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What does Tulu's new official language status mean?

How will the new status change the use of Tulu in administration? Is the Cabinet's decision enough?

SS1: Soorav Ravi Prasad Kamila

The story so far:

Karnataka government, in its Cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru on September 18, decided to accord the additional official (administrative) language status to Tulu, which is commonly spoken in Dakshina Kannada district, southern parts of Udupi district in Karnataka, and northern parts of Kasaragod district in Kerala. While making the announcement, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the status will apply to administrative matters in the two districts. The government will release ₹82 lakh annually for translation, training and language usage purposes.

How will the decision help people?
B. Shivarama Shetty, former Project Director, Centre of Excellence for Studies

in Classical Kannada, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, said that elected representatives can speak in Tulu at gram sabhas of gram panchayats, taluk panchayats, and zilla panchayats meetings. It also applies to urban local body meetings such as city corporation council, city municipal council and town municipal council meetings. The government circulars and orders issued in the two districts should also contain Tulu. People can submit applications to government departments in Tulu. This will make officials who do not know Tulu depend on translations, translators, or learn the basics of Tulu.

When did the government move to grant official status to Tulu begin?
When the BJP government was in power, the then Minister for Kannada and Culture, V. Sunil Kumar, on January 30, 2023, formed a committee headed by M.

Mohan Alva, Chairman, Alva's Education Foundation, Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, to study and submit a report on declaring Tulu as the second official language of Karnataka.

The committee was asked to submit its report to the government in a week. According to Mr. Kumar, the BJP government could not grant official language status to Tulu because the model code of conduct for the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka was declared on March 29, 2023, and the BJP lost power in the elections.

Later, the Congress government took over in Karnataka. It appointed a committee led by K. M. Gayatri, Director of Kannada and Culture, to study the procedures adopted by the Andhra Pradesh government to grant additional language status to Urdu.

This committee visited Andhra Pradesh on January 19 and 20, 2026 and studied

how Urdu is being used in administration. The committee submitted its report to the Karnataka government on March 4, against the backdrop of the move to declare Tulu as the additional official language.

Is the Cabinet's decision enough?

Article 345 of the Constitution allows each State legislature to choose one or more regional languages or Hindi as the official language for its official work. It says: "Subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State."

Section 2 of the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963 states that Kannada is the official language.

Some law graduates say that if Karnataka is to implement the Cabinet's decision, it will have to amend the Karnataka Official Language Act to incorporate Tulu as an additional administrative language in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. Once the amendment is approved by the appropriate authority, the Governor, the government will issue a notification, following which the Cabinet's decision will come into force. The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana followed

the same procedure – amending their respective language laws – to declare Urdu as the second official language of their States.

How is this language introduced in academics?

Tulu is taught as the third optional language in schools, from Class 6 to Class 10, in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts. It was first introduced for Class 6 in the 2010-11 academic year. It is not being taught as a subject in pre-university and degree classes. Mangalore University introduced a two-year Tulu postgraduate programme in its erstwhile University Evening College (now closed down) in 2018-19. The programme was wound up from the academic year 2024-25, citing a lack of students in double digits who applied to join the programme.

Is it an independent language?

The Registrar General and Census Commissioner has recognised Tulu as an independent language of India ever since the department was established, and the Census Report gives statistics about Tulu speakers as a separate linguistic community.

It is treated as an important non-scheduled language of India. But it is not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

21S9. What does Tulu's new official language status mean?

तुलु को मिले नए आधिकारिक भाषा दर्जे का क्या अर्थ है?

- Karnataka government, in its Cabinet meeting held in Mangaluru on September 18, decided to accord the **additional official (administrative) language status to Tulu**, which is commonly spoken in Dakshina Kannada district, southern parts of Udupi district in Karnataka, and northern parts of Kasaragod district in Kerala.

कर्नाटक सरकार ने 18 सितंबर को मंगलुरु में हुई अपनी मंत्रिमंडल बैठक में तुलु को अतिरिक्त आधिकारिक (प्रशासनिक) भाषा का दर्जा देने का निर्णय लिया, जो कर्नाटक के दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिले, उडुपी जिले के दक्षिणी हिस्सों और केरलम के कासरगोड जिले के उत्तरी हिस्सों में आम तौर पर बोली जाती है।

- While making the announcement, Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the status will apply to administrative matters in the two districts. इस घोषणा के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री डी.के. शिवकुमार ने कहा कि यह दर्जा दोनों जिलों में प्रशासनिक मामलों पर लागू होगा।

- The government will release ₹82 lakh annually for translation, training and language usage purposes.

सरकार अनुवाद, प्रशिक्षण और भाषा के उपयोग से संबंधित कार्यों के लिए प्रतिवर्ष ₹82 लाख जारी करेगी।

- How will the decision help people?
यह निर्णय लोगों के लिए किस प्रकार उपयोगी होगा?

- B. Shivarama Shetty, former Project Director, Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada, Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysuru, said that elected representatives can speak in Tulu at gram sabhas of gram panchayats, taluk panchayats, and zilla panchayats meetings.

केंद्रीय भारतीय भाषा संस्थान (CIIL), मैसूर के Centre of Excellence for Studies in Classical Kannada के पूर्व परियोजना निदेशक बी. शिवराम शेट्टी ने कहा कि निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधि ग्राम पंचायतों, तालुक पंचायतों और जिला पंचायतों की ग्राम सभाओं एवं बैठकों में तुलु भाषा में बोल सकते हैं।

- It also applies to urban local body meetings such as city corporation council, city municipal council and town municipal council meetings.
यह शहरी स्थानीय निकायों की बैठकों, जैसे नगर निगम परिषद, नगर नगरपालिका परिषद और नगर पंचायत परिषद की बैठकों पर भी लागू होगा।

- The government circulars and orders issued in the two districts should also contain Tulu. दोनों जिलों में जारी किए जाने वाले सरकारी परिपत्रों और आदेशों में भी तुलु शामिल होनी चाहिए।

- People can submit applications to government departments in Tulu.
लोग सरकारी विभागों में तुलु भाषा में आवेदन प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।

- This will make officials who do not know Tulu depend on translations, translators, or learn the basics of Tulu.
इससे तुलु न जानने वाले अधिकारियों को अनुवाद, अनुवादकों पर निर्भर रहना होगा या तुलु की मूल बातें सीखनी होंगी।
- When did the government move to grant official status to Tulu begin?
सरकार द्वारा तुलु को आधिकारिक भाषा का दर्जा देने की प्रक्रिया कब शुरू हुई?
- When the BJP government was in power, the then Minister for Kannada and Culture, V. Sunil Kumar, on January 30, 2023, formed a committee headed by M. Mohan Alva, Chairman, Alva's Education Foundation, Moodbidri, Dakshina Kannada, to study and submit a report on declaring Tulu as the second official language of Karnataka.
जब भाजपा सरकार सत्ता में थी, तब तत्कालीन कन्नड़ एवं संस्कृति मंत्री वी. सुनील कुमार ने 30 जनवरी 2023 को दक्षिण कन्नड़ के मूडबिद्री स्थित Alva's Education Foundation के अध्यक्ष एम. मोहन अल्व की अध्यक्षता में एक समिति गठित की, जिसे तुलु को कर्नाटक की दूसरी आधिकारिक भाषा घोषित करने का अध्ययन करके रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने का दायित्व दिया गया।
- The committee was asked to submit its report to the government in a week.
समिति से एक सप्ताह के भीतर सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत करने को कहा गया था।
- According to Mr. Kumar, the BJP government could not grant official language status to Tulu because the model code of conduct for the 2023 Assembly elections in Karnataka was declared on March 29, 2023, and the BJP lost power in the elections.
श्री कुमार के अनुसार, भाजपा सरकार तुलु को आधिकारिक भाषा का दर्जा नहीं दे सकी, क्योंकि कर्नाटक में 2023 के विधानसभा चुनावों के लिए आदर्श आचार संहिता 29 मार्च 2023 को लागू हो गई थी और चुनावों में भाजपा सत्ता हार गई।
- Later, the Congress government took over in Karnataka.
बाद में कर्नाटक में कांग्रेस सरकार सत्ता में आई।
- It appointed a committee led by K. M. Gayatri, Director of Kannada and Culture, to study the procedures adopted by the Andhra Pradesh government to grant additional language status to Urdu.
उसने कन्नड़ एवं संस्कृति विभाग की निदेशक के. एम. गायत्री के नेतृत्व में एक समिति नियुक्त की, जिसे आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा उर्दू को अतिरिक्त भाषा का दर्जा देने के लिए अपनाई गई प्रक्रियाओं का अध्ययन करने का दायित्व दिया गया।
- This committee visited Andhra Pradesh on January 19 and 20, 2026 and studied how Urdu is being used in administration.
इस समिति ने 19 और 20 जनवरी 2026 को आंध्र प्रदेश का दौरा किया और अध्ययन किया कि प्रशासन में उर्दू का उपयोग किस प्रकार किया जा रहा है।
- The committee submitted its report to the Karnataka government on March 4, against the backdrop of the move to declare Tulu as the additional official language.
समिति ने 4 मार्च को कर्नाटक सरकार को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की, जिसकी पृष्ठभूमि में तुलु को अतिरिक्त आधिकारिक भाषा घोषित करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही थी।

Is the Cabinet's decision enough?

क्या मंत्रिमंडल का निर्णय पर्याप्त है?

- Article 345 of the Constitution allows each State legislature to choose one or more regional languages or Hindi as the official language for its official work.
संविधान का अनुच्छेद 345 प्रत्येक राज्य की विधायिका को अपने आधिकारिक कार्यों के लिए एक या अधिक क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं या हिंदी को आधिकारिक भाषा के रूप में चुनने की अनुमति देता है।
- It says: "Subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State."

इसमें कहा गया है: “अनुच्छेद 346 और 347 के प्रावधानों के अधीन, किसी राज्य की विधायिका विधि द्वारा राज्य में प्रयुक्त भाषाओं में से किसी एक या अधिक भाषाओं या हिंदी को उस राज्य के सभी या किसी आधिकारिक प्रयोजन के लिए प्रयुक्त की जाने वाली भाषा या भाषाओं के रूप में अपना सकती है।”

- Section 2 of the Karnataka Official Language Act, 1963 states that Kannada is the official language.

कर्नाटक आधिकारिक भाषा अधिनियम, 1963 की धारा 2 में कहा गया है कि कन्नड़ आधिकारिक भाषा है।

- Some law graduates say that if Karnataka is to implement the Cabinet's decision, it will have to amend the Karnataka Official Language Act to incorporate Tulu as an additional administrative language in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

कुछ विधि स्नातकों का कहना है कि यदि कर्नाटक को मंत्रिमंडल के निर्णय को लागू करना है, तो उसे कर्नाटक आधिकारिक भाषा अधिनियम में संशोधन करके दक्षिण कन्नड़ और उडुपी जिलों में तुलु को अतिरिक्त प्रशासनिक भाषा के रूप में शामिल करना होगा।

- Once the amendment is approved by the appropriate authority, the Governor, the government will issue a notification, following which the Cabinet's decision will come into force.

एक बार उचित प्राधिकारी, अर्थात् राज्यपाल, द्वारा संशोधन को मंजूरी दिए जाने के बाद सरकार एक अधिसूचना जारी करेगी, जिसके बाद मंत्रिमंडल का निर्णय प्रभावी हो जाएगा।

- The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana followed the same procedure — amending their respective language laws — to declare Urdu as the second official language of their States.

आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना की सरकारों ने उर्दू को अपने-अपने राज्यों की दूसरी आधिकारिक भाषा घोषित करने के लिए इसी प्रक्रिया का पालन किया था—अर्थात् अपने संबंधित भाषा कानूनों में संशोधन किया था।

How is this language introduced in academics?

शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में इस भाषा को किस प्रकार शामिल किया गया है?

- Tulu is taught as the third optional language in schools, from Class 6 to Class 10, in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts.

दक्षिण कन्नड़ और उडुपी जिलों के स्कूलों में कक्षा 6 से कक्षा 10 तक तुलु को तीसरी वैकल्पिक भाषा के रूप में पढ़ाया जाता है।

- It was first introduced for Class 6 in the 2010-11 academic year.

इसे पहली बार 2010-11 के शैक्षणिक वर्ष में कक्षा 6 के लिए शुरू किया गया था।

- It is not being taught as a subject in pre-university and degree classes.

इसे प्री-यूनिवर्सिटी और डिग्री कक्षाओं में एक विषय के रूप में नहीं पढ़ाया जा रहा है।

- Mangalore University introduced a two-year Tulu postgraduation programme in its erstwhile University Evening College (now closed down) in 2018-19.

मंगलूर विश्वविद्यालय ने 2018-19 में अपने तत्कालीन University Evening College (जो अब बंद हो चुका है) में तुलु का दो वर्षीय स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रम शुरू किया था।

- The programme was wound up from the academic year 2024-25, citing a lack of students in double digits who applied to join the programme.

2024-25 के शैक्षणिक वर्ष से इस कार्यक्रम को यह कहते हुए बंद कर दिया गया कि इसमें प्रवेश लेने के लिए आवेदन करने वाले छात्रों की संख्या दो अंकों तक भी नहीं पहुँच रही थी।

Is it an independent language?

क्या यह एक स्वतंत्र भाषा है?

- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner has recognised Tulu as an independent language of India ever since the department was established, and the Census Report gives statistics about Tulu speakers as a separate linguistic community.

महापंजीयक एवं जनगणना आयुक्त ने विभाग की स्थापना के समय से ही तुलु को भारत की एक स्वतंत्र भाषा



के रूप में मान्यता दी है और जनगणना रिपोर्ट में तुलु बोलने वालों के आँकड़े एक अलग भाषायी समुदाय के रूप में दिए जाते हैं।

- It is treated as an important non-scheduled language of India. इसे भारत की एक महत्वपूर्ण गैर-अनुसूचित भाषा माना जाता है।
- **But it is not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.** लेकिन इसे संविधान की आठवीं अनुसूची में शामिल नहीं किया गया है।

Articles 345–347: Official Languages of States and Inter-Governmental Communication

Articles 345, 346 and 347 form part of Part XVII, Chapter II — Regional Languages of the Constitution of India. Together, they explain how languages may be used for the **official work of States**, for **communication between governments**, and for protecting the linguistic interests of a substantial section of a State's population.

Article 345 — Official Language of a State

Article 345 empowers the **State Legislature** to adopt by law:

Any one or more languages in use in that State, or

Hindi

as the language or languages for **all or any official purposes of the State**.

Therefore, the Constitution does **not require every State to use Hindi** as its official language.

For example, a State may use its regional language for administration while continuing to use English for certain official purposes.

Article 345 originally contained a transitional safeguard: until the State Legislature provided otherwise by law, **English would continue for those State official purposes for which it was being used immediately before the Constitution commenced**.

A crucial distinction is that an **official language** is a language used for governmental and administrative purposes. It is not necessarily the same as a State's most widely spoken language.

Article 346 — Communication between States and with the Union

Article 346 deals with the language used for official communication:

State ↔ Union

and



State ↔ State

The constitutional rule is that the language **authorised for the time being for the Union's official purposes** is used for such communication.

However, there is an important exception.

If **two or more States agree to use Hindi** for official communication between themselves, they may do so.

For example, if State A and State B agree to communicate officially in Hindi, Article 346 permits this arrangement.

Thus, Article 345 primarily concerns **internal State administration**, whereas Article 346 concerns **inter-governmental communication**.

Article 347 — Protection of a Linguistic Section of Population

Article 347 addresses a different problem.

Suppose a substantial section of a State's population speaks a particular language, but that language does not have official recognition.

If a **demand** is made and the **President is satisfied** that a **substantial proportion of the State's population** wants its language recognised, the President may direct the State to officially recognise that language.

Recognition may apply:

Throughout the State, or

Only in a particular part of the State, and

For the purposes specified by the President.

Importantly, Article 347 uses the expression “**substantial proportion**” but does **not prescribe a fixed numerical percentage**.

UPSC Conceptual Summary

Article 345 = State Legislature + language for State's official purposes.

Article 346 = Language of State–State and State–Union communication.

Article 347 = President + recognition of language demanded by a substantial section of a State's population.

Therefore, these provisions attempt to balance **administrative convenience, India's linguistic diversity, federal communication and protection of linguistic groups**.



A stone cold PERPETRATOR

An influential industrialist now finds himself at the centre of a widening investigation under the POCSO Act into the allegations of paedophilia. While he was under investigation from last year, a fresh probe, ordered by the court, led the police to recover additional digital evidence and identify multiple victims. **R. Sharaman** examines what has been labelled the Epstein case of Tamil Nadu, only to discover that while the scale of operations was nowhere near that of the American offender, a subterranean network of sexual abusers and their enablers did operate for years

For decades, R. Veeramani, 84, known as 'Gem Granite' Veeramani, was celebrated as one of the architects of India's granite industry. He helped build the sector's institutional framework, headed industry bodies, and was honoured by the Union government for his contribution to granite mining and marketing. He was also known for his philanthropic activities.

Veeramani, a lawyer, entered the natural stone industry by chance and went on to become one of its pioneers. He built a multi-crore business and carefully cultivated a social circle that included politicians, celebrities, and other public figures. There seemed to have been another side to him though. Today, the Greater Chennai Police are investigating charges that he has sexually assaulted minor girls. The case took a dramatic turn after a Special Court for POCSO Act cases last month rejected an earlier police report seeking to close the investigation and ordered further inquiries.

Origin of the case
The case originated with a complaint filed by a child rights activist from an NGO based at Anna Nagar, Chennai, with the Inspector of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Unit (ITPU) on October 6, 2025.

The complaint was forwarded by the then Additional Commissioner of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for further action. The following day, the CCB registered a case under Sections 7 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and it was forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner of the TPU on October 9.

According to the complaint, while the activist was at her office, an unidentified person handed over a cover containing a message and a pen drive. A man later identified as Veeramani was seen hugging a minor girl, touching her inappropriately, and sexually abusing her on a bed at a house belonging to Shanthi, described as his associate.

During the investigation, the police also unearthed the case of suicide of a minor girl in early 2003, linked to Veeramani. Shanthi's message to Veeramani stated that a child had ended her life because of him

The police officer who initially investigated the case found that a search of the house mentioned in the complaint or shown in the video reportedly did not yield any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of persons named in the complaint.

On February 20, 2026, the Assistant Commissioner, TPU, filed a report before the court recommending that further action be dropped. According to the report, the video appeared to show an incident that had taken place in 2019.

The police examined a digital video recorder (DVR) from the suspected location with the assistance of an authorised cyber forensic expert. However, the investigators said they could not recover the original recording or any other relevant footage from the device.

The earlier report cited several difficulties, including the police's inability to identify the girl in the video, the absence of usable CCTV footage, and the lack of statements from Shanthi's neighbours. It also stated that the cyber-forensic expert could not retrieve the original recording from the DVR because approximately six years had passed since the alleged incident.

During the inquiry, Veeramani and Shanthi were questioned. Veeramani denied that he was the person seen in the video and said he did not know the person who appeared in the footage with a girl who seemed to be a minor. Shanthi, on the other hand, said she knew Veeramani but did not know the girl. She also stated that the location shown in the footage was not part of her house.

The report stated that the age and identity of the person resembling a minor in the video could not be established and there were no grounds to proceed further at that stage. The case was therefore classified as 'Further Action Dropped' and the report was submitted to the court. The police added that further action would be taken if new evidence or witnesses emerged.

However, the Special Court rejected the report and ordered further investigation, following which the inquiry was reopened in July 2026. During the fresh inquiry, the police searched Shanthi's residence at Teynampet and recovered what they described as the original footage of the alleged sexual assault from an electronic device, a letter said to be written by Shanthi, and mobile records. Investigators also found indications of an attempt to destroy evidence. The seized device



We registered the case immediately after receiving the video. There was no laxity in the probe. Since the visuals were unclear, we could not identify the victim. Without identifying the victim, we could not proceed further

A SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

es were sent for forensic examination.

In a statement issued on August 28, the Greater Chennai Police said the person seen in the video stored on the pen drive had been identified as Veeramani. They added that Veeramani had rented a house at Teynampet and entrusted its management to Shanthi and her husband Mahendran Simhan. Investigators alleged that several minor girls had been brought to the house and sexually assaulted. The police also said video evidence relating to one such incident had been seized.

During the searches of the homes and offices of suspected individuals, the police recovered evidence, including photographs of minor girls connected with the incidents. Shanthi, 55, Mahendran Simhan, 60, and Veeramani were arrested and remanded in judicial custody. The police alleged that Shanthi and her husband had assisted in the offences. The investigation continued. A senior police officer said Shanthi's alleged role could be broadly compared with that of Ghislaine Maxwell (in Jeffrey Epstein's case), who was convicted for facilitating the sexual abuse of minors.

Victim identified

Last week, the police investigating the POCSO Act case identified the minor girl allegedly assaulted by Veeramani. She was 12 years old at the time of the alleged incident. The survivor's statement was recorded before a Judicial Magistrate. She identified herself and Veeramani in the video.

The police subsequently traced and identified three more victims, all of whom were aged 12-15 at the time of the incidents. Sources said more victims came forward to record their statements on the assaults by the prime accused after being assured that their identities would be kept secret.

Greater Chennai Police Commissioner A. Amalraj said, "We strictly follow the guidelines while handling such cases. Tracing the victims took time, and the investigation is being conducted in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law. After conducting a thorough investigation, we will file a charge sheet in time and get conviction."

During the investigation, the police also unearthed the case of suicide of a minor girl in early 2003, linked to Veeramani. Shanthi's message to Veeramani stated that a child had ended her life because of him.

Minors targeted

A senior police officer said Veeramani had targeted girls aged 12-16 over several years. The officer said he lured children by offering small amounts of money, sports shoes, chocolates, and mobile phones.

Sources said Veeramani encouraged children to enter the premises of his bungalow as he remained in the porches, pretending to play ball. The children used to pick up balls tossed around. He used to give them chocolates and candies when they entered his premises but targeted only the girls for exploitation. He would pick the targets, ask their names, and give them his phone number, saying that they could approach him for any assistance, including financial help. If they contacted him, he would reportedly send a driver to bring them to the bungalow. He would take them to his bedroom and the victims were then sexually assaulted. He had given them amounts ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000. If a victim complained that it was too low, the payment was increased, in some instances to ₹50,000. Sometimes, he gave the

girls mobile phones or sports shoes. The officer also alleged that Veeramani invited children to parties at hotels, transported them in luxury cars, and then sexually assaulted them. This went on for years.

Back entrance and secret room

Police sources further said the victims had identified the back entrance, the bedroom of his bungalow, and the secret room in his office. An officer also said Shanthi had claimed she was raped by Veeramani when she was 13 and she had a son from him. Police sources said she was seeking a share of Veeramani's property. They also said Shanthi was trained as an architect and was now running a dance school. She and her husband had served as directors of a company owned by Veeramani and were on his payroll.

When contacted, there was no response from Veeramani's side to the allegations against him. Police sources said the investigation had only begun and they suspect more revelations would emerge.

Dismissing allegations that the investigation had been subverted last year, a senior officer who had earlier served in the Commissionerate said, "We registered the case immediately after receiving the video. There was no laxity in the investigation. Since the visuals were unclear, we could not identify the victim. Without identifying the victim, we could not proceed further, but we did not close the case. Had we identified the victim, we would have taken the investigation forward."

It is learnt that a report on the status of the case was filed in February to comply with the prescribed legal time frame. The report did not seek closure of the case. The officer said the case was kept open, with the provision that the investigation could be revived if any fresh evidence emerged.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416, and Shanthi's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050.)



ILLUSTRATION: SAA

21S9. A stone cold PERPETRATOR

एक पत्थर-दिल अपराधी

- For decades, R. Veeramani, 84, known as 'Gem Granite' Veeramani, was celebrated as one of the architects of India's granite industry.

