier," writes the economist Arthur Kroeber in *China's Economy*, "he masterminded the reorganisation and downsizing of State-owned Enterprises (SOEs), recapitalisation and reform of the banking system, privatisation of the housing market, and China's long-delayed entry into the World Trade Organisation. Zhu is widely considered the most effective economic leader in the history of the People's Republic."

Zhu's rise to the top and his emergence as the face of China's reforms were by no means straightforward. Zhu was born in October 1928 in Changsha, the provincial capital of southern Hunan province, sharing the same home as Mao Zedong.

Their similarities ended



Zhu Rongji

there. Graduating from Beijing's Tsinghua University, Zhu found himself in Mao's crosshairs during the 'Anti-Rightist' purge launched by Mao in the late 1950s.

During the 'Hundred Flowers' campaign in 1957, when Mao invited criticisms of his policies, Zhu spoke out about the flawed focus on high growth, an obsession that later had devastating consequences during the 'Great Leap Forward' and famine that claimed millions of lives between 1958 and 1962. For his views, he was purged from the party in 1958, accused of being a "Rightist." During Mao's Cultural Revolution (1966-76), Zhu was sent, along with thousands of other Chinese intellectuals, to do labour in the villages.

After Mao's death, Zhu and many others were rehabilitated by Deng Xiaoping. Zhu was sent to lead Shanghai in 1988, first as mayor and then as the party boss. He spearheaded the setting up of Pudong — then barren farmland — as a pilot area of reforms and opened up Shanghai to foreign investment.

In 1989, amid inflation and corruption during the first decade of Deng's economic reforms, the student movement calling for democracy and political reforms had posed an existential threat to the Communist Party before its brutal crushing by Deng

and then Premier Li Peng.

Zhu was brought to Beijing to help fix the economy. He was appointed Governor of the People's Bank of China, and Vice Premier. Zhu helped bring down inflation and protect the economy during the Asian Financial Crisis. His reward was his appointment to succeed Li as Premier in 1998.

Zhu broke up the SOEs — a painful reform that led to millions losing their jobs and the end of the "iron rice bowl" of state-guaranteed jobs and benefits — and opened up the housing market.

In 2002, Zhu visited India as Premier as the guest of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, pushing for closer economic ties between the two countries.

Zhu told Vajpayee that both countries had "similar national conditions as both of them are engaged in all-round economic reform", and "faced with the common task of developing their economies should compare notes and learn from each other in their process of development".

Trade between the two countries grew rapidly from around \$4 billion at the time of his visit, to more than \$70 billion within a decade, when China, which had grown into a lynchpin of global trade, became India's biggest trade partner. Visiting the Infosys campus in Bengaluru, he famously declared that "India is number one in software, and China is number one in hardware." "If we put these together, we can become the world's number one."

He reportedly took "15 minutes" to approve, on the spot, a request from Infosys to open an office in Shanghai, which remains today.

13A8. Former Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji dies aged 97

चीन के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री झू रोंगजी का 97 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

• **Zhu Rongji**, the former Premier of China who played a key role in driving **China's economic reforms** and transforming the country into a global economic power, died on Wednesday, aged 97.

• **चीन के आर्थिक सुधारों** को आगे बढ़ाने और देश को वैश्विक आर्थिक शक्ति में परिवर्तित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने वाले चीन के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री झू रोंगजी का बुधवार को 97 वर्ष की आयु में निधन हो गया।

• **"Boss Zhu"**, as he came to be known, played a transformative role in driving China's economic restructuring and reforms under then leader **Deng Xiaoping**, first as the head of the central bank and then as Premier from **1998 until 2003**.

• **"बॉस झू"** के नाम से प्रसिद्ध झू ने तत्कालीन नेता **देंग शियाओपिंग** के नेतृत्व में चीन के आर्थिक पुनर्गठन और सुधारों को आगे बढ़ाने में परिवर्तनकारी भूमिका निभाई—पहले केंद्रीय बैंक के प्रमुख के रूप में और फिर **1998 से 2003 तक प्रधानमंत्री** के रूप में।

• "In his one term as Premier," writes the economist **Arthur Kroeber** in *China's Economy*, "he masterminded the reorganisation and downsizing of **State-owned Enterprises (SOEs)**, recapitalisation and reform of the banking system, privatisation of the housing market, and China's long-delayed entry into the **World Trade Organisation**."

• अर्थशास्त्री **आर्थर क्रोएबर** ने *चाइनाज़ इकोनॉमी* में लिखा है, "प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में अपने एक कार्यकाल के दौरान उन्होंने सरकारी स्वामित्व वाले उद्यमों (SOEs) के पुनर्गठन और आकार को कम करने, बैंकिंग प्रणाली के पुनर्पूजीकरण एवं सुधार, आवास बाज़ार के निजीकरण

और लंबे समय से लंबित विश्व व्यापार संगठन में चीन के प्रवेश की योजना तैयार की।"

- During the **'Hundred Flowers' campaign in 1957**, when Mao invited criticisms of his policies, Zhu spoke out about the flawed focus on high growth, an obsession that later had devastating consequences during the **'Great Leap Forward'** and famine that claimed millions of lives between **1958 and 1962**.

- 1957 के 'हंड्रेड फ्लावर्स' अभियान के दौरान, जब माओ ने अपनी नीतियों की आलोचना आमंत्रित की, तब झू ने उच्च विकास पर दोषपूर्ण बल दिए जाने के विरुद्ध आवाज़ उठाई। यह जुनून बाद में 'ग्रेट लीप फॉरवर्ड' और उस अकाल के दौरान विनाशकारी सिद्ध हुआ, जिसमें 1958 से 1962 के बीच लाखों लोगों की जान चली गई।
- For his views, he was purged from the party in 1958, accused of being a "Rightist."
- अपने विचारों के कारण उन्हें 1958 में पार्टी से निष्कासित कर दिया गया और उन पर "दक्षिणपंथी" होने का आरोप लगाया गया।
- During Mao's Cultural Revolution (1966-76), Zhu was sent, along with thousands of other Chinese intellectuals, to do labour in the villages.
- माओ की सांस्कृतिक क्रांति (1966-76) के दौरान झू को हजारों अन्य चीनी बुद्धिजीवियों के साथ गाँवों में श्रम करने के लिए भेज दिया गया।
- Zhu broke up the SOEs — a painful reform that led to millions losing their jobs and the end of the "iron rice bowl" of state-guaranteed jobs and benefits — and opened up the housing market.
- झू ने सरकारी स्वामित्व वाले उद्यमों (SOEs) का पुनर्गठन किया—यह एक पीड़ादायक सुधार था, जिसके कारण लाखों लोगों की नौकरियाँ चली गईं और राज्य द्वारा सुनिश्चित नौकरियों एवं लाभों वाली "आयरन राइस बाउल" व्यवस्था समाप्त हो गई—तथा उन्होंने आवास बाज़ार को खोल दिया।
- In 2002, Zhu visited India as Premier as the guest of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, pushing for closer economic ties between the two countries.
- 2002 में, झू ने प्रधानमंत्री के रूप में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के अतिथि के तौर पर भारत की यात्रा की और दोनों देशों के बीच घनिष्ठ आर्थिक संबंधों को प्रोत्साहित किया।
- Trade between the two countries grew rapidly from around \$4 billion at the time of his visit, to more than \$70 billion within a decade, when China, which had grown into a lynchpin of global trade, became India's biggest trade partner.
- दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार उनकी यात्रा के समय लगभग 4 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर एक दशक के भीतर 70 अरब डॉलर से अधिक हो गया। इस दौरान वैश्विक व्यापार की धुरी बन चुका चीन, भारत का सबसे बड़ा व्यापारिक साझेदार बन गया।
- Visiting the Infosys campus in Bengaluru, he famously declared that "India is number one in software, and China is number one in hardware."
- बेंगलुरु स्थित इन्फोसिस परिसर की यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने प्रसिद्ध रूप से कहा था, "भारत सॉफ्टवेयर में पहले स्थान पर है और चीन हार्डवेयर में पहले स्थान पर है।"
- "If we put these together, we can become the world's number one."
- "यदि हम इन दोनों को एक साथ मिला दें, तो हम दुनिया में पहले स्थान पर पहुँच सकते हैं।"

GS Paper III: Economy		13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13A8	Amid Opposition protests, Lok Sabha clears Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill विपक्ष के विरोध-प्रदर्शनों के बीच लोकसभा ने खान एवं खनिज संशोधन विधेयक पारित किया	
13A8	How sustainable is India's E20 push? भारत का E20 अभियान कितना टिकाऊ है?	

