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Yuva Shakti theme to mark 80th Independence Day

PCS

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The energy and aspirations of Gen Z and “Yuva Shakti” will take centre stage at the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort on August 15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lead the celebrations and the National Song Vande Mataram will be rendered at the historic venue for the first time.

The celebrations will commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram and highlight the contribution of young Indians to the country's journey towards “Viksit Bharat@2047.”

According to the Ministry of Defence, around 2,500 NCC cadets and “My Bharat” volunteers, including boys and girls from the Army, Navy and Air Force, will participate in the ceremony, seated along Gyanpath opposite the Red Fort ramparts in Delhi.

After the Prime Minister hoists the National Flag,



A glimpse of the full-dress rehearsal ahead of the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

the Army band will play Vande Mataram, followed by the National Anthem. After Mr. Modi's address concludes, the NCC cadets and “My Bharat” volunteers will again sing the National Song, followed by the National Anthem.

Inclusive guest list

Around 5,000 special guests have been invited, including women entrepreneurs, sanitation workers, street vendors, youth innovators, scientists, start-up founders, Metro

workers, taxi drivers, hospital staff, artisans, farmers and students. More than 1,500 people from States and Union Territories, dressed in traditional attire, will also attend.

In a departure from the conventional VIP-centric nomenclature, seating enclosures have been named after major Indian lakes such as Chilika, Loktak, Pangong Tso, Vembanad, Wular, Pulicat and Hussain Sagar, underscoring the importance of water conservation.

- In a departure from the conventional **VIP-centric nomenclature**, seating enclosures have been named after major Indian lakes such as **Chilika, Loktak, Pangong Tso, Vembanad, Wular, Pulicat and Hussain Sagar**, underscoring the importance of water conservation.

पारंपरिक VIP-केंद्रित नामकरण व्यवस्था से अलग हटते हुए, बैठने के स्थानों का नाम भारत की प्रमुख झीलों जैसे चिलिका, लोकटक, पेंगोंग त्सो, वेम्बनाड, वूलर, पुलिकट और हुसैन सागर के नाम पर रखा गया है, जो जल संरक्षण के महत्व को रेखांकित करता है।

14A8. Yuva Shakti theme to mark 80th Independence Day

80वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस को चिह्नित करेगी 'युवा शक्ति' की थीम

The energy and aspirations of **Gen Z and “Yuva Shakti”** will take centre stage at the 80th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort on August 15.

Gen Z और “युवा शक्ति” की ऊर्जा एवं आकांक्षाएँ 15 अगस्त को लाल किले में होने वाले 80वें स्वतंत्रता दिवस समारोह के केंद्र में रहेंगी।

The celebrations will commemorate **150 years of Vande Mataram** and highlight the contribution of young Indians to the country's journey towards “**Viksit Bharat@2047.**”

यह समारोह वंदे मातरम् के 150 वर्ष पूरे होने का स्मरण करेगा और “विकसित भारत@2047” की दिशा में देश की यात्रा में युवा भारतीयों के योगदान को रेखांकित करेगा।

Indian Lakes

Lake	Nature of Water	Location	Important “Largest / Special” Status
Chilika Lake	Brackish / Saline lagoon	Odisha	Largest brackish-water lagoon in India; also described by the Chilika Development Authority as Asia's largest brackish-water lake/lagoon . Water spread varies seasonally, roughly 906–1,165 km² .
Loktak Lake	Freshwater	Manipur	Largest freshwater lake in Northeast India; famous for floating phumdis and



Lake	Nature of Water	Location	Important "Largest / Special" Status
			Keibul Lamjao National Park. Government sources give a surface area of about 287 km² in one description.
Pangong Tso	Saline Saltwater /	Ladakh (India) + Tibet/China	A very large high-altitude saltwater lake . About one-third lies in India and two-thirds in China ; approximately 160 km long and around 4,350 m above sea level.
Vembanad Lake	Brackish Freshwater zones +	Kerala	Longest lake in India and largest lake/backwater system in Kerala . Its northern part has marine/brackish influence, while the Thanneermukkom barrier separates freshwater-dominant areas.
Wular Lake	Freshwater	Jammu & Kashmir	Commonly treated as one of India's largest natural freshwater lakes . A J&K government publication identifies it as the largest freshwater lake in India , while reported area varies with hydrological conditions and definition.
Pulicat Lake	Brackish Saline lagoon /	Andhra Pradesh + Tamil Nadu	Second-largest brackish-water lagoon in India , after Chilika. About 2/3 lies in Andhra Pradesh and 1/3 in Tamil Nadu .
Hussain Sagar	Freshwater, artificial/man-made lake	Telangana Hyderabad/Secunderabad —	Historic artificial lake , excavated in 1562 CE , originally for irrigation and water supply. Telangana government describes it as one of Asia's major artificial lakes, but it should not be memorised as India's largest freshwater lake .

Sumit Sarkar, eminent scholar of modern Indian history, dies at 87

PCS

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Eminent Marxist historian and scholar of modern Indian history Sumit Sarkar died at a private hospital in New Delhi on Thursday. He was 87.

He spent several years teaching history at the University of Delhi and was a Fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford. He had also been a visiting Professor at several prestigious universities in the U.S. and Europe.

His works include *Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908* (1973), *Modern India* (1989), and *Writing Social History* (1998), among others. He also co-



Sumit Sarkar

edited *Women and Social Reform in Modern India* (2007) and *Caste in Modern India* (2013) with his wife, Tanika Sarkar.

He completed his BA (Honours) in history at Presidency College in Kolkata before going on to do his Master's and Ph.D. at the

University of Calcutta. His former students and colleagues remembered him not only as a "doyen of historians", but also as the "kindest of human beings".

Ravikant, a Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, and Professor Sarkar's student from 1988 to 1991, recalled his "scintillating" lectures. "He would look at one word and speak a full paragraph at one go. That was how succinct his summaries were," he said.

Anirban Bandyopadhyay, a Professor of history at the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, described him as "one of the rare

Marxist historians to delve deeply into culture and emotions as opposed to the economy".

"With regard to 19th and 20th-century Bengal, there was nothing that he did not write about," said Professor Bandyopadhyay, who was closely acquainted with Professor Sarkar and his wife. He described the death as a "personal loss", in addition to being a loss to all history students.

"From 2005, I met him on numerous occasions, went to their place in Delhi, and read to him. He always listened to younger people, and always had a smile," Professor Bandyopadhyay said.

14A8. Sumit Sarkar, eminent scholar of modern Indian history, dies at 87 आधुनिक भारतीय इतिहास के प्रख्यात विद्वान सुमित सरकार का 87 वर्ष की आयु में निधन

- Eminent Marxist historian and scholar of modern Indian history **Sumit Sarkar** died at a private hospital in New Delhi on Thursday.
प्रख्यात मार्क्सवादी इतिहासकार और आधुनिक भारतीय इतिहास के विद्वान सुमित सरकार का गुरुवार को नई दिल्ली के एक निजी अस्पताल में निधन हो गया।
- He was 87.
वे 87 वर्ष के थे।
- He spent several years teaching history at the **University of Delhi** and was a Fellow of **Wolfson College, Oxford**.
उन्होंने कई वर्षों तक दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय में इतिहास पढ़ाया और वुल्फसन कॉलेज, ऑक्सफोर्ड के फेलो रहे।
- He had also been a visiting Professor at several prestigious universities in the U.S. and Europe.
वे अमेरिका और यूरोप के कई प्रतिष्ठित विश्वविद्यालयों में विजिटिंग प्रोफेसर भी रहे थे।
- His works include *Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908* (1973), *Modern India* (1989), and *Writing Social History* (1998), among others.
उनकी प्रमुख कृतियों में *Swadeshi Movement in Bengal, 1903-1908* (1973), *Modern India* (1989) और *Writing Social History* (1998) सहित कई अन्य पुस्तकें शामिल हैं।
- He also co-edited *Women and Social Reform in Modern India* (2007) and *Caste in Modern India* (2013) with his wife, **Tanika Sarkar**.
उन्होंने अपनी पत्नी तनिका सरकार के साथ *Women and Social Reform in Modern India* (2007) और *Caste in Modern India* (2013) का सह-संपादन भी किया।
- **Ravikant**, a Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, and Professor Sarkar's student from 1988 to 1991, recalled his "**scintillating**" lectures.
रविकान्त, जो सेंटर फॉर द स्टडी ऑफ डेवलपिंग सोसाइटीज में प्रोफेसर हैं और 1988 से 1991 तक प्रोफेसर सरकार के छात्र रहे, ने उनके "अत्यंत प्रभावशाली और जीवंत व्याख्यानों" को याद किया।

- "He would look at one word and speak a full paragraph at one go. That was how succinct his summaries were," he said.
उन्होंने कहा, "वे एक शब्द को देखते और उसी पर एक ही बार में पूरा अनुच्छेद बोल देते थे। उनके सारांश इतने संक्षिप्त और सटीक हुआ करते थे।"

14A8. Malnutrition in Somalia सोमालिया में कुपोषण

Malnutrition in Somalia

PCS
Reuters

Funding to tackle acute malnutrition in parts of Somalia (country in Africa) has dropped by more than 80% this year, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said on Tuesday. One in every four children screened in displacement camps in the southwest is severely malnourished, the non-governmental organisation said.

- Funding to tackle **acute malnutrition** in parts of **Somalia (country in Africa)** has dropped by **more than 80% this year**, **Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)** said on Tuesday.
- **मेडिसिन्स सैनस फ्रंटियर्स (MSF)** ने मंगलवार को कहा कि **सोमालिया (अफ्रीका का एक देश)** के कुछ हिस्सों में **तीव्र कुपोषण** से निपटने के लिए मिलने वाले वित्तपोषण में **इस वर्ष 80% से अधिक की गिरावट आई है।**
- **One in every four children screened in displacement camps in the southwest is severely malnourished**, the non-governmental organisation said.
- **गैर-सरकारी संगठन ने कहा कि दक्षिण-पश्चिमी क्षेत्र के विस्थापन शिविरों में जाँच किए गए प्रत्येक चार बच्चों में से एक बच्चा गंभीर रूप से कुपोषित है।**

14A8. Sticks and goals स्टिक और गोल

- **When India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, its men's hockey team will open its World Cup campaign against Wales in Amstelveen, aiming to end a 51-year medal drought.**
जब भारत अपना **80वाँ स्वतंत्रता दिवस** मनाएगा, तब उसकी पुरुष हॉकी टीम एम्स्टेलवीन में वेल्स के खिलाफ अपने विश्व कप अभियान की शुरुआत करेगी और **51 वर्षों से चले आ रहे पदक के सूखे को समाप्त करने का लक्ष्य रखेगी।**
- Because of hockey's emotional connection with Indians, the wait has been agonising for the **eight-time Olympic champion**.
हॉकी के साथ भारतीयों के **भावनात्मक जुड़ाव** के कारण, **आठ बार के ओलंपिक चैंपियन** के लिए यह इंतज़ार अत्यंत पीड़ादायक रहा है।
- **It won its last medal when the Ajit Pal Singh-led side lifted the trophy in Kuala Lumpur in 1975 during the pre-synthetic turf era.**
उसने अपना अंतिम पदक तब जीता था, जब **अजीत पाल सिंह** के नेतृत्व वाली टीम ने सिंथेटिक टर्फ से पहले के दौर में **1975 में कुआलालंपुर में ट्रॉफी जीती थी।**
- Trust in the present **Harmanpreet Singh-captained side has grown after India broke a 41-year Olympic jinx with bronze in Tokyo in 2021 and retained it in Paris 2024.**
वर्तमान **हरमनप्रीत सिंह** की कप्तानी वाली टीम पर विश्वास बढ़ा है, क्योंकि भारत ने **2021 में टोक्यो में कांस्य पदक जीतकर 41 वर्षों के ओलंपिक**

PCS

Sticks and goals

India might see its best finish in 50 years in hockey World Cup

When India celebrates its 80th Independence Day, its men's hockey team will open its World Cup campaign against Wales in Amstelveen, aiming to end a 51-year medal drought. Because of hockey's emotional connection with Indians, the wait has been agonising for the eight-time Olympic champion. It won its last medal when the Ajit Pal Singh-led side lifted the trophy in Kuala Lumpur in 1975 during the pre-synthetic turf era. Trust in the present Harmanpreet Singh-captained side has grown after India broke a 41-year Olympic jinx with bronze in Tokyo in 2021 and retained it in Paris 2024. Under coach Craig Fulton, the team won Asian Games gold in 2023, Olympic bronze in 2024, and the Asia Cup in 2025, with the last one helping it qualify for the World Cup. Despite finishing eighth in the FIH Pro League 2025-26, India showed positive signs by beating World champion Germany and Olympic champion the Netherlands. After experiencing experimentation, defeats and two controversies – involving most-capped player Manpreet Singh, and the unwarranted decision to change the jersey from the familiar blue to saffron, the squad has regrouped for its first World Cup following the retirement of legendary custodian P.R. Sreejesh. After Wales, the eighth-ranked side faces a formidable England and traditional rival Pakistan in the pool.