दशकों तक 84 वर्षीय आर. वीरमणि, जिन्हें 'Gem Granite' वीरमणि के नाम से जाना जाता था, भारत के ग्रेनाइट उद्योग के प्रमुख निर्माताओं में से एक के रूप में सम्मानित रहे।

- He helped build the sector's institutional framework, headed industry bodies, and was honoured by the Union government for his contribution to granite mining and marketing. उन्होंने इस क्षेत्र के संस्थागत ढाँचे के निर्माण में मदद की, उद्योग संगठनों का नेतृत्व किया और ग्रेनाइट खनन तथा विपणन में अपने योगदान के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा सम्मानित किए गए।
- He was also known for his philanthropic activities. वे अपनी परोपकारी गतिविधियों के लिए भी जाने जाते थे।
- Veeramani, a lawyer, entered the natural stone industry by chance and went on to become one of its pioneers. वीरमणि, जो एक वकील थे, संयोगवश प्राकृतिक पत्थर उद्योग में आए और आगे चलकर इसके प्रमुख अग्रदूतों में से एक बने।
- He built a multi-crore business and carefully cultivated a social circle that included politicians, celebrities, and other public figures. उन्होंने करोड़ों रुपये का व्यवसाय खड़ा किया और सावधानीपूर्वक ऐसा सामाजिक दायरा बनाया, जिसमें राजनेता, सेलिब्रिटी और अन्य सार्वजनिक हस्तियाँ शामिल थीं।
- There seemed to have been another side to him though. हालाँकि, उनके व्यक्तित्व का एक दूसरा पक्ष भी प्रतीत होता है।
- Today, the Greater Chennai Police are investigating charges that he has sexually assaulted minor girls. आज ग्रेटर चेन्नई पुलिस उन आरोपों की जाँच कर रही है कि उन्होंने नाबालिग लड़कियों का यौन उत्पीड़न किया है।
- The case took a dramatic turn after a Special Court for POCSO Act cases last month rejected an earlier police report seeking to close the investigation and ordered further inquiries. मामले ने पिछले महीने उस समय नाटकीय मोड़ लिया, जब POCSO Act मामलों की विशेष अदालत ने जाँच बंद करने की मांग करने वाली पुलिस की पूर्व रिपोर्ट को खारिज कर दिया और आगे की जाँच का आदेश दिया।

Origin of the case

मामले की उत्पत्ति

- The case originated with a complaint filed by a child rights activist of an NGO based at Anna Nagar, Chennai, with the Inspector of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Unit (ITPU) on October 6, 2025. यह मामला 6 अक्टूबर 2025 को चेन्नई के अन्ना नगर स्थित एक NGO की बाल अधिकार कार्यकर्ता द्वारा Immoral Traffic Prevention Unit (ITPU) के निरीक्षक के समक्ष दर्ज कराई गई शिकायत से शुरू हुआ।
- The complaint was forwarded by the then Additional Commissioner of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) for further action. शिकायत को तत्कालीन Additional Commissioner of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) ने आगे की कार्रवाई के लिए भेज दिया।
- The following day, the CCB registered a case under Sections 7 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and it was forwarded to the Assistant Commissioner of the ITPU on October 9. अगले दिन, CCB ने Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act की धाराओं 7 और 8 के तहत मामला दर्ज किया और इसे 9 अक्टूबर को ITPU के Assistant Commissioner को भेज दिया गया।
- According to the complaint, while the activist was at her office, an unidentified person handed over a cover containing a message and a pen drive. शिकायत के अनुसार, जब कार्यकर्ता अपने कार्यालय में थीं, तब एक अज्ञात व्यक्ति ने उन्हें एक संदेश और पेन ड्राइव वाला लिफाफा सौंपा।
- A man (later identified as Veeramani) was seen hugging a minor girl, touching her inappropriately, and sexually abusing her on a bed at a house belonging to Shanathi,

described as his associate.

एक व्यक्ति (जिसकी बाद में पहचान **वीरमणि** के रूप में हुई) को शांति के स्वामित्व वाले एक घर में, जिसे उनकी सहयोगी बताया गया है, एक **नाबालिग लड़की को गले लगाते, अनुचित तरीके से छूते और बिस्तर पर उसका यौन उत्पीड़न करते** देखा गया।

- The police officer who initially investigated the case found that a search of the house mentioned in the complaint or shown in the video reportedly did not yield any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of persons named in the complaint.
मामले की प्रारंभिक जाँच करने वाले पुलिस अधिकारी ने पाया कि शिकायत में उल्लिखित या वीडियो में दिखाए गए घर की तलाशी से कथित तौर पर शिकायत में नामित व्यक्तियों द्वारा **गलत कृत्य किए जाने का कोई साक्ष्य नहीं मिला।**
- On February 20, 2026, the Assistant Commissioner, ITPU, filed a report before the court recommending that further action be dropped.
20 फरवरी 2026 को **ITPU के Assistant Commissioner** ने अदालत के समक्ष एक रिपोर्ट दाखिल की, जिसमें आगे की कार्रवाई बंद करने की सिफारिश की गई।
- According to the report, the video appeared to show an incident that had taken place in 2019. रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, वीडियो में ऐसी घटना दिखाई देती प्रतीत हुई जो **2019 में हुई थी।**
- The police examined a digital video recorder (DVR) from the suspected location with the assistance of an authorised cyber-forensic expert.
पुलिस ने एक **अधिकृत साइबर-फॉरेंसिक विशेषज्ञ** की सहायता से संदिग्ध स्थान से प्राप्त **Digital Video Recorder (DVR)** की जाँच की।
- However, the investigators said they could not recover the original recording or any other relevant footage from the device.
हालाँकि, जाँचकर्ताओं ने कहा कि वे डिवाइस से **मूल रिकॉर्डिंग या कोई अन्य प्रासंगिक फुटेज** बरामद नहीं कर सके।
- The earlier report cited several difficulties, including the police's inability to identify the girl in the video, the absence of usable CCTV footage, and the lack of statements from Shanthi's neighbours.
पूर्व रिपोर्ट में कई **कठिनाइयों** का उल्लेख किया गया था, जिनमें वीडियो में दिखाई देने वाली लड़की की पहचान करने में पुलिस की असमर्थता, उपयोगी **CCTV फुटेज का अभाव** और शांति के पड़ोसियों के बयानों का न मिलना शामिल था।
- It also stated that the cyber-forensic expert could not retrieve the original recording from the DVR because approximately six years had passed since the alleged incident.
इसमें यह भी कहा गया कि साइबर-फॉरेंसिक विशेषज्ञ DVR से **मूल रिकॉर्डिंग** प्राप्त नहीं कर सके क्योंकि कथित घटना को लगभग **छह वर्ष** बीत चुके थे।
- During the inquiry, Veeramani and Shanthi were questioned.
जाँच के दौरान **वीरमणि और शांति** से पूछताछ की गई।
- Veeramani denied that he was the person seen in the video and said he did not know the person who appeared in the footage with a girl who seemed to be a minor.
वीरमणि ने इस बात से इनकार किया कि वीडियो में दिखाई देने वाला व्यक्ति वही था और कहा कि वह उस व्यक्ति को नहीं जानते जो वीडियो में **नाबालिग प्रतीत होने वाली लड़की** के साथ दिखाई दे रहा था।
- Shanthi, on the other hand, said she knew Veeramani but did not know the girl.
दूसरी ओर, शांति ने कहा कि वह वीरमणि को जानती थीं, लेकिन लड़की को नहीं जानती थीं।
- She also stated that the location shown in the footage was not part of her house.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि फुटेज में दिखाई गई जगह उनके घर का हिस्सा नहीं थी।
- The report stated that the age and identity of the person resembling a minor in the video could not be established and there were no grounds to proceed further at that stage.
रिपोर्ट में कहा गया कि वीडियो में नाबालिग जैसी दिखाई देने वाली व्यक्ति की **आयु और पहचान स्थापित नहीं की जा सकी** और उस चरण में आगे बढ़ने के लिए कोई आधार नहीं था।

- The case was therefore classified as 'Further Action Dropped' and the report was submitted to the court.
इसलिए मामले को 'Further Action Dropped' के रूप में वर्गीकृत किया गया और रिपोर्ट अदालत में प्रस्तुत की गई।
- The police added that further action would be taken if new evidence or witnesses emerged. पुलिस ने कहा कि यदि कोई नया साक्ष्य या गवाह सामने आता है तो आगे की कार्रवाई की जाएगी।
- However, the Special Court rejected the report and ordered further investigation, following which the inquiry was reopened in July 2026.
हालाँकि, विशेष अदालत ने रिपोर्ट को खारिज कर दिया और आगे की जाँच का आदेश दिया, जिसके बाद जुलाई 2026 में जाँच फिर से शुरू की गई।
- During the fresh inquiry, the police searched Shanthi's residence at Teynampet and recovered what they described as the original footage of the alleged sexual assault from an electronic device, a letter said to be written by Shanthi, and mobile records.
नई जाँच के दौरान, पुलिस ने टेनाम्पेट स्थित शांति के आवास की तलाशी ली और एक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरण से कथित यौन उत्पीड़न की मूल फुटेज, शांति द्वारा लिखे जाने की बात कही गई एक चिट्ठी और मोबाइल रिकॉर्ड बरामद किए।
- Investigators also found indications of an attempt to destroy evidence.
जाँचकर्ताओं को साक्ष्य नष्ट करने के प्रयास के संकेत भी मिले।
- The seized devices were sent for forensic examination.
जब्त किए गए उपकरणों को फॉरेंसिक जाँच के लिए भेज दिया गया।
- In a statement issued on August 29, the Greater Chennai Police said the person seen in the video stored on the pen drive had been identified as Veeramani.
29 अगस्त को जारी एक बयान में ग्रेटर चेन्नई पुलिस ने कहा कि पेन ड्राइव में संग्रहीत वीडियो में दिखाई देने वाले व्यक्ति की पहचान वीरमणि के रूप में की गई है।
- They added that Veeramani had rented a house at Teynampet and entrusted its management to Shanthi and her husband Mahendran Simhan.
उन्होंने बताया कि वीरमणि ने टेनाम्पेट में एक घर किराए पर लिया था और उसका प्रबंधन शांति तथा उनके पति महेंद्रन सिम्हान को सौंपा था।
- Investigators alleged that several minor girls had been brought to the house and sexually assaulted.
जाँचकर्ताओं ने आरोप लगाया कि कई नाबालिग लड़कियों को उस घर में लाया गया और उनका यौन उत्पीड़न किया गया।
- The police also said video evidence relating to one such incident had been seized.
पुलिस ने यह भी कहा कि ऐसी ही एक घटना से संबंधित वीडियो साक्ष्य जब्त किया गया है।
- During the searches of the homes and offices of suspected individuals, the police recovered evidence, including photographs of minor girls connected with the incidents.
संदिग्ध व्यक्तियों के घरों और कार्यालयों की तलाशी के दौरान पुलिस ने घटनाओं से जुड़ी नाबालिग लड़कियों की तस्वीरों सहित साक्ष्य बरामद किए।
- Shanthi, 55, Mahendran Simhan, 60, and Veeramani were arrested and remanded in judicial custody.
55 वर्षीय शांति, 60 वर्षीय महेंद्रन सिम्हान और वीरमणि को गिरफ्तार कर न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया।
- The police alleged that Shanthi and her husband had assisted in the offences.
पुलिस ने आरोप लगाया कि शांति और उनके पति ने अपराधों में सहायता की थी।
- The investigation continued.
जाँच जारी रही।
- A senior police officer said Shanthi's alleged role could be broadly compared with that of Ghislaine Maxwell (in Jeffrey Epstein's case), who was convicted for facilitating the sexual abuse of minors.

एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने कहा कि शांति की कथित भूमिका की मोटे तौर पर घिसलेन मैक्सवेल (जेफ्री एप्स्टीन मामले में) की भूमिका से तुलना की जा सकती है, जिन्हें नाबालिगों के यौन शोषण को सुगम बनाने के लिए दोषी ठहराया गया था।

Victim identified

पीड़िता की पहचान हुई

- Last week, the police investigating the **POCSO Act case** identified the minor girl allegedly assaulted by Veeramani.
पिछले सप्ताह, **POCSO अधिनियम के मामले** की जाँच कर रही पुलिस ने वीरमणि द्वारा कथित रूप से यौन उत्पीड़न की गई नाबालिग लड़की की पहचान की।
- She was 12 years old at the time of the alleged incident.
कथित घटना के समय उसकी आयु 12 वर्ष थी।
- The survivor's statement was recorded before a Judicial Magistrate.
पीड़िता का बयान **न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट** के समक्ष दर्ज किया गया।
- She identified herself and Veeramani in the video.
उसने वीडियो में अपनी और वीरमणि की पहचान की।
- The police subsequently traced and identified three more victims, all of whom were aged 12-15 at the time of the incidents.
इसके बाद पुलिस ने तीन और पीड़िताओं का पता लगाकर उनकी पहचान की, जिनकी घटना के समय आयु 12-15 वर्ष थी।
- Sources said more victims came forward to record their statements on the assaults by the prime accused after being assured that their identities would be kept secret.
सूत्रों ने बताया कि **मुख्य आरोपी** द्वारा किए गए यौन उत्पीड़न के संबंध में बयान दर्ज कराने के लिए और भी पीड़िताएँ सामने आईं, जब उन्हें आश्वासन दिया गया कि उनकी पहचान गोपनीय रखी जाएगी।
- Greater Chennai Police Commissioner A. Amalraj said, "We strictly follow the guidelines while handling such cases.
ग्रेटर चेन्नई के पुलिस आयुक्त ए. अमलराज ने कहा, "ऐसे मामलों को संभालते समय हम **दिशा-निर्देशों का कड़ाई से पालन** करते हैं।
- Tracing the victims took time, and the investigation is being conducted in accordance with the procedures prescribed by law.
पीड़िताओं का पता लगाने में समय लगा और जाँच **कानून द्वारा निर्धारित प्रक्रियाओं** के अनुसार की जा रही है।
- After conducting a thorough investigation, we will file a charge sheet in time and get conviction."
पूरी तरह जाँच करने के बाद हम समय पर **आरोप-पत्र दाखिल** करेंगे और दोषसिद्धि सुनिश्चित करेंगे।"
- During the investigation, the police also unearthed the case of suicide of a minor girl in early 2003, linked to Veeramani.
जाँच के दौरान पुलिस ने 2003 की शुरुआत में एक नाबालिग लड़की द्वारा की गई आत्महत्या के मामले का भी पता लगाया, जिसका संबंध वीरमणि से बताया गया है।
- Shanthi's message to Veeramani stated that a child had ended her life because of him.
शांति के वीरमणि को भेजे गए संदेश में कहा गया था कि उसके कारण एक बच्ची ने अपनी जान ले ली थी।

Minors targeted

नाबालिगों को बनाया निशाना

- A senior police officer said Veeramani had targeted girls aged 12-16 over several years.
एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी ने कहा कि वीरमणि ने कई वर्षों तक 12-16 वर्ष की लड़कियों को निशाना बनाया था।

- The officer said he lured children by offering small amounts of money, sports shoes, chocolates, and mobile phones.
अधिकारी ने कहा कि वह बच्चों को थोड़ी-बहुत धनराशि, खेल के जूते, चॉकलेट और मोबाइल फोन देने का लालच देकर अपने जाल में फँसाता था।
- Sources said Veeramani encouraged children to enter the premises of his bungalow as he remained in the portico, pretending to play ball.
सूत्रों ने बताया कि वीरमणि बच्चों को अपने बंगले के परिसर में आने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करता था और स्वयं बरामदे में गेंद से खेलने का दिखावा करता था।
- The children used to pick up balls tossed around.
बच्चे इधर-उधर फेंकी गई गेंदों को उठाया करते थे।
- He used to give them chocolates and eatables when they entered his premises but targeted only the girls for exploitation.
जब बच्चे उसके परिसर में प्रवेश करते थे, तो वह उन्हें चॉकलेट और खाने की चीजें देता था, लेकिन यौन शोषण के लिए केवल लड़कियों को निशाना बनाता था।
- He would pick the targets, ask their names, and give them his phone number, saying that they could approach him for any assistance, including financial help.
वह अपने निशाने के लिए लड़कियों को चुनता, उनके नाम पूछता और उन्हें अपना फोन नंबर देता तथा कहता कि वे वित्तीय सहायता सहित किसी भी मदद के लिए उससे संपर्क कर सकती हैं।
- If they contacted him, he would reportedly send a driver to bring them to the bungalow.
यदि वे उससे संपर्क करतीं, तो कथित तौर पर वह उन्हें बंगले तक लाने के लिए एक चालक भेजता था।
- He would take them to his bedroom and the victims were then sexually assaulted.
वह उन्हें अपने शयनकक्ष में ले जाता था और वहाँ पीड़िताओं का यौन उत्पीड़न किया जाता था।
- He had given them amounts ranging from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000.
उसने उन्हें ₹2,000 से ₹5,000 तक की धनराशि दी थी।
- If a victim complained that it was too low, the payment was increased, in some instances to ₹50,000.
यदि कोई पीड़िता शिकायत करती कि यह राशि बहुत कम है, तो भुगतान बढ़ा दिया जाता था और कुछ मामलों में यह राशि ₹50,000 तक कर दी जाती थी।
- Sometimes, he gave the girls mobile phones or sports shoes.
कभी-कभी वह लड़कियों को मोबाइल फोन या खेल के जूते देता था।
- The officer also alleged that Veeramani invited children to parties at hotels, transported them in luxury cars, and then sexually assaulted them.
अधिकारी ने यह भी आरोप लगाया कि वीरमणि बच्चों को होटलों में पार्टियों के लिए बुलाता था, उन्हें लगजरी कारों में ले जाता था और फिर उनका यौन उत्पीड़न करता था।
- This went on for years.
यह सिलसिला वर्षों तक चलता रहा।

Back entrance and secret room

पिछला प्रवेश द्वार और गुप्त कमरा

- Police sources further said the victims had identified the back entrance, the bedroom of his bungalow, and the secret room in his office.
पुलिस सूत्रों ने आगे बताया कि पीड़िताओं ने उसके बंगले के पिछले प्रवेश द्वार, उसके शयनकक्ष और उसके कार्यालय में स्थित गुप्त कमरे की पहचान की थी।
- An officer also said Shanthi had claimed she was raped by Veeramani when she was 13 and she had a son from him.
एक अधिकारी ने यह भी कहा कि शांति ने दावा किया था कि जब वह 13 वर्ष की थी, तब वीरमणि ने उसके साथ बलात्कार किया था और उससे उसका एक बेटा है।

- Police sources said she was seeking a share of Veeramani's property.
पुलिस सूत्रों ने कहा कि वह वीरमणि की संपत्ति में हिस्से की माँग कर रही थी।
- They also said Shanthi was trained as an architect and was now running a dance school.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि शांति ने वास्तुकार के रूप में प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त किया था और अब वह एक नृत्य विद्यालय चला रही थी।
- She and her husband had served as directors of a company owned by Veeramani and were on his payroll.
वह और उसके पति वीरमणि के स्वामित्व वाली एक कंपनी में निदेशक के रूप में कार्य कर चुके थे और उसके पेरॉल पर थे।
- When contacted, there was no response from Veeramani's side to the allegations against him.
संपर्क किए जाने पर वीरमणि की ओर से उसके खिलाफ लगाए गए आरोपों पर कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं मिली।
- Police sources said the investigation had only begun and they suspect more revelations would emerge.
पुलिस सूत्रों ने कहा कि जाँच अभी शुरू ही हुई है और उन्हें आशंका है कि आगे और खुलासे हो सकते हैं।
- Dismissing allegations that the investigation had been subverted last year, a senior officer who had earlier served in the Commissionerate said, "We registered the case immediately after receiving the video.
पिछले वर्ष जाँच को प्रभावित किए जाने के आरोपों को खारिज करते हुए, आयुक्तालय में पहले कार्य कर चुके एक वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने कहा, "वीडियो प्राप्त होने के तुरंत बाद हमने मामला दर्ज किया था।
- There was no laxity in the investigation.
जाँच में कोई लापरवाही नहीं बरती गई।
- Since the visuals were unclear, we could not identify the victim.
चूँकि दृश्य स्पष्ट नहीं थे, इसलिए हम पीड़िता की पहचान नहीं कर सके।
- Without identifying the victim, we could not proceed further, but we did not close the case.
पीड़िता की पहचान किए बिना हम आगे नहीं बढ़ सकते थे, लेकिन हमने मामला बंद नहीं किया।
- Had we identified the victim, we would have taken the investigation forward."
यदि हम पीड़िता की पहचान कर लेते, तो हम जाँच को आगे बढ़ाते।"
- It is learnt that a report on the status of the case was filed in February to comply with the prescribed legal time frame.
पता चला है कि निर्धारित कानूनी समय-सीमा का पालन करने के लिए फरवरी में मामले की स्थिति पर एक रिपोर्ट दाखिल की गई थी।
- The report did not seek closure of the case.
रिपोर्ट में मामले को बंद करने की माँग नहीं की गई थी।
- The officer said the case was kept open, with the provision that the investigation could be revived if any fresh evidence emerged.
अधिकारी ने कहा कि मामला खुला रखा गया था और यह प्रावधान था कि यदि कोई नया साक्ष्य सामने आता है, तो जाँच को फिर से शुरू किया जा सकता है।

Veeramani POCSO Case

- The reported case involving **R. Veeramani**, a prominent figure associated with India's granite industry.
- It raises wider issues of **child protection, grooming, implementation of the POCSO Act, digital evidence, victim identification and institutional accountability.**



1. What is the case?

- According to the report, a child-rights activist received a **pen drive containing video footage** allegedly showing Veeramani sexually abusing a minor girl. A case was registered in **October 2025** under **Sections 7 and 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act**.
- Initially, investigators were unable to identify the child or recover the original recording. Consequently, a report recommending that further action be dropped was submitted in **February 2026**. However, the **Special POCSO Court rejected the report and directed further investigation**.
- The renewed investigation reportedly recovered additional electronic material. Police subsequently arrested Veeramani and two alleged associates. Most importantly, investigators later identified the girl in the video; according to the report, she was **12 years old at the time of the alleged incident**. Three more alleged victims, then aged 12–15, were subsequently traced.
- These remain **allegations under investigation**, and criminal liability must ultimately be determined through the judicial process.

2. What is “grooming”?

- A major concept illustrated by the allegations is **child grooming**.
- **Grooming means gradually developing a child's trust, dependency or emotional connection in order to facilitate sexual exploitation.**
- **For example, the report alleges that children were initially offered seemingly harmless things such as chocolates, sports shoes, mobile phones, money and other assistance.**
- If such benefits are deliberately used to gain a child's confidence before sexual exploitation, they illustrate how grooming can operate.
- Thus:
- **Contact → Trust → Gifts/Favours → Dependency or Access → Exploitation**
- This explains why child sexual abuse does not necessarily begin with physical force. **Money, gifts, status, affection or promises of help** may be used to manipulate vulnerable children.

3. Why is the POCSO Act important?

The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012** provides a specialised legal framework for sexual offences against persons below **18 years**.

The case highlights several features of the child-protection system:

- **Special POCSO Courts** provide specialised judicial handling of such offences.
- A **child's statement and identification of an alleged offender can become important evidence**, subject to normal evidentiary and trial safeguards.
- The **child's identity must remain protected**.
- **Investigation should follow child-friendly procedures** and avoid secondary victimisation.

4. Importance of digital and forensic evidence

- The case also demonstrates the **growing importance of electronic evidence**. Investigators reportedly dealt with a pen drive, DVR, mobile records and other electronic devices.
- A delay of several years can make recovery difficult because recordings may be **overwritten, deleted or degraded**.
- Digital forensics may nevertheless help establish authenticity, recover material and reconstruct events. Proper preservation and **chain of custody** are therefore crucial.

5. Why was the Jeffrey Epstein–Ghislaine Maxwell comparison made?

- The report says a police officer broadly compared an alleged facilitator's role to that of **Ghislaine Maxwell**, who was convicted in the United States for offences connected with facilitating Jeffrey Epstein's sexual exploitation of minors.
- The relevant conceptual point is **facilitation**: child sexual exploitation may involve not only the principal offender but also persons who allegedly **recruit, transport, provide locations, conceal offences or otherwise assist exploitation**.
- The comparison should not be interpreted as establishing guilt in the present case.

GS Paper 1: Geography	21 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED	
21S9	Mahanadi water dispute will be resolved soon: Chhattisgarh CM महानदी जल विवाद जल्द सुलझ जाएगा: छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री

Crisis alert: Spaniards march to the Moroccan border on Sunday, during a protest over the migration crisis in Ceuta. Locals were marching under the banner 'SOS Ceuta invadida' (SOS Ceuta invaded), to protest the recent mass influx of migrants from Morocco.