Amid Opposition protests, Lok Sabha clears Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill

GS III: Economy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid vocal protests by Opposition members, the Lok Sabha passed a Bill on Wednesday to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act without a debate.

The Lok Sabha took up the Bill for passage after a couple of adjournments earlier in the day. But almost immediately the Opposition trooped into the Well of the House and started shouting slogans.

Revolutionary Socialist Party MP N.K. Premachandran had strongly opposed the introduction of the Bill, arguing that it was against federalism.

When the Chair, Jagdambika Pal, put the Bill to vote, Opposition members started shouting "Adani, Adani".

After the Bill passed, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju objected to Opposition MPs crowding the Well of the House. Mr. Rijiju said the government was ready to debate the issue of student protests



Tumultuous scenes: Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju, G. Kishan Reddy, Arjun Ram Meghwal, and others in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

ests over the NEET paper leaks and urged the Opposition to start discussion.

He also said Union Home Minister Amit Shah was ready to answer questions and informed the House that Mr. Shah had written to the Speaker seeking a debate.

Meanwhile, Mr. Pal appealed to Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal to ask their respective party members to take their seats.

However, Mr. Yadav's attempt to speak proved futile as his microphone was not on and his voice got drowned out in the sloganeering.

The House was adjourned till Thursday.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, prevents State governments from imposing additional taxes, cesses, or levies on mineral rights and gives the Centre greater control over regulating mineral-laden lands.

Introducing the Bill, Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy said divergent fiscal levies by States had created uncertainty in the mineral sector and could raise costs, encourage imports and undermine domestic supply chains.

13A8. Amid Opposition protests, Lok Sabha clears Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill

विपक्ष के विरोध-प्रदर्शनों के बीच लोकसभा ने खान एवं खनिज संशोधन विधेयक पारित किया

• Amid vocal protests by Opposition members, the Lok Sabha passed a Bill on Wednesday to amend the **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act** without a debate.

विपक्षी सदस्यों के जोरदार विरोध के बीच लोकसभा ने बुधवार को **खान और खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) अधिनियम** में संशोधन करने वाला विधेयक बिना किसी बहस के पारित कर दिया।

• The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026**, prevents State governments from imposing additional taxes, cesses, or levies on mineral rights and gives the Centre greater control over regulating mineral-laden lands.

खान और खनिज (विकास एवं विनियमन) संशोधन विधेयक, 2026, राज्य सरकारों को **खनिज अधिकारों पर अतिरिक्त कर, उपकर या शुल्क** लगाने से रोकता है और खनिज-संपदा से युक्त भूमि के विनियमन पर केंद्र को अधिक नियंत्रण प्रदान करता है।

- Introducing the Bill, **Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy** said divergent fiscal levies by States had created uncertainty in the mineral sector and could raise costs, encourage imports and undermine domestic supply chains.

विधेयक पेश करते हुए **कोयला एवं खान मंत्री जी. किशन रेड्डी** ने कहा कि राज्यों द्वारा लगाए जाने वाले **अलग-अलग राजकोषीय शुल्कों** ने खनिज क्षेत्र में अनिश्चितता पैदा की है और इससे लागत बढ़ सकती है, आयात को प्रोत्साहन मिल सकता है तथा **घरेलू आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाएँ कमजोर** हो सकती हैं।



How sustainable is India's E20 push?

In August, the government told the Lok Sabha that the ethanol blending programme had helped save around ₹2 lakh crore in foreign exchange. However, Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal, have launched campaigns against E20, saying it harms vehicles and that the government is forcing it on people

GS III: Economy

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

Opposition leaders such as Rahul Gandhi and Arvind Kejriwal have launched campaigns against E20 saying it harms vehicles and that the government is forcing it on people. Mr. Kejriwal alleged that India has "yielded" to pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to buy ethanol from the United States.

What is the status of production?

The government's target was to produce 10-11 billion litres of ethanol so that 20% of petrol used in transport vehicles could come from ethanol produced in India, with the money being funnelled into the Indian economy rather than becoming a foreign exchange outgo through crude oil imports. Taking advantage of the policy push, India's distillery capacity has ramped up and is now capable of producing some 18-20 billion litres from some 500 distilleries. For this ethanol year, which runs November to October, the oil companies have contracted to procure some 10.5 billion litres of ethanol.

Will it spur corn imports from U.S.?

There is no evidence of a surge in ethanol or maize (corn) imports in Ministry of Commerce statistics. In any case, direct ethanol import for petroleum blending is banned, though the U.S. corn lobby has been pushing for India to increase corn imports. Government figures for this ethanol year show that 45% of the ethanol for petrol blending will come from maize, FCI rice some 22%, sugarcane juice 16%, B-heavy molasses some 10%, damaged foodgrains around 4.5% and C-heavy molasses 1.1%. India's maize output grew by 45% in three years to 55 million tonnes in 2025-26, with more than 20% of it going into ethanol, says Shankar Lal Jat of Indian Council of Maize Research, adding that there is no need to import it.



Policy push: A billboard promoting E20 fuel policy at a fuel station in New Delhi, AP

Sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses go into sugar production and they are now being diverted to ethanol. The Indian Sugar Manufacturers' Association reported that the closing stock of sugar in September of 2025 was around 5 million tonnes, and this year too, the closing stock is expected to be 5 million tonnes. This indicates the diversion to ethanol has not affected sugar availability or stocks. Yet, in the event of a monsoon failure, crop losses and foodgrain shortages, the diversion of FCI rice, sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses to ethanol production will come under stress, raising the possibility of corn imports.

Should we be worried about using E20 in our vehicles?

If you bought your vehicle after April 2023, you can fill your petrol tank with E20, shut it and forget it because that's when the Bharat Stage 6 Phase 2 (Real Driving Emissions) mandate took effect. Vehicles built after this deadline were factory-engineered for E20 – with ethanol-resistant elastomers, fluorinated fuel lines, upgraded pump seals and recalibrated engine control units. These roughly 70 million vehicles, about 23% of India's active petrol fleet, face little cause

for concern.

The remaining 77% – nearly 240 million legacy two-wheelers and cars built for E5 or E10 – are the genuine worry. Ethanol is a polar solvent that degrades older rubber compounds and plastics, hardening and cracking fuel hoses over time. It is also hygroscopic: it absorbs atmospheric moisture, and in vehicles left parked for extended periods, the ethanol-water mixture separates and settles, forming an acidic layer that corrodes tanks, damages fuel pumps and clogs filters with sludge. Consumer surveys by LocalCircles found 66% of pre-2023 owners reporting mileage losses exceeding 10%, and 55% reporting increased maintenance. IIT Kanpur's Engine Research Laboratory maintains that E20 causes no notable damage, with efficiency loss under 5% – attributing most complaints to driving habits and traffic conditions. But independent mechanics and automotive communities dispute this, citing real-world fuel pump and injector failures traced to ethanol's solvent and low-lubricity properties.

The government told Parliament in August that one leading automobile manufacturer had serviced 2.84 crore

vehicles in FY 2025-26, including about 1.5 crore legacy vehicles, without finding E20-linked engine damage. Another two-wheeler maker reported similar findings. On mileage, it said government and manufacturer studies showed an efficiency penalty of about 2 to 6% in some vehicles designed for E10, though this too was influenced by driving conditions, habits and maintenance.

A transparent and more phased rollout such as in Brazil, where the transition to high levels of ethanol along with modifications to vehicles happened over several decades in a stable manner, would have taken the people into confidence. In India, the 10% milestone was reached in 2022. Within three years, the blending was ramped up to 20% with very little information and advisories coming from manufacturers.

Has ethanol blending helped mitigate oil supply crisis?

In August, the government said in Lok Sabha that so far, the ethanol blending programme has led to saving of around ₹2 lakh crore of foreign exchange and substituting of some 32 million tonnes of crude oil imports. Substituting 10 billion litres of petrol with ethanol would mean dispensing with a month of crude imports.