Comprising two-time Olympic medallists and promising youngsters, the team, placed sixth and ninth in the last two editions, now targets a higher finish in the World Cup before embarking next month on a mission to retain the Asian Games gold, which will earn it a berth in the 2028 Olympics. The Salima Tete-led women's team has rebuilt under Dutchman Sjoerd Marijne after turmoil caused first by the exit of his predecessor and then by an alleged sexual harassment case involving a former Hockey India official. Marijne, who took India to its best-ever fourth in Tokyo in his first stint, guided it to World Cup qualification and Nations Cup victory. Despite the Hockey India League experience and the exposure to foreign players, the team of five 200-cap players and 11 debutants may find it tough to match 1974's fourth-place finish. Ranked ninth, India plays Olympic silver medallist China on August 16, then South Africa and higher-ranked England. It will target a better position than 2022's ninth before switching focus to the Asian Games. For the first time, the World Cup for both genders involving 32 teams altogether, with a new and tricky format, is co-hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands. Both the Indian teams must play as cohesive units to build towards Los Angeles 2028.

अभिशाप को तोड़ा और पेरिस 2024 में भी इसे बरकरार रखा।

- Under coach Craig Fulton, the team won Asian Games gold in 2023, Olympic bronze in 2024, and the Asia Cup in 2025, with the last one helping it qualify for the World Cup.

कोच क्रेग फुल्टन के नेतृत्व में टीम ने 2023 में एशियाई खेलों का स्वर्ण, 2024 में ओलंपिक कांस्य और 2025 में एशिया कप जीता, जिसमें अंतिम उपलब्धि ने उसे विश्व कप के लिए क्वालीफाई करने में मदद की।

- Despite finishing eighth in the FIH Pro League 2025-26, India showed positive signs by beating World champion Germany and Olympic champion the Netherlands.

FIH प्रो लीग 2025-26 में आठवें स्थान पर रहने के बावजूद, भारत ने विश्व चैंपियन जर्मनी और ओलंपिक चैंपियन नीदरलैंड्स को हराकर सकारात्मक संकेत दिए।

- After experiencing experimentation, defeats and two controversies — involving most-capped player Manpreet Singh, and the unwarranted decision to change the jersey from the familiar blue to saffron, the squad has regrouped for its first World Cup following the retirement of legendary custodian P.R. Sreejesh.

प्रयोगों, हार और दो विवादों — जिनमें सबसे अधिक मैच खेलने वाले खिलाड़ी मनप्रीत सिंह से जुड़ा विवाद तथा परिचित नीले रंग की जर्सी को भगवा रंग में बदलने का अनुचित निर्णय शामिल था — का सामना करने के बाद, दिग्गज गोलकीपर पी.आर. श्रीजेश के संन्यास के पश्चात टीम अपने पहले विश्व कप के लिए फिर से एकजुट हुई है।

India Men's Hockey — Olympic Medal Performances

Olympics	Medal	Opponent in Final / Medal Match	Goals For	Goals Against	Result
Amsterdam 1928	Gold	Netherlands	3	0	India won 3–0
Los Angeles 1932	Gold	No final — Round Robin	—	—	India topped the tournament
Berlin 1936	Gold	Germany	8	1	India won 8–1
London 1948	Gold	Great Britain	4	0	India won 4–0
Helsinki 1952	Gold	Netherlands	6	1	India won 6–1
Melbourne 1956	Gold	Pakistan	1	0	India won 1–0
Rome 1960	Silver	Pakistan	0	1	India lost 0–1
Tokyo 1964	Gold	Pakistan	1	0	India won 1–0
Mexico City 1968	Bronze	West Germany	2	1	India won 2–1
Munich 1972	Bronze	Netherlands	2	1	India won 2–1
Moscow 1980	Gold	Spain	4	3	India won 4–3
Tokyo 2020 (held 2021)	Bronze	Germany	5	4	India won 5–4
Paris 2024	Bronze	Spain	2	1	India won 2–1

The Olympic final scores from 1928 through 1980 are also recorded by the FIH.

Important Exception — Los Angeles 1932

There was **no separate final** in 1932 because only **three teams—India, Japan and the United States—participated**, and the competition followed a **round-robin format**. India defeated **Japan 11–1** and the **United States 24–1**, finishing first and winning Gold. Therefore, describing the 24–1 USA match as the “**final**” would be **technically incorrect**.

Quick UPSC/PCS Facts

- **Total Olympic medals: 13 = 8 Gold + 1 Silver + 4 Bronze.**
- **First Olympic Gold:** Amsterdam 1928, defeating Netherlands 3–0.
- **Six consecutive Gold medals:** 1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952 and 1956.
- **Biggest victory in an Olympic gold-medal final:** India 8–1 Germany, Berlin 1936.
- **Only Olympic Silver:** Rome 1960, losing 0–1 to Pakistan.
- **Last Olympic Gold:** Moscow 1980, defeating Spain 4–3.
- **41-year Olympic medal drought ended:** Tokyo 2020, with India defeating Germany 5–4 for Bronze.
- **Back-to-back modern Olympic medals:** Tokyo 2020 Bronze + Paris 2024 Bronze.
- **Paris 2024:** India defeated Spain 2–1 in the bronze-medal match.

Tata Trusts accepts resignation of Chandrasekaran, initiates process to find successor

PCS

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, which controls 27.9% holdings in Tata Sons, has accepted the resignation of Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran and initiated the process to search for his successor.

“On 12th August 2026, our nominee directors received an email from Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons Private Limited, wherein he conveyed his decision to not offer himself for re-appointment as Chairman upon the expiry of his current tenure on 20th February 2027,” Tata Trusts said in a statement.

“The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT) respects Mr.



N. Chandrasekaran PTI

Chandrasekaran’s decision not to offer himself for re-appointment. We place on record our deepest appreciation for his contribution and stewardship of Tata Sons and the Tata Group over the past decade,” it said.

“We thank him for his immense contribution dur-

ing a period of significant change, growth and transformation across the Group,” the statement said.

“The Trustees of the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust have passed a resolution to initiate the setting up of a Selection Committee as soon as possible in accordance with the Articles of Association of Tata Sons, for the purpose of recommending a person for appointment as the new Chairman of the Board of Directors,” the statement said.

“We extend our full support to Tata Sons in ensuring a smooth, timely and orderly transition of leadership, consistent with the values and long-term interests of Tata Sons and the Tata group,” it added.



14A8. Tata Trusts accepts resignation of Chandrasekaran, initiates process to find successor

टाटा ट्रस्ट्स ने चंद्रशेखरन का इस्तीफा स्वीकार किया, उत्तराधिकारी खोजने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की

- The **Sir Dorabji Tata Trust**, which controls **27.9% holdings in Tata Sons**, has accepted the resignation of **Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran** and initiated the process to search for his successor.
- टाटा संस में 27.9% हिस्सेदारी रखने वाले सर दोराबजी टाटा ट्रस्ट ने टाटा संस के चेयरमैन एन. चंद्रशेखरन का इस्तीफा स्वीकार कर लिया है और उनके उत्तराधिकारी की तलाश की प्रक्रिया शुरू कर दी है।
- "On **12th August 2026**, our nominee directors received an email from **Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons Private Limited**, wherein he conveyed his decision to not offer himself for re-appointment as Chairman upon the expiry of his current tenure on **20th February 2027**," Tata Trusts said in a statement.
- टाटा ट्रस्ट्स ने एक बयान में कहा, "**12 अगस्त 2026** को हमारे नामित निदेशकों को टाटा संस प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के चेयरमैन श्री एन. चंद्रशेखरन का एक ईमेल प्राप्त हुआ, जिसमें उन्होंने **20 फरवरी 2027** को अपना वर्तमान कार्यकाल समाप्त होने के बाद चेयरमैन के रूप में पुनर्नियुक्ति के लिए स्वयं को प्रस्तुत न करने के अपने निर्णय से अवगत कराया।"

PSG downs Villa, retains Super Cup



Special triumph: The PSG players celebrate with the trophy. AFP

Agence France-Presse

Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain rubber-stamped its status as Europe's top team as it defeated Aston Villa 2-1 in the UEFA Super Cup here on

Wednesday. Khvicha Kvaratskhelia (20th minute) and Desire Doue (61st) netted either side of a debut goal for Villa teenager Brian Madjo (45th) as PSG defended the title it first won 12 months ago against Tottenham Hotspur.

14A8. PSG downs Villa, retains Super Cup

पीएसजी ने विला को हराकर सुपर कप खिताब बरकरार रखा

- Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain** rubber-stamped its status as **Europe's top team** as it defeated **Aston Villa 2-1** in the **UEFA Super Cup** here on Wednesday.
- चैंपियंस लीग विजेता पेरिस सेंट-जर्मेन ने बुधवार को यहाँ यूईएफए सुपर कप में एस्टन विला को 2-1 से हराकर यूरोप की शीर्ष टीम के रूप में अपनी स्थिति पर मुहर लगा दी।

GS Paper 1: History		14 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
14A8	Akali Dal chief attacked at gurdwara in Maharashtra महाराष्ट्र में गुरुद्वारे में अकाली दल प्रमुख पर हमला	

Akali Dal chief attacked at gurdwara in Maharashtra

Badal suffered 'minor' hand injury in the *kirpan* attack by a member of the **Nihang order**, say police; the inspector who saved the SAD chief also sustained injuries; CM Fadnavis orders probe

CS I: History: A&C

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/CHANDIGARH

Former Punjab Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal suffered injuries to his hand after being attacked by a man during a visit to a gurdwara in Nanded district of Maharashtra on Thursday.

The police said the person, said to be a member of the Nihang order, a Sikh martial sect, attacked Mr. Badal with a *kirpan* (traditional dagger) at the Mata Sahib Gurdwara. Mr. Badal is on a two-day visit to Nanded district.

Nanded Superintendent of Police Abinash Kumar dismissed claims that two people were involved in the attack. "Only one accused [is involved], a Nihang *sevadar* [volunteer], who worked at the gurdwara," he said.

Nanded Collector Rahul Kardile said, "He [Mr. Badal] suffered a minor injury



Sukhbir Singh Badal being taken to a hospital after he was attacked inside a gurdwara in Nanded on Thursday. ANI VIDEO GRAB

on the hand. He is stable and out of danger." He added that the Inspector who saved the SAD chief also sustained injuries. Mr. Badal's wife, Lok Sabha member Harsimrat Kaur Badal, was also present at the time of the incident. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inquired about Mr. Badal's health in a phone conversation with his wife.

According to sources, the accused, identified as Jaspal Singh, has been a *sevadar* at the gurdwara for the past two years. Maha-

rastra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ordered a probe into the attack.

CBI probe sought

The Akali Dal termed the attack on Mr. Badal a direct attack on Punjab politics and the Sikh community. Senior party leader Bikram Singh Majithia said: "This was the second murderous attack on Mr. Badal. The first took place at Sri Harmandir Sahib on December 4, 2024, and the second at Nanded Sahib today. The Central govern-

ment must immediately hand over the investigation into both the Punjab and Maharashtra incidents to the CBI."

Other major political parties in Punjab, including the Congress and the BJP, also condemned the attack.

"The violent attack on Mr. Badal deserves the strongest condemnation. There can be no justification for violence in a democracy. Places of faith must remain sanctuaries of peace, harmony and security, irrespective of political differences," said the Congress's Partap Singh Bajwa, the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly.

In 2024, Mr. Badal had escaped an assassination bid after a former militant and pro-Khalistan sympathiser opened fire at him outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar, where he was performing penance for his "mistakes". Mr. Badal escaped unhurt.

14A8. Akali Dal chief attacked at gurdwara in Maharashtra महाराष्ट्र में गुरुद्वारे में अकाली दल प्रमुख पर हमला

Nihang Order

- The **Nihang Order**, or **Nihang Singhs**, refers to a distinctive traditional **Sikh warrior order** known for its martial traditions, distinctive blue attire, weapons, and strong association with the **Khalsa**.

Nihangs

- The word **Nihang** is generally associated with a warrior who is **fearless, unattached and ready to defend the faith and the oppressed**.
- Nihangs are readily recognised by their **blue robes, tall blue turbans (dumalla), steel quoits (chakrams) and traditional weapons**.





- They are particularly associated with the preservation of the **martial traditions of the Khalsa**.

Historical Background

- The Nihang tradition is closely connected with the militarisation of the Sikh community and the emergence of the **Khalsa under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699**.
- Their precise institutional origins are described somewhat differently across Sikh traditions and historical accounts. Nihang traditions commonly trace themselves to the period of **Guru Gobind Singh**, with some traditions specifically associating their distinctive warrior identity with **Baba Fateh Singh**, the Guru's youngest son.

GS Paper 1: Society	14 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14A8	Are traditional parties unable to understand the grammar of Gen Z politics? क्या पारंपरिक राजनीतिक दल Gen Z की राजनीति की भाषा को समझने में असमर्थ हैं?

Are traditional parties unable to understand the grammar of Gen Z politics?