European Territories Located Outside or Far from Mainland Europe

Spain

- Ceuta** lies on the **North African coast**, bordering **Morocco**. It is an autonomous Spanish city and part of the EU, although it is **outside the EU customs territory**. Migration and border management are major geopolitical issues.
- Melilla** is another Spanish autonomous city on the **North African coast**, also bordering Morocco. Like Ceuta, it forms part of the EU but has special customs and tax arrangements. Migration, border security and Spain-Morocco relations make it strategically important.
- Canary Islands** are a Spanish archipelago in the **Atlantic Ocean, off northwestern Africa**. Unlike Ceuta and Melilla, the Canaries are one of the EU's official



Crisis alert: Spaniards march to the Moroccan border on Sunday, during a protest over the migration crisis in Ceuta. Locals were marching under the banner 'SOS Ceuta invadida' (SOS Ceuta invaded), to protest the recent mass influx of migrants from Morocco. Reuters



Outermost Regions. They are also important in migration routes from West Africa toward Europe.

Portugal

- **Madeira** is a Portuguese Atlantic archipelago off northwestern Africa.
- **Azores** are Portuguese islands in the **North Atlantic**, strategically situated between Europe and North America.
- Both are integral parts of Portugal and official **EU Outermost Regions**.

France — Most Important for UPSC

- France has the largest geographically dispersed collection of territories linked to an EU member state.
- **French Guiana** is in **South America**, bordering **Brazil and Suriname**. It is particularly important because the **Guiana Space Centre at Kourou** is located there.
- **Guadeloupe** is in the **Caribbean**.
- **Martinique** is in the **Caribbean**.
- **Saint-Martin** is in the **Caribbean**, sharing an island with Dutch **Sint Maarten**.
- **Réunion** is in the **Indian Ocean**, east of Madagascar.
- **Mayotte** is in the **Mozambique Channel**, between Madagascar and the African mainland.
- These six are **Outermost Regions and integral parts of the EU**. The European Commission's September 2026 strategy confirms the EU's current nine-region list.
- France also has territories that are **not integral parts of the EU**, but have the status of **Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs)** associated with it:
- **French Polynesia** — South Pacific.
- **New Caledonia** — southwest Pacific.
- **Wallis and Futuna** — South Pacific.
- **Saint Barthélemy** — Caribbean.
- **Saint Pierre and Miquelon** — North Atlantic, near Canada.
- **French Southern and Antarctic Lands** — southern Indian Ocean/Antarctic region.

Denmark

- **Greenland** is geographically part of **North America/Arctic** and politically linked to the Kingdom of Denmark.
- A major trap is that **Greenland is not part of the EU**. It withdrew from the European Communities in **1985** and today is an **EU-associated OCT**.

Netherlands

- The Netherlands is linked with six Caribbean territories.
- **Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten** are constituent countries within the **Kingdom of the Netherlands**.
- **Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba** have a different constitutional relationship with the Netherlands.
- For EU purposes, all six are currently **OCTs rather than integral parts of the EU**.



The Most Important Classification for UPSC

Category	Important Territories	EU Status
EU Outermost Regions	French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, Saint-Martin, Canary Islands, Azores, Madeira	Integral parts of EU
Spanish special territories	Ceuta, Melilla	EU applies, but outside EU customs/VAT territory
EU Overseas Countries & Territories	Greenland, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Aruba, Curaçao, etc.	Associated with EU, not part of EU
UK overseas territories	Gibraltar, Falkland Islands, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, etc.	Not EU territories after Brexit

The EU officially recognises **9 Outermost Regions** and **13 Overseas Countries and Territories** associated with the EU.

The 13 EU-associated OCTs

They are **Greenland; Aruba; Bonaire; Curaçao; Saba; Sint Eustatius; Sint Maarten; French Polynesia; New Caledonia; Wallis and Futuna; Saint Barthélemy; Saint Pierre and Miquelon; and the French Southern and Antarctic Lands.**

What About Britain?

Because of **Brexit**, British Overseas Territories are no longer EU-associated OCTs. Nevertheless, for **World Geography and International Relations**, several remain extremely important.

These include **Gibraltar** near the Strait of Gibraltar; **Falkland Islands** in the South Atlantic; **Bermuda** in the North Atlantic; **Cayman Islands, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat**, and **Turks and Caicos** in/near the Caribbean; **Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha** in the Atlantic; **Pitcairn Islands** in the Pacific; and the **Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia** in Cyprus.

The last example is especially interesting: **Akrotiri and Dhekelia remain under British sovereignty**, while special post-Brexit arrangements preserve particular links with EU/Cypriot customs, VAT and excise rules.

Best Memory Trick

Spain → Africa: Ceuta, Melilla, Canary Islands.

Portugal → Atlantic: Azores, Madeira.

France → almost everywhere: Caribbean + South America + Indian Ocean + Pacific.



Denmark → Arctic: Greenland.

Netherlands → Caribbean: Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten + BES islands.

UK → strategically scattered: Gibraltar, Falklands, Caribbean islands, Atlantic islands, Cyprus bases.

Mahanadi water dispute will be resolved soon: Chhattisgarh CM

GS I: Geography
Press Trust of India
BHUBANESWAR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday said the Mahanadi water dispute with Odisha is likely to be resolved "very soon", asserting that both States have agreed to accept the decision of the Centre on the matter.

Mr. Sai, on a two-day visit to Odisha, said the issue would be resolved because there are BJP governments in Chhattisgarh and Odisha and an NDA government at

the Centre.

"Both of us (Chief Ministers) have given consent to the Centre that we will accept whatever decision is taken by the Central Water Commission with regard to the Mahanadi issue," he said. Mr. Sai later met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the city.

In a social media post, Mr. Majhi wrote that he had a "fruitful interaction" with his counterpart on strengthening cooperation between the two States, and advancing their shared

commitment towards the welfare of people.

Mr. Sai's remarks, particularly his assertion that there was no longer a dispute over Mahanadi water distribution, drew criticism from the Opposition Biju Janata Dal, which questioned whether Odisha's interests were being protected. "The Chhattisgarh government is the creator of the Mahanadi water dispute. The statement of its CM that it is not a dispute is unacceptable," said the party.

21S9. Mahanadi water dispute will be resolved soon: Chhattisgarh CM

महानदी जल विवाद जल्द सुलझ जाएगा:

छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री

• Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday said the Mahanadi water dispute with Odisha is likely to be resolved "very soon", asserting that both States have agreed to accept the decision of the Centre on the matter.

छत्तीसगढ़ के मुख्यमंत्री विष्णु देव साय ने रविवार को कहा कि ओडिशा के साथ महानदी जल विवाद के "बहुत जल्द" सुलझने की संभावना है और उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों राज्यों ने इस

मामले में केंद्र के निर्णय को स्वीकार करने पर सहमति व्यक्त की है।

- Mr. Sai, on a two-day visit to Odisha, said the issue would be resolved because there are BJP governments in Chhattisgarh and Odisha and an NDA government at the Centre. ओडिशा की दो दिवसीय यात्रा पर गए श्री साय ने कहा कि यह मुद्दा इसलिए सुलझ जाएगा क्योंकि छत्तीसगढ़ और ओडिशा में भाजपा की सरकारें हैं तथा केंद्र में NDA सरकार है।
- "Both of us (Chief Ministers) have given consent to the Centre that we will accept whatever decision is taken by the Central Water Commission with regard to the Mahanadi issue," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "हम दोनों (मुख्यमंत्रियों) ने केंद्र को अपनी सहमति दी है कि महानदी मुद्दे के संबंध में केंद्रीय जल आयोग (Central Water Commission) द्वारा जो भी निर्णय लिया जाएगा, हम उसे स्वीकार करेंगे।"
- Mr. Sai later met Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi in the city. श्री साय ने बाद में शहर में ओडिशा के मुख्यमंत्री मोहन चरण माझी से मुलाकात की।
- In a social media post, Mr. Majhi wrote that he had a "fruitful interaction" with his counterpart on strengthening cooperation between the two States, and advancing their shared commitment towards the welfare of people. श्री माझी ने सोशल मीडिया पर एक पोस्ट में लिखा कि उन्होंने अपने समकक्ष के साथ दोनों राज्यों के बीच सहयोग को मजबूत करने और लोगों के कल्याण के प्रति अपनी साझा प्रतिबद्धता को आगे बढ़ाने के संबंध में "फलदायी बातचीत" की।
- Mr. Sai's remarks, particularly his assertion that there was no longer a dispute over Mahanadi water distribution, drew criticism from the Opposition Biju Janata Dal, which questioned whether Odisha's interests were being protected. श्री साय की टिप्पणियों, विशेषकर इस दावे कि महानदी जल के वितरण को लेकर अब कोई विवाद नहीं है, पर



विपक्षी बीजू जनता दल (BJD) ने आलोचना की और सवाल उठाया कि क्या ओडिशा के हितों की रक्षा की जा रही है।

- “The Chhattisgarh government is the creator of the Mahanadi water dispute. The statement of its CM that it is not a dispute is unacceptable,” said the party.
पार्टी ने कहा, “छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार महानदी जल विवाद की जनक है। उसके मुख्यमंत्री का यह बयान कि यह कोई विवाद नहीं है, अस्वीकार्य है।”

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India's NGOs at a new funding crossroads

When the first Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) was passed in 1976, a government of a different political hue was in power from the one that has now proposed the more fierce FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026. But the underlying political apprehensions were similar – the fear that foreign powers could destabilise the country by funding civil society organisations (non-governmental organisations or NGOs). In the present case, there is also an unstated fear of religious conversions by Christian and other religious minorities. The Bill is yet to be enacted because of strong reactions by the Opposition parties and several civil society groups, particularly Christian organisations.

The government claims that the flow of foreign funds into India's NGO sector operates as a vast, intricate and opaque web. Under the banners of development, human rights and social welfare, thousands of crores of unmonitored capital pour into the country every year. Much of this money deliberately bypasses state accounting mechanisms and finds its way into politically charged campaigns, highly selective local advocacy, and aggressive proselytisation and religious conversion networks.

Proposed legislation, the concerns
Under the proposed legislation, if an FCRA certificate is cancelled, surrendered or automatically lapses, foreign contributions and all assets created from them would vest in a government-appointed “designated authority”. The organisation can recover the assets if registration is restored within the prescribed period. Permanent vesting will occur only if registration is not restored within that period. The Bill also provides for revision and an appeal to the District Judge.

If a fresh certificate is not obtained within the prescribed period, the assets could be sold or transferred to a government department, with the proceeds going to the Consolidated Fund of India. However, during the provisional-vesting period, restoration of registration results in return of assets and unused foreign contribution.

NGOs, especially Christian organisations, which the government says receive a larger proportion of the funds among religious associations, are worried that the legislation may not be religion-neutral and that, ultimately, the real sufferers would be the beneficiaries served by such charitable organisations, which have established and operate numerous schools, hospitals, old-age care homes and similar institutions. As some leaders from the northeast and tribal areas have pointed out, such institutions are sometimes the largest or only providers of these services in many areas.

Already, the FCRA registrations of 22,496 NGOs



Pushpa Sundar
The author of several books on philanthropy, with the latest title being ‘Giving with A Thousand Hands: The Changing Face of Indian Philanthropy’

have been cancelled since 2015, leaving about 14,466 active registered associations eligible to receive foreign contributions (Ministry of Home Affairs data, September 2026). In fact, the amounts received are larger than those in 2006-07 (₹12,289.6 crore from private international donors), the last year for which data were available when this writer wrote the book, *Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs: Problem or Solution?* (2010).

So why the protest? The fact is that different sources of funding have a differential impact on organisations and their effectiveness because, as the saying goes, “He who pays the piper calls the tune”.

Though in total, the volume of foreign aid to NGOs is small compared with government budgets, and only a small proportion of NGOs receive such aid, it is highly valued because it is not only an alternative source of funding but also more flexible than government funding, with fewer restrictions on how it can be used. It is generally tailored to an NGO's needs through discussions between the NGO and the donor.

The book, *Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs*, which is based desk research and interviews with several NGOs, large and small, suggests that while a few organisations felt that foreign aid had adverse consequences, such as encouraging the adoption of ideas and practices from abroad that were unsuited to Indian conditions, most felt that foreign funds had contributed to India's development and, in particular, to the growth of the voluntary sector. They had brought in new ideas, techniques, technologies and organisational improvements. In the absence of adequate government funding and private philanthropy, foreign aid had played a positive role.

Need for funding diversity

Today, however, given political events in neighbouring countries and elsewhere in the world, and without being privy to the secret sources of information that the government has about the destabilisation role played by foreign money, it is difficult to pass a definitive judgment on the need for and value of foreign aid today.

There can be no doubt that a vibrant and independent civil society is necessary for a healthy democracy and for preventing the abuse of unrestrained political power by any one section of society. Plural sources of funding are also necessary to ensure that civil society is not dependent on any one source.

But equally, one can question whether foreign funds are the only answer to the needs of civil society today. First, the voluntary sector is more developed now. Second, the situation regarding foreign aid itself has changed. Bona fide foreign donors are themselves moving away from giving

to India because of their own economic difficulties and the perception that India, which is aiming to become the world's third-largest economy, no longer needs aid from them.

Third, the domestic non-government funding environment has also improved. According to the Forbes 2026 list, there are 3,332 billionaires in the world, of whom 229 are in India, giving it the third-largest number after the United States and China. The amount they donate to philanthropy has also increased. According to the India Philanthropy Report by Bain & Company, private philanthropy was projected to reach ₹1.43 lakh crore (\$16 billion) in FY 2025. In addition, there is retail giving of about ₹37,000 crore annually.

The downside is that, according to the same report, demand is growing faster than supply, with projections indicating that the gap could reach ₹18 lakh crore (\$210 billion) by 2030.

Moreover, new philanthropists, especially entrepreneurs and technology leaders, are shifting away from traditional areas towards ecosystem building, scientific research, higher education and complex institutional support.

This is undoubtedly good news for social and economic change, but bad news for NGOs delivering traditional education, health and social welfare services.

A glimmer of hope for such NGOs is that, following the Companies Act, 2013, which made corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending compulsory for companies above a certain size, CSR spending by such listed companies was ₹22,563 crore in FY25, up 17.5% (latest CRISIL report).

Since many companies do not have the internal competency to undertake social development, they rely on NGOs as partners. Although many companies are moving into environmental and other emerging areas, many still find the traditional areas of health, education and rural development more meaningful.

A new opportunity

So if, in the ultimate analysis, the government does decide to limit foreign funding, the future need not be bleak if Indian domestic philanthropy steps up to fill the gap.

However, indigenous donors, and the government in particular, must become more responsive to the needs of NGOs, learn from foreign donors some of the practices that made their aid so sought after, and engage in more serious dialogue on funding practices, as distinct from development issues, to improve those practices and address the dissatisfaction on both sides. Ultimately, it is the innate generosity that is dormant in hundreds of dedicated Indians that will change the dynamics of development in India, not foreign aid, which at best can be the cherry on the cake.

21S9. India's NGOs at a new funding crossroads
भारत के NGOs एक नए वित्तपोषण के चौराहे पर

- When the first **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** was passed in 1976, a government of a different political hue was in power from the one that has now proposed the more fierce **FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026**.
जब 1976 में पहला **Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)** पारित किया गया था, तब वर्तमान में अधिक कठोर **FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026** प्रस्तावित करने वाली सरकार से भिन्न राजनीतिक विचारधारा वाली सरकार सत्ता में थी।
- But the underlying political apprehensions were similar — the fear that foreign powers could destabilise the country by funding civil society organisations (**non-governmental organisations or NGOs**).
लेकिन इसके पीछे की राजनीतिक आशंकाएँ समान थीं — यह भय कि विदेशी शक्तियाँ नागरिक समाज संगठनों (**गैर-सरकारी संगठनों या NGOs**) को वित्तपोषित करके देश को अस्थिर कर सकती हैं।
- In the present case, there is also an unstated fear of religious conversions by Christian and other religious minorities.
वर्तमान मामले में ईसाई और अन्य धार्मिक अल्पसंख्यकों द्वारा धार्मिक धर्मांतरण की एक अव्यक्त आशंका भी है।
- The Bill is yet to be enacted because of strong reactions by the Opposition parties and several civil society groups, particularly Christian organisations.
विपक्षी दलों और कई नागरिक समाज समूहों, विशेषकर ईसाई संगठनों, की तीखी प्रतिक्रियाओं के कारण विधेयक अभी तक अधिनियमित नहीं हुआ है।
- The government claims that the flow of foreign funds into India's NGO sector operates as a vast, intricate and opaque web.
सरकार का दावा है कि भारत के NGO क्षेत्र में विदेशी धन का प्रवाह एक विशाल, जटिल और अपारदर्शी जाल के रूप में संचालित होता है।
- Under the banners of development, human rights and social welfare, thousands of crores of unmonitored capital pour into the country every year.
विकास, मानवाधिकार और सामाजिक कल्याण के नाम पर हर वर्ष हजारों करोड़ रुपये की अप्रशासित पूंजी देश में आती है।
- Much of this money deliberately bypasses state accounting mechanisms and finds its way into politically charged campaigns, highly selective local advocacy, and aggressive proselytisation and religious conversion networks.
इस धन का एक बड़ा हिस्सा जानबूझकर राज्य की लेखा-प्रणालियों को दरकिनार कर राजनीतिक रूप से संवेदनशील अभियानों, अत्यधिक चयनात्मक स्थानीय पैरवी तथा आक्रामक धर्म-प्रचार और धार्मिक धर्मांतरण के नेटवर्क तक पहुँचता है।

Proposed legislation, the concerns प्रस्तावित विधेयक और उससे जुड़ी चिंताएँ

- Under the proposed legislation, if an FCRA certificate is cancelled, surrendered or automatically lapses, foreign contributions and all assets created from them would vest in a government-appointed “designated authority”.
प्रस्तावित कानून के तहत, यदि **FCRA प्रमाणपत्र** रद्द कर दिया जाता है, समर्पित कर दिया जाता है या स्वतः समाप्त हो जाता है, तो विदेशी अंशदान और उससे निर्मित सभी परिसंपत्तियाँ सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त “**नामित प्राधिकरण**” में निहित हो जाएँगी।
- The organisation can recover the assets if registration is restored within the prescribed period.
यदि निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर पंजीकरण बहाल कर दिया जाता है, तो संगठन इन परिसंपत्तियों को वापस प्राप्त कर सकता है।

- Permanent vesting will occur only if registration is not restored within that period.
स्थायी रूप से परिसंपत्तियों का निहित होना तभी होगा, जब उस अवधि के भीतर पंजीकरण बहाल नहीं किया जाता है।
- The Bill also provides for revision and an appeal to the District Judge.
विधेयक में पुनरीक्षण और जिला न्यायाधीश के समक्ष अपील का भी प्रावधान है।
- If a fresh certificate is not obtained within the prescribed period, the assets could be sold or transferred to a government department, with the proceeds going to the Consolidated Fund of India.
यदि निर्धारित अवधि के भीतर नया प्रमाणपत्र प्राप्त नहीं किया जाता है, तो परिसंपत्तियों को बेचा या किसी सरकारी विभाग को हस्तांतरित किया जा सकता है और उससे प्राप्त राशि **भारत की संचित निधि (Consolidated Fund of India)** में जमा की जाएगी।
- However, during the provisional-vesting period, restoration of registration results in return of assets and unused foreign contribution.
हालाँकि, **अस्थायी निहितोक्ति अवधि** के दौरान पंजीकरण की बहाली से परिसंपत्तियाँ और अप्रयुक्त विदेशी अंशदान वापस कर दिए जाएँगे।
- NGOs, especially Christian organisations, which the government says receive a larger proportion of the funds among religions associations, are worried that the legislation may not be religion-neutral and that, ultimately, the real sufferers would be the beneficiaries served by such charitable organisations, which have established and operate numerous schools, hospitals, old-age care homes and similar institutions.
NGOs, विशेषकर ईसाई संगठन, जिन्हें सरकार के अनुसार धार्मिक संगठनों में धन का बड़ा अनुपात प्राप्त होता है, चिंतित हैं कि कानून धर्म-निरपेक्ष न हो सकता है और अंततः वास्तविक पीड़ित ऐसे धर्मार्थ संगठनों द्वारा सेवा प्राप्त करने वाले लाभार्थी होंगे, क्योंकि इन संगठनों ने अनेक विद्यालय, अस्पताल, वृद्धाश्रम और इसी प्रकार की संस्थाएँ स्थापित और संचालित की हैं।
- As some leaders from the northeast and tribal areas have pointed out, such institutions are sometimes the largest or only providers of these services in many areas.
जैसा कि पूर्वोत्तर और जनजातीय क्षेत्रों के कुछ नेताओं ने बताया है, ऐसे संस्थान कई क्षेत्रों में कभी-कभी इन सेवाओं के सबसे बड़े या एकमात्र प्रदाता होते हैं।
- Already, the FCRA registrations of 22,496 NGOs have been cancelled since 2015, leaving about 14,466 active registered associations eligible to receive foreign contributions (Ministry of Home Affairs data, September 2026).
पहले ही 2015 से **22,496 NGOs के FCRA पंजीकरण रद्द** किए जा चुके हैं, जिससे लगभग **14,466 सक्रिय पंजीकृत संगठन** विदेशी अंशदान प्राप्त करने के पात्र रह गए हैं (**गृह मंत्रालय के सितंबर 2026 के आँकड़े**)।
- In fact, the amounts received are larger than those in 2006-07 (₹12,289.6 crore from private international donors), the last year for which data were available when this writer wrote the book, *Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs: Problem or Solution?* (2010).
वास्तव में, प्राप्त राशि 2006-07 की राशि (**निजी अंतरराष्ट्रीय दाताओं से ₹12,289.6 करोड़**) से अधिक है, जो उस समय उपलब्ध आँकड़ों का अंतिम वर्ष था जब इस लेखक ने *Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs: Problem or Solution?* (2010) पुस्तक लिखी थी।
- So why the protests?
तो फिर विरोध-प्रदर्शन क्यों हो रहे हैं?
- The fact is that different sources of funding have a differential impact on organisations and their effectiveness because, as the saying goes, “He who pays the piper calls the tune”.
तथ्य यह है कि वित्तपोषण के विभिन्न स्रोत संगठनों और उनकी प्रभावशीलता पर अलग-अलग प्रभाव डालते हैं, क्योंकि जैसा कि कहावत है, **“जिसके हाथ में भुगतान होता है, वही शर्तें तय करता है।”**
- Though in total, the volume of foreign aid to NGOs is small compared with government budgets, and only a small proportion of NGOs receive such aid, it is highly valued because it is not only an alternative source of funding but also more flexible than government funding, with fewer restrictions on how it can be used.