The government also told Parliament that while crude oil prices had gone up 70% during the war in West Asia, petrol prices at the pump had gone up by only 7 to 8% although under-recoveries had also increased. The OMCs procure ethanol at around ₹70 per litre for blending, compared with a pump price of around ₹105 per litre of petrol. The base price of petrol, which includes the cost of production, transportation and OMC margins, is typically 55-60% of the petrol pump price. On the surface, it appears that ethanol is not less costly than petrol but the issue is complex. Ethanol and petrol follow different costing and tax regimes, and it would be difficult to make an independent inference on whether ethanol has helped keep prices down, as the government claims.

THE GIST

The government's target was to produce 10-11 billion litres of ethanol so 20% of petrol used in transport vehicles could come from ethanol produced in India, with the money being funnelled into the Indian economy.

Vehicles built after this April 2023 were factory-engineered for E20, with ethanol-resistant elastomers, fluorinated fuel lines, upgraded pump seals and recalibrated engine control units.

13A8. How sustainable is India's E20 push?

भारत का E20 अभियान कितना टिकाऊ है?

- The government's target was to produce **10-11 billion litres of ethanol** so that 20% of petrol used in transport vehicles could come from ethanol produced in India, with the money being funnelled into the Indian economy rather than becoming a foreign exchange outgo through crude oil imports.

सरकार का लक्ष्य **10-11 अरब लीटर इथेनॉल** का उत्पादन करना था, ताकि परिवहन वाहनों में इस्तेमाल होने वाले पेट्रोल का 20% हिस्सा भारत में उत्पादित इथेनॉल से आ सके और यह धन कच्चे तेल के आयात के माध्यम से विदेशी मुद्रा के रूप में बाहर जाने के बजाय भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था में प्रवाहित हो।

- Taking advantage of the policy push, India's distillery capacity has ramped up and is now capable of producing some **18-20 billion litres** from some 500 distilleries. नीतिगत प्रोत्साहन का लाभ उठाते हुए भारत की **डिस्टिलरी क्षमता** में वृद्धि हुई है और अब लगभग 500 डिस्टिलरियों से करीब **18-20 अरब लीटर इथेनॉल** का उत्पादन करने की क्षमता है।

- For this ethanol year, which runs November to October, the oil companies have contracted to procure some **10.5 billion litres of ethanol**. इस **इथेनॉल वर्ष**, जो नवंबर से अक्टूबर तक चलता है, के लिए तेल कंपनियों ने लगभग **10.5 अरब लीटर इथेनॉल** खरीदने के अनुबंध किए हैं।

Will it spur corn imports from U.S.?

क्या इससे अमेरिका से मक्का आयात को बढ़ावा मिलेगा?

- There is no evidence of a surge in ethanol or maize (corn) imports in Ministry of Commerce statistics.

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के आँकड़ों में इथेनॉल या मक्का (कॉर्न) के आयात में किसी तेज वृद्धि का कोई प्रमाण नहीं है।

- In any case, direct ethanol import for petroleum blending is banned, though the U.S. corn lobby has been pushing for India to increase corn imports.
किसी भी स्थिति में, पेट्रोलियम मिश्रण के लिए प्रत्यक्ष इथेनॉल आयात प्रतिबंधित है, हालांकि अमेरिकी मक्का लॉबी भारत पर मक्का आयात बढ़ाने के लिए दबाव डालती रही है।
- Government figures for this ethanol year show that **45%** of the ethanol for petrol blending will come from maize, FCI rice some **22%**, sugarcane juice **16%**, B-heavy molasses some **10%**, damaged foodgrains around **4.5%** and C-heavy molasses **1.1%**.
इस इथेनॉल वर्ष के लिए सरकारी आँकड़ों से पता चलता है कि पेट्रोल मिश्रण के लिए इस्तेमाल होने वाले इथेनॉल का **45%** मक्के से, FCI चावल से लगभग **22%**, गन्ने के रस से **16%**, B-heavy molasses से लगभग **10%**, क्षतिग्रस्त खाद्यान्नों से लगभग **4.5%** और C-heavy molasses से **1.1%** आएगा।
- India's maize output grew by **45% in three years to 55 million tonnes in 2025-26**, with more than 20% of it going into ethanol, says Shankar Lal Jat of Indian Council of Maize Research, adding that there is no need to import it.
Indian Council of Maize Research के शंकर लाल जाट के अनुसार, भारत का मक्का उत्पादन तीन वर्षों में **45% बढ़कर 2025-26 में 55 मिलियन टन** हो गया, जिसमें से 20% से अधिक इथेनॉल उत्पादन में जा रहा है; उन्होंने कहा कि इसे आयात करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses go into sugar production and they are now being diverted to ethanol.
गन्ने का रस और **B-heavy molasses** चीनी उत्पादन में उपयोग किए जाते हैं और अब उन्हें इथेनॉल उत्पादन की ओर मोड़ा जा रहा है।
- The Indian Sugar Manufacturers' Association reported that the closing stock of sugar in September of 2025 was around **5 million tonnes**, and this year too, the closing stock is expected to be 5 million tonnes.
Indian Sugar Manufacturers' Association ने बताया कि सितंबर 2025 में चीनी का अंतिम भंडार लगभग **5 मिलियन टन** था और इस वर्ष भी अंतिम भंडार 5 मिलियन टन रहने की उम्मीद है।
- This indicates the diversion to ethanol has not affected sugar availability or stocks.
यह दर्शाता है कि इथेनॉल की ओर किए गए इस **विचलन** ने चीनी की उपलब्धता या भंडार को प्रभावित नहीं किया है।
- Yet, in the event of a **monsoon failure**, crop losses and foodgrain shortages, the diversion of FCI rice, sugarcane juice and B-heavy molasses to ethanol production will come under stress, raising the possibility of corn imports.
फिर भी, **मानसून विफलता**, फसल नुकसान और खाद्यान्न की कमी की स्थिति में FCI चावल, गन्ने के रस और B-heavy molasses को इथेनॉल उत्पादन की ओर मोड़ने की प्रक्रिया दबाव में आ जाएगी, जिससे **मक्का आयात की संभावना** बढ़ सकती है।

Should we be worried about using E20 in our vehicles?

क्या हमें अपने वाहनों में E20 के उपयोग को लेकर चिंतित होना चाहिए?

- If you bought your vehicle after April 2023, you can fill your petrol tank with **E20**, shut it and forget it because that's when the **Bharat Stage 6 Phase 2 (Real Driving Emissions)** mandate took effect.
यदि आपने अप्रैल 2023 के बाद अपना वाहन खरीदा है, तो आप अपने पेट्रोल टैंक में **E20** भर सकते हैं और निश्चित रह सकते हैं, क्योंकि इसी समय **Bharat Stage 6 Phase 2 (Real Driving Emissions)** मानक लागू हुआ था।
- Vehicles built after this deadline were factory-engineered for E20 — with **ethanol-resistant elastomers**, fluorinated fuel lines, upgraded pump seals and recalibrated engine control units.

इस समय-सीमा के बाद निर्मित वाहनों को कारखाने में ही E20 के अनुकूल बनाया गया था—इनमें इथेनॉल-प्रतिरोधी इलास्टोमर्स, फ्लोरीनेटेड ईंधन लाइनें, उन्नत पंप सील और पुनः-कैलिब्रेटेड इंजन नियंत्रण इकाइयाँ शामिल हैं।

- These roughly **70 million vehicles**, about 23% of India's active petrol fleet, face little cause for concern.

लगभग 70 मिलियन वाहन, जो भारत के सक्रिय पेट्रोल वाहनों के बेड़े का लगभग 23% हैं, के लिए चिंता का बहुत कम कारण है।

- The remaining **77% — nearly 240 million legacy two-wheelers and cars built for E5 or E10 — are the genuine worry.**

शेष 77%—लगभग 240 मिलियन पुराने दोपहिया वाहन और E5 या E10 के लिए निर्मित कारें—वास्तविक चिंता का विषय हैं।

- Ethanol is a **polar solvent** that degrades older rubber compounds and plastics, hardening and cracking fuel hoses over time.

इथेनॉल एक ध्रुवीय विलायक (polar solvent) है, जो पुराने रबर यौगिकों और प्लास्टिक को खराब करता है तथा समय के साथ ईंधन होज़ को कठोर और उनमें दरार पैदा कर सकता है।

- It is also **hygroscopic**: it absorbs atmospheric moisture, and in vehicles left parked for extended periods, the ethanol-water mixture separates and settles, forming an acidic layer that corrodes tanks, damages fuel pumps and clogs filters with sludge.