N. Sai Balaji
Researcher and political activist associated with the CPI(M) and the All India Students' Association (AISA)



Kamal Parekh
Journalist and Author of 'H-Pop: The Secretive World of Hindustani Popstars'

PARLEY

Days after India's youth-led protests forced the resignation of the Union Minister of Education, Members of Parliament found themselves speaking in the language of the protesters. For instance, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde accused the Opposition of being "MIA" (missing in action) and feeling "FOMO" (the fear of missing out). However, Gen Z were in the limelight far before the protests caught steam. Tamil Nadu's freshly elected Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay of the Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), owes his victory, in part, to the Gen Z voters of the State. The debutante party involved its young following in electoral politics, one viral Instagram reel at a time. In response to this, the then-incumbent Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) co-opted Gen Z slang as well, to no avail. Are traditional parties unable to understand the grammar of Gen Z politics? N. Sai Balaji and Kamal Parekh discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Nitika Francis.

Do you think traditional parties are succeeding in connecting with Gen Z?

Kamal Parekh: I think it's very clear now that all traditional political structures have, in some form or the other, failed in connecting with the young. We've seen a lot of speaking at the young, a lot of telling them what they should be thinking, what they should be believing in, where their problems lie, and where their solutions lie but not enough of speaking with them and understanding from them what they really feel. So the protests are really a sign of that gaping hole in our political discourse. What you saw in Delhi, what you saw in so many cities and towns of India across the last few weeks, is an explosion due to the absolute lack of conversation. It's an explosion of the resentment that builds when you stand a room full of people up and tell them that they have no say in what is going to happen to their futures.

N. Sai Balaji: Generally it's expected that when everything else fails, at least people have political parties as representatives that speak about their concerns. I think largely when we look at it, political parties have turned into a reflection of the ideas of the State and their extended organs. Therefore, political parties are unable to understand Gen Z. They are saying, "we feel suffocated, we feel that the jobs that we are in are not dignified, we don't feel secure in where we are." Also, this is the generation that has the maximum education compared to any other generation, with lesser opportunities of employment. These issues are not reflected in



CJP supporters during a protest demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in Mumbai, on July 19. REUTERS

the language that the political parties are speaking. That is the reason they took it upon themselves to tell everyone that they don't need anyone else. The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) became an umbrella which included everyone who had small grievances about jobs, education, safety, and questions for the government. And within that umbrella, student organisations like AISA, and the other left organisations also fit in.

Do you think the CJP movement will coalesce into an actual political party?

NSB: Gen Z knows that Instagram is not going to change their fortune, but it is a mode for them to articulate their concerns. The CJP in that way became that forum or that broad umbrella in which everyone who had the same concerns came together. It was something more than issue-based. It was a generation-based articulation. So they saw it as a forum, not as a political party or a political ideology.

KP: The CJP has essentially become the lightning rod of sorts for so many people who have their own grievances, largely about the political system, but also their own lives. But the moment stood important, not because the CJP was leading it, but because people suddenly felt that all of the concerns that they have need to be heard. So, what this moment represents really is a chance for an organisation like the CJP to actually create a new political discourse in the country. Can we reimagine the way our democracy functions? Can we reimagine the social contract between power and between people? In my view, the CJP has its task cut out, which is to actually create a more vibrant democracy from this moment. If it emerges as a political force, I think people would welcome it. But if the CJP decides to capitalise on this



Gen Z knows that Instagram is not going to change their fortune, but it is a mode for them to articulate their concerns. The CJP in that way became that forum in which everyone came together. It was something more than issue-based. It was a generation-based articulation

N. SAIBALAJI

moment of protest without actually trying to change anything, then I think it would be a loss. So I think this moment represents a lot more. And I would say the CJP would be mistaken if it thinks that the moment only represents the need for a new political establishment. I think this moment calls for a new political language for this country.

What is it about the structure of traditional parties that make Gen Z distrustful of them?

KP: In the last 13 years, especially under the Modi government, we ended up normalising a lot of things which did not have much precedent in our country. We normalised a Prime Minister delivering hate speeches as part of electoral campaigns. We normalised the constant one-sided way of communication of the Prime Minister and the lack of accountability. But here came a generation which saw that it did not need to be normalised. We shouldn't normalise fear, we shouldn't normalise not speaking up. We shouldn't normalise this lack of conversation and just sit back and let the government do whatever it wants to do, no matter what the issue is, be it jobs, Internet shutdowns, hate speech etc.

I think this generation decided that it's time that changes. I think it can be attributed to the fact that they didn't know the rules of the game. People who've seen this government, have seen it act with impunity against critics, journalists, activists, and political leaders. And we have sort of learnt the rules of the game and started to play by them. But I think Gen Z didn't know these rules. They've only been seeing a life under this Prime Minister, and they started making fun of him, saying why is he dressing up, why is he laughing in a weird way when he goes to foreign trips, and so on. So they started seeing the humour in a lot of what we had normalised, and I think that is the language that the government doesn't have, to be able to speak to them about.

NSB: For this generation, the idea of culture that existed before Modi and after Modi, is

inexplicably different. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) started off with a clean slate. They said, in Kanganana Ranaut's words, that Modi gave them a new independence. And so they were in a new nation. And this new India's language was not secularism, it was hatred.

Millennials like us were taught about secularism, liberty, fraternity, brotherhood, and universality. There was also a moral pressure on us to act in such a way. But when this so-called new India came around, the rules of the game were different. The language was hate, the promotion of a particular religion, and a particular style of religion as well. So everything we say is right, everything you say is wrong. And even if you have to laugh, you have to laugh at our jokes, and not at the jokes that you want to laugh at.

These protests invoked the ideas of older leaders such as M.K. Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, whose principles became the central organ which tied everything together. And this is a very beautiful thing for a generation, because they are starting from a clean slate. They don't know what earlier generations said about Ambedkar. They don't know what early generations said about Bhagat Singh. Gen Z are setting their own new terms for the culture.

Is the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh's (RSS) agenda of building temples, focusing on religion, and 'sanskar' inherently unfriendly to Gen Z or can they also be co-opted into this ideology?

KP: I think it's too early to write the RSS and the Hindu right-wing off when it comes to its appeal among the young. There is a lot of poison that has been fed to them over many years. That poison isn't going to go away overnight just because we've had this protest. Till a few months ago, we were all discussing the emergence of what they call "bhajan clubbing", which was essentially a tactic by the Hindu right, to be able to appeal to the very young. We've seen enough and more young people falling prey to pop propaganda through movies like *Dharamdar*.

The BJP has in its campaign a bouquet of roses of different colours. It goes to the voter and says, pick whatever you like. You like Hindutva, you pick that out. You like muscular nationalism, you pick that out. You like infrastructure development, you pick that out. So, it gives different options to different groups.



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

14A8. Are traditional parties unable to understand the grammar of Gen Z politics?

क्या पारंपरिक राजनीतिक दल Gen Z की राजनीति की भाषा को समझने में असमर्थ हैं?

- Days after India's youth-led protests forced the resignation of the Union Minister of Education, Members of Parliament found themselves speaking in the language of the protesters.

भारत में युवाओं के नेतृत्व में हुए विरोध प्रदर्शनों के कारण केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री के इस्तीफे के कुछ दिनों बाद, सांसद स्वयं को प्रदर्शनकारियों की भाषा में बोलते हुए पाए गए।

- For instance, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde accused the Opposition of being "MIA" (missing in action) and feeling "FOMO" (the fear of missing out).
उदाहरण के लिए, शिवसेना के श्रीकांत शिंदे ने विपक्ष पर "MIA" (missing in action — कार्रवाई से गायब) होने और "FOMO" (fear of missing out — किसी अवसर से चूक जाने का भय) महसूस करने का आरोप लगाया।
- The **Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)** became an umbrella which included everyone who had small grievances about **jobs, education, safety, and questions for the government**.
Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) एक ऐसे व्यापक मंच के रूप में सामने आई जिसमें रोजगार, शिक्षा, सुरक्षा और सरकार से जुड़े छोटे-छोटे मुद्दों को लेकर शिकायत रखने वाले सभी लोग शामिल हो गए।
- And within that umbrella, student organisations like AISA, and the other left organisations also fit in.
और इस व्यापक मंच के भीतर **AISA** जैसे छात्र संगठन तथा अन्य वामपंथी संगठन भी समाहित हो गए।

Do you think the CJP movement will coalesce into an actual political party?

क्या आपको लगता है कि CJP आंदोलन एक वास्तविक राजनीतिक दल के रूप में संगठित हो जाएगा?

- NSB:** Gen Z knows that Instagram is not going to change their fortune, but it is a mode for them to articulate their concerns.
NSB: Gen Z जानता है कि Instagram उसके भाग्य को बदलने वाला नहीं है, लेकिन यह उसके लिए अपनी चिंताओं को व्यक्त करने का एक माध्यम है।
- It was something more than issue-based.
यह केवल मुद्दा-आधारित आंदोलन से कहीं अधिक था।
- It was a generation-based articulation.
यह पीढ़ी-आधारित अभिव्यक्ति थी।
- So they saw it as a forum, not as a political party or a political ideology.
इसलिए उन्होंने इसे एक मंच के रूप में देखा, न कि किसी राजनीतिक दल या राजनीतिक विचारधारा के रूप में।
- KP:** The CJP has essentially become the lightning rod of sorts for so many people who have their own grievances, largely about the political system, but also their own lives.
KP: CJP मूलतः ऐसे बहुत से लोगों के लिए एक प्रकार का केंद्र-बिंदु बन गया है, जिनकी अपनी शिकायतें हैं, मुख्यतः राजनीतिक व्यवस्था को लेकर, लेकिन साथ ही अपने जीवन को लेकर भी।
- But the moment stood important, not because the CJP was leading it, but because people suddenly felt that all of the concerns that they have need to be heard.
लेकिन यह क्षण इसलिए महत्वपूर्ण था कि CJP इसका नेतृत्व कर रहा था, ऐसा नहीं था, बल्कि इसलिए कि लोगों को अचानक महसूस हुआ कि उनकी सभी चिंताओं को सुना जाना आवश्यक है।
- So, what this moment represents really is a chance for an organisation like the CJP to actually create a new political discourse in the country.
इसलिए, यह क्षण वास्तव में CJP जैसे संगठन के लिए देश में एक नया राजनीतिक विमर्श तैयार करने का अवसर प्रस्तुत करता है।
- I think this moment calls for a new political language for this country.
मुझे लगता है कि यह क्षण इस देश के लिए एक नई राजनीतिक भाषा की मांग करता है।

What is it about the structure of traditional parties that make Gen Z distrustful of them?

पारंपरिक राजनीतिक दलों की संरचना में ऐसी क्या बात है, जिसके कारण Gen Z उन पर अविश्वास करती है?

- We normalised a Prime Minister delivering hate speeches as part of electoral campaigns.
हमने एक प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा चुनावी अभियानों के हिस्से के रूप में घृणास्पद भाषण देने को सामान्य मान लिया।
- We normalised the constant one-sided way of communication of the Prime Minister and the lack of accountability.
हमने प्रधानमंत्री के लगातार एकतरफा संवाद के तरीके और जवाबदेही के अभाव को सामान्य मान लिया।
- But here came a generation which saw that it did not need to be normalised.
लेकिन इसके बीच एक ऐसी पीढ़ी सामने आई, जिसने देखा कि इन चीज़ों को सामान्य मानने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- We shouldn't normalise fear; we shouldn't normalise not speaking up.
हमें भय को सामान्य नहीं मानना चाहिए; हमें अपनी बात न कहने को भी सामान्य नहीं मानना चाहिए।
- We shouldn't normalise this lack of conversation and just sit back and let the government do whatever it wants to do, no matter what the issue is, be it jobs, Internet shutdowns, hate speech, etc.
हमें संवाद के इस अभाव को सामान्य नहीं मानना चाहिए और चुपचाप बैठकर सरकार को वह सब करने की अनुमति नहीं देनी चाहिए जो वह करना चाहती है, चाहे मुद्दा रोज़गार, इंटरनेट बंदी, घृणास्पद भाषण आदि का ही क्यों न हो।
- People who've seen this government, have seen it act with impunity against critics, journalists, activists, and political leaders.
जिन लोगों ने इस सरकार को देखा है, उन्होंने इसे आलोचकों, पत्रकारों, कार्यकर्ताओं और राजनीतिक नेताओं के विरुद्ध दंडमुक्ति की भावना से कार्रवाई करते हुए देखा है।
- They've only been seeing a life under this Prime Minister, and they started making fun of him, saying why is he dressing up, why is he laughing in a weird way when he goes to foreign trips, and so on.
उन्होंने केवल इस प्रधानमंत्री के कार्यकाल के दौरान का जीवन देखा है और उन्होंने उनका मज़ाक उड़ाना शुरू कर दिया, यह कहते हुए कि वे इस तरह तैयार क्यों होते हैं, विदेश यात्राओं पर जाने के दौरान इस अजीब तरीके से क्यों हँसते हैं, आदि।
- So they started seeing the humour in a lot of what we had normalised, and I think that is the language that the government doesn't have, to be able to speak to them about.
इसलिए उन्होंने उन बहुत-सी चीज़ों में हास्य देखना शुरू कर दिया, जिन्हें हमने सामान्य मान लिया था, और मेरा मानना है कि यही वह भाषा है, जिसमें सरकार के पास उनसे संवाद करने की क्षमता नहीं है।
- NSB: For this generation, the idea of culture that existed before Modi and after Modi, is inexplicably different.
NSB: इस पीढ़ी के लिए मोदी से पहले और मोदी के बाद मौजूद संस्कृति की अवधारणा में स्पष्ट रूप से बहुत बड़ा अंतर है।
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) started off with a clean slate.
भारतीय जनता पार्टी (BJP) ने एक नई शुरुआत के साथ अपना अभियान शुरू किया।
- They said, in Kangana Ranaut's words, that Modi gave them a new independence.
उन्होंने, कंगना रनौत के शब्दों में, कहा कि मोदी ने उन्हें नई स्वतंत्रता दी।
- And so they were in a new nation.
और इस प्रकार, वे एक नए राष्ट्र में थे।
- And this new India's language was not secularism, it was hatred.
और इस नए भारत की भाषा धर्मनिरपेक्षता नहीं, बल्कि घृणा थी।
- Millennials like us were taught about secularism, liberty, fraternity, brotherhood, and universality.
हम जैसे मिलेनियल्स को धर्मनिरपेक्षता, स्वतंत्रता, बंधुत्व, भाईचारे और सार्वभौमिकता के बारे में पढ़ाया गया था।
- There was also a moral pressure on us to act in such a way.
हम पर इस प्रकार आचरण करने के लिए नैतिक दबाव भी था।