यद्यपि कुल मिलाकर NGOs को मिलने वाली विदेशी सहायता सरकारी बजट की तुलना में कम है और केवल कुछ ही NGOs ऐसी सहायता प्राप्त करते हैं, फिर भी इसका अत्यधिक महत्व है क्योंकि यह न केवल वित्तपोषण का एक वैकल्पिक स्रोत है, बल्कि सरकारी वित्तपोषण की तुलना में अधिक लचीला भी है और इसके उपयोग पर कम प्रतिबंध होते हैं।

- It is generally tailored to an NGO's needs through discussions between the NGO and the donor.
इसे सामान्यतः NGO और दाता के बीच चर्चा के माध्यम से NGO की आवश्यकताओं के अनुरूप तैयार किया जाता है।
- The book, *Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs*, which is based on desk research and interviews with several NGOs, large and small, suggests that while a few organisations felt that foreign aid had adverse consequences, such as encouraging the adoption of ideas and practices from abroad that were unsuited to Indian conditions, most felt that foreign funds had contributed to India's development and, in particular, to the growth of the voluntary sector.
Foreign Aid for Indian NGOs नामक पुस्तक, जो दस्तावेज़-आधारित शोध और छोटे-बड़े कई NGOs के साथ किए गए साक्षात्कारों पर आधारित है, यह सुझाव देती है कि जहाँ कुछ संगठनों का मानना था कि विदेशी सहायता के प्रतिकूल परिणाम हुए, जैसे भारतीय परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल न होने वाले विदेशी विचारों और प्रथाओं को अपनाने को प्रोत्साहन मिला, वहीं अधिकांश का मानना था कि विदेशी धन ने भारत के विकास और विशेष रूप से **स्वैच्छिक क्षेत्र (voluntary sector)** के विस्तार में योगदान दिया।
- They had brought in new ideas, techniques, technologies and organisational improvements.
इससे नए विचार, तकनीकें, प्रौद्योगिकियाँ और संगठनात्मक सुधार आए थे।
- In the absence of adequate government funding and private philanthropy, foreign aid had played a positive role.
पर्याप्त सरकारी वित्तपोषण और निजी परोपकार के अभाव में विदेशी सहायता ने सकारात्मक भूमिका निभाई थी।

Need for funding diversity

वित्तपोषण में विविधता की आवश्यकता

- Today, however, given political events in neighbouring countries and elsewhere in the world, and without being privy to the secret sources of information that the government has about the destabilisation role played by foreign money, it is difficult to pass a definitive judgment on the need for and value of foreign aid today.
हालाँकि, आज पड़ोसी देशों और दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में हुई राजनीतिक घटनाओं को देखते हुए तथा विदेशी धन द्वारा निभाई गई अस्थिरकारी भूमिका के बारे में सरकार के पास मौजूद गोपनीय सूचनाओं से अवगत हुए बिना, आज विदेशी सहायता की आवश्यकता और उसके मूल्य पर कोई निश्चित निर्णय देना कठिन है।
- There can be no doubt that a vibrant and independent civil society is necessary for a healthy democracy and for preventing the abuse of unrestrained political power by any one section of society.
इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि एक सशक्त और स्वतंत्र **नागरिक समाज** एक स्वस्थ लोकतंत्र के लिए तथा समाज के किसी एक वर्ग द्वारा अनियंत्रित राजनीतिक शक्ति के दुरुपयोग को रोकने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Plural sources of funding are also necessary to ensure that civil society is not dependent on any one source.
वित्तपोषण के अनेक स्रोत भी यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए आवश्यक हैं कि नागरिक समाज किसी एक स्रोत पर निर्भर न रहे।
- But equally, one can question whether foreign funds are the only answer to the needs of civil society today.
लेकिन इसी प्रकार यह प्रश्न भी उठाया जा सकता है कि क्या आज नागरिक समाज की आवश्यकताओं का एकमात्र समाधान विदेशी धन ही है।

- First, the voluntary sector is more developed now.
पहला, **स्वैच्छिक क्षेत्र** अब अधिक विकसित हो चुका है।
- Second, the situation regarding foreign aid itself has changed.
दूसरा, स्वयं विदेशी सहायता से संबंधित स्थिति बदल गई है।
- Bona fide foreign donors are themselves moving away from giving to India because of their own economic difficulties and the perception that India, which is aiming to become the world's third-largest economy, no longer needs aid from them.
वास्तविक विदेशी दाता स्वयं भारत को सहायता देना कम कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें अपनी आर्थिक कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है और यह धारणा बनी है कि दुनिया की तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बनने का लक्ष्य रखने वाले भारत को अब उनसे सहायता की आवश्यकता नहीं है।
- Third, the domestic non-government funding environment has also improved.
तीसरा, घरेलू **गैर-सरकारी वित्तपोषण** का वातावरण भी बेहतर हुआ है।
- According to the Forbes 2026 list, there are 3,332 billionaires in the world, of whom 229 are in India, giving it the third-largest number after the United States and China.
Forbes 2026 सूची के अनुसार, दुनिया में 3,332 अरबपति हैं, जिनमें से 229 भारत में हैं, जिससे भारत अमेरिका और चीन के बाद तीसरे स्थान पर है।
- The amount they donate to philanthropy has also increased.
परोपकार के लिए उनके द्वारा दान की जाने वाली राशि में भी वृद्धि हुई है।
- According to the India Philanthropy Report by Bain & Company, private philanthropy was projected to reach ₹1.43 lakh crore (\$16 billion) in FY 2025.
Bain & Company की India Philanthropy Report के अनुसार, वित्त वर्ष 2025 में निजी परोपकार के ₹1.43 लाख करोड़ (\$16 बिलियन) तक पहुँचने का अनुमान था।
- In addition, there is retail giving of about ₹37,000 crore annually.
इसके अतिरिक्त, प्रतिवर्ष लगभग ₹37,000 करोड़ का **रिटेल गिविंग** भी होता है।
- The downside is that, according to the same report, demand is growing faster than supply, with projections indicating that the gap could reach ₹18 lakh crore (\$210 billion) by 2030.
इसका नकारात्मक पक्ष यह है कि उसी रिपोर्ट के अनुसार माँग आपूर्ति की तुलना में अधिक तेजी से बढ़ रही है और अनुमान बताते हैं कि 2030 तक यह अंतर ₹18 लाख करोड़ (\$210 बिलियन) तक पहुँच सकता है।
- Moreover, new philanthropists, especially entrepreneurs and technology leaders, are shifting away from traditional areas towards ecosystem building, scientific research, higher education and complex institutional support.
इसके अलावा, नए परोपकारी, विशेषकर उद्यमी और प्रौद्योगिकी क्षेत्र के नेता, पारंपरिक क्षेत्रों से हटकर **पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र निर्माण, वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान, उच्च शिक्षा और जटिल संस्थागत सहायता** की ओर बढ़ रहे हैं।
- This is undoubtedly good news for social and economic change, but bad news for NGOs delivering traditional education, health and social welfare services.
यह निस्संदेह सामाजिक और आर्थिक परिवर्तन के लिए अच्छी खबर है, लेकिन पारंपरिक शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और सामाजिक कल्याण सेवाएँ प्रदान करने वाले NGOs के लिए यह अच्छी खबर नहीं है।
- A glimmer of hope for such NGOs is that, following the **Companies Act, 2013**, which made **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** spending compulsory for companies above a certain size, CSR spending by such listed companies was ₹22,563 crore in FY25, up 17.5% (latest CRISIL report).
ऐसे NGOs के लिए आशा की एक किरण यह है कि **Companies Act, 2013**, जिसने एक निश्चित आकार से बड़ी कंपनियों के लिए **कॉर्पोरेट सामाजिक उत्तरदायित्व (CSR)** पर खर्च करना अनिवार्य किया, के बाद ऐसी सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों द्वारा वित्त वर्ष 2025 में CSR पर ₹22,563 करोड़ खर्च किए गए, जो 17.5% की वृद्धि है (**नवीनतम CRISIL रिपोर्ट**)।
- Since many companies do not have the internal competency to undertake social development, they rely on NGOs as partners.

चूँकि कई कंपनियों के पास सामाजिक विकास के कार्यों को संचालित करने के लिए आंतरिक विशेषज्ञता नहीं होती, इसलिए वे साझेदार के रूप में NGOs पर निर्भर करती हैं।

- Although many companies are moving into environmental and other emerging areas, many still find the traditional areas of health, education and rural development more meaningful. यद्यपि कई कंपनियाँ पर्यावरण और अन्य उभरते क्षेत्रों की ओर बढ़ रही हैं, फिर भी कई कंपनियाँ स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और ग्रामीण विकास के पारंपरिक क्षेत्रों को अधिक सार्थक मानती हैं।

A new opportunity

एक नया अवसर

- So if, in the ultimate analysis, the government does decide to limit foreign funding, the future need not be bleak if Indian domestic philanthropy steps up to fill the gap. इसलिए यदि अंततः सरकार विदेशी वित्तपोषण को सीमित करने का निर्णय लेती भी है, तो यदि भारतीय घरेलू परोपकार इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए आगे आता है, तो भविष्य निराशाजनक होना आवश्यक नहीं है।
- However, indigenous donors, and the government in particular, must become more responsive to the needs of NGOs, learn from foreign donors some of the practices that made their aid so sought after, and engage in more serious dialogue on funding practices, as distinct from development issues, to improve those practices and address the dissatisfaction on both sides. हालाँकि, घरेलू दाताओं और विशेष रूप से सरकार को NGOs की आवश्यकताओं के प्रति अधिक संवेदनशील होना होगा, विदेशी दाताओं से उन कुछ प्रथाओं को सीखना होगा जिनके कारण उनकी सहायता इतनी वांछनीय बनी, तथा विकास संबंधी मुद्दों से अलग वित्तपोषण की प्रथाओं पर अधिक गंभीर संवाद करना होगा, ताकि उन प्रथाओं में सुधार किया जा सके और दोनों पक्षों की असंतुष्टि को दूर किया जा सके।
- Ultimately, it is the innate generosity that is dormant in hundreds of dedicated Indians that will change the dynamics of development in India, not foreign aid, which at best can be the cherry on the cake. अंततः, भारत में विकास की गतिशीलता को बदलने वाली शक्ति सैकड़ों समर्पित भारतीयों में निहित वह स्वाभाविक उदारता होगी जो अभी सुप्त है, न कि विदेशी सहायता, जो अधिकतम केवल केक पर लगी सजावटी चेरी की भूमिका निभा सकती है।

FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026

- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)** regulates the acceptance and use of **foreign contributions or donations** by individuals, associations and organisations in India. Its basic objective is to ensure that foreign money is not used for activities considered detrimental to India's **national interest**. The present law is the **FCRA, 2010**, which replaced the original **FCRA, 1976**.
- The **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026** was introduced in the **Lok Sabha on March 25, 2026**. As of September 2026, it has **not become law**; it was referred to a **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on August 12, 2026**, which was examining it in September.

What Does FCRA Mean in Simple Terms?

- Suppose an Indian NGO running schools receives a donation from an organisation located abroad.



- Because the money comes from a **foreign source**, its receipt and utilisation are regulated under FCRA.
- An organisation generally needs **FCRA registration** or the applicable **prior permission** to legally receive foreign contributions. Under the 2010 framework, registration is generally valid for **five years and requires renewal**.
- Thus:
- **Foreign donor → Indian NGO → FCRA regulatory framework → utilisation for permitted activities**

What Does the 2026 Bill Propose?

- The most significant proposal concerns what happens to **foreign contributions and assets created from them when an organisation ceases to have an FCRA certificate**.
- A certificate may cease because it is **cancelled, surrendered, not renewed, or renewal is denied**.
- The Bill proposes a **Designated Authority** to take over and manage relevant foreign contributions and assets in such circumstances. If registration is restored within the prescribed period, unused contributions and assets can be returned.
- If registration is not restored, the assets may ultimately vest permanently in the Designated Authority. They may be transferred to government agencies or sold, with sale proceeds credited to the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- **Simple Example**
- Suppose an NGO constructs a **hospital using foreign donations**.
- Later its FCRA registration ceases.
- Under the proposed framework, the hospital could come under the Designated Authority even if the NGO subsequently operates it using domestic funds. PRS identifies this as one of the important implications requiring scrutiny.

Why Does the Government Regulate Foreign Funding?

- The government's stated regulatory rationale is that foreign contributions must not be diverted toward activities harmful to **national interest**.
- The article presents the government's broader concern that foreign funding of NGOs can sometimes create opaque networks and potentially influence politically or socially sensitive activities.
- This represents the **national-security and accountability side** of the debate.

Why Are Some NGOs and Civil-Society Groups Concerned?

- The other side concerns **civil-society autonomy and delivery of social services**.
- The article notes concerns that organisations operating **schools, hospitals, old-age homes and other charitable institutions** could be affected if their access to foreign funding or control over foreign-funded assets is disrupted. This may be especially important in areas where charitable organisations are significant service providers.



- The article also argues that foreign grants can be attractive because they provide an **alternative and sometimes more flexible source of financing**, and historically have helped some NGOs introduce new ideas, technologies and organisational practices.

Scale of FCRA Regulation

- According to PRS, using FCRA portal data, as of **July 15, 2026**, there were approximately **14,449 active FCRA certificates**, while **22,498 registrations had been cancelled** and **15,212 were deemed expired**.
- This shows that FCRA is not merely an accounting law. It directly affects the institutional environment in which a significant section of India's organised civil society operates.

The Central Policy Dilemma

- The debate can be understood as a balance between two legitimate policy considerations:
- **National security + financial transparency + accountability**
- versus
- **Civil-society independence + diversified funding + social-service delivery**
- There is also a third possibility highlighted by the article: strengthening **domestic philanthropy and CSR** so that Indian NGOs are less dependent on foreign contributions. It argues that diversified funding can prevent civil society from becoming excessively dependent on any single source.



Campaign to reduce the intake of salt

GS II: Governance

Salt, as an essential electrolyte, sits at the centre of human well-being, but being most prone to overuse and misuse, the condiment remains at the heart of illness as well. When Tamil Nadu Health Minister K.G. Arunraj took salt to the floor of the Assembly, he dragged it willy-nilly into public discourse. He announced plans to launch a multi-pronged mission to reduce salt intake, turning attention to the right quantities and forms that must be consumed. The Minister's speech made it clear that the government's plans were not merely about a dietary tweak, but instead, a recalibration of how well-being is perceived.

Salt, in the right proportions, facilitates hydration, nerve signalling, muscle function, digestion and also has a role to play in stress physiology. However, in excess, or in ultra processed foods, it can have a deleterious impact on health, increasing the risk of stroke, heart disease and kidney strain over time.

Surveys by the Indian Council of Medical Research show that in India, men consume an average of 8.9 gms daily, while women consume about 7.1 gms. The WHO, which recommends keeping the intake under 5 gms of salt per day, released a set of guidelines in January 2025, recommending the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes.

In Tamil Nadu, hypertension is a major public health concern. A 2024 study by Selvavinayagam T.S. et al showed that adult prevalence of hypertension in Tamil Nadu hovered around 33.9%, much above



Ramya Kannan

Cutting down salt is a simple change that can make a major difference to cardiovascular health — less salt today can mean lower blood pressure, fewer heart attacks, and fewer strokes tomorrow

the national average of 28.5%. There is a direct link between consuming excess salt and hypertension — consuming too much salt causes the body to retain extra water, which increases blood volume and puts higher pressure on the artery walls, leading to clinical hypertension.

Action plan

The State government's plan is comprehensive. For the first time, a Statewide survey using urine samples will scientifically measure salt consumption. Salt will be gradually reduced in government-run kitchens, including the Nutritious Meal Programme, ICDS centres, government hospitals and hostels. The feasibility of introducing a low-sodium salt substitute will be examined. This will be backed by a State-wide awareness campaign on how to read labels on packages, tasting before adding salt, and using natural flavour enhancers. Researchers of a randomised, double-blind, controlled trial reported in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* in 2021, wrote that replacing salt with a reduced-sodium, added-potassium salt substitute is an acceptable and effective dietary intervention for lowering systolic blood pressure in persons with hypertension in rural India.

The State also intends to step up its hypertension control activities through its community health outreach programme Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and other public health care institutions. People diagnosed with hypertension will receive systematic counselling and anti-hypertension drugs.

There is evidence that such closely-monitored health interventions succeed.

The Sapiens Health Foundation has welcomed the new salt reduction campaign of the Tamil Nadu government. Its founder Rajan Ravichandran says, "This is a wonderful surprise, we have been knocking at many doors to bring in awareness of salt reduction in the public health sector. It can be very powerful in changing the way people consume salt. We just have to go back to 2005, where the campaign initiated by Graham MacGregor of the World Action on Salt, Sugar and Health, resulted in a reported 30% reduction of salt in bread, in the U.K."

G. Sengottuvelu, senior interventional cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, explains further, "Excess salt is one of the most important and preventable contributors to high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke." His argument is that Indians' preference for salty food is largely an acquired habit, often beginning in childhood, and the palate can adapt when salt is gradually reduced. Cutting down salt is a simple change that can make a major difference to cardiovascular health — less salt today can mean lower blood pressure, fewer heart attacks, and fewer strokes tomorrow.

As Tamil Nadu rolls out its programme, hopefully with scientific vigour and cultural sensitivity, other States will do well to watch and emulate. If it is possible to cut down hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease with adjusting the size of a single pinch, then, why not?

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21S9. Campaign to reduce the intake of salt

नमक के सेवन को कम करने का अभियान

- Salt, as an essential electrolyte, sits at the centre of human well-being, but being most prone to overuse and misuse, the condiment remains at the heart of illness as well. एक आवश्यक इलेक्ट्रोलाइट के रूप में नमक मानव कल्याण के केंद्र में है, लेकिन इसके अत्यधिक और अनुचित उपयोग की सबसे अधिक संभावना होने के कारण, यह खाद्य पदार्थ बीमारियों के केंद्र में भी बना रहता है।
- When Tamil Nadu Health Minister K.G. Arunraj took salt to the floor of the Assembly, he dragged it willy-nilly into public discourse.

जब तमिलनाडु के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के.जी. अरुणराज नमक को विधानसभा के पटल पर ले आए, तो उन्होंने अनायास ही इसे सार्वजनिक विमर्श का विषय बना दिया।

- He announced plans to launch a multi-pronged mission to reduce salt intake, turning attention to the right quantities and forms that must be consumed.
उन्होंने नमक के सेवन को कम करने के लिए एक बहुआयामी अभियान शुरू करने की योजना की घोषणा की, जिसमें सेवन की जाने वाली उचित मात्रा और प्रकारों पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जाएगा।
- The Minister's speech made it clear that the government's plans were not merely about a dietary tweak, but instead, a recalibration of how well-being is perceived.
मंत्री के भाषण से स्पष्ट हुआ कि सरकार की योजनाएँ केवल आहार में मामूली बदलाव तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि यह इस बात को पुनर्परिभाषित करने का प्रयास है कि कल्याण को किस प्रकार देखा जाता है।
- Salt, in the right proportions, facilitates hydration, nerve signalling, muscle function, digestion and also has a role to play in stress physiology.
उचित मात्रा में नमक जलयोजन, तंत्रिका संकेत-संचरण, मांसपेशियों के कार्य और पाचन में सहायक होता है तथा तनाव संबंधी शरीरक्रियाविज्ञान में भी इसकी भूमिका होती है।
- However, in excess, or in ultra-processed foods, it can have a deleterious impact on health, increasing the risk of stroke, heart disease and kidney strain over time.
हालाँकि, अत्यधिक मात्रा में या अति-प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य पदार्थों में मौजूद नमक स्वास्थ्य पर हानिकारक प्रभाव डाल सकता है और समय के साथ स्ट्रोक, हृदय रोग तथा गुर्दों पर दबाव के जोखिम को बढ़ा सकता है।
- Surveys by the Indian Council of Medical Research show that in India, men consume an average of 8.9 gms daily, while women consume about 7.1 gms.
भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद (ICMR) के सर्वेक्षणों से पता चलता है कि भारत में पुरुष प्रतिदिन औसतन 8.9 ग्राम, जबकि महिलाएँ लगभग 7.1 ग्राम नमक का सेवन करती हैं।
- The WHO, which recommends keeping the intake under 5 gms of salt per day, released a set of guidelines in January 2025, recommending the use of lower-sodium salt substitutes.
WHO, जो प्रतिदिन नमक का सेवन 5 ग्राम से कम रखने की सिफारिश करता है, ने जनवरी 2025 में दिशानिर्देशों का एक सेट जारी किया, जिसमें कम-सोडियम वाले नमक के विकल्पों के उपयोग की सिफारिश की गई।
- In Tamil Nadu, hypertension is a major public health concern.
तमिलनाडु में उच्च रक्तचाप (hypertension) एक प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य चिंता है।
- A 2024 study by Selvavinayagam T.S. et al showed that adult prevalence of hypertension in Tamil Nadu hovered around 33.9%, much above the national average of 28.5%.
सेल्वविनायगम टी.एस. एवं अन्य द्वारा 2024 में किए गए एक अध्ययन से पता चला कि तमिलनाडु में वयस्कों में उच्च रक्तचाप की व्यापकता लगभग 33.9% थी, जो 28.5% के राष्ट्रीय औसत से काफी अधिक है।
- There is a direct link between consuming excess salt and hypertension — consuming too much salt causes the body to retain extra water, which increases blood volume and puts higher pressure on the artery walls, leading to clinical hypertension.
अत्यधिक नमक के सेवन और उच्च रक्तचाप के बीच सीधा संबंध है — बहुत अधिक नमक का सेवन शरीर को अतिरिक्त पानी बनाए रखने के लिए प्रेरित करता है, जिससे रक्त की मात्रा बढ़ जाती है और धमनियों की दीवारों पर अधिक दबाव पड़ता है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप नैदानिक उच्च रक्तचाप उत्पन्न होता है।

Action plan कार्य योजना

- The State government's plan is comprehensive.
राज्य सरकार की योजना व्यापक है।
- For the first time, a Statewide survey using urine samples will scientifically measure salt consumption.

पहली बार, मूत्र के नमूनों का उपयोग करके एक राज्यव्यापी सर्वेक्षण वैज्ञानिक रूप से नमक के सेवन को मापेगा।

- Salt will be gradually reduced in government-run kitchens, including the Nutritious Meal Programme, ICDS centres, government hospitals and hostels.

पोषण आहार कार्यक्रम, ICDS केंद्रों, सरकारी अस्पतालों और छात्रावासों सहित सरकारी रसोईघरों में नमक की मात्रा धीरे-धीरे कम की जाएगी।

- The feasibility of introducing a low-sodium salt substitute will be examined.

कम-सोडियम वाले नमक के विकल्प को शुरू करने की व्यवहार्यता की जाँच की जाएगी।

- This will be backed by a State-wide awareness campaign on how to read labels on packages, tasting before adding salt, and using natural flavour enhancers.

इसके साथ पैकेजों पर दिए गए **लेबल पढ़ने**, नमक डालने से पहले भोजन को चखने और प्राकृतिक **स्वाद-वर्धकों** के उपयोग के बारे में एक राज्यव्यापी जागरूकता अभियान चलाया जाएगा।

- Researchers of a randomised, double-blind, controlled trial reported in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition in 2021, wrote that replacing salt with a reduced-sodium, added-potassium salt substitute is an acceptable and effective dietary intervention for lowering systolic blood pressure in persons with hypertension in rural India.

2021 में **American Journal of Clinical Nutrition** में प्रकाशित एक **यादृच्छिक, डबल-ब्लाइंड, नियंत्रित परीक्षण** के शोधकर्ताओं ने लिखा कि नमक को कम-सोडियम और अतिरिक्त पोटैशियम वाले नमक के विकल्प से बदलना ग्रामीण भारत में उच्च रक्तचाप से ग्रस्त लोगों में **सिस्टोलिक रक्तचाप** को कम करने के लिए एक स्वीकार्य और प्रभावी आहार संबंधी हस्तक्षेप है।

- The State also intends to step up its hypertension control activities through its community health outreach programme Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam and other public health care institutions.

राज्य अपने सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य पहुँच कार्यक्रम **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam** और अन्य सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थानों के माध्यम से अपनी **उच्च रक्तचाप नियंत्रण गतिविधियों** को भी बढ़ाने का इरादा रखता है।

- People diagnosed with hypertension will receive systematic counselling and anti-hypertension drugs.

उच्च रक्तचाप से निदान किए गए लोगों को व्यवस्थित **परामर्श** और **उच्च रक्तचाप-रोधी दवाएँ** दी जाएँगी।

- There is evidence that such closely-monitored health interventions succeed.

इस बात के प्रमाण हैं कि ऐसे **सघन निगरानी वाले स्वास्थ्य हस्तक्षेप** सफल होते हैं।

- The Sapiens Health Foundation has welcomed the new salt reduction campaign of the Tamil Nadu government.

Sapiens Health Foundation ने तमिलनाडु सरकार के नए **नमक-सेवन में कमी अभियान** का स्वागत किया है।

- Its founder Rajan Ravichandran says, "This is a wonderful surprise, we have been knocking at many doors to bring in awareness of salt reduction in the public health sector.

इसके संस्थापक **राजन रविचंद्रन** कहते हैं, "यह एक सुखद आश्चर्य है, हम सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में नमक के सेवन को कम करने के प्रति जागरूकता लाने के लिए कई दरवाजों पर दस्तक देते रहे हैं।

- It can be very powerful in changing the way people consume salt.

यह लोगों के नमक सेवन के तरीके को बदलने में बहुत प्रभावी हो सकता है।

- We just have to go back to 2005, where the campaign initiated by Graham MacGregor of the World Action on Salt, Sugar and Health, resulted in a reported 30% reduction of salt in bread, in the U.K."

हमें केवल 2005 की ओर देखना होगा, जब **World Action on Salt, Sugar and Health** के **Graham**

MacGregor द्वारा शुरू किए गए अभियान के परिणामस्वरूप ब्रिटेन में ब्रेड में नमक की मात्रा में कथित तौर पर **30% की कमी** आई थी।

- G. Sengottuvelu, senior interventional cardiologist, Apollo Hospitals, explains further, "Excess salt is one of the most important and preventable contributors to high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke."