यह आर्द्रताग्राही (hygroscopic) भी है: यह वायुमंडलीय नमी को अवशोषित करता है और लंबे समय तक खड़े रहने वाले वाहनों में इथेनॉल-पानी का मिश्रण अलग होकर नीचे जम जाता है, जिससे एक अम्लीय परत बनती है जो टैंकों को क्षतिग्रस्त करती है, ईंधन पंपों को नुकसान पहुँचाती है और फिल्टरों को तलछट से जाम कर देती है।

- Consumer surveys by LocalCircles found **66% of pre-2023 owners** reporting mileage losses exceeding 10%, and 55% reporting increased maintenance.

LocalCircles के उपभोक्ता सर्वेक्षणों में पाया गया कि 2023 से पहले के 66% वाहन मालिकों ने 10% से अधिक माइलेज में कमी की सूचना दी, जबकि 55% ने रखरखाव में वृद्धि की बात कही।

- **IIT Kanpur's Engine Research Laboratory** maintains that E20 causes no notable damage, with efficiency loss under 5% — attributing most complaints to driving habits and traffic conditions.

IIT Kanpur की Engine Research Laboratory का कहना है कि E20 से कोई उल्लेखनीय क्षति नहीं होती और दक्षता में कमी 5% से कम रहती है—अधिकांश शिकायतों के लिए वह ड्राइविंग आदतों और यातायात की स्थितियों को जिम्मेदार मानती है।

- But independent mechanics and automotive communities dispute this, citing real-world fuel pump and injector failures traced to ethanol's solvent and low-lubricity properties.

लेकिन स्वतंत्र मैकेनिक और ऑटोमोटिव समुदाय इस बात से असहमत हैं और वास्तविक परिस्थितियों में ईंधन पंप तथा इंजेक्टर की विफलताओं का हवाला देते हैं, जिन्हें इथेनॉल के विलायक और कम चिकनाई वाले गुणों से जोड़ा गया है।

- The government told Parliament in August that one leading automobile manufacturer had serviced **2.84 crore vehicles in FY 2025-26**, including about 1.5 crore legacy vehicles, without finding E20-linked engine damage.

सरकार ने अगस्त में संसद को बताया कि एक प्रमुख ऑटोमोबाइल निर्माता ने वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 में 2.84 करोड़ वाहनों की सर्विस की, जिनमें लगभग 1.5 करोड़ पुराने वाहन शामिल थे, और इनमें E20 से संबंधित इंजन क्षति नहीं पाई गई।

- Another two-wheeler maker reported similar findings.

एक अन्य दोपहिया वाहन निर्माता ने भी इसी प्रकार के निष्कर्षों की जानकारी दी।

- On mileage, it said government and manufacturer studies showed an **efficiency penalty of about 2 to 6%** in some vehicles designed for E10, though this too was influenced by driving conditions, habits and maintenance.



माइलेज के संबंध में सरकार ने कहा कि सरकारी और निर्माता अध्ययनों में E10 के लिए बनाए गए कुछ वाहनों में लगभग 2 से 6% की दक्षता में कमी दिखाई गई, हालांकि यह भी ड्राइविंग की परिस्थितियों, आदतों और रखरखाव से प्रभावित थी।

- A transparent and more phased rollout such as in **Brazil**, where the transition to high levels of ethanol along with modifications to vehicles happened over several decades in a stable manner, would have taken the people into confidence.
ब्राज़ील की तरह अधिक पारदर्शी और चरणबद्ध तरीके से इसे लागू किया जाता, जहाँ वाहनों में संशोधन के साथ उच्च स्तर के इथेनॉल की ओर संक्रमण कई दशकों में स्थिर रूप से हुआ, तो इससे लोगों का विश्वास प्राप्त किया जा सकता था।
- In India, the **10% milestone was reached in 2022**.
भारत में **10% का लक्ष्य 2022 में हासिल** किया गया।
- Within three years, the blending was ramped up to **20%** with very little information and advisories coming from manufacturers.
तीन वर्षों के भीतर मिश्रण का स्तर **20%** तक बढ़ा दिया गया, जबकि निर्माताओं की ओर से बहुत कम जानकारी और परामर्श जारी किए गए।

Has ethanol blending helped mitigate oil supply crisis?

क्या इथेनॉल मिश्रण ने तेल आपूर्ति संकट को कम करने में मदद की है?

- In August, the government said in Lok Sabha that so far, the **ethanol blending programme** has led to saving of around **₹2 lakh crore of foreign exchange** and substituting of some 32 million tonnes of crude oil imports.
अगस्त में सरकार ने लोकसभा में कहा कि अब तक **इथेनॉल मिश्रण कार्यक्रम** के कारण लगभग **₹2 लाख करोड़ की विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत हुई है** और लगभग 32 मिलियन टन कच्चे तेल के आयात का स्थानापन्न किया गया है।
- Substituting **10 billion litres of petrol with ethanol** would mean dispensing with a month of crude imports.
10 अरब लीटर पेट्रोल को इथेनॉल से प्रतिस्थापित करने का अर्थ एक महीने के कच्चे तेल के आयात को समाप्त करना होगा।
- The government also told Parliament that while crude oil prices had gone up **70% during the war in West Asia**, petrol prices at the pump had gone up by only 7 to 8% although under-recoveries had also increased.
सरकार ने संसद को यह भी बताया कि **पश्चिम एशिया में युद्ध के दौरान कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में 70% की वृद्धि हुई**, जबकि पंप पर पेट्रोल की कीमतों में केवल 7 से 8% की वृद्धि हुई, हालांकि अंडर-रिकवरी भी बढ़ी थी।
- The OMCs procure ethanol at around **₹70 per litre** for blending, compared with a pump price of around ₹105 per litre of petrol.
तेल विपणन कंपनियाँ (OMCs) मिश्रण के लिए इथेनॉल लगभग **₹70 प्रति लीटर** की दर से खरीदती हैं, जबकि पेट्रोल का पंप मूल्य लगभग ₹105 प्रति लीटर है।
- The base price of petrol, which includes the cost of production, transportation and OMC margins, is typically **55-60% of the petrol pump price**.
पेट्रोल का आधार मूल्य, जिसमें उत्पादन, परिवहन और OMC मार्जिन की लागत शामिल होती है, सामान्यतः **पेट्रोल के पंप मूल्य का 55-60%** होता है।
- On the surface, it appears that ethanol is not less costly than petrol but the issue is complex. ऊपरी तौर पर ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि इथेनॉल पेट्रोल की तुलना में कम लागत वाला नहीं है, लेकिन यह मुद्दा जटिल है।
- Ethanol and petrol follow different costing and tax regimes, and it would be difficult to make an independent inference on whether ethanol has helped keep prices down, as the



government claims.

इथेनॉल और पेट्रोल के लिए अलग-अलग लागत और कर व्यवस्थाएँ लागू होती हैं और इस बारे में स्वतंत्र निष्कर्ष निकालना कठिन होगा कि क्या इथेनॉल ने, जैसा कि सरकार का दावा है, कीमतों को कम रखने में मदद की है।

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
13A8	What psychiatric genetics can and cannot tell an Indian family मनोरोग आनुवंशिकी भारतीय परिवार को क्या बता सकती है और क्या नहीं	
13A8	Kazakhstan, desperate for rain, turns to cloud-seeding वर्षा के लिए बेताब कज़ाख़स्तान ने क्लाउड-सीडिंग का सहारा लिया	



What psychiatric genetics can and cannot tell an Indian family

What can genetics usefully do in your consultation room today? It can reduce blame: a mother did not cause schizophrenia by being 'too strict'; a father did not 'transmit' bipolar disorder through a moral failing; biology matters and families often find that acknowledgement to be a relief

GS III: S&T
Alok Kulkarni

When a young man was brought to my clinic after his first episode of psychosis, his parents wanted to know when he could return to college.

This is not an atypical first interaction. However, in many instances, after a few consultations later and especially once the immediate crisis had settled, the questions would take a different turn.

"Is this in our blood?" a parent would ask. And should their child undergo a genetic test?