- But when this so-called new India came around, the rules of the game were different.
लेकिन जब यह तथाकथित नया भारत सामने आया, तो खेल के नियम अलग थे।
- The language was hate, the promotion of a particular religion, and a particular style of religion as well.
भाषा घृणा, एक विशेष धर्म के प्रचार और धर्म के एक विशेष स्वरूप को बढ़ावा देने की थी।
- So everything we say is right, everything you say is wrong.
इसलिए हम जो कुछ कहते हैं, वह सही है और आप जो कुछ कहते हैं, वह गलत है।
- And even if you have to laugh, you have to laugh at our jokes, and not at the jokes that you want to laugh at.
और यदि आपको हँसना भी है, तो आपको हमारे चुटकुलों पर हँसना होगा, न कि उन चुटकुलों पर जिन पर आप स्वयं हँसना चाहते हैं।
- These protests invoked the ideas of older leaders such as **M.K. Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**, whose principles became the central organ which tied everything together.
इन विरोध प्रदर्शनों में **एम.के. गांधी और डॉ. बी.आर. आंबेडकर** जैसे पुराने नेताओं के विचारों का आह्वान किया गया, जिनके सिद्धांत वह केंद्रीय आधार बन गए, जिसने सब कुछ एक साथ जोड़ दिया।
- And this is a very beautiful thing for a generation, because they are starting from a clean slate.
और किसी पीढ़ी के लिए यह एक बहुत सुंदर बात है, क्योंकि वे एक नई शुरुआत कर रहे हैं।
- They don't know what earlier generations said about Ambedkar.
वे नहीं जानते कि पहली पीढ़ियों ने आंबेडकर के बारे में क्या कहा था।
- They don't know what early generations said about Bhagat Singh.
वे नहीं जानते कि पहली पीढ़ियों ने भगत सिंह के बारे में क्या कहा था।
- Gen Z are setting their own new terms for the culture.
Gen Z संस्कृति के लिए अपनी नई शर्तें और मानदंड स्वयं निर्धारित कर रही है।

Is the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) agenda of building temples, focusing on religion, and 'sanskar' inherently unfriendly to Gen Z or can they also be co-opted into this ideology?

क्या राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ (RSS) का मंदिर निर्माण, धर्म पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने और 'संस्कार' पर बल देने का एजेंडा स्वाभाविक रूप से Gen Z के प्रतिकूल है, या उन्हें भी इस विचारधारा में शामिल किया जा सकता है?

- Till a few months ago, we were all discussing the emergence of what they call "**bhajan clubbing**", which was essentially a tactic by the Hindu right, to be able to appeal to the very young.
कुछ महीने पहले तक हम सभी उस प्रवृत्ति के उभरने पर चर्चा कर रहे थे, जिसे "भजन क्लबिंग" कहा जाता है, जो मूलतः हिंदू दक्षिणपंथ की एक रणनीति थी, ताकि बहुत कम उम्र के युवाओं को आकर्षित किया जा सके।
- We've seen enough and more young people falling prey to pop propaganda through movies like **Dhurandhar**.
हमने **Dhurandhar** जैसी फिल्मों के माध्यम से पॉप संस्कृति आधारित प्रचार के शिकार होते हुए बहुत-से युवाओं को देखा है।

GS Paper II: Polity		14 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
14A8	Seven-judge Bench to hear case concerning legislative privileges from October 6	
	विधायी विशेषाधिकारों से संबंधित मामले की सुनवाई 6 अक्टूबर से सात-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ करेगी	
14A8	Monsoon Session sees multiple lows in Parliament productivity	
	संसद के मानसून सत्र में कार्य उत्पादकता के कई निम्न स्तर देखने को मिले	



14A8	Tension eases at Assam-Arunachal boundary असम-अरुणाचल सीमा पर तनाव कम हुआ
14A8	The constitutional limits on arrest गिरफ्तारी की संवैधानिक सीमाएँ

Seven-judge Bench to hear case concerning legislative privileges from October 6

Several petitions in the Supreme Court have raised substantial questions of law as to whether legislative privileges can override the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression

GS II: Polity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has said a seven-judge Constitution Bench would commence hearing from October 6 a series of long-pending petitions questioning whether legislative privileges can override citizens' fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant passed the order in a case dating back to April 2003. *The Hindu* had published an editorial criticising then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa. The Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker at the time had passed a resolution in the House accusing the daily of having "distorted the proceedings of the Assembly, commented contrary to the events in the Assembly".

The resolution said the comments made in the editorial "amount to breach of privilege of the entire House" under Article 194 of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and immunities to



A five-judge Bench had referred the case to a seven-judge Bench for an authoritative settlement of the law. PTI

Members of Legislative Assemblies. The Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a resolution to arrest five senior journalists of *The Hindu*. Shortly after the resolution, the police sought to arrest the journalists. However, the journalists, including N. Ravi, the then Editor of *The Hindu*, approached the top court and won a stay on any coercive action against them.

When the case came up for hearing, senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the newspaper, argued against the invocation of Article 194(3) to choke Press freedom enshrined under Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution. The

top court also examined the larger legal issue whether a critical speech or publication would constitute a breach of legislative privilege.

Legal tussle

However, a Division Bench of Justices Y.K. Sabharwal and B.N. Krishna had, on December 8, 2003, referred the tussle between legislative privilege and free speech to a five-judge Constitution Bench.

The Bench had noted that the petitions and intervening applications, by journalists and the Press Council of India, raised "substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of Articles 194(3), 19 and

the interplay between these two Articles and Article 21 of the Constitution".

On December 8, 2004, the five-judge Bench heard Mr. Salve's submission that the top court had given contradictory opinions in a 1959 judgment in *Pandit M.S.M. Sharma versus Shri Krishna Sharma* and a Presidential Reference of 1964 about the interplay between free speech and the scope of legislative privileges.

The five-judge Bench had further referred the case to a seven-judge Bench for an authoritative settlement of the law.

On October 12, 2023, the Union government was impleaded as a party by a seven-judge Bench, headed by then Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in which the current CJI, Justice Kant, was a member. The Attorney General of India was requested to assist the top court in the case.

The petitions came up again on February 2, 2024 to hear a procedural application for change of advocate-on-record. The case then came up before CJI Kant, on August 12, 2026.

14A8. Seven-judge Bench to hear case concerning legislative privileges from October 6

विधायी

विशेषाधिकारों से

संबंधित मामले की

सुनवाई 6 अक्टूबर से

सात-न्यायाधीशों की

पीठ करेगी

• The Supreme Court has said a seven-judge Constitution Bench would commence hearing from October 6 a series of long-pending petitions questioning whether legislative privileges can override citizens' fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression.

सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने

कहा है कि सात-

न्यायाधीशों की संविधान

पीठ 6 अक्टूबर से लंबे

समय से लंबित

याचिकाओं के एक समूह

पर सुनवाई शुरू करेगी, जिनमें यह प्रश्न उठाया गया है कि क्या विधायी विशेषाधिकार नागरिकों के वाक् और अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता के मौलिक अधिकार को निष्प्रभावी कर सकते हैं।

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker at the time had passed a resolution in the House accusing the daily of having "distorted the proceedings of the Assembly, commented contrary to the events in the Assembly".

उस समय तमिलनाडु विधानसभा के अध्यक्ष ने सदन में एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया था, जिसमें दैनिक समाचार पत्र पर "विधानसभा की कार्यवाही को विकृत करने और विधानसभा में हुई घटनाओं के विपरीत टिप्पणी करने" का आरोप लगाया गया था।

- The resolution said the comments made in the editorial “amount to breach of privilege of the entire House” under **Article 194** of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and immunities to Members of Legislative Assemblies.
प्रस्ताव में कहा गया था कि संपादकीय में की गई टिप्पणियाँ संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 194** के तहत “**पूरे सदन के विशेषाधिकार के उल्लंघन के समान हैं**”, जो विधानसभाओं के सदस्यों को वाक् की स्वतंत्रता और उन्मुक्तियाँ प्रदान करता है।
- The Tamil Nadu Assembly had passed a resolution to arrest five senior journalists of The Hindu.
तमिलनाडु विधानसभा ने द हिंदू के पाँच वरिष्ठ पत्रकारों को गिरफ्तार करने के लिए एक प्रस्ताव पारित किया था।
- Shortly after the resolution, the police sought to arrest the journalists.
प्रस्ताव के तुरंत बाद पुलिस ने पत्रकारों को गिरफ्तार करने का प्रयास किया।
- However, the journalists, including **N. Ravi**, the then Editor of The Hindu, approached the top court and won a stay on any coercive action against them.
हालाँकि, तत्कालीन द हिंदू के संपादक **एन. रवि** सहित पत्रकारों ने सर्वोच्च न्यायालय का रुख किया और अपने विरुद्ध किसी भी दंडात्मक या बलपूर्वक कार्रवाई पर स्थगन प्राप्त कर लिया।
- When the case came up for hearing, senior advocate **Harish Salve**, appearing for the newspaper, argued against the invocation of **Article 194(3) to choke Press freedom enshrined under Article 19(1)(a)** of the Constitution.
जब मामले की सुनवाई हुई, तब समाचार पत्र की ओर से पेश वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता **हरीश साल्वे** ने संविधान के **अनुच्छेद 19(1)(a)** में निहित प्रेस की स्वतंत्रता को दबाने के लिए **अनुच्छेद 194(3)** का सहारा लिए जाने का विरोध किया।
- The top court also examined the larger legal issue whether a critical speech or publication would constitute a breach of legislative privilege.
सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने इस व्यापक कानूनी प्रश्न की भी जाँच की कि क्या आलोचनात्मक भाषण या प्रकाशन विधायी विशेषाधिकार का उल्लंघन माना जाएगा।

Legal tussle कानूनी संघर्ष

- The Bench had noted that the petitions and intervening applications, by journalists and the Press Council of India, raised “substantial questions of law as to the interpretation of Articles 194(3), 19 and the interplay between these two Articles and Article 21 of the Constitution”.
पीठ ने कहा था कि पत्रकारों और भारतीय प्रेस परिषद द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं तथा हस्तक्षेप आवेदनों में “अनुच्छेद 194(3), 19 की व्याख्या तथा इन दोनों अनुच्छेदों और संविधान के अनुच्छेद 21 के बीच अंतर्संबंध के संबंध में कानून के महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न” उठाए गए हैं।
- On December 8, 2004, the five-judge Bench heard Mr. Salve’s submission that the top court had given contradictory opinions in a **1959 judgment in Pandit M.S.M. Sharma versus Shri Krishna Sharma and a Presidential Reference of 1964** about the interplay between free speech and the scope of legislative privileges.
8 दिसंबर 2004 को पाँच-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने श्री साल्वे की उस दलील पर सुनवाई की कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने 1959 के पंडित एम.एस.एम. शर्मा बनाम श्री कृष्ण शर्मा फैसले और 1964 के राष्ट्रपति संदर्भ में अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता तथा विधायी विशेषाधिकारों के दायरे के बीच अंतर्संबंध के संबंध में परस्पर विरोधी राय दी थी।
- The five-judge Bench had further referred the case to a **seven-judge Bench** for an authoritative settlement of the law.
पाँच-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने कानून की प्रामाणिक और निर्णायक व्याख्या के लिए मामले को आगे सात-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ के पास भेज दिया था।



Monsoon Session sees multiple lows in Parliament productivity

GS II: Polity
 Sobhana K. Nair
 NEW DELHI

The Monsoon Session of Parliament that concluded on Thursday saw multiple lows in terms of productivity. Twelve Bills were passed, with detailed debate taking place on only one – the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, also known as the anti-paper leak legislation.

Only two questions were answered orally in the Lok Sabha and 16 in the Rajya Sabha during the entire session. However, the Opposition managed to maintain a united front, pushing back strongly against several Bills, including the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill (FCRA), 2026, which was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).

Blame game

Each side blamed the other for the low productivity in the session which began with students marching down to the Parliament on July 20, the first day of the session.