अपोलो हॉस्पिटल्स के वरिष्ठ इंटरवेंशनल कार्डियोलॉजिस्ट जी. सेंगोट्टुवेनु आगे बताते हैं, “अत्यधिक नमक उच्च रक्तचाप, हृदयाघात और स्ट्रोक के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण और रोके जा सकने वाले कारणों में से एक है।”

- His argument is that Indians' preference for salty food is largely an acquired habit, often beginning in childhood, and the palate can adapt when salt is gradually reduced. उनका तर्क है कि भारतीयों की नमकीन भोजन के प्रति पसंद मुख्यतः अर्जित आदत है, जो अक्सर बचपन में शुरू होती है, और जब नमक की मात्रा धीरे-धीरे कम की जाती है तो स्वादेंद्रियाँ इसके अनुरूप ढल सकती हैं।
- Cutting down salt is a simple change that can make a major difference to cardiovascular health — less salt today can mean lower blood pressure, fewer heart attacks, and fewer strokes tomorrow.

नमक कम करना एक सरल बदलाव है, जो हृदय-संवहनी स्वास्थ्य में बड़ा अंतर ला सकता है — आज कम नमक का सेवन कल कम रक्तचाप, कम हृदयाघात और कम स्ट्रोक का कारण बन सकता है।

- As Tamil Nadu rolls out its programme, hopefully with scientific vigour and cultural sensitivity, other States will do well to watch and emulate.

जैसे-जैसे तमिलनाडु अपने कार्यक्रम को लागू करता है, आशा है कि वैज्ञानिक दृढ़ता और सांस्कृतिक संवेदनशीलता के साथ, अन्य राज्य भी इस पर ध्यान देंगे और इसका अनुकरण करेंगे।

- If it is possible to cut down hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and kidney disease with adjusting the size of a single pinch, then, why not?

यदि एक चुटकी नमक की मात्रा को समायोजित करके उच्च रक्तचाप, हृदय-संवहनी रोग और गुर्दे की बीमारी को कम करना संभव है, तो ऐसा क्यों न किया जाए?

Tamil Nadu's Campaign to Reduce Salt Intake

- Tamil Nadu's proposed **salt-reduction mission** is a preventive public-health initiative aimed primarily at reducing **hypertension (high blood pressure), cardiovascular disease, stroke and kidney disease**.
- Its importance lies in addressing a major risk factor—excess dietary salt—before it produces serious disease.

Why Does the Human Body Need Salt?

Common salt is **sodium chloride (NaCl)**. Sodium is an essential **electrolyte**, meaning a mineral carrying an electrical charge in body fluids. In appropriate quantities, sodium helps maintain:

- **Fluid and electrolyte balance**
- **Transmission of nerve impulses**
- **Muscle contraction**
- Normal physiological functioning

Thus, the objective is **not to eliminate salt**, but to prevent its excessive consumption.

How Does Excess Salt Cause Hypertension?

- The relationship can be understood simply:
- **Excess sodium → greater water retention → increased blood volume → greater**



- pressure on arterial walls → higher blood pressure
- Persistent hypertension damages blood vessels and increases the long-term risk of **heart attack, stroke and kidney disease**.
 - For example, a person may avoid adding much table salt but still consume excessive sodium through **packaged snacks, pickles, sauces, instant noodles and other ultra-processed foods**. Therefore, “hidden salt” is also important.
 - The material notes average daily salt consumption of about **8.9 g among Indian men and 7.1 g among women**, compared with the **WHO recommendation of less than 5 g of salt per adult per day**.

Why is Tamil Nadu Taking Action?

- The immediate concern is the high burden of hypertension. The cited **2024 study** estimated adult hypertension prevalence in Tamil Nadu at approximately **33.9%**, compared with a national figure of **28.5%**.
- Therefore, salt reduction is being treated not merely as an individual dietary choice but as a **population-level preventive health intervention**.

Tamil Nadu's Proposed Action Plan

- A particularly important feature is a **State-wide survey using urine samples** to scientifically estimate salt consumption. This is more objective than simply asking people how much salt they eat.
- The government also proposes to **gradually reduce salt in publicly provided food**, including meals served through the **Nutritious Meal Programme, ICDS centres, government hospitals and hostels**.
- Another proposal is to examine **lower-sodium salt substitutes**. Such products typically replace part of the sodium chloride with another salt, often **potassium chloride**. The WHO issued guidance in **January 2025** supporting lower-sodium salt substitutes containing potassium for many adults, while identifying important exceptions, including people with **kidney impairment or conditions that compromise potassium excretion**.
- Public awareness would complement these measures by encouraging people to **read food labels, taste food before adding salt and use herbs, spices and other natural flavouring ingredients**.

Link with Hypertension Treatment

Prevention alone is insufficient for people who already have hypertension. Tamil Nadu therefore intends to strengthen detection, counselling and treatment through **Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam**, its **community-based healthcare outreach programme**, and other public-health institutions.

This creates a useful continuum:

Measure salt intake → Reduce population consumption → Screen for hypertension → Counsel patients → Provide medicines → Monitor outcomes



How EU plans to keep children under 15 away from social media

EU is considering age-based rules that would restrict children's access to social media, video-sharing platforms, AI chatbots and online games; the proposal would place new responsibilities on technology companies, including age verification, safer recommendation systems, parental controls

CS/II Governance
John Xavier

The European Union is considering a major change to the way children access the internet, and it could affect everything from kids using Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and various AI chatbots.

Under a proposal being prepared by the European Commission, per a report by Reuters, children under 15 could face restrictions on creating and using accounts across a wide range of digital services.

The EU's plan is part of the EU Kids Act, which is aimed at making digital services safe for children, and it comes at a time when governments around the world are grappling with growing concerns over how digital platforms affect children's well-being.

Social media platforms have come under increasing scrutiny over how they design their applications to be addictive and serve harmful content that is powered by recommendation algorithms.

Rather than imposing one rule on every child, the EU proposal would create different levels of access based on age.

Children aged 15 and above would be able to create their own accounts.

For children aged 13 and 14, access to social media and video-sharing platforms would require parents to get involved.

Parents could create introductory accounts for their children, with restrictions on contacts and time spent on the platforms.



For children between 3 and 12, accounts would be controlled entirely by parents. Their access would be limited to services considered suitable for children and required to meet stronger safety standards.

The proposal could potentially ban access to digital platforms for children under 3.

The exact rules could still change before the plan is formally presented and negotiated with EU governments and the European Parliament.

One of the more significant aspects of the proposal is its broad scope.

Beyond social platforms

The rules would not stop at platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube. They would also cover AI chatbots and online gaming platforms, bringing a much wider part of children's digital lives under the proposed framework.

The proposal is being framed based on the idea that children's internet use is no longer limited to scrolling through social feeds. They text AI chatbots, play games online, watch videos that are

Tech platforms have been arguing that they already have safeguards in place, as major social media applications have set a minimum sign-up age of 13; but critics have complained that age limits on paper are not enough

algorithmically recommended and chat with other users across numerous platforms.

The bloc's views on the overall digital ecosystem could make the path ahead for social platforms and consumer-facing AI applications a bit difficult, as they will have to take up new responsibilities.

More responsibilities for platforms

Platforms could be required to reduce features designed to encourage engagement and limit exposure to harmful recommendation feeds. They would also need to make it easier for children to report inappropriate content.

They will need to provide parents with stronger tools to control what their children see and how long they spend on their services.

Age verification could become an important requirement as social media and video-sharing platforms would need to verify a user's age when a new account is created.

Online gaming platforms would have to check age before allowing children to download games.

Apart from features that control the

use of these applications, tech companies could also be expected to pay for the system, as the bloc could propose a supervisory fee to fund regulatory enforcement and oversight.

Child and the digital ecosystem

The EU's proposal comes amid a growing clamour of voices wanting clear guardrails over a child's relationship with the digital ecosystem.

Tech platforms have been arguing that they already have safeguards in place, as major social media applications have set a minimum sign-up age of 13.

But critics have complained that age limits on paper are not enough if platforms cannot reliably determine how old their users actually are.

The EU's proposed approach would shift more of the responsibility onto technology companies, while giving parents greater control over younger children's online activities. This could mean fewer ways for children to sign up for popular social applications on their own.

Tech firms, on the other hand, will have to operate more carefully in the bloc as rules governing how they verify users, design their platforms and recommend content to younger audiences will structurally change.

This proposal still has a long way to go before becoming law. The European Commission will need to work with EU member states and the European Parliament, and the final rules could look different from the current draft.

21S9. How EU plans to keep children under 15 away from social media

EU 15 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों को सोशल मीडिया से दूर रखने की योजना कैसे बना रहा है

- The European Union is considering a major change to the way children access the internet, and it could affect everything from kids using Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, and various AI chatbots.

यूरोपीय संघ (European Union) बच्चों द्वारा इंटरनेट तक पहुँच के तरीके में एक बड़े बदलाव पर विचार कर रहा है, और इसका प्रभाव बच्चों द्वारा Instagram, TikTok, YouTube और विभिन्न AI चैटबॉट्स के उपयोग से लेकर कई अन्य सेवाओं तक पड़ सकता है।

- Under a proposal being prepared by the European Commission, per a report by Reuters, children under 15 could face restrictions on creating and using accounts across a wide range of digital services.

Reuters की एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, **European Commission** द्वारा तैयार किए जा रहे एक प्रस्ताव के तहत 15 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों को विभिन्न डिजिटल सेवाओं पर खाते बनाने और उनका उपयोग करने पर प्रतिबंधों का सामना करना पड़ सकता है।

- The EU's plan is part of the **EU Kids Act**, which is aimed at making digital services safe for children, and it comes at a time when governments around the world are grappling with growing concerns over how digital platforms affect children's well-being.

EU की योजना **EU Kids Act** का हिस्सा है, जिसका उद्देश्य डिजिटल सेवाओं को बच्चों के लिए सुरक्षित बनाना है, और यह ऐसे समय में सामने आई है जब दुनिया भर की सरकारें इस बढ़ती चिंता से जूझ रही हैं कि डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म बच्चों के कल्याण को किस प्रकार प्रभावित करते हैं।

- Social media platforms have come under increasing scrutiny over how they design their applications to be addictive and serve harmful content that is powered by recommendation algorithms.
सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्मों की इस बात को लेकर बढ़ती जाँच-पड़ताल हो रही है कि वे अपने अनुप्रयोगों को किस प्रकार **लत लगाने वाला** बनाते हैं और **recommendation algorithms** द्वारा संचालित हानिकारक सामग्री परोसते हैं।
- Rather than imposing one rule on every child, the EU proposal would create different levels of access based on age.
प्रत्येक बच्चे पर एक ही नियम लागू करने के बजाय, EU का प्रस्ताव **आयु के आधार पर पहुँच के अलग-अलग स्तर** निर्धारित करेगा।
- Children aged 15 and above would be able to create their own accounts.
15 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु के बच्चे अपने स्वयं के खाते बना सकेंगे।
- For children aged 13 and 14, access to social media and video-sharing platforms would require parents to get involved.
13 और 14 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों के लिए सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो-शेयरिंग प्लेटफॉर्म तक पहुँच में माता-पिता की भागीदारी आवश्यक होगी।
- Parents could create introductory accounts for their children, with restrictions on contacts and time spent on the platforms.
माता-पिता अपने बच्चों के लिए **प्रारंभिक खाते** बना सकेंगे, जिनमें संपर्कों और प्लेटफॉर्म पर बिताए जाने वाले समय पर प्रतिबंध होंगे।
- For children between 3 and 12, accounts would be controlled entirely by parents.
3 से 12 वर्ष की आयु के बच्चों के लिए खातों का नियंत्रण पूरी तरह माता-पिता के पास होगा।
- Their access would be limited to services considered suitable for children and required to meet stronger safety standards.
उनकी पहुँच उन सेवाओं तक सीमित होगी जिन्हें बच्चों के लिए उपयुक्त माना जाता है और जिन्हें **अधिक कठोर सुरक्षा मानकों** को पूरा करना होगा।
- The proposal could potentially ban access to digital platforms for children under 3.
यह प्रस्ताव संभावित रूप से **3 वर्ष से कम आयु के बच्चों** के लिए डिजिटल प्लेटफॉर्म तक पहुँच पर प्रतिबंध लगा सकता है।
- The exact rules could still change before the plan is formally presented and negotiated with EU governments and the European Parliament.
इस योजना को औपचारिक रूप से प्रस्तुत करने और EU सरकारों तथा **European Parliament** के साथ बातचीत किए जाने से पहले इसके सटीक नियमों में अभी भी बदलाव हो सकते हैं।
- One of the more significant aspects of the proposal is its broad scope.
इस प्रस्ताव का एक अधिक **महत्वपूर्ण पहलू इसका व्यापक दायरा** है।

Beyond social platforms

सोशल प्लेटफॉर्म से आगे

- The rules would not stop at platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.
ये नियम **Facebook, Instagram, TikTok और YouTube** जैसे प्लेटफॉर्मों तक सीमित नहीं रहेंगे।
- They would also cover AI chatbots and online gaming platforms, bringing a much wider part of children's digital lives under the proposed framework.
वे **AI चैटबॉट्स और ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों** को भी शामिल करेंगे, जिससे बच्चों के डिजिटल जीवन का कहीं अधिक व्यापक हिस्सा प्रस्तावित ढाँचे के अंतर्गत आ जाएगा।
- The proposal is being framed based on the idea that children's internet use is no longer limited to scrolling through social feeds.

यह प्रस्ताव इस विचार पर आधारित है कि बच्चों का इंटरनेट उपयोग अब केवल सोशल फीड्स को स्क्रॉल करने तक सीमित नहीं रह गया है।

- They text AI chatbots, play games online, watch videos that are algorithmically recommended and chat with other users across numerous platforms.
वे AI चैटबॉट्स को संदेश भेजते हैं, ऑनलाइन गेम खेलते हैं, एल्गोरिदम द्वारा अनुशंसित वीडियो देखते हैं और अनेक प्लेटफॉर्मों पर अन्य उपयोगकर्ताओं से चैट करते हैं।
- The bloc's views on the overall digital ecosystem could make the path ahead for social platforms and consumer-facing AI applications a bit difficult, as they will have to take up new responsibilities.
समग्र डिजिटल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र पर समूह के विचार सोशल प्लेटफॉर्मों और उपभोक्ता-केंद्रित AI अनुप्रयोगों के लिए आगे की राह को कुछ कठिन बना सकते हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें नई जिम्मेदारियाँ उठानी होंगी।

More responsibilities for platforms प्लेटफॉर्मों के लिए अधिक जिम्मेदारियाँ

- Platforms could be required to reduce features designed to encourage engagement and limit exposure to harmful recommendation feeds.
प्लेटफॉर्मों को उपयोगकर्ता सहभागिता बढ़ाने के लिए तैयार की गई सुविधाओं को कम करने और हानिकारक recommendation feeds के संपर्क को सीमित करने के लिए बाध्य किया जा सकता है।
- They would also need to make it easier for children to report inappropriate content.
उन्हें बच्चों के लिए अनुचित सामग्री की रिपोर्ट करना भी आसान बनाना होगा।
- They will need to provide parents with stronger tools to control what their children see and how long they spend on their services.
उन्हें माता-पिता को इस बात को नियंत्रित करने के लिए अधिक प्रभावी उपकरण उपलब्ध कराने होंगे कि उनके बच्चे क्या देखते हैं और उनकी सेवाओं पर कितना समय बिताते हैं।
- Age verification could become an important requirement as social media and video-sharing platforms would need to verify a user's age when a new account is created.
आयु सत्यापन (Age verification) एक महत्वपूर्ण आवश्यकता बन सकता है, क्योंकि सोशल मीडिया और वीडियो-शेयरिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों को नया खाता बनाए जाने के समय उपयोगकर्ता की आयु सत्यापित करनी होगी।
- Online gaming platforms would have to check age before allowing children to download games.
ऑनलाइन गेमिंग प्लेटफॉर्मों को बच्चों को गेम डाउनलोड करने की अनुमति देने से पहले उनकी आयु की जाँच करनी होगी।
- Apart from features that control the use of these applications, tech companies could also be expected to pay for the system, as the bloc could propose a supervisory fee to fund regulatory enforcement and oversight.
इन अनुप्रयोगों के उपयोग को नियंत्रित करने वाली सुविधाओं के अलावा, टेक कंपनियों से इस प्रणाली के लिए भुगतान करने की भी अपेक्षा की जा सकती है, क्योंकि समूह नियामकीय प्रवर्तन और निगरानी के वित्तपोषण के लिए एक पर्यवेक्षण शुल्क प्रस्तावित कर सकता है।

Child and the digital ecosystem बच्चा और डिजिटल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र

- The EU's proposal comes amid a growing clamour of voices wanting clear guardrails over a child's relationship with the digital ecosystem.
EU का प्रस्ताव ऐसे समय में आया है जब बच्चे के डिजिटल पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के साथ संबंध के लिए स्पष्ट सुरक्षा-सीमाएँ निर्धारित करने की माँग करने वाली आवाजें बढ़ रही हैं।
- Tech platforms have been arguing that they already have safeguards in place, as major social media applications have set a minimum sign-up age of 13.



टेक प्लेटफॉर्मों का तर्क रहा है कि उनके पास पहले से ही **सुरक्षा उपाय** मौजूद हैं, क्योंकि प्रमुख सोशल मीडिया अनुप्रयोगों ने पंजीकरण के लिए न्यूनतम आयु **13 वर्ष** निर्धारित कर रखी है।

- But critics have complained that age limits on paper are not enough if platforms cannot reliably determine how old their users actually are.
लेकिन आलोचकों की शिकायत है कि यदि प्लेटफॉर्म यह विश्वसनीय रूप से निर्धारित नहीं कर सकते कि उनके उपयोगकर्ता वास्तव में कितने वर्ष के हैं, तो केवल कागज पर निर्धारित **आयु सीमाएँ** पर्याप्त नहीं हैं।
- The EU's proposed approach would shift more of the responsibility onto technology companies, while giving parents greater control over younger children's online activities.
EU का प्रस्तावित दृष्टिकोण अधिक जिम्मेदारी **प्रौद्योगिकी कंपनियों** पर डालेगा, जबकि माता-पिता को छोटे बच्चों की **ऑनलाइन गतिविधियों पर अधिक नियंत्रण** देगा।
- This could mean fewer ways for children to sign up for popular social applications on their own.
इसका अर्थ यह हो सकता है कि बच्चों के लिए लोकप्रिय सोशल अनुप्रयोगों पर **स्वयं पंजीकरण करने के विकल्प कम** हो जाएँ।

Tech firms, on the other hand, will have to operate more carefully in the bloc as rules governing how they verify users, design their platforms and recommend content to younger audiences will structurally change.

दूसरी ओर, **टेक कंपनियों** को इस समूह में अधिक सावधानी से काम करना होगा, क्योंकि उपयोगकर्ताओं का सत्यापन करने, अपने प्लेटफॉर्म डिजाइन करने और कम आयु वाले दर्शकों के लिए सामग्री की अनुशंसा करने के तरीके को नियंत्रित करने वाले नियमों में **संरचनात्मक बदलाव** आएगा।

- This proposal still has a long way to go before becoming law.
कानून बनने से पहले इस प्रस्ताव को अभी एक लंबी प्रक्रिया से गुजरना है।
- The European Commission will need to work with EU member states and the European Parliament, and the final rules could look different from the current draft.
European Commission को EU सदस्य देशों और **European Parliament** के साथ मिलकर काम करना होगा, और अंतिम नियम वर्तमान मसौदे से अलग हो सकते हैं।

GS Paper II: International Relations		21 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
21S9	Senior Taiwan official embarks on rare visit to China for APEC event ताइवान के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने APEC कार्यक्रम के लिए चीन की दुर्लभ यात्रा शुरू की	

Senior Taiwan official embarks on rare visit to China for APEC event



GS II: IR REUTERS
Taiwan's Labour Minister Hung Sun-han left on Sunday for China to attend an APEC event, the first ministerial-level visit of President Lai Ching-te's administration at a time when Beijing has ramped up pressure against Taipei. "APEC is a very important international, multilateral economic and trade forum for us," Mr. Hung said.

21S9. Senior Taiwan official embarks on rare visit to China for APEC event

ताइवान के वरिष्ठ अधिकारी ने APEC कार्यक्रम के लिए चीन की दुर्लभ यात्रा शुरू की

- Taiwan's Labour Minister Hung Sun-han left on Sunday for China to attend an APEC event, the first ministerial-level visit of President Lai Ching-te's administration at a time when Beijing has ramped up pressure against Taipei.

ताइवान के श्रम मंत्री **हंग सन-हान** रविवार को **APEC कार्यक्रम** में भाग लेने के

लिए चीन रवाना हुए। यह राष्ट्रपति लाई चिंग-ते के प्रशासन की पहली मंत्री-स्तरीय यात्रा है, ऐसे समय में जब बीजिंग ने ताइपे पर दबाव बढ़ा दिया है।

- “APEC is a very important international, multilateral economic and trade forum for us,” Mr. Hung said.
“APEC हमारे लिए एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण अंतरराष्ट्रीय, बहुपक्षीय आर्थिक और व्यापारिक मंच है,” श्री हंग ने कहा।

APEC — Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

APEC stands for **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation**. It is a regional economic forum established in **1989** to promote **trade, investment, economic integration and sustainable growth** across the Asia-Pacific region.

Key Facts

Feature	APEC
Established	1989
Headquarters/Secretariat	Singapore
Members	21 member economies
Nature	Economic cooperation forum; not a treaty-based organisation
Decision-making	Consensus-based
Commitments	Generally voluntary and non-binding
India	Not a member

A distinctive feature is that APEC calls its participants “**member economies**” rather than “**countries**”. This terminology permits participation by economies such as **Hong Kong, China and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)** without requiring APEC to resolve questions of political sovereignty.

21 Member Economies

APEC comprises **Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.**

Why was APEC created?

APEC emerged amid growing economic interdependence across the Pacific. Its broad objective is to facilitate:

Trade liberalisation → Investment → Regional economic integration → Economic growth



Unlike the **European Union**, APEC does not create supranational laws binding upon its members. Cooperation is based largely on **dialogue, consensus and voluntary implementation**.

Bogor Goals

At the **1994 APEC Summit in Bogor, Indonesia**, members adopted the famous **Bogor Goals**, seeking **free and open trade and investment** in the Asia-Pacific.

In **2020**, APEC adopted the **Putrajaya Vision 2040**, which envisages an **open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040**, focusing broadly on trade and investment, innovation/digitalisation, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

Is India a Member?

No. India is not one of APEC's 21 member economies.

India has expressed interest in joining APEC, and its economic size and Indo-Pacific importance make the issue significant. However, APEC has not admitted India as a member.

APEC vs ASEAN

Do not confuse the two:

ASEAN is a **Southeast Asian regional organisation** with **11 members** as of 2026, whereas **APEC** is a much wider **Asia-Pacific economic forum** with **21 member economies**.

For example, the **United States, China, Russia, Canada and Mexico** participate in APEC but are not ASEAN members.

GS Paper III: Economy		21 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
21S9	Serious escalation गंभीर बढ़ोतरी	
21S9	Missing measure in India's magnet mission भारत के मैग्नेट मिशन में अनुपस्थित मापदंड	
21S9	The paradox of self-reliance: India-China trade dynamics आत्मनिर्भरता का विरोधाभास: भारत-चीन व्यापार की गतिशीलता	
21S9	The copyright stakes in the EU FTA EU FTA में कॉपीराइट से जुड़े दाँव	
21S9	ETFs vs. index funds ETFs बनाम इंडेक्स फंड	



GS III: Economy

Serious escalation

The new U.S. law on Russian oil imports carries more legal weight

The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act, now signed into law by President Donald Trump, and its resultant impending tariffs, present a new and substantially different escalation of tensions between the U.S. and India. The law provides the U.S. President the authority to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries such as India that import large quantities of Russian oil and gas. This is more serious than the penal tariffs that Mr. Trump had levied earlier. The escalation last year of reciprocal tariffs to 50% on India's import of Russian oil was based on an Executive Order, and could be rescinded through the same method. This latest Act has been passed by the U.S. Congress and so carries a higher order of legal permanence and authority. Mr. Trump will have to justify in writing to Congress any waiver he wants to provide. The 50% tariffs hit Indian exports to the U.S. hard, but the impact was somewhat mitigated by exporters sharing the cost with their American customers. That was, however, a financially devastating and unsustainable bid to retain customers. Sharing a 100% tariff will be impossible for India's largely micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) exporters. The 100% tariffs are also over and above the 10% 'forced labour' tariffs and the 50% Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium. Indian exports to the U.S. will simply become too uncompetitive should these new tariffs come to pass. India has three options before it: cut Russian oil imports, retain those imports and bear the tariffs, or convince the U.S. to implement a low tariff using the "up to 100%" phrasing of the law.