I could often tell that they were thinking about whether they had 'caused' the illness, whether their child's future was foregone, and whether the diagnosis would affect marriage prospects and the ability to have healthy children.

Broadly, families rarely ask about psychiatric genetics out of scientific curiosity. They ask because they are looking for an explanation and, indeed, relief from blame.

Sources of risk

This is where colloquialisms like "genes for schizophrenia" or "genes for depression" do a lot of harm. Psychiatric genetics has made remarkable progress in recent years and, as doctors and medical researchers, we know that genes do not determine a person's destiny. But there is also another equally important message: vulnerability is distributed and complicated but also inseparable from the life in which it is expressed.

The engine of much of this progress is the genome-wide association study (GWAS). Instead of choosing a few candidate genes to study, researchers use GWAS to compare millions of common genetic variants across very large groups of people with and without a condition. The point is to find out whether some variants appear more often in one particular group.

In common psychiatric disorders, no single gene variant has an effect comparable to the effects of single genes in monogenic diseases like Tay-Sachs disease or Duchenne muscular dystrophy. In other words, risk is polygenic: it emerges from the combined influence of thousands of variants, along with rare genetic changes, development, environment, and chance.

Signals in genomes

In 2022, a landmark schizophrenia study involving tens of thousands of people identified associations at 287 genomic regions and pointed to genes active in neurons and synapses. A similarly large bipolar disorder study in 2021 identified 64 associated regions. Both these GWAS studies showed where researchers could look for biological mechanisms underlying these conditions – and possible treatment options.

That said, a genomic region is not the same as a gene, and association is not causation. Many 'signals' lie in stretches of DNA that regulate when and where genes are switched 'on' rather than directly encoding a protein. Several genes



Psychiatric genetics won't identify people before they fall ill, but it can replace superstition and blame with a more accurate account of vulnerability. GETTY IMAGES

may sit near the same signal. The relevant effect may occur during a narrow period of brain development. A GWAS is more like a satellite map that highlights areas of interest; to drill down beyond that, scientists have to use other tools.

GWAS studies have also exposed a mismatch between traditional diagnostics and biology. For example, in a December 2025 study in *Nature*, researchers reported that some inherited risk is shared across schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. This does not mean diagnoses become meaningless. A diagnosis is still useful to guide treatment and communicate the prognosis to the patients and their families. At the same time, the finding suggests that nature has not organised mental illness according to the chapter headings of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

Reasons to be cautious

Some groups have still tried to compress all these small effects into a combined polygenic risk score – a single number they intend to use to estimate a person's inherited susceptibility. While such scores can be useful in specific areas of research, they cannot say whether a person will become ill, at what age, how severe the condition will be or which medicine will work. A person with a higher polygenic risk score may also remain well while a person with a lower score may develop illness. This is because the score captures only a part of genetic liability, and it does not 'contain' childhood adversity, sleep disruption, substance use, medical illness, social support, access to timely care, and so on.

The International Society of Psychiatric

Genetics has cautioned that current polygenic risk scores for schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression are not sufficiently accurate for routine clinical prediction.

Indian psychiatrists have one more reason to be cautious. Genomic databases have historically drawn disproportionately from people of European ancestry. Scores developed from those datasets are often less accurate in other populations because the frequencies and correlations of genetic variants differ by ancestry. Even "Indian ancestry" is too blunt a label. The GenomeIndia project, which generated whole-genome data from 10,000 healthy, unrelated Indians across 83 population groups, documented an extraordinary genetic diversity. India cannot simply import a score developed elsewhere, test it in a small urban sample, and assume it applies to all its peoples.

All this is to say that psychiatric genomics has its value when exercised properly: by involving diverse populations in research and clinicians and communities when deciding how data will be used, and protecting privacy and refusing to allow the enthusiasm of commerce to outrun science.

Protecting probabilities

What, then, can genetics usefully change in your consultation room today? It can reduce blame. A mother did not cause schizophrenia by being "too strict". A father did not 'transmit' bipolar disorder through a moral failing. Biology matters and families often find that acknowledgement to be a relief.

Genetic vulnerability should not be converted into fatalism. The risks I

encounter are often visible even without genetic sequencing: several nights without sleep before a manic episode, escalating cannabis use in a vulnerable young person, treatment stopped because of stigma, months lost because specialist care is too far away. I told one of the families that mental illnesses can cluster in families but also that there is no genetic test yet that can declare their son to be 'safe' or 'doomed'. He should not be treated as a patient-in-waiting. The more useful approach is to track the early warning signs, avoid intoxicants, sleep well, seek help promptly if sustained changes appear, and focus on recovery.

Psychiatric genetics will probably become clinically more useful as datasets become larger and more representative, and as scientists better combine genetic findings with developmental, clinical, and environmental information. It may even help divide broad syndromes into biologically meaningful subgroups or identify new drug targets. However, predicting what will happen in future will also remain probabilistic; that will not change. And just as well, we must work to keep probabilities from being misunderstood, stigmatised or commercialised.

If you take one message away from this article: psychiatric genetics will not identify people before they fall ill but it can replace superstition and blame with a more accurate account of vulnerability. Genes load the dice but you can still strategise your way through the game.

(Dr. Alok Kulkarni is a senior consultant psychiatrist at the Manas Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Hubballi, Karnataka. alokkulkarni@gmail.com)

13A8. What psychiatric genetics can and cannot tell an Indian family

मनोरोग आनुवंशिकी भारतीय परिवार को क्या बता सकती है और क्या नहीं

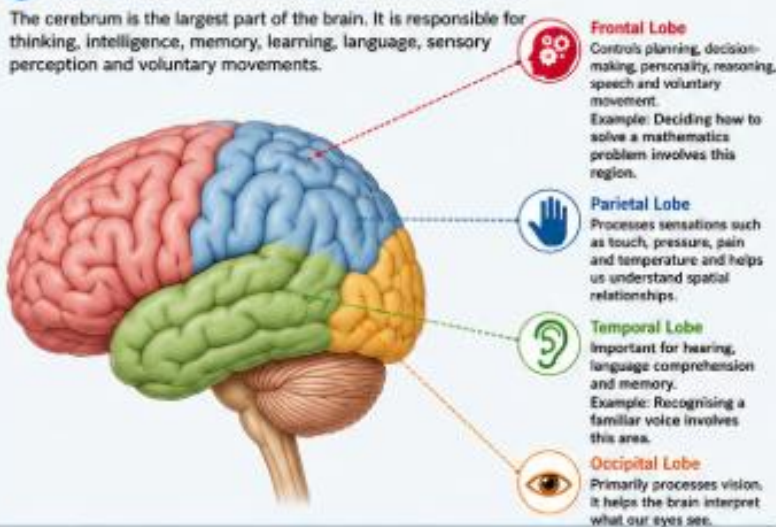
- Broadly, families rarely ask about **psychiatric genetics** out of scientific curiosity. व्यापक रूप से देखा जाए तो परिवार मनोरोग आनुवंशिकी के बारे में शायद ही कभी वैज्ञानिक जिज्ञासा के कारण पूछते हैं।

- This is where colloquialisms like “genes for schizophrenia” or “genes for depression” do a lot of harm.
यहीं “सिज़ोफ्रेनिया के जीन” या “अवसाद के जीन” जैसे आम बोलचाल के शब्द बहुत नुकसान पहुँचाते हैं।
- In common psychiatric disorders, no single gene variant has an effect comparable to the effects of single genes in monogenic diseases like **Tay-Sachs disease** or **Duchenne muscular dystrophy**.
सामान्य मनोरोग विकारों में किसी एक जीन की कोई एक विविधता ऐसा प्रभाव नहीं डालती जो **Tay-Sachs disease** या **Duchenne muscular dystrophy** जैसी एकल-जीन संबंधी बीमारियों में पाए जाने वाले एकल जीन के प्रभाव के समान हो।

MAJOR PARTS OF THE BRAIN AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

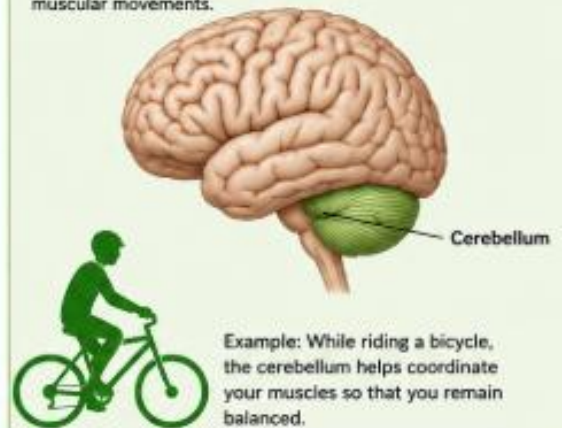
1 CEREBRUM – Thinking and Voluntary Actions

The cerebrum is the largest part of the brain. It is responsible for thinking, intelligence, memory, learning, language, sensory perception and voluntary movements.