While the Lok Sabha recorded 19% business, it was 39% in the Rajya Sabha. According to data compiled by PRS Legislative Research, this has been one of the lowest productivity rates for the Lok Sabha in 22 years, with only two Parliament sessions since 2004 recording lower productivity. PRS Legislative Research's analysis further highlighted that nine Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha without any MP (other than the Minister) speaking on them.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla skipped his concluding address, while Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan expressed "deep concern" over disruptions that "derailed" the business of the Upper House during the session.

The Congress, the Trinamool Congress, and the Samajwadi Party boycotted the customary tea party hosted by Mr. Birla after the House was adjourned *sine die*.

14A8. Monsoon Session sees multiple lows in Parliament productivity

संसद के मानसून सत्र में कार्य उत्पादकता के कई निम्न स्तर देखने को मिले

- While the Lok Sabha recorded **19% business**, it was 39% in the Rajya Sabha.

जहाँ लोकसभा में 19% कार्य दर्ज किया गया, वहीं राज्यसभा में यह 39% रहा।

- According to data compiled by **PRS Legislative Research**, this has been one of the lowest productivity rates for the Lok Sabha in 22 years, with only two Parliament sessions since 2004 recording lower productivity.

PRS Legislative Research द्वारा संकलित आँकड़ों के अनुसार, यह 22 वर्षों में लोकसभा की सबसे कम उत्पादकता दरों में से एक रही है, जिसमें 2004 के बाद केवल दो संसद सत्रों में इससे कम उत्पादकता दर्ज की गई थी।

- PRS Legislative Research's analysis further highlighted that **nine Bills were passed in the Lok Sabha without any MP (other than the Minister) speaking on them.**

PRS Legislative Research के विश्लेषण में आगे बताया गया कि लोकसभा में नौ विधेयक ऐसे पारित हुए, जिन पर मंत्री के अलावा किसी भी सांसद ने बात नहीं की।

Tension eases at Assam-Arunachal boundary

GS II: Polity
 The Hindu Bureau
 GUWAHATI

Tension along the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary eased on Thursday night after Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK), the apex student body of Assam's Mising community, suspended the "economic blockade" of Arunachal Pradesh. However, it gave a

48-hour ultimatum to arrest four Arunachal Pradesh-based persons accused in the August 10 firing incident.

Blockade launched

On Wednesday, TMPK and other groups had launched the blockade in protest against the firing in which 11 persons from Assam were injured in the Ming-

mang Bodoti area of Assam's Dhemaji district.

After talks with the Assam government and civil society groups of Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday, the TMPK said: "Assurances were given regarding action on the core demands raised by TMPK. In view of these assurances and in consideration of the difficulties being faced by the

common people, TMPK has decided to temporarily suspend the blockade."

Order restored

Earlier, the police restored order by firing blank shots following a scuffle between people from both States. The violence was reported from an area adjoining Likabali in Arunachal Pradesh.

14A8. Tension eases at Assam-Arunachal boundary

असम-अरुणाचल सीमा पर तनाव कम हुआ

- Tension along the **Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary** eased on Thursday night after **Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK)**, the apex student body of **Assam's Mising community**, suspended the "economic blockade" of Arunachal Pradesh.

असम-अरुणाचल प्रदेश सीमा पर गुरुवार रात तनाव कम हो गया, जब असम के मिसिंग समुदाय के शीर्ष छात्र संगठन **Takam Mising Porin Kebang (TMPK)** ने अरुणाचल प्रदेश की "आर्थिक नाकेबंदी" को स्थगित कर दिया।

- The violence was reported from an area adjoining **Likabali in Arunachal Pradesh**.
हिंसा की घटना अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लिकाबाली से सटे क्षेत्र में सामने आई थी।

The constitutional limits on arrest

The Supreme Court has reinforced safeguards against arbitrary arrest, holding that an arrested person must be informed of the grounds of arrest: constitutional protections under Articles 21, 22, along with judicial guidelines, seek to balance the state's power to arrest with the individuals right to personal liberty and dignity

SS II: Polity
LETTER & SPIRIT

G.B.P. Srivastava

The constitutionality of arrest in India needs to be examined to reinforce democratic values and ensure that the authority of the state and the liberty of the citizen are properly balanced. Recently, the Supreme Court, in *Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana* (2025), held that every arrested person must be properly and meaningfully informed of the grounds for his arrest. Failure to provide information shall amount to a violation of Article 22(1) of the Constitution and Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Section 47 of the BNSS, 2023).

Sometimes, communication is conducted with the arrested person's relatives, which appears to be a formality. Considering this, the verdict says that communicating the details of the arrest to relatives or providing ambiguous records does not satisfy the constitutional requirements.

Therefore, the arrested person must be directly informed of the grounds of arrest in a manner that enables him to understand them. This would be in line with the Constitutional philosophy of putting a check on any possible arbitrary exercise of power.

Legal safeguards

The court has opined that if the initial arrest was unconstitutional, subsequent remand orders would also be deemed illegal. Moreover, to fulfil the requirements of Article 22(2) and Section 57 of the CrPC (Section 58 of the BNSS, 2023), the arrest memo must contain the time of arrest. These constitutional and legal provisions say that the police must present the arrested person to a local magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the travel time.

The court also condemned degrading



GETTY IMAGES

treatment in custody, affirming the right to dignity under Article 21, and directed the state to amend its procedures to prevent future violations. Thus, this judgment sets a strong precedent for safeguarding personal liberty and procedural fairness in India's criminal justice system.

Arrest is different from detention. While detention is a temporary hold for investigation and the person is not charged with any offence, arrest is a formal police custody with a probable cause of commission of an offence. Article 22 deals with both arrest and detention. In non-cognisable offences such as simple hurt, defamation, etc., a warrant is needed for arrest, whereas in cognisable offences such as murder, rape, etc., arrest is without a warrant.

Court's guidelines on arrest

In *Armesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2014), the Supreme Court laid down guidelines for arrests to prevent the misuse of criminal laws. The law should not be used as a tool to harass someone. Considering this, it is obvious that allowing criminal

prosecution to continue based on frivolous and false allegations would amount to an abuse of legal process and would also be detrimental to the concept of natural justice, which is perhaps the most significant form of justice enshrined in the Constitution.

In the guidelines, the court said that arrests should be an exception in cases where the punishment is less than seven years. The police must determine whether an arrest is necessary under Section 41 of the CrPC (Section 35 of the BNSS). Thus, routine arrests cannot be made merely because the power to arrest has been given to the police. The necessity must be justified.

It is well known that personal freedom is a major part of the Constitution. Unnecessary arrests hurt a person's reputation and would be detrimental to personal liberty.

Constitutionality of arrest, detention
Article 22 protects against arrest and detention to ensure freedom of person, and hence has a direct link with the concept of personal liberty under Article

21. Article 22 provides important procedural safeguards for a person who is arrested, including the right to be informed and the right to consult and be defended by his lawyer as soon as possible, and finally the right to be presented before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours.

The Article also deals with the concept of preventive detention where these procedural safeguards do not apply. The definition of preventive detention in India is inspired by a British law, Regulation 14-B of the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914, which says that all detentions that are not punitive may be considered preventive. The detention may continue for three months, and if the period expires, an Advisory Board shall permit the extension of the period.

Thus, Article 22 protects a person from being arrested or detained, signifying the protection of his liberty against any arbitrary action by the state. However, the provision of arrest and detention exemplifies the exercise of the state's authority.

Personal liberty in the Constitution is founded in the principle of natural justice, which is enshrined in the entire constitutional scheme. Further, the Golden Triangle of India's Constitution as explained by the Supreme Court in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India* (1978) suggests that Article 21 is related to Articles 14 and 19. Of the two, Article 14 is an antithesis to arbitrariness and the substantive natural justice emanates from it, whereas Article 19(1) incorporates procedural natural justice. Therefore, any arbitrary exercise of the power of arrest or detention would amount to a violation of the Golden Triangle. This has been the reason why the framers of the Constitution ensured that a delicate balance between authority and liberty is maintained and vibrant democracy in India is sustained.

(C.B.P. Srivastava is president, Centre for Applied Research in Governance, Delhi)

THE GIST

Constitutional and legal safeguards require the police to record the time of arrest and produce the arrested person before a magistrate within 24 hours.

Supreme Court guidelines, including those in *Armesh Kumar*, stress that arrest should not be routine and must be justified by the necessity of the case.

14A8. The constitutional limits on arrest

गिरफ्तारी की संवैधानिक सीमाएँ

- The constitutionality of arrest in India needs to be examined to reinforce **democratic values** and ensure that the authority of the state and the liberty of the citizen are properly balanced. भारत में गिरफ्तारी की संवैधानिकता की समीक्षा किया जाना आवश्यक है, ताकि लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों को सुदृढ़ किया जा सके और यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि राज्य की सत्ता तथा नागरिक की स्वतंत्रता के बीच उचित संतुलन बना रहे।
- Recently, the Supreme Court, in **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)**, held that **every arrested person must be properly and meaningfully informed of the grounds for his arrest**. हाल ही में, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने **Vihaan Kumar v. State of Haryana (2025)** मामले में कहा कि प्रत्येक गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति को उसकी गिरफ्तारी के आधारों के बारे में उचित और सार्थक रूप से सूचित किया जाना चाहिए।
- Failure to provide information shall amount to a violation of Article 22(1) of the Constitution and Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (Section 47 of the BNSS, 2023).** जानकारी प्रदान करने में विफलता संविधान के अनुच्छेद 22(1) और दंड प्रक्रिया संहिता की धारा 50 (BNSS, 2023 की धारा 47) का उल्लंघन मानी जाएगी।
- Sometimes, communication is conducted with the arrested person's relatives, which appears to be a formality.** कभी-कभी गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति के रिश्तेदारों को सूचना दी जाती है, जो एक औपचारिकता जैसी प्रतीत होती है।
- Considering this, the verdict says that communicating the details of the arrest to relatives or providing ambiguous records does not satisfy the constitutional requirements.**



इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए, न्यायालय ने कहा कि रिश्तेदारों को गिरफ्तारी का विवरण बताना या अस्पष्ट अभिलेख उपलब्ध कराना संवैधानिक आवश्यकताओं को पूरा नहीं करता।

- Therefore, the **arrested person must be directly informed of the grounds of arrest in a manner that enables him to understand them.**
इसलिए, गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तारी के आधारों के बारे में सीधे और ऐसे तरीके से सूचित किया जाना चाहिए, जिससे वह उन्हें समझ सके।
- This would be in line with the Constitutional philosophy of putting a check on any possible **arbitrary exercise of power.**
यह सत्ता के किसी भी संभावित मनमाने प्रयोग पर अंकुश लगाने के संवैधानिक दर्शन के अनुरूप होगा।

Legal safeguards

कानूनी सुरक्षा उपाय

- The court has opined that if the initial arrest was unconstitutional, subsequent remand orders would also be deemed illegal.
न्यायालय ने कहा है कि यदि प्रारंभिक गिरफ्तारी असंवैधानिक थी, तो उसके बाद दिए गए रिमांड आदेश भी अवैध माने जाएंगे।
- Moreover, **to fulfil the requirements of Article 22(2) and Section 57 of the CrPC (Section 58 of the BNSS, 2023), the arrest memo must contain the time of arrest.**
इसके अतिरिक्त, अनुच्छेद 22(2) और CrPC की धारा 57 (BNSS, 2023 की धारा 58) की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए गिरफ्तारी ज्ञापन में गिरफ्तारी का समय दर्ज होना चाहिए।
- These constitutional and legal provisions say that the **police must present the arrested person to a local magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the travel time.**
इन संवैधानिक और कानूनी प्रावधानों के अनुसार, पुलिस को यात्रा में लगने वाले समय को छोड़कर गिरफ्तार व्यक्ति को 24 घंटे के भीतर स्थानीय मजिस्ट्रेट के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करना आवश्यक है।
- The court also condemned degrading treatment in custody, affirming the **right to dignity under Article 21**, and directed the state to amend its procedures to prevent future violations.
न्यायालय ने हिरासत में अपमानजनक व्यवहार की भी निंदा की, अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत गरिमा के अधिकार की पुष्टि की और भविष्य में होने वाले उल्लंघनों को रोकने के लिए राज्य को अपनी प्रक्रियाओं में संशोधन करने का निर्देश दिया।
- Thus, this judgment sets a strong **precedent for safeguarding personal liberty and procedural fairness in India's criminal justice system.**
इस प्रकार, यह निर्णय भारत की आपराधिक न्याय प्रणाली में व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता और प्रक्रियात्मक निष्पक्षता की सुरक्षा के लिए एक मजबूत नज़ीर स्थापित करता है।
- Arrest is different from detention.
गिरफ्तारी हिरासत से भिन्न है।
- While detention is a temporary hold for investigation and the person is not charged with any offence, arrest is a formal police custody with a probable cause of commission of an offence.
जबकि हिरासत जाँच के लिए की गई अस्थायी रोक है और व्यक्ति पर किसी अपराध का आरोप आवश्यक रूप से नहीं होता, गिरफ्तारी किसी अपराध के किए जाने के संभावित कारण के आधार पर औपचारिक पुलिस अभिरक्षा है।
- **Article 22 deals with both arrest and detention.**
अनुच्छेद 22 गिरफ्तारी और हिरासत, दोनों से संबंधित है।
- **In non-cognisable offences such as simple hurt, defamation, etc., a warrant is needed for arrest, whereas in cognisable offences such as murder, rape, etc., arrest is without a warrant.**
असंज्ञेय अपराधों, जैसे साधारण चोट, मानहानि आदि में गिरफ्तारी के लिए वारंट आवश्यक होता है, जबकि संज्ञेय अपराधों, जैसे हत्या, बलात्कार आदि में गिरफ्तारी बिना वारंट के की जा सकती है।