Continuing with Russian oil imports and bearing the tariffs would be a significant blow to India's export ambitions and MSMEs. The U.S. is India's largest export destination, accounting for about 20% of its total goods exports. In any case, historical data have shown that India has usually complied with U.S. pressure to cut oil imports from particular countries, including from Russia, vocal claims of strategic autonomy aside. Finding other sources will be difficult. Russia accounted for more than 51% of India's oil imports as of July 2026, while supplies through the Strait of Hormuz remain constrained. India will have to chivy countries such as Oman to hasten their expansion of alternative ports. The price of oil remains well above \$100 a barrel, meaning finding favourable deals with new suppliers will be increasingly difficult. Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will have much to do during his planned trip to the U.S. at the end of this month for the G-20 Trade Ministerial. There are still 30 days before the U.S. can levy its tariffs. India's ability to secure a low rate will be a true test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friendship with Mr. Trump.

customers.

50% टैरिफ ने अमेरिका को होने वाले भारतीय निर्यात को गंभीर रूप से प्रभावित किया, लेकिन निर्यातकों द्वारा अपने अमेरिकी ग्राहकों के साथ लागत साझा करने से इसका प्रभाव कुछ हद तक कम हुआ।

- That was, however, a financially devastating and unsustainable bid to retain customers. हालाँकि, ग्राहकों को बनाए रखने का यह प्रयास वित्तीय रूप से विनाशकारी और अस्थिर था।
- Sharing a 100% tariff will be impossible for India's largely micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) exporters.

100% टैरिफ की लागत साझा करना भारत के मुख्यतः सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSME) से जुड़े निर्यातकों के लिए असंभव होगा।

- The 100% tariffs are also over and above the 10% 'forced labour' tariffs and the 50% Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium.

100% टैरिफ के अतिरिक्त पहले से लागू 10% 'forced labour' टैरिफ और इस्पात तथा एल्युमीनियम पर लगाए गए 50% Section 232 टैरिफ भी हैं।

21S9. Serious escalation

गंभीर बढ़ोतरी

- The U.S. Russia Sanctions Act, now signed into law by President Donald Trump, and its resultant impending tariffs, present a new and substantially different escalation of tensions between the U.S. and India. अमेरिकी **Russia Sanctions Act**, जिसे अब राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प ने कानून का रूप दे दिया है, और इसके परिणामस्वरूप लगाए जाने वाले आसन्न टैरिफ, अमेरिका और भारत के बीच तनाव में एक नई और काफी अलग स्तर की बढ़ोतरी प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

- The law provides the U.S. President the authority to levy tariffs of up to 100% on countries such as India that import large quantities of Russian oil and gas.

यह कानून अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति को भारत जैसे उन देशों पर **100% तक टैरिफ** लगाने का अधिकार देता है, जो बड़ी मात्रा में रूसी तेल और गैस का आयात करते हैं।

- This is more serious than the penal tariffs that Mr. Trump had levied earlier.

यह उन दंडात्मक टैरिफों से अधिक गंभीर है, जिन्हें श्री ट्रम्प ने पहले लगाया था।

- The escalation last year of reciprocal tariffs to 50% on India's import of Russian oil was based on an Executive Order, and could be rescinded through the same method.

पिछले वर्ष भारत द्वारा रूसी तेल के आयात पर पारस्परिक टैरिफ को बढ़ाकर 50% करना एक कार्यकारी आदेश (Executive Order) पर आधारित था और उसी प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से इसे वापस लिया जा सकता था।

- This latest Act has been passed by the U.S. Congress and so carries a higher order of legal permanence and authority.

यह नवीनतम अधिनियम अमेरिकी कांग्रेस द्वारा पारित किया गया है और इसलिए इसमें अधिक उच्च स्तर की कानूनी स्थायित्व और प्राधिकार निहित है।

- Mr. Trump will have to justify in writing to Congress any waiver he wants to provide.

श्री ट्रम्प को जो भी छूट (waiver) देनी होगी, उसे कांग्रेस के समक्ष लिखित रूप में उचित ठहराना होगा।

- The 50% tariffs hit Indian exports to the U.S. hard, but the impact was somewhat mitigated by exporters sharing the cost with their American

- Indian exports to the U.S. will simply become too uncompetitive should these new tariffs come to pass.
यदि ये नए टैरिफ लागू होते हैं, तो अमेरिका को होने वाला भारतीय निर्यात अत्यधिक अप्रतिस्पर्धी हो जाएगा।
- India has three options before it: cut Russian oil imports, retain those imports and bear the tariffs, or convince the U.S. to implement a low tariff using the "up to 100%" phrasing of the law.
भारत के सामने तीन विकल्प हैं: **रूसी तेल के आयात में कटौती करना**, उन आयातों को जारी रखते हुए **टैरिफ का भार वहन करना**, या कानून में प्रयुक्त "up to 100%" शब्दावली का उपयोग करते हुए अमेरिका को कम टैरिफ लागू करने के लिए राजी करना।
- Continuing with Russian oil imports and bearing the tariffs would be a significant blow to India's export ambitions and MSMEs.
रूसी तेल का आयात जारी रखते हुए **टैरिफ का भार वहन करना** भारत की निर्यात महत्वाकांक्षाओं और **MSMEs** के लिए एक बड़ा झटका होगा।
- The U.S. is India's largest export destination, accounting for about 20% of its total goods exports.
अमेरिका भारत का सबसे बड़ा निर्यात गंतव्य है और भारत के कुल वस्तु निर्यात में इसकी हिस्सेदारी लगभग **20%** है।
- In any case, historical data have shown that India has usually complied with U.S. pressure to cut oil imports from particular countries, including from Russia, vocal claims of strategic autonomy aside.
बहरहाल, ऐतिहासिक आँकड़ों से पता चला है कि **रणनीतिक स्वायत्तता** के मुखर दावों के बावजूद, भारत ने आमतौर पर रूस सहित कुछ विशेष देशों से तेल आयात कम करने के अमेरिकी दबाव का पालन किया है।
- Finding other sources will be difficult.
अन्य स्रोतों को खोजना कठिन होगा।
- Russia accounted for more than 51% of India's oil imports as of July 2026, while supplies through the Strait of Hormuz remain constrained.
जुलाई 2026 तक भारत के तेल आयात में रूस की हिस्सेदारी **51% से अधिक** थी, जबकि **होर्मुज़ जलडमरूमध्य (Strait of Hormuz)** के माध्यम से होने वाली आपूर्ति अभी भी बाधित है।
- India will have to chivy countries such as Oman to hasten their expansion of alternative ports.
भारत को ओमान जैसे देशों पर वैकल्पिक बंदरगाहों के विस्तार में तेजी लाने के लिए दबाव डालना होगा।
- The price of oil remains well above \$100 a barrel, meaning finding favourable deals with new suppliers will be increasingly difficult.
तेल की कीमत **100 डॉलर प्रति बैरल** से काफी ऊपर बनी हुई है, जिसका अर्थ है कि नए आपूर्तिकर्ताओं के साथ अनुकूल सौदे करना लगातार कठिन होता जाएगा।
- Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will have much to do during his planned trip to the U.S. at the end of this month for the G-20 Trade Ministerial.
केंद्रीय वाणिज्य मंत्री **पीयूष गोयल** को इस महीने के अंत में होने वाली **G-20 व्यापार मंत्रिस्तरीय बैठक** के लिए अपनी प्रस्तावित अमेरिका यात्रा के दौरान बहुत कुछ करना होगा।
- There are still 30 days before the U.S. can levy its tariffs.
अमेरिका द्वारा अपने **टैरिफ** लगाए जाने से पहले अभी 30 दिन शेष हैं।
- India's ability to secure a low rate will be a true test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's friendship with Mr. Trump.
कम दर सुनिश्चित करने की भारत की क्षमता प्रधानमंत्री **नरेंद्र मोदी** और श्री ट्रम्प के बीच मित्रता की वास्तविक परीक्षा होगी।



Missing measure in India's magnet mission

GS III: Economy

Most Indians know the parable of several blind men trying to describe an elephant. One touches its trunk and believes it is a snake. Another feels its leg and insists it is a pillar. None is entirely wrong, yet none sees the whole animal.

India's strategy for advancing its cutting-edge technologies, aimed at becoming a global manufacturing leader, carries the risk of making a similar mistake. From EV motors and semiconductor fabrication facilities to precision manufacturing machineries, at the heart of each lies an unassuming component: the high-performance permanent magnet. They serve as the silent operating system of industrial acceleration.

Magnets are not all the same. Ferrite, Alnico and Samarium-Cobalt magnets continue to serve important industrial applications. Yet Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) magnets have become the backbone of energy transition and advanced manufacturing because no other commercially available permanent magnet combines comparable magnetic strength with such a high power-to-weight ratio. Recognising its importance, India has begun strengthening its critical minerals and rare earth element strategy through initiatives such as the National Critical Mineral Mission, overseas mineral acquisitions, expanded geological exploration, and PLI schemes.

However, China's tight export controls on rare-earth magnets and materials in April 2025 not only revealed the

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The strategic question is not simply whether India possesses rare-earth resources or whether imports from China can be reduced. The real policy challenge is understanding what happens in between

deep-seated vulnerabilities in global industrial value chains, but also the limits of our understanding. For India, the primary vulnerability does not stem from a shortage of critical minerals; rather, it lies in the absence of a comprehensive framework to pinpoint where strategic technological dependence is cultivated, accumulated and propagated throughout the permanent magnet value chain.

The journey of a magnet

Consider a simple example. India's Annual Survey of Industries estimates the domestic permanent magnet market at around ₹750 crore. Yet international trade statistics indicate import values several times larger than that entire reported market. The gap may reflect differences in statistical coverage, industrial classification or supply-chain accounting. Whatever the explanation, policymakers face a troubling reality: they cannot confidently explain where all these magnets enter the economy or how they move through it. In other words, parts of India's permanent magnet economy appear to exist without being fully visible in statistics.

Unlike other products, permanent magnets pass through a long technological journey. Geological exploration leads to mining. Mining feeds mineral processing. Processing enables chemical separation. Separation produces oxides, which are refined into metals, transformed into alloys, engineered into magnetic materials, and finally manufactured into finished magnets. Each stage demands different scientific knowledge, industrial capability and technological maturity. This is why

discussions on critical minerals frequently miss the real point. The strategic question is not simply whether India possesses rare-earth resources or whether imports from China can be reduced. The real policy challenge is understanding what happens in between.

Although India has developed capabilities across several stages of permanent magnet manufacturing, the country still lacks a systematic way of identifying where those capabilities are globally competitive, where critical gaps persist, and how dependence accumulates across production stages. India's statistical system provides only a partial picture of what is mined, imported, manufactured.

One way to bridge this gap is through an Integrated Techno-Economic Mapping (ITEM) framework which presently is a missing piece in India's industrial policy toolkit. Such a framework brings together information on engineering and economic measurement to show how a permanent magnet is built, from minerals in the ground to the finished products that power advanced manufacturing. More importantly, it would identify where industrial capability should be built, where technological partnerships become essential, and where domestic investment would yield the greatest strategic return. A country may secure mineral resources yet remain dependent if it lacks processing and manufacturing capabilities.

Bridging this measurement gap is not an academic exercise; it is an industrial imperative.

21S9. Missing measure in India's magnet mission

भारत के मैग्नेट मिशन में अनुपस्थित मापदंड

- Most Indians know the parable of several blind men trying to describe an elephant. अधिकांश भारतीय उस दृष्टांत से परिचित हैं जिसमें कई नेत्रहीन व्यक्ति एक हाथी का वर्णन करने का प्रयास करते हैं।
- One touches its trunk and believes it is a snake. एक व्यक्ति उसकी सूँड़ को छूकर उसे साँप समझता है।

- Another feels its leg and insists it is a pillar.
दूसरा उसके पैर को छूकर उसे एक स्तंभ मानता है।
- None is entirely wrong, yet none sees the whole animal.
इनमें से कोई भी पूरी तरह गलत नहीं है, फिर भी कोई भी पूरे पशु को नहीं देख पाता।
- India's strategy for advancing its cutting-edge technologies, aimed at becoming a global manufacturing leader, carries the risk of making a similar mistake.
वैश्विक विनिर्माण में अग्रणी बनने के उद्देश्य से **अत्याधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकियों** को आगे बढ़ाने की भारत की रणनीति में इसी प्रकार की गलती करने का जोखिम है।
- From EV motors and semiconductor fabrication facilities to precision manufacturing machineries, at the heart of each lies an unassuming component: the **high-performance permanent magnet**.
EV मोटरों और सेमीकंडक्टर निर्माण सुविधाओं से लेकर सटीक विनिर्माण मशीनरी तक, इनमें से प्रत्येक के केंद्र में एक साधारण-सा दिखने वाला घटक होता है: **उच्च-प्रदर्शन स्थायी चुंबक (high-performance permanent magnet)**।
- They serve as the silent operating system of industrial acceleration.
वे औद्योगिक तीव्रता के **मूक ऑपरेटिंग सिस्टम** के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।
- Magnets are not all the same.
सभी चुंबक एक जैसे नहीं होते।
- Ferrite, Alnico and Samarium-Cobalt magnets continue to serve important industrial applications.
फेराइट, एल्निको और समैरियम-कोबाल्ट चुंबक महत्वपूर्ण औद्योगिक अनुप्रयोगों में अब भी उपयोग किए जाते हैं।
- Yet Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) magnets have become the backbone of energy transition and advanced manufacturing because no other commercially available permanent magnet combines comparable magnetic strength with such a high power-to-weight ratio.
फिर भी **नियोडिमियम-आयरन-बोरॉन (NdFeB) चुंबक** ऊर्जा संक्रमण और उन्नत विनिर्माण की रीढ़ बन गए हैं, क्योंकि व्यावसायिक रूप से उपलब्ध कोई अन्य स्थायी चुंबक तुलनीय चुंबकीय शक्ति को इतने उच्च **शक्ति-भार अनुपात (power-to-weight ratio)** के साथ संयोजित नहीं करता।
- Recognising its importance, India has begun strengthening its critical minerals and rare earth element strategy through initiatives such as the **National Critical Mineral Mission**, overseas mineral acquisitions, expanded geological exploration, and PLI schemes.
इसके महत्व को पहचानते हुए, भारत ने **राष्ट्रीय महत्वपूर्ण खनिज मिशन (National Critical Mineral Mission)**, विदेशों में खनिज परिसंपत्तियों का अधिग्रहण, विस्तारित भूवैज्ञानिक अन्वेषण और **PLI योजनाओं** जैसी पहलों के माध्यम से अपनी **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों और दुर्लभ मृदा तत्वों की रणनीति** को मजबूत करना शुरू किया है।
- However, China's tight export controls on rare-earth magnets and materials in April 2025 not only revealed the deep-seated vulnerabilities in global industrial value chains, but also the limits of our understanding.
हालाँकि, अप्रैल 2025 में चीन द्वारा **दुर्लभ मृदा चुंबकों और सामग्रियों पर कड़े निर्यात नियंत्रण** ने न केवल वैश्विक औद्योगिक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं में मौजूद गहरी कमजोरियों को उजागर किया, बल्कि हमारी समझ की सीमाओं को भी सामने ला दिया।
- For India, the primary vulnerability does not stem from a shortage of critical minerals; rather, it lies in the absence of a comprehensive framework to pinpoint where strategic technological dependence is cultivated, accumulated and propagated throughout the permanent magnet value chain.
भारत के लिए प्राथमिक कमजोरी **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों की कमी** से उत्पन्न नहीं होती; बल्कि यह एक ऐसे व्यापक ढाँचे के अभाव में निहित है, जो यह स्पष्ट रूप से निर्धारित कर सके कि **स्थायी चुंबक मूल्य श्रृंखला** में रणनीतिक तकनीकी निर्भरता कहाँ विकसित, संचित और प्रसारित होती है।

The journey of a magnet

एक चुंबक की यात्रा

- Consider a simple example.
एक सरल उदाहरण पर विचार करें।
- India's Annual Survey of Industries estimates the domestic permanent magnet market at around ₹750 crore.
भारत का **Annual Survey of Industries** घरेलू स्थायी चुंबक बाजार का अनुमान लगभग ₹750 करोड़ लगाता है।
- Yet international trade statistics indicate import values several times larger than that entire reported market.
फिर भी अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार आँकड़े ऐसे आयात मूल्यों का संकेत देते हैं, जो पूरे रिपोर्ट किए गए बाजार के मूल्य से कई गुना अधिक हैं।
- The gap may reflect differences in statistical coverage, industrial classification or supply-chain accounting.
यह अंतर **सांख्यिकीय कवरेज, औद्योगिक वर्गीकरण या आपूर्ति-श्रृंखला लेखांकन** में अंतर को दर्शा सकता है।
- Whatever the explanation, policymakers face a troubling reality: they cannot confidently explain where all these magnets enter the economy or how they move through it.
व्याख्या चाहे जो भी हो, नीति-निर्माताओं के सामने एक चिंताजनक वास्तविकता है: वे निश्चित रूप से यह स्पष्ट नहीं कर सकते कि ये सभी चुंबक अर्थव्यवस्था में कहाँ प्रवेश करते हैं या इसके भीतर किस प्रकार प्रवाहित होते हैं।
- In other words, parts of India's permanent magnet economy appear to exist without being fully visible in statistics.
दूसरे शब्दों में, भारत की **स्थायी चुंबक अर्थव्यवस्था** के कुछ हिस्से ऐसे प्रतीत होते हैं, जिनका आँकड़ों में पूरी तरह स्पष्ट रूप से प्रतिबिंब दिखाई नहीं देता।
- Unlike other products, permanent magnets pass through a long technological journey.
अन्य उत्पादों के विपरीत, स्थायी चुंबक एक लंबी **तकनीकी यात्रा** से गुजरते हैं।
- Geological exploration leads to mining.
भूवैज्ञानिक अन्वेषण खनन तक ले जाता है।
- Mining feeds mineral processing.
खनन से **खनिज प्रसंस्करण** को कच्चा माल प्राप्त होता है।
- Processing enables chemical separation.
प्रसंस्करण से **रासायनिक पृथक्करण** संभव होता है।
- Separation produces oxides, which are refined into metals, transformed into alloys, engineered into magnetic materials, and finally manufactured into finished magnets.
पृथक्करण से **ऑक्साइड** प्राप्त होते हैं, जिन्हें धातुओं में परिष्कृत किया जाता है, फिर मिश्रधातुओं में परिवर्तित किया जाता है, चुंबकीय सामग्रियों के रूप में विकसित किया जाता है और अंततः **तैयार चुंबकों** में निर्मित किया जाता है।
- Each stage demands different scientific knowledge, industrial capability and technological maturity.
प्रत्येक चरण के लिए अलग-अलग **वैज्ञानिक ज्ञान, औद्योगिक क्षमता और तकनीकी परिपक्वता** की आवश्यकता होती है।
- This is why discussions on critical minerals frequently miss the real point.
इसीलिए **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** पर होने वाली चर्चाएँ अक्सर वास्तविक मुद्दे को नजरअंदाज कर देती हैं।
- The strategic question is not simply whether India possesses rare-earth resources or whether imports from China can be reduced.
रणनीतिक प्रश्न केवल यह नहीं है कि भारत के पास **दुर्लभ मृदा संसाधन** हैं या नहीं, अथवा चीन से होने वाले आयात को कम किया जा सकता है या नहीं।

- The real policy challenge is understanding what happens in between.
वास्तविक नीतिगत चुनौती यह समझना है कि इन चरणों के बीच क्या होता है।
- Although India has developed capabilities across several stages of permanent magnet manufacturing, the country still lacks a systematic way of identifying where those capabilities are globally competitive, where critical gaps persist, and how dependence accumulates across production stages.
यद्यपि भारत ने स्थायी चुंबक विनिर्माण के कई चरणों में क्षमताएँ विकसित की हैं, फिर भी देश के पास यह व्यवस्थित रूप से पहचानने का कोई तरीका नहीं है कि ये क्षमताएँ कहाँ वैश्विक स्तर पर प्रतिस्पर्धी हैं, कहाँ महत्वपूर्ण कमियाँ बनी हुई हैं और उत्पादन के विभिन्न चरणों में निर्भरता किस प्रकार बढ़ती जाती है।
- India's statistical system provides only a partial picture of what is mined, imported, manufactured.
भारत की सांख्यिकीय प्रणाली इस बात की केवल आंशिक तस्वीर प्रस्तुत करती है कि क्या खनन किया जाता है, क्या आयात किया जाता है और क्या विनिर्मित किया जाता है।
- One way to bridge this gap is through an **Integrated Techno-Economic Mapping (ITEM) framework** which presently is a missing piece in India's industrial policy toolkit.
इस अंतर को पाटने का एक तरीका एकीकृत तकनीकी-आर्थिक मानचित्रण (Integrated Techno-Economic Mapping — ITEM) ढाँचे के माध्यम से है, जो वर्तमान में भारत के औद्योगिक नीति उपकरणों में अनुपस्थित एक महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है।
- Such a framework brings together information on engineering and economic measurement to show how a permanent magnet is built, from minerals in the ground to the finished products that power advanced manufacturing.
ऐसा ढाँचा इंजीनियरिंग और आर्थिक मापन से संबंधित सूचनाओं को एक साथ लाता है, ताकि यह दिखाया जा सके कि जमीन में मौजूद खनिजों से लेकर उन्नत विनिर्माण को शक्ति प्रदान करने वाले तैयार उत्पादों तक एक स्थायी चुंबक किस प्रकार निर्मित होता है।
- More importantly, it would identify where industrial capability should be built, where technological partnerships become essential, and where domestic investment would yield the greatest strategic return.
इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि यह पहचानने में सहायता करेगा कि औद्योगिक क्षमता कहाँ विकसित की जानी चाहिए, कहाँ तकनीकी साझेदारियाँ आवश्यक हो जाती हैं और कहाँ घरेलू निवेश से सर्वाधिक रणनीतिक प्रतिफल प्राप्त होगा।
- A country may secure mineral resources yet remain dependent if it lacks processing and manufacturing capabilities.
किसी देश के पास खनिज संसाधन सुरक्षित हो सकते हैं, फिर भी यदि उसके पास प्रसंस्करण और विनिर्माण क्षमताओं का अभाव है, तो वह निर्भर बना रह सकता है।
- Bridging this measurement gap is not an academic exercise; it is an **industrial imperative**.
इस मापन संबंधी अंतर को पाटना केवल एक अकादमिक अभ्यास नहीं है; यह एक औद्योगिक अनिवार्यता है।



The paradox of self-reliance: India-China trade dynamics

While India is steadily building its manufacturing capabilities, that expansion remains deeply embedded in China-centric, import-dependent supply chains

GS III: Economy

DATA POINT

Surendar Singh

After the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Delhi on September 12, India said the two leaders had underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including "structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues". This assumes significance as the widening trade deficit with China reveals a central paradox in India's ambitious Atmanirbhar Bharat mission to bolster domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on global supply chains, with China as the implicit target.

India is steadily building its manufacturing and export capabilities. However, that expansion remains deeply embedded in China-centric, import-dependent supply chains – creating what may be called the "assembly trap" of self-reliance. Bilateral trade touched \$167.6 billion in 2025 but has become asymmetric, with imports from China rising much faster than India's exports (Chart 1).

Exports to China remained broadly stagnant between 2021 and 2025, while imports rose sharply by about 71% from \$87.5 billion to \$149.5 billion in the same period – highlighting persistent structural weaknesses in India's manufacturing and trade competitiveness. Nearly 70% of India's imports from China are intermediate goods and another 22% capital goods (Chart 2). This composition shows that the India-China trade deficit is not simply a consequence of Indian consumers buying Chinese finished products. It reflects deeper structural asymmetries in manufacturing capability and technological dependence, with India's reliance on Chinese supply chains extending into the manufacturing system as inputs, components and semi-processed goods.

The trends in India's top five import categories from China between 2021 and 2025 (Table 1) reveal that this reliance has deepened rather than diversified, despite initiatives such as Make in India and the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP). The combined value of the top five categories of imports rose from \$19 billion in 2021 to \$34.6 billion in 2025 – close to one-fourth of total imports from China, showing that India's import basket has become more concentrated in a few electronics-related categories. That telecom equipment, laptops and integrated circuits remain in the top five shows that India's electronics assembly is still structurally exposed to Chinese supply chains.