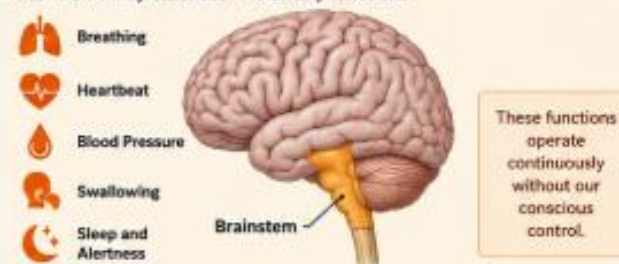
2 CEREBELLUM – Balance and Coordination

Located at the back of the brain, the cerebellum coordinates balance, posture and smooth muscular movements.



3 BRAINSTEM – Basic Life-Support Functions

The brainstem connects the brain with the spinal cord. It controls many essential involuntary functions.



4 THALAMUS – Information Relay Centre

The thalamus acts somewhat like a relay station. Most sensory information travelling toward the cerebral cortex passes through it for further processing.



5 HYPOTHALAMUS – Body's Internal Regulator

The hypothalamus helps maintain body temperature, hunger, thirst, sleep and hormonal regulation.

Through its relationship with the pituitary gland, it plays a major role in the endocrine system.



EASY RECALL: Cerebrum = Think | Cerebellum = Balance | Brainstem = Survive | Thalamus = Relay | Hypothalamus = Regulate

- In other words, risk is **polygenic**: it emerges from the combined influence of thousands of

variants, along with rare genetic changes, development, environment, and chance.
दूसरे शब्दों में, जोखिम बहु-जनीन (polygenic) होता है: यह हजारों आनुवंशिक विविधताओं के संयुक्त प्रभाव के साथ-साथ दुर्लभ आनुवंशिक परिवर्तनों, विकास, पर्यावरण और संयोग से उत्पन्न होता है।

Signals in genomes जीनोम में संकेत

- In 2022, a landmark schizophrenia study involving tens of thousands of people identified associations at **287 genomic regions** and pointed to genes active in neurons and synapses. 2022 में, हजारों लोगों को शामिल करने वाले सिज़ोफ्रेनिया के एक महत्वपूर्ण अध्ययन ने **287 जीनोमिक क्षेत्रों** में संबद्धताओं की पहचान की और न्यूरोन्स तथा सिनैप्स में सक्रिय जीनों की ओर संकेत किया।
- A similarly large **bipolar disorder** study in 2021 identified **64 associated regions**. इसी प्रकार, 2021 में किए गए एक बड़े **बाइपोलर डिसऑर्डर** अध्ययन ने **64 संबद्ध क्षेत्रों** की पहचान की।
- For example, in a December 2025 study in Nature, researchers reported that some inherited risk is shared across **schizophrenia and bipolar disorder**. उदाहरण के लिए, दिसंबर 2025 में Nature में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन में शोधकर्ताओं ने बताया कि कुछ **आनुवंशिक रूप से विरासत में मिलने वाला जोखिम** सिज़ोफ्रेनिया और बाइपोलर डिसऑर्डर दोनों में साझा होता है।
- This is because the score captures only a part of genetic liability, and it does not 'contain' childhood adversity, sleep disruption, substance use, medical illness, social support, access to timely care, and so on. ऐसा इसलिए है क्योंकि यह स्कोर **आनुवंशिक जोखिम** के केवल एक हिस्से को दर्शाता है और इसमें बचपन की प्रतिकूल परिस्थितियाँ, नींद में व्यवधान, मादक पदार्थों का उपयोग, चिकित्सीय बीमारी, सामाजिक समर्थन, समय पर उपचार तक पहुँच आदि शामिल नहीं होते।
- The risks I encounter are often visible even without **genetic sequencing**: several nights without sleep before a manic episode, escalating cannabis use in a vulnerable young person, treatment stopped because of stigma, months lost because specialist care is too far away. मेरे सामने आने वाले जोखिम अक्सर **आनुवंशिक अनुक्रमण** के बिना भी दिखाई देते हैं: उन्मत्त प्रकरण से पहले कई रातों तक नींद न आना, किसी संवेदनशील युवा व्यक्ति द्वारा बढ़ता हुआ कैनाबिस सेवन, कलंक के कारण उपचार बंद कर देना, तथा विशेषज्ञ चिकित्सा बहुत दूर होने के कारण कई महीनों का समय व्यर्थ हो जाना।



Kazakhstan, desperate for rain, turns to cloud-seeding

GS III: S&T
Agence France Presse

There were only arid steppes in sight when a small plane took off from an airport in southern Kazakhstan, embarking on a delicate mission: bringing rain for the scorched earth below.

To tackle the severe droughts and water shortages that plague the country, Kazakhstan has resorted to cloud seeding, a weather modification method previously unseen in Central Asia.

"The aircraft is specifically equipped with a cloud-seeding flare system," Ahmed Aljaberi, a pilot with the United Arab Emirates's meteorological centre, which conducts cloud seeding at home and is collaborating with Kazakhstan on the project, explained.

Cartridges fixed on the aircraft's wings contain a substance that, when dispersed, sticks to cloud droplets, making them heavy enough to fall as rain.

Kazakh authorities are betting on cloud seeding to reduce the impact of drought and water shortages in its southern Turkestan area, the country's leading cotton-growing region.

Areas in the region with some 9,110 square kilometres of arable land are being targeted, with estimated economic benefits of around \$75 million a year through better harvests.

Kazakh authorities are betting on cloud seeding to reduce the impact of drought and water shortages in its southern Turkestan area, the country's leading cotton-growing region

Delivering droplets onto the parched crops requires meticulous preparation to identify suitable clouds.

The plane must "get as close as possible, detect the updrafts, and begin seeding," Mr. Aljaberi said on board the flight.

At best, the technique can increase precipitation by 15% to 20%, according to various scientific studies.

But those involved also highlight the significant risk of failure due to numerous factors, not least because not just any cloud can be seeded.

"Salt particles – specifically sodium chloride and potassium chloride – are most often used" as cloud-seeding agents, said Adnan Yarmohammed, one of the Emirati officials in charge of sharing his country's experience.

The techniques vary: either seeding rockets are burned to release a plume of particles, or the saline solution is sprayed directly into the cloud for greater precision.

This "weighs down the droplets," which "grow from a few micrometres to several millimetres: up to two or three. They fall, and it rains," explained Mr. Yarmohammed.

He added that the technique "does not create new clouds".

The Kazakh meteorological service said the impact of the project is "local and short-lived," and that it "does not affect climate processes or alter the movement of air masses".

The effects of boosting rainfall through cloud seeding remain uncertain, its consequences difficult to measure, and its large-scale application costly.

The World Meteorological Organization has called for more scientific research, pointing to a "rise in demand for these activities ... due to the frequency of droughts".

The UN organisation has also ruled out any danger to human health or the environment and acknowledged potential economic benefits if the technique proved successful. The method, already used in around 50 countries to combat drought, hail, and air pollution, is new for Central Asia – a region warming twice as fast as the global average.

13A8. Kazakhstan, desperate for rain, turns to cloud- seeding

वर्षा के लिए बेताब

कज़ाख़स्तान ने क्लाउड-
सीडिंग का सहारा लिया

- To tackle the severe droughts and water shortages that plague the country, Kazakhstan has resorted to cloud seeding, a weather modification method previously unseen in Central Asia.