Court's guidelines on arrest गिरफ्तारी पर न्यायालय के दिशा-निर्देश

- In **Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014)**, the Supreme Court laid down guidelines for arrests to prevent the misuse of criminal laws.
Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar (2014) मामले में सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने आपराधिक कानूनों के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए गिरफ्तारी संबंधी दिशा-निर्देश निर्धारित किए।
- The law should not be used as a tool to harass someone.
कानून का उपयोग किसी व्यक्ति को प्रताड़ित करने के साधन के रूप में नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।
- Considering this, it is obvious that allowing criminal prosecution to continue based on frivolous and false allegations would amount to an abuse of legal process and would also be detrimental to the concept of **natural justice**, which is perhaps the most significant form of justice enshrined in the Constitution.
इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए, यह स्पष्ट है कि निराधार और झूठे आरोपों के आधार पर आपराधिक अभियोजन जारी रखने की अनुमति देना कानूनी प्रक्रिया के दुरुपयोग के समान होगा और यह प्राकृतिक न्याय की अवधारणा के लिए भी हानिकारक होगा, जो संभवतः संविधान में निहित न्याय का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण रूप है।
- In the guidelines, the court said that arrests should be an exception in cases where the punishment is less than seven years.
दिशा-निर्देशों में न्यायालय ने कहा कि ऐसे मामलों में जहाँ सजा सात वर्ष से कम है, गिरफ्तारी अपवादस्वरूप ही की जानी चाहिए।
- The police must determine whether an arrest is necessary under **Section 41 of the CrPC (Section 35 of the BNSS)**.
पुलिस को यह निर्धारित करना चाहिए कि CrPC की धारा 41 (BNSS की धारा 35) के तहत गिरफ्तारी आवश्यक है या नहीं।
- Thus, routine arrests cannot be made merely because the power to arrest has been given to the police.
इस प्रकार, केवल इसलिए नियमित या यांत्रिक गिरफ्तारी नहीं की जा सकती क्योंकि पुलिस को गिरफ्तारी करने की शक्ति प्रदान की गई है।
- The necessity must be justified.
गिरफ्तारी की आवश्यकता को उचित ठहराना अनिवार्य है।
- It is well known that personal freedom is a major part of the Constitution.
यह सर्वविदित है कि व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता संविधान का एक महत्वपूर्ण अंग है।
- Unnecessary arrests hurt a person's reputation and would be detrimental to personal liberty.**
अनावश्यक गिरफ्तारियाँ व्यक्ति की प्रतिष्ठा को नुकसान पहुँचाती हैं और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के लिए हानिकारक होती हैं।

Constitutionality of arrest, detention गिरफ्तारी और निरोध की संवैधानिकता

- Article 22 protects against arrest and detention to ensure freedom of person, and hence has a direct link with the concept of **personal liberty under Article 21**.
अनुच्छेद 22 व्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए गिरफ्तारी और निरोध के विरुद्ध संरक्षण प्रदान करता है और इसलिए इसका अनुच्छेद 21 के तहत व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता की अवधारणा से सीधा संबंध है।
- Article 22 provides important **procedural safeguards** for a person who is arrested, including the right to be informed and the right to consult and be defended by his lawyer as soon as possible, and finally the right to be presented before the nearest magistrate within **24 hours**.
अनुच्छेद 22 गिरफ्तार किए गए व्यक्ति के लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपाय प्रदान करता है, जिनमें यथाशीघ्र गिरफ्तारी के कारणों की जानकारी प्राप्त करने का अधिकार तथा अपने वकील से परामर्श करने और



उसके द्वारा बचाव किए जाने का अधिकार शामिल है; साथ ही उसे **24 घंटे के भीतर निकटतम मजिस्ट्रेट के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किए जाने का अधिकार** भी प्राप्त है।

- The Article also deals with the concept of **preventive detention** where these procedural safeguards do not apply.
यह अनुच्छेद **निवारक निरोध** की अवधारणा से भी संबंधित है, जहाँ ये प्रक्रियात्मक सुरक्षा उपाय लागू नहीं होते हैं।
- The definition of preventive detention in India is inspired by a British law, **Regulation 14-B of the Defence of the Realm Act, 1914**, which says that all detentions that are not punitive may be considered preventive.
भारत में निवारक निरोध की परिभाषा एक ब्रिटिश कानून, **डिफेन्स ऑफ द रियल्म एक्ट, 1914 के रेगुलेशन 14-B**, से प्रेरित है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि वे सभी निरोध जो दंडात्मक नहीं हैं, **निवारक** माने जा सकते हैं।
- The detention may continue for **three months**, and if the period expires, an Advisory Board shall permit the extension of the period.
निरोध **तीन महीने** तक जारी रह सकता है और यदि यह अवधि समाप्त हो जाती है, तो एक **सलाहकार बोर्ड** अवधि के विस्तार की अनुमति देगा।
- Thus, Article 22 protects a person from being arrested or detained, signifying the protection of his liberty against any **arbitrary action by the state**.
इस प्रकार, अनुच्छेद 22 व्यक्ति को गिरफ्तार या निरुद्ध किए जाने से संरक्षण प्रदान करता है, जो **राज्य की किसी भी मनमानी कार्रवाई के विरुद्ध उसकी स्वतंत्रता के संरक्षण** को दर्शाता है।
- However, the provision of arrest and detention exemplifies the exercise of the state's authority.
हालाँकि, गिरफ्तारी और निरोध का प्रावधान **राज्य के अधिकार के प्रयोग** को भी दर्शाता है।
- Personal liberty in the Constitution is founded in the principle of **natural justice**, which is enshrined in the entire constitutional scheme.
संविधान में **व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता** का आधार **प्राकृतिक न्याय के सिद्धांत** में निहित है, जो संपूर्ण संवैधानिक व्यवस्था में समाहित है।
- Further, the **Golden Triangle of India's Constitution** as explained by the Supreme Court in *Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India (1978)* suggests that Article 21 is related to Articles 14 and 19.
इसके अतिरिक्त, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा *मनुका गांधी बनाम भारत संघ (1978)* में प्रतिपादित भारतीय संविधान का **स्वर्णिम त्रिकोण (Golden Triangle)** यह दर्शाता है कि अनुच्छेद 21 का संबंध **अनुच्छेद 14 और अनुच्छेद 19** से है।
- Of the two, Article 14 is an antithesis to **arbitrariness** and the substantive natural justice emanates from it, whereas Article 19(1) incorporates **procedural natural justice**.
इन दोनों में, अनुच्छेद 14 **मनमानी के प्रतिपक्ष** के रूप में कार्य करता है और उससे **सारभूत प्राकृतिक न्याय** का उद्भव होता है, जबकि अनुच्छेद 19(1) में **प्रक्रियात्मक प्राकृतिक न्याय** समाहित है।
- Therefore, any arbitrary exercise of the power of arrest or detention would amount to a violation of the **Golden Triangle**.
अतः गिरफ्तारी या निरोध की शक्ति का कोई भी **मनमाना प्रयोग स्वर्णिम त्रिकोण** के उल्लंघन के समान होगा।
- This has been the reason why the framers of the Constitution ensured that a delicate balance between **authority and liberty** is maintained and vibrant democracy in India is sustained.
यही कारण है कि संविधान निर्माताओं ने यह सुनिश्चित किया कि **राज्य के अधिकार और व्यक्तिगत स्वतंत्रता के बीच एक नाजुक संतुलन** बनाए रखा जाए और भारत में **जीवंत लोकतंत्र** कायम रहे।

GS Paper II: International Relations	14 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
14A8	Why has the U.K. paused three Chevening fellowships?



यू.के. ने तीन Chevening फेलोशिप को स्थगित क्यों किया है?

Why has the U.K. paused three Chevening fellowships?

What are the three programmes, who do they serve, and what happens next?

GSNIR

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

The U.K. government has paused short-term fellowships offered for mid-career professionals under the prestigious Chevening programme for one year. The Chevening Research, Science and Innovation Leadership Fellowship (CRISP), the Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship, and the Chevening South Asia Journalism Programme (SAJP) have been paused for the year 2027-28.

Why have the Chevening fellowships been paused?

According to official sources, the fellowships have been paused for varying reasons, including capacity constraints and cost-cutting by the U.K. government.

"We are currently reviewing and strengthening our fellowship portfolio to ensure it continues to deliver the greatest impact and value for participants and partners. As part of this process, some programmes will pause in 2027," a British

High Commission spokesperson confirmed in response to *The Hindu's* queries.

"The SAJP will pause for the 2027 cycle due to capacity constraints at the host university, and is expected to resume in 2028," the sources said.

"We recognise this will be disappointing news for those who were hoping to apply, but we hope to be able to provide an update on future plans for the programmes soon," the sources added.

What is the nature of the fellowships?

The CRISP fellowship is a 12-week programme for scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs hosted by the University of Oxford. The Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship is a 10-week programme delivered at Cranfield University, a part of the U.K.'s Defence Academy. The SAJP is an eight-week programme hosted by the University of Westminster for mid-career journalists.

CRISP focuses on fellows from India and Sri Lanka; the Cyber Security Fellowship is offered to Indians and

citizens of the Western Balkans; the SAJP is a one-of-a-kind programme that brings together journalists from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and the Maldives.

What avenues is Chevening India exploring to restart the fellowships?

The Chevening team is exploring industry sponsorship for CRISP and the Cyber Security Fellowship, and welcomes suggestions and potential partners.

"We expect to provide an update on the Chevening Gurukul Fellowship (September-November 2027) cohort by early November 2026, and are currently exploring sponsorship opportunities for this programme too," sources said.

The Gurukul Fellowship, also hosted at the University of Oxford, is a 12-week programme targeting mid-career Indian professionals across sectors, including government, media, and civil society.

How much has the U.K. government spent on the programmes?

Data tabled in the U.K. Parliament show

that in financial year 2025-26, the U.K.'s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) allocated £59.4 million to Chevening. A break-up of the funding split between fellowships and scholarships is not available in the public domain. *The Hindu's* query to the British High Commission on this went unanswered.

"Through corporate partner income and university partnerships, Chevening receives between £6-7 million annually, funding 22% of scholars," the U.K.'s then Secretary of State for the FCDO stated in a policy paper presented in the U.K. Parliament in 2023.

What is the government's purpose?

The U.K. government launched the Chevening Fellowships in 2004 as an extension of the broader Chevening Scholarships, which were established in 1983. For 2027-28, applications for Chevening Scholarships, which offer a fully funded Master's in the U.K., have opened.

The Chevening programmes function as an instrument of soft diplomacy for the U.K. By selecting high-potential international professionals to study in the U.K. on the FCDO's fully funded programme, the U.K. government aims to cultivate influential global networks that advance British foreign policy interests.

"Many of Chevening's alumni are in positions of influence, and they form a valuable network for furthering His Majesty's Government's objectives," a policy paper on the programme states.

THE GIST

The U.K. has paused three Chevening fellowships — CRISP, Cyber Security Fellowship and SAJP — for 2027-28, citing portfolio review, cost-cutting and capacity constraints.

Chevening is exploring industry sponsorship to sustain some programmes, while the pause comes amid a longer-term decline in the number of scholarships awarded and scrutiny of programme funding.

14A8. Why has the U.K. paused three Chevening fellowships?

यू.के. ने तीन Chevening फेलोशिप को स्थगित क्यों किया है?

- The U.K. government has paused short-term fellowships offered for mid-career professionals under the prestigious Chevening programme for one year.

यू.के. सरकार ने प्रतिष्ठित Chevening programme के तहत मध्य-करियर पेशवरों के लिए दी जाने वाली अल्पकालिक फेलोशिप को एक वर्ष के लिए स्थगित कर दिया है।

- The Chevening Research, Science and Innovation Leadership Fellowship (CRISP), the Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship, and the Chevening South Asia Journalism Programme (SAJP) have been paused for the year 2027-28.

Chevening Research, Science and Innovation Leadership Fellowship (CRISP), Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship और Chevening South Asia Journalism Programme (SAJP) को वर्ष 2027-28 के लिए स्थगित कर दिया गया है।

Why have the Chevening fellowships been paused?

Chevening फेलोशिप को स्थगित क्यों किया गया है?

- According to official sources, the fellowships have been paused for varying reasons, including capacity constraints and cost-cutting by the U.K. government.

आधिकारिक स्रोतों के अनुसार, इन फेलोशिप को अलग-अलग कारणों से स्थगित किया गया है, जिनमें क्षमता संबंधी सीमाएँ और यू.के. सरकार द्वारा लागत में कटौती शामिल हैं।

- "We are currently reviewing and strengthening our fellowship portfolio to ensure it continues to deliver the greatest impact and value for participants and partners. हम वर्तमान में अपने फेलोशिप पोर्टफोलियो की समीक्षा और उसे मजबूत कर रहे हैं, ताकि यह प्रतिभागियों और साझेदारों के लिए अधिकतम प्रभाव और मूल्य प्रदान करता रहे।
- As part of this process, some programmes will pause in 2027," a British High Commission spokesperson confirmed in response to *The Hindu's* queries.