India has emerged as a major hub for mobile phone assembly, but the share of imported parts and components has risen sharply from 3.3% of the import basket in 2022 to 10.1% in 2025 (Chart 3) – revealing the contradiction in that success story: it has been shaped, at least so far, by downstream assembly rather than by a deep domestic component ecosystem.

Imports of sophisticated inputs and capital goods can facilitate industrial upgrading, but they become problematic when the dependence turns structurally persistent and domestic firms fail to build capability in semiconductors and other precision components. In order to resolve such structural and capability challenges, the focus must shift from incentivising assembly to building domestic technological capability, innovation, supplier networks and component ecosystems. The response should not be blanket restrictions but calibrated tariffs on parts and components, designed to nurture segments of domestic manufacturing value chains.

India should focus on enhancing access to global value chains while building domestic capabilities, so that critical technological dependencies do not harden into strategic vulnerabilities.

Structural asymmetry

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS), developed by the World Bank in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Surendar Singh is an Associate Professor at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat. Views expressed in this article are personal

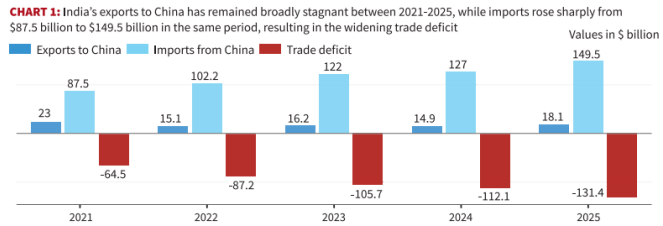


CHART 2: Intermediate and capital goods accounted for the major share of different categories of India's imports from China in 2025, as shown in this chart

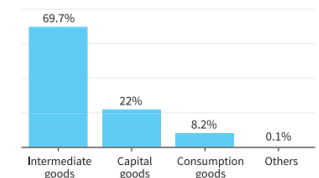


CHART 3: The share of India's imports of components, used for manufacturing mobile phones, from China has risen

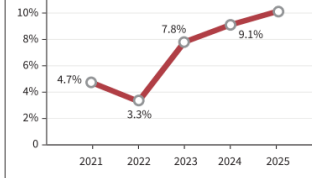


TABLE 1: India's import basket from China has been persistently concentrated in a few electronics-related categories rather than becoming more diversified over the years, indicating India's continued reliance on China for its manufacturing

India's top five imports from China (\$ billion)				
Year	Total imports (\$ bn)	Product groups	Top five imports (\$bn)	Share
2021	87.5	Laptops, telecom parts, LED/solar cells, ICs and transmission	19.0	21.7%
2022	102.2	Laptops, ICs, Telecom parts and Li-ion batteries	19.0	18.6%
2023	122.0	Telecom parts, ICs, laptops, LED/solar cells and mobile phones	26.3	21.5%
2024	127.0	Telecom parts, laptops, ICs, LED/solar cells and mobile phones	29.5	23.3%
2025	149.5	Telecom parts, laptops, ICs, mobile phones and silver	34.6	23.2%

21S9. The paradox of self-reliance: India-China trade dynamics

आत्मनिर्भरता का विरोधाभास: भारत-चीन व्यापार की गतिशीलता

- After the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Delhi on September 12, India said the two leaders had underlined the need to address each other's concerns, including "structural trade imbalance and supply chain issues".

12 सितंबर को दिल्ली में आयोजित **BRICS शिखर सम्मेलन** से इतर प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी और चीन के राष्ट्रपति शी जिनपिंग के बीच द्विपक्षीय बैठक के बाद भारत ने कहा कि दोनों नेताओं ने एक-दूसरे की चिंताओं, जिनमें "संरचनात्मक व्यापार असंतुलन और आपूर्ति श्रृंखला संबंधी मुद्दे" भी शामिल हैं, को दूर करने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया।

- This assumes significance as the widening trade deficit with China reveals a central paradox in India's ambitious **Atmanirbhar Bharat** mission to bolster domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on global supply chains, with China as the implicit target.

यह महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि चीन के साथ बढ़ता व्यापार घाटा भारत के महत्वाकांक्षी आत्मनिर्भर भारत

(**Atmanirbhar Bharat**) अभियान में एक केंद्रीय विरोधाभास को उजागर करता है, जिसका उद्देश्य घरेलू विनिर्माण को मजबूत करना और वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं पर निर्भरता कम करना है तथा जिसमें चीन अप्रत्यक्ष लक्ष्य के रूप में है।



- India is steadily building its manufacturing and export capabilities.
भारत लगातार अपनी विनिर्माण और निर्यात क्षमताओं का निर्माण कर रहा है।
- However, that expansion remains deeply embedded in China-centric, import-dependent supply chains — creating what may be called the “assembly trap” of self-reliance.
हालाँकि, यह विस्तार अभी भी चीन-केंद्रित, आयात-निर्भर आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं में गहराई से जुड़ा हुआ है — जिससे जिसे आत्मनिर्भरता का “असेंबली ट्रैप” कहा जा सकता है, वह उत्पन्न हो रहा है।
- Bilateral trade touched \$167.6 billion in 2025 but has become asymmetric, with imports from China rising much faster than India’s exports (Chart 1).
2025 में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार 167.6 अरब डॉलर तक पहुँच गया, लेकिन यह असंतुलित हो गया है, क्योंकि चीन से होने वाले आयात भारत के निर्यात की तुलना में कहीं अधिक तेजी से बढ़ रहे हैं (चार्ट 1)।
- Exports to China remained broadly stagnant between 2021 and 2025, while imports rose sharply by about 71% from \$87.5 billion to \$149.5 billion in the same period — highlighting persistent structural weaknesses in India’s manufacturing and trade competitiveness.
2021 और 2025 के बीच चीन को भारत का निर्यात व्यापक रूप से स्थिर रहा, जबकि इसी अवधि में आयात लगभग 71% बढ़कर 87.5 अरब डॉलर से 149.5 अरब डॉलर हो गया — जो भारत के विनिर्माण और व्यापार प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता में बनी हुई संरचनात्मक कमजोरियों को उजागर करता है।
- Nearly 70% of India’s imports from China are intermediate goods and another 22% capital goods (Chart 2).
चीन से भारत के लगभग 70% आयात मध्यवर्ती वस्तुएँ हैं और अन्य 22% पूंजीगत वस्तुएँ हैं (चार्ट 2)।
- This composition shows that the India-China trade deficit is not simply a consequence of Indian consumers buying Chinese finished products.
यह संरचना दर्शाती है कि भारत-चीन व्यापार घाटा केवल भारतीय उपभोक्ताओं द्वारा चीनी तैयार उत्पाद खरीदने का परिणाम नहीं है।
- It reflects deeper structural asymmetries in manufacturing capability and technological dependence, with India’s reliance on Chinese supply chains extending into the manufacturing system as inputs, components and semi-processed goods.
यह विनिर्माण क्षमता और तकनीकी निर्भरता में गहरी संरचनात्मक विषमताओं को दर्शाता है, जहाँ चीनी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं पर भारत की निर्भरता इनपुट, घटकों और अर्ध-प्रसंस्कृत वस्तुओं के रूप में विनिर्माण प्रणाली तक विस्तृत है।
- The trends in India’s top five import categories from China between 2021 and 2025 (Table 1) reveal that this reliance has deepened rather than diversified, despite initiatives such as Make in India and the Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP).
2021 और 2025 के बीच चीन से भारत की शीर्ष पाँच आयात श्रेणियों के रुझान (तालिका 1) दर्शाते हैं कि Make in India और Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP) जैसी पहलों के बावजूद यह निर्भरता विविधीकृत होने के बजाय और गहरी हुई है।
- The combined value of the top five categories of imports rose from \$19 billion in 2021 to \$34.6 billion in 2025 — close to one-fourth of total imports from China, showing that India’s import basket has become more concentrated in a few electronics-related categories.
शीर्ष पाँच आयात श्रेणियों का संयुक्त मूल्य 2021 में 19 अरब डॉलर से बढ़कर 2025 में 34.6 अरब डॉलर हो गया — जो चीन से होने वाले कुल आयात का लगभग एक-चौथाई है और दर्शाता है कि भारत की आयात टोकरी कुछ इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स-संबंधी श्रेणियों में अधिक केंद्रित हो गई है।
- That telecom equipment, laptops and integrated circuits remain in the top five shows that India’s electronics assembly is still structurally exposed to Chinese supply chains.
यह तथ्य कि दूरसंचार उपकरण, लैपटॉप और एकीकृत परिपथ (integrated circuits) शीर्ष पाँच में बने हुए हैं, दर्शाता है कि भारत का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स असेंबली क्षेत्र अभी भी संरचनात्मक रूप से चीनी आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं के प्रति संवेदनशील है।
- India has emerged as a major hub for mobile phone assembly, but the share of imported parts and components has risen sharply from 3.3% of the import basket in 2022 to 10.1% in 2025 (Chart 3) — revealing the contradiction in that success story: it has been shaped, at

least so far, by downstream assembly rather than by a deep domestic component ecosystem. भारत मोबाइल फोन असेंबली के एक प्रमुख केंद्र के रूप में उभरा है, लेकिन आयातित पुर्जों और घटकों की हिस्सेदारी 2022 में आयात टोकरी के 3.3% से बढ़कर 2025 में 10.1% हो गई है (चार्ट 3) — जो इस सफलता की कहानी में विरोधाभास को उजागर करता है: कम-से-कम अभी तक, यह एक गहरे घरेलू घटक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के बजाय मुख्यतः डाउनस्ट्रीम असेंबली द्वारा आकार लिया गया है।

- Imports of sophisticated inputs and capital goods can facilitate industrial upgrading, but they become problematic when the dependence turns structurally persistent and domestic firms fail to build capability in semiconductors and other precision components.

उन्नत इनपुट और पूंजीगत वस्तुओं का आयात औद्योगिक उन्नयन को सुगम बना सकता है, लेकिन जब यह निर्भरता संरचनात्मक रूप से स्थायी हो जाती है और घरेलू कंपनियाँ सेमीकंडक्टर तथा अन्य सटीक घटकों में क्षमता विकसित करने में विफल रहती हैं, तब यह समस्या बन जाती है।

- In order to resolve such structural and capability challenges, the focus must shift from incentivising assembly to building domestic technological capability, innovation, supplier networks and component ecosystems.

ऐसी संरचनात्मक और क्षमता संबंधी चुनौतियों को दूर करने के लिए ध्यान असेंबली को प्रोत्साहित करने से हटाकर घरेलू तकनीकी क्षमता, नवाचार, आपूर्तिकर्ता नेटवर्क और घटक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के निर्माण पर केंद्रित करना होगा।

- The response should not be blanket restrictions but calibrated tariffs on parts and components, designed to nurture segments of domestic manufacturing value chains. प्रतिक्रिया व्यापक प्रतिबंधों के रूप में नहीं, बल्कि पुर्जों और घटकों पर संतुलित टैरिफ के रूप में होनी चाहिए, जिन्हें घरेलू विनिर्माण मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं के विभिन्न खंडों को विकसित करने के लिए तैयार किया जाए।
- India should focus on enhancing access to global value chains while building domestic capabilities, so that critical technological dependencies do not harden into strategic vulnerabilities.

भारत को घरेलू क्षमताओं का निर्माण करते हुए वैश्विक मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं तक पहुँच बढ़ाने पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना चाहिए, ताकि महत्वपूर्ण तकनीकी निर्भरताएँ स्थायी होकर रणनीतिक कमजोरियों में परिवर्तित न हो जाएँ।



The copyright stakes in the EU FTA

Draft India-EU FTAs copyright provisions could require changes to India's Copyright Act and weaken existing exceptions for students, archivists, Internet service providers; negotiators must seek to restore the WIPO Copyright Treaty to the National Treatment clause and preserve the country's digital copyright flexibilities

GS III: Economy ECONOMIC NOTES

Zakir Thomas
Biswajit Dhar

Recently, the European Commission formally requested EU member states to approve the signing and conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement. Details of the commitments the two partners have accepted in the covered areas, including intellectual property (IP), have also been revealed. The draft IP Chapter includes detailed provisions on copyright that require close examination of their impact on India's digital policy landscape.

The structural asymmetry

Our assessment is that the provisions in the draft IP Chapter would necessitate amendments to India's Copyright Act, 1957, which is in conformity with international IP treaties including the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement. Though the current provisions explicitly affirm the commitments of both parties to these IP treaties, they omit the WCT from the crucial National Treatment clause (Article 10.8).

It may be noted that the WCT was specifically adopted for the protection of works and the rights of their authors in the digital environment, particularly software and databases, while also providing for technological protection measures (TPMs). Excluding the WCT from the National Treatment provisions of the IP Chapter implies that the limitations on or exceptions to copyright for digital works that the WCT provides (Article 10) would henceforth be unavailable to India.

Limitations and exceptions under the FTA (Article 10.2) include a narrow "three-step test", borrowed from EU copyright statutes. If the extant exceptions in India's Copyright Act are not preserved, foreign rightsholders could challenge the exceptions for digital works available under Section 52 (or "fair dealing"), including transient or



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incidental storage of a work or performance purely in the technical process of electronic transmission or communication to the public under Article 10.11 of the FTA, subjecting them to civil and criminal remedies.

The danger becomes more apparent when read alongside Footnote 1 of Article 10.8(1), which expands "protection" to cover enforcement measures against the circumvention of TPMs (Article 10.18) and Rights Management Information (Article 10.19). By including WCT's enforcement mandates among the binding obligations while excluding this treaty from the National Treatment exceptions, the draft IP Chapter abandons the WCT's principles, namely, balancing authors' rights with public interest exceptions in education and research, while providing a rigid enforcement mandate.

This structural imbalance directly threatens Section 65A of India's Copyright Act, 1957, which deals with TPMs. Section 65A(2) provides exceptions under which technological protection can be circumvented, particularly for the purposes permitted therein. Thus, if a student or researcher bypasses a digital lock to perform a lawful act protected under Section 52, no criminal liability attaches.

Chilling effect on classrooms, labs
The real-world consequences of this legal

shift will be borne by India's academic and educational institutions. Under Sections 52(0)(ab) and (ac) of the Copyright Act, engineering students and security researchers are legally permitted to observe, test, and reverse-engineer software to foster interoperability or uncover critical security vulnerabilities.

Yet, modern software is almost universally guarded by encryption and digital access controls.

Under a strict anti-circumvention regime, a computer science student breaking a digital lock to inspect code for system compatibility or security flaws could be transformed overnight into a legal offender. Similarly, public libraries and academic archives face unprecedented risks. In an era when historical documents, literature, and research are increasingly distributed in digital formats burdened by Digital Rights Management (DRM), librarians depend on format-shifting to archive out-of-print works and preserve fragile collections. A strict anti-circumvention rule would strip archivists of the legal right to bypass digital locks for preservation.

Furthermore, as higher education relies more on electronic materials, paywalls and DRM controls could effectively overwrite the public interest protections established by Indian courts in landmark rulings such as the DU Photocopy Case.

Threat to Internet service providers

Under India's Copyright Act (Sections 52(0)(b) and (c)), Internet service providers (ISPs) and digital intermediaries are shielded from liability for the temporary, transient copies created in RAM and server caches during routine data routing. The notice and takedown regime established under Rule 75 of the Copyright Rules, 2013 relies on these statutory safe harbours.

The FTA draft undermines this framework by granting rightsholders an exclusive, unqualified right over all "temporary or permanent" reproductions under Article 10.11(a), in contravention of the Agreed Statements to Article 8 and Article 10 of the WCT, which exempt transient network copies from copyright liability. Exclusion of the WCT from the National Treatment exception could, therefore, leave ISPs at risk of legal challenge, with EU rightsholders exposing Indian intermediaries to systemic liability.

By agreeing to the draft text, the negotiators seem to have gone beyond the Indian Parliament's mandate as reflected in the Copyright Act, 1957. Left uncorrected, this would oblige Parliament to remove the exceptions covering digital works in the Act, regardless of whether the user was engaging in legitimate, lawful research.

A call for recalibration

India's policy flexibilities must not be traded away in bilateral trade bargains. Our negotiators must insist on targeted revisions. They should press to re-insert the WCT into the National Treatment Clause. India's rise as a digital powerhouse rests on a foundation of open access to knowledge, robust educational inquiry, and independent technical research. While deepening trade ties with the EU is crucial, this must not be at the expense of our digital sovereignty or our students' right to learn. Negotiators must ensure the availability of statutory flexibilities in the copyright domain that keep Indian innovation alive. (Zakir Thomas is the IPR Chair at National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and Biswajit Dhar was the IPR Chair Professor at JNU)

THE GIST

The draft IP Chapter omits the WIPO Copyright Treaty from the National Treatment clause while retaining its enforcement mandates on technological protection measures and rights management information

A strict anti-circumvention regime could expose students and security researchers to liability for bypassing digital locks while reverse-engineering software or examining security vulnerabilities

Public libraries and academic archives could face restrictions on format-shifting digital works, while Internet service providers could face liability over temporary copies created during routine data routing

21S9. The copyright stakes in the EU FTA EU FTA में कॉपीराइट से जुड़े दाँव

- Recently, the **European Commission** formally requested EU member states to **approve the signing and conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement**. हाल ही में, **यूरोपीय आयोग (European Commission)** ने औपचारिक रूप से **EU सदस्य देशों से भारत-EU मुक्त व्यापार समझौते (India-EU Free Trade Agreement)** पर हस्ताक्षर करने और उसे संपन्न करने की स्वीकृति देने का अनुरोध किया।
- Details of the commitments the two partners have accepted in the covered areas, including **intellectual property (IP)**, have also been revealed. दोनों साझेदारों द्वारा शामिल क्षेत्रों, जिसमें **बौद्धिक संपदा (Intellectual Property—IP)** भी शामिल है, में स्वीकार की गई प्रतिबद्धताओं का विवरण भी सामने आया है।
- The **draft IP Chapter includes detailed provisions on copyright that require close examination of their impact on India's digital policy landscape**. मसौदा **IP अध्याय** में कॉपीराइट से संबंधित विस्तृत प्रावधान शामिल हैं, जिनके भारत के **डिजिटल नीति परिदृश्य** पर प्रभाव की गहन जाँच आवश्यक है।

The structural asymmetry संरचनात्मक असमानता

- Our assessment is that the provisions in the draft IP Chapter would **necessitate amendments to India's Copyright Act, 1957**, which is in conformity with international IP treaties including



the **WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)** and the **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement**.

हमारा आकलन है कि मसौदा IP अध्याय के प्रावधानों के लिए भारत के Copyright Act, 1957 में संशोधन आवश्यक होगा, जो **WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT)** और **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement** सहित अंतरराष्ट्रीय IP संधियों के अनुरूप है।

- Though the current provisions explicitly affirm the commitments of both parties to these IP treaties, **they omit the WCT from the crucial National Treatment clause (Article 10.8)**. यद्यपि वर्तमान प्रावधान स्पष्ट रूप से इन IP संधियों के प्रति दोनों पक्षों की प्रतिबद्धताओं की पुष्टि करते हैं, लेकिन वे महत्वपूर्ण **National Treatment Clause (Article 10.8)** से WCT को बाहर रखते हैं।

- It may be noted that the **WCT was specifically adopted for the protection of works and the rights of their authors in the digital environment, particularly software and databases, while also providing for technological protection measures (TPMs)**.

यह ध्यान देने योग्य है कि **WCT** को विशेष रूप से डिजिटल वातावरण में कृतियों और उनके लेखकों के अधिकारों की सुरक्षा के लिए अपनाया गया था, विशेषकर **सॉफ्टवेयर और डेटाबेस** के संबंध में, साथ ही इसमें **Technological Protection Measures (TPMs)** का भी प्रावधान है।

- Excluding the WCT from the National Treatment provisions of the IP Chapter implies that the limitations on or **exceptions to copyright for digital works that the WCT provides (Article 10) would henceforth be unavailable to India**.

IP अध्याय के National Treatment प्रावधानों से WCT को बाहर रखने का अर्थ है कि डिजिटल कृतियों के लिए WCT द्वारा प्रदान की गई कॉपीराइट संबंधी **सीमाएँ या अपवाद (Article 10)** अब भारत के लिए उपलब्ध नहीं होंगे।

- Limitations and exceptions under the FTA (Article 10.21) include a narrow “three-step test”, borrowed from EU copyright statutes.**

FTA के अंतर्गत **सीमाएँ और अपवाद (Article 10.21)** एक संकीर्ण **“three-step test”** को शामिल करते हैं, जिसे EU के कॉपीराइट कानूनों से लिया गया है।

- If the extant exceptions in India’s Copyright Act are not preserved, foreign rightsholders could challenge the exceptions for digital works available under Section 52 (or “fair dealing”), including transient or incidental storage of a work or performance purely in the technical process of electronic transmission or communication to the public under Article 10.11 of the FTA, subjecting them to civil and criminal remedies.

यदि भारत के **Copyright Act** में वर्तमान अपवादों को संरक्षित नहीं किया जाता है, तो विदेशी **अधिकारधारक (rightsholders)** धारा 52 के अंतर्गत डिजिटल कृतियों के लिए उपलब्ध अपवादों या **“fair dealing”** को चुनौती दे सकते हैं, जिसमें FTA के **Article 10.11** के तहत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रसारण या जनता के साथ संचार की तकनीकी प्रक्रिया में किसी कृति या प्रदर्शन का अस्थायी या आकस्मिक भंडारण भी शामिल है, और इससे संबंधित व्यक्तियों पर **दीवानी और आपराधिक उपचार** लागू हो सकते हैं।

- The danger becomes more apparent when read alongside Footnote 1 of Article 10.8(1), which expands “protection” to cover enforcement measures against the circumvention of TPMs (Article 10.18) and **Rights Management Information (Article 10.19)**.

Article 10.8(1) के Footnote 1 के साथ पढ़ने पर यह खतरा और अधिक स्पष्ट हो जाता है, जो

“protection” का विस्तार करके **TPMs को दरकिनार करने (Article 10.18)** और **Rights Management Information (Article 10.19)** के विरुद्ध प्रवर्तन उपायों को भी इसमें शामिल करता है।

- By including WCT’s enforcement mandates among the binding obligations while excluding this treaty from the National Treatment exceptions, the draft IP Chapter abandons the WCT’s principles, namely, balancing authors’ rights with public interest exceptions in education and research, while providing a rigid enforcement mandate.

WCT के **प्रवर्तन संबंधी दायित्वों** को बाध्यकारी दायित्वों में शामिल करते हुए और इसी संधि को **National Treatment exceptions** से बाहर रखते हुए, मसौदा IP अध्याय WCT के सिद्धांतों से हट जाता है, अर्थात्



शिक्षा और अनुसंधान में सार्वजनिक हित के अपवादों के साथ लेखकों के अधिकारों का संतुलन बनाए रखने के सिद्धांत से, जबकि एक कठोर प्रवर्तन व्यवस्था प्रदान करता है।

- This structural imbalance directly threatens Section 65A of India's Copyright Act, 1957, which deals with TPMs.

यह संरचनात्मक असंतुलन भारत के Copyright Act, 1957 की धारा 65A के लिए प्रत्यक्ष खतरा पैदा करता है, जो TPMs से संबंधित है।

- Section 65A(2) provides exceptions under which technological protection can be circumvented, particularly for the purposes permitted therein.

धारा 65A(2) ऐसे अपवाद प्रदान करती है जिनके अंतर्गत तकनीकी सुरक्षा को दरकिनार किया जा सकता है, विशेष रूप से उसमें अनुमत उद्देश्यों के लिए।

- Thus, if a student or researcher bypasses a digital lock to perform a lawful act protected under Section 52, no criminal liability attaches.

इस प्रकार, यदि कोई छात्र या शोधकर्ता धारा 52 के अंतर्गत संरक्षित किसी वैध कार्य को करने के लिए डिजिटल लॉक को दरकिनार करता है, तो उस पर कोई आपराधिक दायित्व नहीं बनता।

Chilling effect on classrooms, labs

कक्षाओं और प्रयोगशालाओं पर भयकारी प्रभाव

- The real-world consequences of this legal shift will be borne by India's academic and educational institutions.