देश को प्रभावित करने वाले गंभीर सूखे और जल-संकट से निपटने के लिए कज़ाख़स्तान ने क्लाउड-सीडिंग (मेघ बीजन) का सहारा लिया है, जो मध्य एशिया में पहले नहीं अपनाई गई मौसम संशोधन की एक विधि है।

- "The aircraft is specifically equipped with a cloud-seeding flare system," Ahmed Aljaberi, a pilot with the United Arab Emirates's meteorological centre, which conducts cloud seeding at home and is collaborating with Kazakhstan on the project, explained. संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र के पायलट अहमद अलजाबेरी, जिसका केंद्र अपने देश में क्लाउड-

सीडिंग करता है और इस परियोजना पर कज़ाख़स्तान के साथ सहयोग कर रहा है, ने बताया, "विमान में विशेष रूप से एक क्लाउड-सीडिंग फ्लेयर प्रणाली लगाई गई है।"

- Cartridges fixed on the aircraft's wings contain a substance that, when dispersed, sticks to cloud droplets, making them heavy enough to fall as rain.

विमान के पंखों पर लगे कारतूसों में एक ऐसा पदार्थ होता है, जो फैलाए जाने पर बादल की बूंदों से चिपक जाता है और उन्हें इतना भारी बना देता है कि वे वर्षा के रूप में नीचे गिर सकें।



- Kazakh authorities are betting on cloud seeding to reduce the impact of drought and water shortages in its southern **Turkestan area**, the country's leading cotton-growing region. कज़ाख अधिकारी देश के प्रमुख कपास उत्पादक क्षेत्र, दक्षिणी तुर्कस्तान क्षेत्र में सूखे और जल-संकट के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए क्लाउड-सीडिंग पर भरोसा कर रहे हैं।
- At best, the technique can increase precipitation by **15% to 20%**, according to various scientific studies. विभिन्न वैज्ञानिक अध्ययनों के अनुसार, सर्वोत्तम स्थिति में यह तकनीक वर्षण में 15% से 20% तक वृद्धि कर सकती है।
- "Salt particles — specifically **sodium chloride and potassium chloride** — are most often used" as cloud-seeding agents, said Adnan Yarmohammed, one of the Emirati officials in charge of sharing his country's experience. अपने देश के अनुभव को साझा करने के लिए जिम्मेदार अमीराती अधिकारियों में से एक अदनान यारमोहम्मद ने कहा कि क्लाउड-सीडिंग एजेंट के रूप में "नमक के कण—विशेष रूप से सोडियम क्लोराइड और पोटैशियम क्लोराइड—का सबसे अधिक उपयोग किया जाता है।"
- The techniques vary: either seeding rockets are burned to release a plume of particles, or the saline solution is sprayed directly into the cloud for greater precision. तकनीकें अलग-अलग होती हैं: या तो सीडिंग रॉकेट जलाकर कणों का एक गुबार छोड़ा जाता है, या अधिक सटीकता के लिए खारे घोल का सीधे बादल में छिड़काव किया जाता है।
- This "weighs down the droplets," which "grow from a few micrometres to several millimetres: up to two or three. यह प्रक्रिया "बूंदों को भारी कर देती है," जो "कुछ माइक्रोमीटर से बढ़कर कई मिलीमीटर तक हो जाती हैं—अधिकतम दो या तीन मिलीमीटर तक।"
- They fall, and it rains," explained Mr. Yarmohammed. "वे नीचे गिरती हैं और वर्षा होती है," श्री यारमोहम्मद ने समझाया।
- He added that the technique "does not create new clouds". उन्होंने कहा कि यह तकनीक "नए बादल नहीं बनाती।"
- The effects of boosting rainfall through cloud seeding remain uncertain, its consequences difficult to measure, and its large-scale application costly. क्लाउड-सीडिंग के माध्यम से वर्षा बढ़ाने के प्रभाव अभी भी अनिश्चित हैं, इसके परिणामों को मापना कठिन है और बड़े पैमाने पर इसका प्रयोग महंगा है।
- The World Meteorological Organization has called for more scientific research, pointing to a "rise in demand for these activities ... due to the frequency of droughts". विश्व मौसम विज्ञान संगठन (World Meteorological Organization) ने अधिक वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया है और "सूखे की बढ़ती आवृत्ति के कारण इन गतिविधियों की बढ़ती मांग" की ओर संकेत किया है।
- The UN organisation has also ruled out any danger to human health or the environment and acknowledged potential economic benefits if the technique proved successful. इस संयुक्त राष्ट्र संगठन ने मानव स्वास्थ्य या पर्यावरण के लिए किसी भी खतरे की संभावना को भी खारिज किया है और कहा है कि यदि यह तकनीक सफल सिद्ध होती है, तो इससे संभावित आर्थिक लाभ हो सकते हैं।
- The method, already used in around **50 countries** to combat drought, hail, and air pollution, is new for **Central Asia — a region warming twice as fast as the global average**. यह विधि, जिसका उपयोग पहले से ही लगभग 50 देशों में सूखे, ओलावृष्टि और वायु प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए किया जा रहा है, मध्य एशिया के लिए नई है—यह ऐसा क्षेत्र है जो वैश्विक औसत की तुलना में दोगुनी गति से गर्म हो रहा है।

GS Paper III: Internal Security	13 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
13A8	Centre floats tender worth ₹1 lakh crore for 60 planes

	केंद्र ने 60 विमानों के लिए ₹1 लाख करोड़ मूल्य की निविदा जारी की
13A8	HC seeks clarity over Meta's policy on Rights Manager tool राइट्स मैनेजर टूल पर मेटा की नीति को लेकर हाई कोर्ट ने माँगा स्पष्टीकरण

Centre floats tender worth ₹1 lakh crore for 60 planes

The Defence Ministry issued the tender for multirole transport aircraft to multiple Indian firms, including HAL and private defence majors; it aims to replace Indian Air Force's ageing cargo fleet

GS III: Internal Security
Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Wednesday issued a tender worth around ₹1 lakh crore for 60 multirole transport aircraft (MTA) for the Indian Air Force (IAF), in a major push to replace its ageing fleet of cargo and transport aircraft and expand its strategic airlift capability.

The tender has been issued to multiple Indian companies, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and private sector defence majors, a senior Defence Ministry official said.

The programme is envisaged as an Indian-led initiative, with Indian companies partnering with global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture the aircraft in the country, the official added.

Mahindra Defence has tied up with Brazilian aerospace major Embraer to offer the C-390 Millennium, while Tata is partnering U.S. firm Lockheed Martin to offer the C-130J Super Hercules, which is



Airlift assets: The IAF's C-130J Super Hercules aircraft flanked by two C-295 aircraft during a flypast. FILE PHOTO

Indian companies to partner with global original equipment manufacturers as part of programme

already operated by the IAF for special operations.

Under the proposed programme, around 20% of the aircraft are expected to be inducted in fly-away condition, while the remaining aircraft would be manufactured in India.

The domestically produced aircraft are expected to have more than 60% indigenous content and

would be built through joint ventures between Indian companies and the OEMs.

Aerial refuelling

The MTA are expected to provide the IAF with enhanced capability to rapidly move troops, equipment and other military assets over long distances. The aircraft could also potentially be configured for aerial refuelling, providing the IAF with an additional tanker capability.

The IAF currently operates 12 C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, primarily for special operations and tactical airlift missions.

Separately, the force is

inducting the C-295 transport aircraft under a programme involving Airbus and Tata, with around 70 aircraft planned for the IAF and the majority of them to be manufactured in India. The MTA programme is part of the IAF's broader modernisation drive amid concerns over its ageing transport fleet and the need to augment airlift capabilities.

The IAF has also issued a tender for 114 multirole fighter aircraft under its long-pending fighter modernisation programme. It is simultaneously looking to acquire more than 100 trainer aircraft to replace its ageing Hawk fleet and augment training capacity as the number of fighter squadrons is sought to be increased.

The proposed transport aircraft programme is also expected to deepen India's domestic aerospace manufacturing ecosystem by bringing global OEMs into production partnerships with Indian companies and increasing indigenous content in military airlift platforms.