इस प्रक्रिया के तहत, कुछ कार्यक्रम 2027 में स्थगित रहेंगे," ब्रिटिश हाई कमीशन के एक प्रवक्ता ने The Hindu के प्रश्नों के उत्तर में पुष्टि की।

- "The SAJP will pause for the 2027 cycle due to capacity constraints at the host university, and is expected to resume in 2028," the sources said.
सूत्रों ने कहा, "SAJP को मेजबान विश्वविद्यालय में क्षमता संबंधी सीमाओं के कारण 2027 चक्र के लिए स्थगित किया जाएगा और इसके 2028 में फिर से शुरू होने की उम्मीद है।"
- "We recognise this will be disappointing news for those who were hoping to apply, but we hope to be able to provide an update on future plans for the programmes soon," the sources added.
सूत्रों ने आगे कहा, "हम समझते हैं कि यह उन लोगों के लिए निराशाजनक समाचार होगा जो आवेदन करने की उम्मीद कर रहे थे, लेकिन हमें आशा है कि हम जल्द ही इन कार्यक्रमों की भविष्य की योजनाओं पर अपडेट प्रदान करने में सक्षम होंगे।"

What is the nature of the fellowships?

इन फेलोशिप की प्रकृति क्या है?

- The **CRISP fellowship** is a 12-week programme for scientists, researchers and entrepreneurs hosted by the University of Oxford.
CRISP fellowship वैज्ञानिकों, शोधकर्ताओं और उद्यमियों के लिए 12 सप्ताह का कार्यक्रम है, जिसकी मेजबानी University of Oxford करता है।
- The **Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship** is a 10-week programme delivered at Cranfield University, a part of the U.K.'s Defence Academy.
Chevening Cyber Security Fellowship 10 सप्ताह का कार्यक्रम है, जिसे यू.के. की Defence Academy के एक भाग Cranfield University में संचालित किया जाता है।
- The **SAJP** is an eight-week programme hosted by the University of Westminster for mid-career journalists.
SAJP मध्य-करियर पत्रकारों के लिए आठ सप्ताह का कार्यक्रम है, जिसकी मेजबानी University of Westminster करता है।
- CRISP focuses on fellows from India and Sri Lanka; the Cyber Security Fellowship is offered to Indians and citizens of the Western Balkans; the SAJP is a one-of-a-kind programme that brings together journalists from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and the Maldives.
CRISP का ध्यान भारत और श्रीलंका के फेलो पर है; Cyber Security Fellowship भारतीयों और पश्चिमी बाल्कन के नागरिकों के लिए उपलब्ध है; जबकि SAJP एक अद्वितीय कार्यक्रम है, जो भारत, पाकिस्तान, श्रीलंका, बांग्लादेश, अफगानिस्तान और मालदीव के पत्रकारों को एक साथ लाता है।

What avenues is Chevening India exploring to restart the fellowships?

फेलोशिप को फिर से शुरू करने के लिए Chevening India किन विकल्पों पर विचार कर रहा है?

- The **Chevening team** is exploring industry sponsorship for CRISP and the Cyber Security Fellowship, and welcomes suggestions and potential partners.
Chevening टीम CRISP और Cyber Security Fellowship के लिए उद्योग जगत से प्रायोजन की संभावनाएँ तलाश रही है और सुझावों तथा संभावित साझेदारों का स्वागत करती है।
- "We expect to provide an update on the **Chevening Gurukul Fellowship (September-November 2027)** cohort by early November 2026, and are currently exploring sponsorship opportunities for this programme too," sources said.
सूत्रों ने कहा, "हमें Chevening Gurukul Fellowship (सितंबर-नवंबर 2027) के बैच पर नवंबर 2026 की

शुरुआत तक अपडेट प्रदान करने की उम्मीद है और वर्तमान में इस कार्यक्रम के लिए भी प्रायोजन के अवसरों की तलाश की जा रही है।”

- The **Gurukul Fellowship**, also hosted at the University of Oxford, is a 12-week programme targeting mid-career Indian professionals across sectors, including government, media, and civil society.

Gurukul Fellowship, जिसकी मेजबानी भी University of Oxford करता है, 12 सप्ताह का कार्यक्रम है, जिसका लक्ष्य सरकार, मीडिया और नागरिक समाज सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के मध्य-करियर भारतीय पेशेवर हैं।

How much has the U.K. government spent on the programmes?

यू.के. सरकार ने इन कार्यक्रमों पर कितना खर्च किया है?

- Data tabled in the **U.K. Parliament** show that in financial year 2025-26, the U.K.'s **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** allocated **£59.4 million** to Chevening. यू.के. संसद में प्रस्तुत आँकड़ों से पता चलता है कि वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 में यू.के. के **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** ने Chevening के लिए **£59.4 मिलियन** आवंटित किए।
- A break-up of the funding split between fellowships and scholarships is not available in the public domain. फेलोशिप और छात्रवृत्तियों के बीच वित्तपोषण के विभाजन का विवरण सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध नहीं है।
- The Hindu's query to the British High Commission on this went unanswered. इस संबंध में The Hindu द्वारा ब्रिटिश हाई कमीशन से किए गए प्रश्न का कोई उत्तर नहीं मिला।
- “Through corporate partner income and university partnerships, Chevening receives between **£6-7 million annually**, funding 22% of scholars,” the U.K.'s then Secretary of State for the FCDO stated in a policy paper presented in the U.K. Parliament in 2023. “कॉर्पोरेट साझेदारों से प्राप्त आय और विश्वविद्यालयों के साथ साझेदारी के माध्यम से Chevening को प्रतिवर्ष **£6-7 मिलियन** प्राप्त होते हैं, जिससे 22% स्कॉलरों को वित्तपोषण मिलता है,” यू.के. के तत्कालीन FCDO Secretary of State ने 2023 में यू.के. संसद में प्रस्तुत एक नीति-पत्र में कहा था।

What is the government's purpose?

सरकार का उद्देश्य क्या है?

- The U.K. government launched the **Chevening Fellowships in 2004** as an extension of the broader Chevening Scholarships, which were established in 1983. यू.के. सरकार ने व्यापक **Chevening Scholarships**, जिसकी स्थापना 1983 में हुई थी, के विस्तार के रूप में 2004 में **Chevening Fellowships** शुरू की थीं।
- For 2027-28, applications for **Chevening Scholarships**, which offer a fully funded Master's in the U.K., have opened. वर्ष 2027-28 के लिए **Chevening Scholarships**, जो यू.के. में पूरी तरह वित्तपोषित मास्टर डिग्री प्रदान करती हैं, के आवेदन शुरू हो गए हैं।
- The Chevening programmes function as an instrument of **soft diplomacy** for the U.K. Chevening कार्यक्रम यू.के. के लिए **सॉफ्ट डिप्लोमेसी** के एक साधन के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- By selecting high-potential international professionals to study in the U.K. on the FCDO's fully funded programme, the U.K. government aims to cultivate influential global networks that advance British foreign policy interests. FCDO के पूर्णतः वित्तपोषित कार्यक्रम के तहत अध्ययन के लिए उच्च क्षमता वाले अंतरराष्ट्रीय पेशेवरों का चयन करके, यू.के. सरकार ऐसे **प्रभावशाली वैश्विक नेटवर्क** विकसित करना चाहती है जो ब्रिटिश विदेश नीति के हितों को आगे बढ़ाएँ।
- “Many of Chevening's alumni are in positions of influence, and they form a valuable network for furthering His Majesty's Government's objectives,” a policy paper on the programme

states.

कार्यक्रम से संबंधित एक नीति-पत्र में कहा गया है, “Chevening के कई पूर्व छात्र प्रभावशाली पदों पर हैं, और वे महामहिम की सरकार के उद्देश्यों को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए एक मूल्यवान नेटवर्क का निर्माण करते हैं।”

GS Paper III: Science and Technology		14 August 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
14A8	Why vital chemotherapy drugs are in short supply in India भारत में जीवनरक्षक कीमोथेरेपी दवाओं की भारी कमी क्यों है	
14A8	Funding rules for U.S. minors अमेरिकी नाबालिगों के लिए वित्तपोषण संबंधी नियम	
14A8	WHO's Ebola measures WHO के इबोला संबंधी उपाय	
14A8	West Nile virus cases वेस्ट नाइल वायरस के मामले	

Why vital chemotherapy drugs are in short supply in India

Prices for platinum – core raw material used in cisplatin and carboplatin – have more than doubled, making old price-controlled manufacturing rates financially unviable; additionally, shipping constraints through West Asia have restricted raw material imports from global suppliers, despite a govt. move to raise price caps, the shortage persists

THE HINDU BUREAU

India is facing a critical nationwide shortage of two key chemotherapy drugs – cisplatin and carboplatin – driven by soaring global platinum raw material costs, West Asia shipping route disruptions, and domestic price caps. While government hospitals in several States have managed to stabilise supplies, private hospitals in many parts are still facing a crunch. For patients, this has meant interruptions or delays in life-saving treatment. In response, the government last month raised temporarily ceiling rates for the two drugs by 50%, to help restart halted domestic manufacturing lines.

Cisplatin is a chemotherapeutic agent used in the treatment of solid tumours as well as certain blood cancers. Carboplatin is a second generation platinum compound that is also used to treat solid tumours. Both are among the most widely used chemotherapy drugs in India and are indispensable in the treatment of several cancers, including ovarian, head and neck, lung, gall bladder, urinary bladder, breast and testicular cancers.

Prices for platinum – the core raw material used in cisplatin and carboplatin – more than doubled, making old price-controlled manufacturing rates financially unviable for companies. Additionally, geopolitical conflicts and shipping constraints through West Asia have restricted raw material imports from primary global suppliers. This resulted in several generic makers temporarily slowing or stopping production of these drugs, says Sayoni Bhunia, consultant, medical oncology at HCG Cancer Centre, Kolkata.

Impact on hospitals, patients
At the Cancer Institute (WIA), Adyar, in Chennai, Kalpana Balakrishnan, chief executive officer and medical director, said that the shortage has been ongoing for nearly seven months due to the war and has had significant impacts. “The cheapest drug, cisplatin, a first-generation platinum drug, is not available. Carboplatin and oxaliplatin, which are second and third generation platinum drugs, are considerably more expensive.”

Sujith Kumar Mulpally, senior consultant – medical oncology, Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai said that the hospital has not received cisplatin and carboplatin from its regular companies for a long time now and was depending on companies which are Indian generic companies. He added that they have managed up until now with available stocks. Significant efforts have been made to inform the necessary authorities through medical oncology forums, he added.

In Karnataka, some hospitals reported that they have stocks sufficient for only six to eight weeks. Amit Rautan, head of medical oncology, immunotherapy and precision medicine at Marjugal Hospital, Old Airport Road, Bengaluru, said



Critically low: While government hospitals in several States have managed to stabilise supplies, private hospitals in many parts are still facing a crunch. For patients, this has meant interruptions or delays in life-saving treatment. GETTY IMAGES

On June 12, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) invoked special clauses to raise the price cap of cisplatin and carboplatin

cisplatin and carboplatin are also critical in treating childhood cancers such as neuroblastoma, hepatoblastoma, germ cell tumours and retinoblastoma, and that their therapeutic role cannot be easily replaced by alternative medicines.

Vijay Kumar Srinivasulu, senior consultant in medical oncology at Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, said platinum-based chemotherapy continues to be the backbone of treatment for several solid tumours despite advances in targeted therapies and immunotherapy. Treatment delays or substitution with less effective regimens could compromise outcomes, particularly in curative-intent cancers. This is especially significant in concurrent chemoradiation for cervical and head and neck cancers, where weekly cisplatin plays a vital role in enhancing the effectiveness of radiation therapy, he noted.

For patients, this has meant delays and interruptions in treatment, additional stress, as well as increased costs. The immediate fallout, said, Sandeep Nayak, chairman of oncology, MACS-Renova Oncology Institute, KIMS Hospital, Bengaluru lands directly on cancer patients: while alternative treatment regimens exist, they are generally less effective, non-standard, and can carry higher costs or different toxicity profiles. Bhavna Sirohi, medical oncologist and medical director of Vedanta Medical Research Foundation, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, said for patients this

may mean a compromise on curative cancer treatment.

The government sector seems to be doing better in several States.

At the Regional Cancer Centre, Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, treatment was not disrupted as the hospital had adequate stock of platinum-based drugs to tide over a few months, said director, R Rejishkumar. “Now that the government has revised the prices, our purchase process is going forward and I am told that we will get new stock soon,” Dr. Rejish said.

The Karnataka government-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru has said it currently has adequate stocks and multiple procurement channels to ensure continuity of care. “We have annual tenders in place and procure medicines through the Central Medical Store as well as the Kidwai Cancer Drug Foundation (KCDF). We also have multiple vendors, and non-governmental organisations support us by supplying these drugs,” said KMO director (in charge), R. Krishnappa.

At the Delhi State Cancer Institute, both cisplatin and carboplatin injections are currently available, said Pragya Shukla, head of clinical oncology.