13A8. Centre floats tender worth ₹1 lakh crore for 60 planes

केंद्र ने 60 विमानों के लिए ₹1 लाख करोड़ मूल्य की निविदा जारी की

- The Defence Ministry on Wednesday issued a tender worth around **₹1 lakh crore for 60 multirole transport aircraft (MTA)** for the Indian Air Force (IAF), in a major push to replace its ageing fleet of cargo and transport aircraft and expand its strategic airlift capability.
रक्षा मंत्रालय ने बुधवार को भारतीय वायु सेना (IAF) के लिए लगभग **₹1 लाख करोड़ मूल्य के 60 बहुउद्देशीय परिवहन विमानों (MTA)** की खरीद के लिए निविदा जारी की, जो उसके पुराने हो रहे मालवाहक और परिवहन विमानों के बेड़े को बदलने तथा उसकी **रणनीतिक एयरलिफ्ट क्षमता** का विस्तार करने की दिशा में एक बड़ा प्रयास है।
- The tender has been issued to multiple Indian companies, including **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** and private sector defence majors, a senior Defence Ministry official said.

रक्षा मंत्रालय के एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा कि यह निविदा हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड (HAL) सहित कई भारतीय कंपनियों और निजी क्षेत्र की प्रमुख रक्षा कंपनियों को जारी की गई है।

- The programme is envisaged as an **Indian-led initiative**, with Indian companies partnering with global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture the aircraft in the country, the official added.

अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस कार्यक्रम की परिकल्पना एक **भारत-नेतृत्व वाली पहल** के रूप में की गई है, जिसमें भारतीय कंपनियाँ वैश्विक **मूल उपकरण निर्माताओं (OEMs)** के साथ साझेदारी करके देश में इन विमानों का निर्माण करेंगी।

- Mahindra Defence has tied up with Brazilian aerospace major **Embraer** to offer the C-390 Millennium, while Tata is partnering U.S. firm **Lockheed Martin** to offer the C-130J Super Hercules, which is already operated by the IAF for special operations.

महिंद्रा डिफेंस ने C-390 मिलेनियम की पेशकश के लिए ब्राजील की प्रमुख एयरोस्पेस कंपनी **Embraer** के साथ साझेदारी की है, जबकि टाटा ने C-130J सुपर हरक्यूलिस की पेशकश के लिए अमेरिकी कंपनी **Lockheed Martin** के साथ साझेदारी की है, जिसे IAF पहले से ही विशेष अभियानों के लिए संचालित करती है।

- Under the proposed programme, around **20% of the aircraft** are expected to be inducted in fly-away condition, while the remaining aircraft would be manufactured in India. प्रस्तावित कार्यक्रम के तहत लगभग **20% विमानों** को उड़ान-योग्य तैयार स्थिति में शामिल किए जाने की उम्मीद है, जबकि शेष विमानों का निर्माण भारत में किया जाएगा।
- The domestically produced aircraft are expected to have **more than 60% indigenous content** and would be built through joint ventures between Indian companies and the OEMs. देश में निर्मित विमानों में **60% से अधिक स्वदेशी सामग्री** होने की उम्मीद है और इनका निर्माण भारतीय कंपनियों तथा OEMs के बीच संयुक्त उपक्रमों के माध्यम से किया जाएगा।

Aerial refuelling

हवाई ईंधन भरना

- The MTA are expected to provide the IAF with enhanced capability to rapidly move troops, equipment and other military assets over long distances. MTA से IAF को सैनिकों, उपकरणों और अन्य सैन्य परिसंपत्तियों को लंबी दूरी तक तेजी से स्थानांतरित करने की बेहतर क्षमता मिलने की उम्मीद है।
- The aircraft could also potentially be configured for **aerial refuelling**, providing the IAF with an additional tanker capability. इन विमानों को संभावित रूप से **हवाई ईंधन भरने** के लिए भी विन्यस्त किया जा सकता है, जिससे IAF को अतिरिक्त टैंकर क्षमता प्राप्त होगी।
- The IAF currently operates **12 C-130J Super Hercules** aircraft, primarily for special operations and tactical airlift missions. IAF वर्तमान में **12 C-130J सुपर हरक्यूलिस** विमानों का संचालन करती है, जिनका मुख्य रूप से विशेष अभियानों और सामरिक एयरलिफ्ट मिशन के लिए उपयोग किया जाता है।
- Separately, the force is inducting the **C-295 transport aircraft** under a programme involving Airbus and Tata, with around 70 aircraft planned for the IAF and the majority of them to be manufactured in India. अलग से, वायु सेना **Airbus और Tata** से जुड़े एक कार्यक्रम के तहत **C-295 परिवहन विमानों** को शामिल कर रही है, जिसके तहत IAF के लिए लगभग 70 विमानों की योजना है और इनमें से अधिकांश का निर्माण भारत में किया जाएगा।
- The MTA programme is part of the IAF's broader **modernisation drive** amid concerns over its ageing transport fleet and the need to augment airlift capabilities.



MTA कार्यक्रम IAF के व्यापक **आधुनिकीकरण अभियान** का हिस्सा है, जो उसके पुराने हो रहे परिवहन बेड़े को लेकर चिंताओं और एयरलिफ्ट क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता के बीच चलाया जा रहा है।

- The IAF has also issued a tender for **114 multirole fighter aircraft** under its long-pending fighter modernisation programme.
IAF ने अपने लंबे समय से लंबित **लड़ाकू विमान आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम** के तहत **114 बहुउद्देशीय लड़ाकू विमानों** के लिए भी निविदा जारी की है।
- It is simultaneously looking to acquire more than **100 trainer aircraft** to replace its ageing Hawk fleet and augment training capacity as the number of fighter squadrons is sought to be increased.
साथ ही, लड़ाकू स्क्वाड्रनों की संख्या बढ़ाने के प्रयासों के बीच IAF अपने पुराने **Hawk बेड़े** को बदलने और प्रशिक्षण क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए **100 से अधिक प्रशिक्षक विमानों** की खरीद पर भी विचार कर रही है।
- The proposed transport aircraft programme is also expected to deepen India's **domestic aerospace manufacturing ecosystem** by bringing global OEMs into production partnerships with Indian companies and increasing indigenous content in military airlift platforms.
प्रस्तावित परिवहन विमान कार्यक्रम से भारतीय कंपनियों के साथ उत्पादन साझेदारी में वैश्विक OEMs को शामिल करके और सैन्य एयरलिफ्ट प्लेटफॉर्मों में **स्वदेशी सामग्री** बढ़ाकर भारत के **घरेलू एयरोस्पेस विनिर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र** को भी मजबूत करने की उम्मीद है।



GS III: Internal Security

HC seeks clarity over Meta's policy on Rights Manager tool

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought clarity from Meta over its policy governing access to its Rights Manager tool, after concerns were raised that fraudulent actors have allegedly exploited the platform's copyright-protection mechanism to target original content. Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani directed Meta to place on record its norms and eligibility criteria for granting access to Rights Manager, along with the grounds on which applications for the tool may be rejected. The directions came during the hearing of a suit filed by a content creator.

13A8. HC seeks clarity over Meta's policy on Rights Manager tool

राइट्स मैनेजर टूल पर मेटा की नीति को लेकर हाई कोर्ट ने माँगा स्पष्टीकरण

- The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought clarity from Meta over its policy governing access to its Rights Manager tool, after concerns were raised that fraudulent actors have allegedly exploited the platform's copyright-protection mechanism to target original content.
- दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय ने बुधवार को मेटा से उसके राइट्स मैनेजर टूल तक पहुँच को नियंत्रित करने वाली नीति पर स्पष्टीकरण माँगा। यह निर्देश उन चिंताओं के बाद दिया गया, जिनमें आरोप लगाया गया था कि धोखाधड़ी करने वाले व्यक्तियों ने मौलिक सामग्री को निशाना बनाने के लिए प्लेटफॉर्म की कॉपीराइट-सुरक्षा प्रणाली का दुरुपयोग किया है।
- Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani directed Meta to place on record its norms and eligibility criteria for granting access to Rights Manager, along with the grounds on which applications for the tool may be rejected.
- न्यायमूर्ति अनूप जयराम भंबानी ने मेटा को राइट्स मैनेजर तक पहुँच प्रदान करने से संबंधित अपने नियमों और पात्रता मानदंडों के साथ-साथ उन आधारों को भी अभिलेख पर प्रस्तुत करने का निर्देश दिया, जिनके आधार पर इस टूल के लिए किए गए आवेदनों को अस्वीकार किया जा सकता है।
- The directions came during the hearing of a suit filed by a content creator.
- ये निर्देश एक कंटेंट क्रिएटर द्वारा दायर मुकदमे की सुनवाई के दौरान दिए गए।