Sources in the T.N. government said that cisplatin was in the essential drugs list of the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation and hence, its supply was ensured. However, carboplatin, a specialty drug, was unavailable for bulk purchases but hospitals were managing through local purchases.

In Telangana, however, the Medhi Nawaz Jung Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Centre in Hyderabad, the State's largest and only government tertiary cancer care hospital, has been grappling with a shortage of both cisplatin

and carboplatin for the past two months, with supplies falling well short of its monthly requirement. Sadashivudu Gundeti, Director of MNJ Institute of Oncology, said the institute requires thousands of vials of the two chemotherapy drugs every month but is currently able to procure only a few hundred vials.

On June 12, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) invoked special clauses to raise the price cap of cisplatin from ₹7.26 to ₹10.89 per mL, and carboplatin from ₹60.49 rupees to ₹90.74 per mL, citing public interest.

Long-term strategies
With more than 1.5 million new cancer cases diagnosed annually in India, Smitha Saldanha, consultant in medical oncology at HCG Cancer Hospital, K.R. Road, Bengaluru, said uninterrupted access to essential oncology medicines must be treated as a national healthcare priority.

While describing the recent revision of ceiling prices as a useful short-term measure, Dr. Srinivasulu said India requires a long-term oncology drug security framework, including strategic reserves of essential cancer medicines, diversified domestic manufacturing, stronger active pharmaceutical ingredient supply chains, centralised procurement and an early-warning system for anticipated shortages, says doctor

A Union Health Ministry official said the government has taken all steps to ensure that the supply chain stays stable. (With inputs from Afshan Yasmeen in Bengaluru, Shrikanta Chatterjee in Kolkata, Serena Josephine M. in Chennai, G. Maya in Thiruvananthapuram, Bindu Shajon Perappadan in Delhi and Siddharth Kumar Singh in Hyderabad.) (health@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

▼ Cisplatin is a chemotherapeutic agent used in the treatment of solid tumours as well as certain blood cancers. Carboplatin is a second generation platinum compound that is also used to treat solid tumours. Both are among the most widely used chemotherapy drugs in India and are indispensable in the treatment of several cancers

▼ India is facing a critical nationwide shortage of the two key chemotherapy drugs driven by soaring global platinum raw material costs, West Asia shipping route disruptions, and domestic price caps. For patients, this has meant delays and interruptions in treatment, additional stress, as well as increased costs

▼ India requires a long-term oncology drug security framework, including strategic reserves of essential cancer medicines, diversified domestic manufacturing, stronger active pharmaceutical ingredient supply chains, centralised procurement and an early-warning system for anticipated shortages, says doctor

14A8. Why vital chemotherapy drugs are in short supply in India भारत में जीवनरक्षक कीमोथेरेपी दवाओं की भारी कमी क्यों है

- India is facing a **critical nationwide shortage** of two key chemotherapy drugs — **cisplatin and carboplatin** — driven by soaring global **platinum raw material costs**, West Asia shipping route disruptions, and domestic price caps.
भारत में दो प्रमुख कीमोथेरेपी दवाओं — **सिस्प्लाटिन और कार्बोप्लाटिन** — की देशव्यापी गंभीर कमी का सामना करना पड़ रहा है, जिसका कारण वैश्विक प्लैटिनम कच्चे माल की बढ़ती कीमतें, पश्चिम एशिया के शिपिंग मार्गों में व्यवधान और घरेलू मूल्य-सीमाएँ हैं।
- In response, the government last month **raised temporarily ceiling rates for the two drugs by 50%, to help restart halted domestic manufacturing lines.**
इसके जवाब में, सरकार ने पिछले महीने दोनों दवाओं की अधिकतम निर्धारित कीमतों में अस्थायी रूप से 50% की वृद्धि की, ताकि बंद पड़ी घरेलू विनिर्माण इकाइयों को फिर से शुरू करने में मदद मिल सके।
- Cisplatin is a chemotherapeutic agent used in the treatment of solid tumours as well as certain blood cancers.**
सिस्प्लाटिन एक कीमोथेरेप्यूटिक एजेंट है, जिसका उपयोग ठोस ट्यूमर के साथ-साथ कुछ रक्त कैंसरों के उपचार में किया जाता है।
- Carboplatin is a second-generation platinum compound that is also used to treat solid tumours.**
कार्बोप्लाटिन एक द्वितीय पीढ़ी का प्लैटिनम यौगिक है, जिसका उपयोग ठोस ट्यूमर के उपचार के लिए भी किया जाता है।
- Both are among the most widely used chemotherapy drugs in India and are indispensable in the treatment of several cancers, including ovarian, head and neck, lung, gall bladder, urinary bladder, breast and testicular cancers.**
दोनों भारत में सबसे व्यापक रूप से उपयोग की जाने वाली कीमोथेरेपी दवाओं में शामिल हैं और डिम्बगंधि, सिर एवं गर्दन, फेफड़े, पित्ताशय, मूत्राशय, स्तन और वृषण के कैंसर सहित कई प्रकार के कैंसर के उपचार में अपरिहार्य हैं।
- The Karnataka government-run **Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology in Bengaluru** has said it currently has adequate stocks and multiple procurement channels to ensure continuity of care.
बेंगलुरु स्थित कर्नाटक सरकार द्वारा संचालित **Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology** ने कहा है कि उसके पास वर्तमान में पर्याप्त भंडार और उपचार की निरंतरता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **कई खरीद चैनल** उपलब्ध हैं।
- At the **Delhi State Cancer Institute**, both **cisplatin** and **carboplatin** injections are currently available, said Pragya Shukla, head of clinical oncology.
दिल्ली स्टेट कैंसर इंस्टीट्यूट में **सिस्प्लैटिन** और **कार्बोप्लैटिन** दोनों इंजेक्शन वर्तमान में उपलब्ध हैं, ऐसा क्लिनिकल ऑन्कोलॉजी की प्रमुख प्रज्ञा शुक्ला ने कहा।
- On June 12, the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** invoked special clauses to **raise the price cap of cisplatin from ₹7.26 to ₹10.89 per mL, and carboplatin from ₹60.49 rupees to ₹90.74 per mL, citing public interest.**
12 जून को राष्ट्रीय औषधि मूल्य निर्धारण प्राधिकरण (NPPA) ने जनहित का हवाला देते हुए विशेष प्रावधानों का उपयोग कर **सिस्प्लैटिन की मूल्य सीमा ₹7.26 से बढ़ाकर ₹10.89 प्रति mL और कार्बोप्लैटिन की ₹60.49 से बढ़ाकर ₹90.74 प्रति mL कर दी।**



National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** is an independent government regulatory authority responsible primarily for **regulating the prices of medicines and pharmaceutical products in India** and ensuring their availability at reasonable prices.

1. Establishment

- Established: 29 August 1997**
- Functions under the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.**
- It implements and enforces provisions of the **Drugs (Prices Control) Order — DPCO.**

2. Major Functions

- Fixes/revises ceiling prices** of scheduled medicines covered by the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** under the applicable DPCO framework.
- Monitors prices of both **scheduled and non-scheduled formulations.**
- Ensures that manufacturers do not charge consumers above the legally permissible price.
- Recovers **overcharged amounts** from pharmaceutical companies where applicable.
- Monitors the **availability of medicines** and helps address shortages.
- Collects and analyses information relating to **production, imports, exports, market share and prices** of pharmaceutical products.
- It also performs pricing functions concerning certain **medical devices** when they fall within the applicable drug-pricing regulatory framework.

3. What is DPCO?

- The **Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO)** is issued by the Central Government under the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955.**
- The current principal framework is the **DPCO, 2013.**
- Under it, NPPA determines **ceiling prices** for scheduled formulations.
- Ceiling Price = Maximum permissible price** (subject to applicable taxes and regulatory provisions).
- 4. NLEM and NPPA — Important Difference**
- Do not confuse the two:
- NLEM** → identifies medicines considered essential for meeting priority healthcare needs.
- NPPA implements** the pharmaceutical pricing framework and fixes ceiling prices for scheduled formulations based on the applicable DPCO.
- The current **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM), 2022** contains **384 medicines.**

West Nile virus cases

GS III: S&T

Agence France-Presse

Authorities in Athens have stepped up fumigation as the country's state health administration on Thursday reported a "significant" increase in West Nile virus infections, which have so far claimed nine lives. It said 45 new cases of the mosquito-borne virus had been recorded over the past week, raising total infections to 110.

14A8. West Nile virus cases

वेस्ट नाइल वायरस के मामले

- Authorities in **Athens** have stepped up **fumigation** as the country's state health administration on Thursday reported a "**significant**" increase in **West Nile virus infections**, which have so far claimed **nine lives.**
- देश के राजकीय स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन द्वारा गुरुवार को **वेस्ट नाइल वायरस संक्रमण** में "**उल्लेखनीय**" वृद्धि की सूचना दिए जाने के बाद **एथेंस** के अधिकारियों ने **धूमन कार्रवाई** तेज कर दी है; इस संक्रमण से अब तक **नौ लोगों की मृत्यु** हो चुकी है।
- It said **45 new cases** of the **mosquito-borne virus** had been recorded over the past week, raising total infections to **110.**

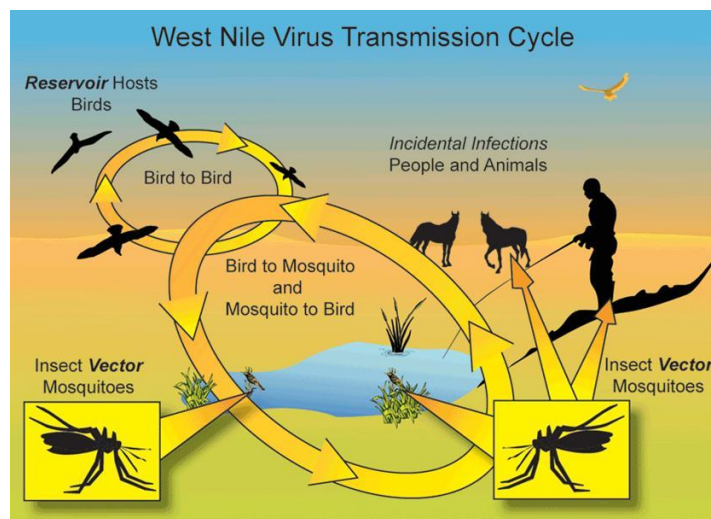
- उसने कहा कि पिछले सप्ताह के दौरान इस **मच्छर-जनित वायरस** के **45 नए मामले** दर्ज किए गए, जिससे संक्रमण के कुल मामलों की संख्या बढ़कर **110** हो गई।

West Nile virus is a **mosquito-borne virus** that can infect humans, birds and several other animals.

Most infected people develop **no symptoms**, but in rare cases it can cause serious neurological disease such as **encephalitis** or **meningitis**.

Basic Facts

Feature	Details
Virus family	Flaviviridae
Genus	Flavivirus
Genetic material	Single-stranded RNA
Primary vector	Culex mosquitoes
Main natural hosts	Birds
Humans and horses	Usually dead-end hosts
First identified	1937, Uganda
Vaccine for humans	No licensed human vaccine
Specific antiviral treatment	No specific antiviral therapy



How does it spread?

- The normal transmission cycle is:
- Infected bird → Culex mosquito bites bird → mosquito becomes infected → infected mosquito bites another bird/person/horse.**
- Birds are particularly important** because many bird species develop enough virus in their blood to infect mosquitoes.
- Humans and horses are generally called “**dead-end hosts**” because the amount of virus circulating in their blood is usually too low to infect another mosquito and maintain the transmission cycle.

Does it spread from person to person?

- Ordinary activities such as **touching, hugging or sharing food** do not normally spread West Nile virus.

- Rare transmission can occur through **blood transfusion, organ transplantation, pregnancy-related transmission or laboratory exposure.**

Symptoms

Approximately **80% of infected people develop no symptoms.**

Some develop **West Nile fever**, which may involve:

Fever + headache + body aches + fatigue + nausea/vomiting + occasionally skin rash.

A small proportion develop serious **neuroinvasive disease**, including:

- **Encephalitis** — inflammation of the brain.
- **Meningitis** — inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.
- **Acute flaccid paralysis** — sudden muscle weakness/paralysis.



Countries with endemic or reported West Nile virus
Please note that not all countries with endemic West Nile virus have reported outbreaks among humans.

Adapted from WHO (2017), Lancet Regional Health - Americas (2022), ECDC (2025), and PLOS (2019)¹⁴

Older adults and immunocompromised people are generally at greater risk of severe disease.

Treatment and Prevention

There is currently **no specific antiviral medicine** routinely available for West Nile virus infection in humans. Mild disease is generally managed with supportive care, while severe neurological illness may require hospitalisation.

Prevention therefore focuses primarily on **mosquito control**:

Eliminate stagnant water → reduce mosquito breeding → use repellents → wear protective clothing → use screens/mosquito nets where appropriate.

West Nile Virus in India

West Nile virus is **not confined to Africa or Europe**. It has also been detected in **India**, including reported human infections and evidence of circulation in several regions. Therefore, from an examination perspective, it should be remembered as an **emerging/re-emerging mosquito-borne zoonotic disease**.



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