इस कानूनी बदलाव के वास्तविक प्रभाव भारत के शैक्षणिक और शिक्षण संस्थानों को भुगतने होंगे।

- Under Sections 52(1)(ab) and (ac) of the Copyright Act, engineering students and security researchers are legally permitted to observe, test, and reverse-engineer software to foster interoperability or uncover critical security vulnerabilities.

Copyright Act की धाराओं 52(1)(ab) और (ac) के तहत, इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों और सुरक्षा शोधकर्ताओं को अंतर-संचालनीयता (interoperability) को बढ़ावा देने या गंभीर सुरक्षा कमजोरियों का पता लगाने के लिए सॉफ्टवेयर का निरीक्षण, परीक्षण और रिवर्स-इंजीनियरिंग करने की कानूनी अनुमति है।

- Yet, modern software is almost universally guarded by encryption and digital access controls. फिर भी, आधुनिक सॉफ्टवेयर लगभग सार्वभौमिक रूप से एन्क्रिप्शन और डिजिटल एक्सेस नियंत्रणों द्वारा सुरक्षित होते हैं।

- Under a strict anti-circumvention regime, a computer science student breaking a digital lock to inspect code for system compatibility or security flaws could be transformed overnight into a legal offender.

एक कठोर anti-circumvention व्यवस्था के तहत, सिस्टम की अनुकूलता या सुरक्षा खामियों की जाँच के लिए डिजिटल लॉक तोड़ने वाला कंप्यूटर विज्ञान का छात्र रातोंरात कानूनी अपराधी बन सकता है।

- Similarly, public libraries and academic archives face unprecedented risks.

इसी प्रकार, सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालयों और शैक्षणिक अभिलेखागारों के सामने अभूतपूर्व जोखिम उत्पन्न हो सकते हैं।

- In an era when historical documents, literature, and research are increasingly distributed in digital formats burdened by Digital Rights Management (DRM), librarians depend on format-shifting to archive out-of-print works and preserve fragile collections.

ऐसे समय में जब ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज, साहित्य और शोध सामग्री Digital Rights Management (DRM) से युक्त डिजिटल प्रारूपों में तेजी से वितरित हो रही हैं, पुस्तकालयाध्यक्ष प्रचलन से बाहर हो चुकी कृतियों को अभिलेखित करने और नाजुक संग्रहों को संरक्षित करने के लिए format-shifting पर निर्भर करते हैं।

- A strict anti-circumvention rule would strip archivists of the legal right to bypass digital locks for preservation.

एक कठोर anti-circumvention नियम अभिलेखपालों से संरक्षण के लिए डिजिटल लॉक को दरकिनार करने का कानूनी अधिकार छीन लेगा।

- Furthermore, as higher education relies more on electronic materials, paywalls and DRM controls could effectively overwrite the public interest protections established by Indian courts in landmark rulings such as the **DU Photocopy Case**.
इसके अलावा, जैसे-जैसे उच्च शिक्षा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक सामग्री पर अधिक निर्भर हो रही है, **paywalls और DRM नियंत्रण** भारतीय न्यायालयों द्वारा **DU Photocopy Case** जैसे ऐतिहासिक निर्णयों में स्थापित सार्वजनिक हित की सुरक्षा को प्रभावी रूप से निष्प्रभावी कर सकते हैं।

Threat to Internet service providers इंटरनेट सेवा प्रदाताओं के लिए खतरा

- Under India's Copyright Act (Sections 52(1)(b) and (c)), Internet service providers (ISPs) and digital intermediaries are shielded from liability for the temporary, transient copies created in RAM and server caches during routine data routing.
भारत के Copyright Act (धाराएँ 52(1)(b) और (c)) के तहत, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) और डिजिटल मध्यस्थों को नियमित डेटा रूटिंग के दौरान RAM और सर्वर कैश में बनाई गई अस्थायी प्रतियों के लिए दायित्व से सुरक्षा प्राप्त है।
- The notice and takedown regime established under Rule 75 of the Copyright Rules, 2013 relies on these **statutory safe harbours**.
Copyright Rules, 2013 के Rule 75 के तहत स्थापित notice and takedown व्यवस्था इन्हीं वैधानिक safe harbours पर निर्भर करती है।
- The FTA draft undermines this framework by granting rightsholders an exclusive, unqualified right over all "temporary or permanent" reproductions under Article 10.11(a), in contravention of the Agreed Statements to Article 8 and Article 10 of the WCT, which exempt transient network copies from copyright liability.
FTA का मसौदा Article 10.11(a) के तहत अधिकारधारकों को सभी "temporary or permanent" reproductions पर अनन्य और बिना किसी शर्त वाला अधिकार प्रदान करके इस व्यवस्था को कमजोर करता है, जो WCT के Article 8 और Article 10 के Agreed Statements के विपरीत है, क्योंकि ये नेटवर्क पर बनने वाली अस्थायी प्रतियों को कॉपीराइट दायित्व से मुक्त रखते हैं।
- Exclusion of the WCT from the National Treatment exception could, therefore, leave ISPs at risk of legal challenge, with EU rightsholders exposing Indian intermediaries to systemic liability.
इसलिए National Treatment exception से WCT को बाहर रखने से ISPs कानूनी चुनौती के जोखिम में आ सकते हैं और EU के अधिकारधारक भारतीय मध्यस्थों को व्यवस्थित दायित्व (systemic liability) के जोखिम में डाल सकते हैं।
- By agreeing to the draft text, the negotiators seem to have gone beyond the Indian Parliament's mandate as reflected in the Copyright Act, 1957.
मसौदा पाठ पर सहमति देकर वार्ताकार भारतीय संसद के उस अधिदेश (mandate) से आगे बढ़ते हुए प्रतीत होते हैं, जो Copyright Act, 1957 में प्रतिबिंबित है।
- Left uncorrected, this would oblige Parliament to remove the exceptions covering digital works in the Act, regardless of whether the user was engaging in legitimate, lawful research.
यदि इसमें सुधार नहीं किया गया, तो यह संसद को अधिनियम में डिजिटल कृतियों से संबंधित अपवादों को हटाने के लिए बाध्य करेगा, भले ही उपयोगकर्ता वैध और कानूनसम्मत अनुसंधान कर रहा हो।

A call for recalibration पुनर्संतुलन का आह्वान

- India's policy flexibilities must not be traded away in bilateral trade bargains.
भारत की नीतिगत लचीलेपन को द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौतों में सौदेबाजी के दौरान त्यागा नहीं जाना चाहिए।



- Our negotiators must insist on targeted revisions.
हमारे वार्ताकारों को लक्षित संशोधनों पर दृढ़ता से जोर देना चाहिए।
- They should press to re-insert the WCT into the National Treatment Clause.
उन्हें WCT को National Treatment Clause में पुनः शामिल करने के लिए जोर देना चाहिए।
- India's rise as a digital powerhouse rests on a foundation of open access to knowledge, robust educational inquiry, and independent technical research.
एक डिजिटल शक्ति के रूप में भारत का उदय ज्ञान तक खुली पहुँच, सुदृढ़ शैक्षणिक अनुसंधान और स्वतंत्र तकनीकी शोध की नींव पर आधारित है।
- While deepening trade ties with the EU is crucial, this must not be at the expense of our digital sovereignty or our students' right to learn.
यद्यपि EU के साथ व्यापारिक संबंधों को गहरा करना महत्वपूर्ण है, लेकिन यह हमारी डिजिटल संप्रभुता या हमारे छात्रों के सीखने के अधिकार की कीमत पर नहीं होना चाहिए।
- Negotiators must ensure the availability of statutory flexibilities in the copyright domain that keep Indian innovation alive.
वार्ताकारों को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि



ETFs vs. index funds

THINKINVESTOR

Your choice of benchmark must be the large-cap index or the broadest investable index for institutional investors in the market where you can make goal-based investments

GS III: Economy
 Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Suppose you decide to invest in passive funds for your goal-based investments.

You must first select a benchmark index and then choose an exchange-traded fund (ETF) or an index fund on that benchmark index. In this article, we discuss the factors that you must consider when deciding between an ETF and an index fund.

Total costs

Your choice of benchmark must be the large-cap index or the broadest investable index for institutional investors in the market where you make such goal-based investments. Take the NSE 500 Index. This index also contains mid-cap and small-cap stocks that can expose you to momentum crash.

That means these stocks can crash regardless of the direction of the market. This makes the choice of the broadest index somewhat risky for goal-based investments.

Suppose you choose a large-cap index. Then, you must decide whether to pick an ETF or an index fund benchmarked to that index. If you consider the base expense ratio (BER), an ETF is cheaper than an index fund; median BER for an index fund is 0.15% compared with 0.08% for an ETF. But there are other costs to consider. You must setup a systematic investment plan (SIP) on an ETF through your trading account.

You can set up the SIP with market protection to ensure that your order is not executed at a price significantly greater than its last traded price.

If you are setting up the SIP for the number of units, then the amount debited each month will be different. If you set up the SIP for the amount, then you may have residual amount in your account, as you cannot buy fractional units.

Suppose the ETF price is ₹61, and your SIP is for ₹10,000. Then, you will get 163 units, and ₹57 will remain in your trading account.

You will also incur demat charges and other costs such as SEBI turnover fees, brokerage commission and exchange transaction fees including GST.

Index funds can allot fractional units. So, you can make use of your entire SIP amount. Also, you will not incur the other transaction charges.

Conclusion

The choice between an ETF and an index fund is more of preference than of cost. Note that ETFs can be sold real-time in the market, and the money is credited into your bank account the next day.

You must wait at least two days to receive the sale proceeds on your index funds.

(The author offers training programs for individuals to manage their personal investments)

21S9. ETFs vs. index funds

ETFs बनाम इंडेक्स फंड

• Suppose you decide to invest in passive funds for your goal-based investments.

मान लीजिए कि आप अपने लक्ष्य-आधारित निवेशों के लिए निष्क्रिय फंडों (passive funds) में निवेश करने का निर्णय लेते हैं।

• You must first select a benchmark index and then choose an exchange-traded fund (ETF) or an index fund on that benchmark index. आपको पहले एक बेंचमार्क इंडेक्स का चयन करना होगा और फिर उस बेंचमार्क इंडेक्स पर आधारित एक्सचेंज-ट्रेडेड फंड (ETF) या इंडेक्स फंड चुनना होगा।

• In this article, we discuss the factors that you must consider when deciding between an ETF and an index fund.

इस लेख में, हम उन कारकों पर चर्चा करते हैं जिन पर आपको ETF और इंडेक्स फंड के बीच चयन करते समय विचार करना चाहिए।

Total costs

कुल लागत

• Your choice of benchmark must be the large-cap index or the broadest investable index for institutional investors in the market where you make such goal-based investments.

आपका चुना हुआ बेंचमार्क उस बाजार में लार्ज-कैप इंडेक्स या संस्थागत निवेशकों के लिए उपलब्ध सबसे व्यापक निवेश योग्य इंडेक्स होना चाहिए, जहाँ आप ऐसे लक्ष्य-आधारित निवेश करते हैं।

• Take the NSE 500 Index.
 NSE 500 Index को उदाहरण के रूप में लें।

• This index also contains mid-cap and small-cap stocks that can expose you to momentum crash.

इस इंडेक्स में मिड-कैप और स्मॉल-कैप शेयर भी शामिल हैं, जो आपको मोमेंटम क्रैश (momentum crash) के जोखिम में डाल सकते हैं।

• That means these stocks can crash regardless of the direction of the market.

इसका अर्थ है कि बाजार की दिशा चाहे जो भी हो, इन शेयरों में भारी गिरावट आ सकती है।

• This makes the choice of the broadest index somewhat risky for goal-based investments.

इससे लक्ष्य-आधारित निवेशों के लिए सबसे व्यापक इंडेक्स का चयन कुछ हद तक जोखिमपूर्ण हो जाता है।

• Suppose you choose a large-cap index.

मान लीजिए कि आप लार्ज-कैप इंडेक्स चुनते हैं।

• Then, you must decide whether to pick an ETF or an index fund

benchmarked to that index.

इसके बाद आपको यह तय करना होगा कि उस इंडेक्स पर आधारित ETF या इंडेक्स फंड में से किसे चुना जाए।

• If you consider the base expense ratio (BER), an ETF is cheaper than an index fund; median BER for an index fund is 0.15% compared with 0.08% for an ETF.

यदि आप बेस एक्सपेंस रेशियो (BER) को ध्यान में रखते हैं, तो ETF, इंडेक्स फंड की तुलना में सस्ता है;

इंडेक्स फंड का मध्यिका BER 0.15% है, जबकि ETF के लिए यह 0.08% है।

- But there are other costs to consider.
लेकिन विचार करने के लिए अन्य लागतें भी हैं।
- You must set up a systematic investment plan (SIP) on an ETF through your trading account.
आपको अपने ट्रेडिंग अकाउंट के माध्यम से ETF में सिस्टमैटिक इन्वेस्टमेंट प्लान (SIP) स्थापित करना होगा।
- You can set up the SIP with market protection to ensure that your order is not executed at a price significantly greater than its last traded price.
आप मार्केट प्रोटेक्शन के साथ SIP स्थापित कर सकते हैं, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि आपका ऑर्डर उसके अंतिम कारोबार मूल्य (last traded price) से काफी अधिक कीमत पर निष्पादित न हो।
- If you are setting up the SIP for the number of units, then the amount debited each month will be different.
यदि आप यूनिटों की संख्या के आधार पर SIP स्थापित करते हैं, तो प्रत्येक महीने डेबिट की जाने वाली राशि अलग-अलग होगी।
- If you set up the SIP for the amount, then you may have residual amount in your account, as you cannot buy fractional units.
यदि आप निश्चित राशि के लिए SIP स्थापित करते हैं, तो आपके खाते में कुछ राशि शेष रह सकती है, क्योंकि आप आंशिक यूनिट (fractional units) नहीं खरीद सकते।
- Suppose the ETF price is ₹61, and your SIP is for ₹10,000.
मान लीजिए कि ETF की कीमत ₹61 है और आपका SIP ₹10,000 का है।
- Then, you will get 163 units, and ₹57 will remain in your trading account.
तब आपको 163 यूनिट मिलेंगी और ₹57 आपके ट्रेडिंग अकाउंट में शेष रहेंगे।
- You will also incur demat charges and other costs such as SEBI turnover fees, brokerage commission and exchange transaction fees including GST.
आपको डीमैट शुल्क तथा अन्य लागतें भी वहन करनी होंगी, जैसे SEBI टर्नओवर शुल्क, ब्रोकरेज कमीशन और GST सहित एक्सचेंज ट्रांजैक्शन शुल्क।
- Index funds can allot fractional units.
इंडेक्स फंड आंशिक यूनिट आवंटित कर सकते हैं।
- So, you can make use of your entire SIP amount.
इसलिए, आप अपनी पूरी SIP राशि का उपयोग कर सकते हैं।
- Also, you will not incur the other transaction charges.
साथ ही, आपको अन्य लेन-देन शुल्क भी नहीं देना होगा।

Conclusion

निष्कर्ष

- The choice between an ETF and an index fund is more of preference than of cost.
ETF और इंडेक्स फंड के बीच चयन लागत की तुलना में अधिकतर व्यक्तिगत पसंद का विषय है।
- Note that ETFs can be sold real-time in the market, and the money is credited into your bank account the next day.
ध्यान दें कि ETFs को बाजार में रियल-टाइम पर बेचा जा सकता है और धनराशि अगले दिन आपके बैंक खाते में जमा हो जाती है।
- You must wait at least two days to receive the sale proceeds on your index funds.
अपने इंडेक्स फंड की बिक्री से प्राप्त राशि पाने के लिए आपको कम-से-कम दो दिनों तक प्रतीक्षा करनी होती है।



GS Paper III: Science and Technology		21 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
21S9	Frontline workers get jobs as Ebola vaccine trial commences in Congo कांगो में इबोला वैक्सीन का परीक्षण शुरू होने के साथ अग्रिम पंक्ति के स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को टीके लगाए गए	

Frontline workers get jobs as Ebola vaccine trial commences in Congo



GS III: S&T
Health workers in parts of DR Congo badly hit by a deadly Ebola outbreak launched a test vaccination drive on Saturday to see if jabs designed for a different strain of the virus could prove effective. The operation will see 20,000 frontline workers given the Ervebo vaccination in the Ituri and North-Kivu provinces. AFP

21S9. Frontline workers get jobs as Ebola vaccine trial commences in Congo

कांगो में इबोला वैक्सीन का परीक्षण शुरू होने के साथ अग्रिम पंक्ति के स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को टीके लगाए गए

- Health workers in parts of DR Congo badly hit by a deadly Ebola outbreak launched a test vaccination drive on Saturday to see if jabs designed for a different strain of the virus could prove effective.

घातक इबोला प्रकोप से बुरी तरह प्रभावित DR Congo के कुछ हिस्सों में स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों ने शनिवार को एक परीक्षण टीकाकरण अभियान शुरू किया, ताकि यह पता लगाया जा सके कि वायरस के एक अलग स्ट्रेन के लिए विकसित किए गए टीके प्रभावी साबित हो सकते हैं या नहीं।

- The operation will see 20,000 frontline workers given the Ervebo vaccination in the Ituri and North-Kivu provinces.

इस अभियान के तहत इटुरी और नॉर्थ-किवु प्रांतों में 20,000 अग्रिम पंक्ति के स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों को Ervebo टीका लगाया जाएगा।

GS Paper III: Environment		21 September 2026
TOPICS COVERED		
21S9	Urban demand is reorganising global wildlife trafficking web शहरी मांग वैश्विक वन्यजीव तस्करी के नेटवर्क को पुनर्गठित कर रही है।	



Urban demand is reorganising global wildlife trafficking web

GS III: Environment

Divya Gandhi

Some 2,000 km away from their natural habitat in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra, five listless baby orangutans were found, bafflingly, in a forest in the middle of Odisha on September 8. Videos were shared widely showing the critically endangered apes, each around a year old, with limited mobility, huddled together, chomping on bananas from a container. Then more videos emerged of the group being bottle-fed in a Bhubaneswar Zoo, where they are now being monitored.

Jose Louies, CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India, said it is clear these animals had been kept in captivity for a while, going by their complete lack of fear of humans. CITES prohibits the commercial trade in orangutans but these animals are routinely sold as exotic pets and can cost up to ₹20 lakh each. The discovery has renewed discourse on wildlife trafficking. India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been asked to investigate the matter. There are many enigmas: How were they trafficked? By sea? Air? Road? Who captured and smuggled them? And who are their collectors? This is not the first time these apes have been found in India. In 2022, two baby orangutans were found abandoned near the Assam-Mizoram border.

A study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* has integrated 30 years of confiscation data and spatial network analysis to unravel

the trade routes of another much-trafficked species, Mexico's parrots, from biodiverse habitats to urban centres around the world, and could provide clues to criminal networks in other parts of the world.

Today, urban centres are the nexuses of demand, the paper added. "For many commonly traded species, confiscations occurred hundreds of kilometers from their native habitats, frequently in major cities like Mexico City." And this demand is reorganising the global wildlife trafficking network.

No less than half of Mexico's native parrot species are directly threatened by the illegal wildlife trade, the researchers said, "elevating their risk of extinction". They found that poachers consistently targeted "charismatic," and high-value species, particularly macaws and Amazon parrots.

The team's methods can be adapted to map other complex illicit networks, such as the trafficking of timber, marine life or even drugs and weapons. Drug cartels in Mexico also often run illegal logging operations, sharing transport logistics and laundering illicit timber alongside narcotics, the paper said.

Illicit wildlife networks are converging with broader organised crime, and criminal networks that "are complex, adaptive, and largely invisible, making them notoriously difficult to map, track, and disrupt," said the authors. And this, it added, needs a new approach "to move from enforcement-based, isolated seizures to a predictive understanding of network structure and vulnerability."

The lacunae in understanding mechanisms that feed criminal networks comes in the way of law enforcement, the team added, adding that illegal wildlife trade "comprises global, multibillion-dollar criminal enterprises that threaten biodiversity and elevate the risk of zoonotic disease transfer and emergence".

As for India, primates, turtles, and lizards are the most smuggled illegal species into the country, Dr. Jose told *The Hindu*, primarily through land routes between India and Myanmar. "The criminal network is amoebic in nature: it configures and re-configures to safeguard the business," he said.

21S9. Urban demand is reorganising global wildlife trafficking web

शहरी मांग वैश्विक वन्यजीव तस्करी के नेटवर्क को पुनर्गठित कर रही है।

Some 2,000 km away from their natural habitat in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra, five listless baby orangutans were found, bafflingly, in a forest in the middle of Odisha on September 8.

बोर्नियो और सुमात्रा के वर्षावनों में अपने प्राकृतिक आवास से लगभग 2,000 किलोमीटर दूर, पाँच सुस्त शिशु ओरंगुटान 8 सितंबर को रहस्यमय ढंग से ओडिशा के मध्य में स्थित एक जंगल में पाए गए।

Videos were shared widely showing the critically endangered apes, each around a year old, with limited mobility, huddled together, chomping on bananas from a container.

व्यापक रूप से साझा किए गए वीडियो में गंभीर रूप से संकटग्रस्त वानरों को दिखाया गया, जिनमें से प्रत्येक लगभग एक वर्ष का था और जिनकी गतिशीलता सीमित थी; वे एक-दूसरे से सटकर एक पात्र से केले खा रहे थे।

Then more videos emerged of the group being bottle-fed in a Bhubaneswar Zoo, where they are now being monitored.

इसके बाद भुवनेश्वर चिड़ियाघर में इस समूह को बोतल से दूध पिलाए जाने के और वीडियो सामने आए, जहाँ अब उनकी निगरानी की जा रही है।

- Jose Louies, CEO of the Wildlife Trust of India, said it is clear these animals had been kept in captivity for a while, going by their complete lack of fear of humans.

वाइल्डलाइफ ट्रस्ट ऑफ इंडिया के CEO जोस लुईस ने कहा कि मनुष्यों के प्रति उनके बिल्कुल भी भयभीत न होने से यह स्पष्ट है कि इन पशुओं को कुछ समय से कैद में रखा गया था।

- CITES prohibits the commercial trade in orangutans but these animals are routinely sold as exotic pets and can cost up to ₹20 lakh each.

CITES ओरंगुटान के वाणिज्यिक व्यापार पर प्रतिबंध लगाता है, लेकिन इन पशुओं को नियमित रूप से विदेशी पालतू जानवरों के रूप में बेचा जाता है और प्रत्येक की कीमत ₹20 लाख तक हो सकती है।

- The discovery has renewed discourse on **wildlife trafficking**.

इस खोज ने वन्यजीव तस्करी पर चर्चा को फिर से तेज कर दिया है।

- India's Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been asked to investigate the matter.

भारत के वन्यजीव अपराध नियंत्रण ब्यूरो (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) से इस मामले की जाँच करने को कहा गया है।

- There are many enigmas: How were they trafficked?
कई रहस्य बने हुए हैं: उनकी तस्करी कैसे की गई?
- By sea?
समुद्र के रास्ते?
- Air?
हवाई मार्ग से?
- Road?
सड़क मार्ग से?
- Who captured and smuggled them?
उन्हें किसने पकड़ा और उनकी तस्करी की?
- And who are their collectors?
और उन्हें एकत्र करने वाले लोग कौन हैं?
- This is not the first time these apes have been found in India.
भारत में इन वानरों के पाए जाने की यह पहली घटना नहीं है।
- In 2022, two baby orangutans were found abandoned near the Assam-Mizoram border.
2022 में असम-मिजोरम सीमा के पास दो शिशु ओरंगुटान लावारिस पाए गए थे।
- A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has integrated 30 years of **confiscation data** and **spatial network analysis** to unravel the trade routes of another much-trafficked species, Mexico's parrots, from biodiverse habitats to urban centres around the world, and could provide clues to criminal networks in other parts of the world.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन ने 30 वर्षों के **जब्ती संबंधी आँकड़ों** और **स्थानिक नेटवर्क विश्लेषण** को एकीकृत करके एक अन्य व्यापक रूप से तस्करी की जाने वाली प्रजाति, मेक्सिको के तोतों, के जैव-विविध आवासों से दुनिया भर के शहरी केंद्रों तक जाने वाले व्यापार मार्गों को समझने का प्रयास किया है और यह दुनिया के अन्य हिस्सों में सक्रिय आपराधिक नेटवर्कों के बारे में भी सुराग प्रदान कर सकता है।
- Today, urban centres are the nexuses of demand, the paper added.
अध्ययन में आगे कहा गया कि आज शहरी केंद्र मांग के **मुख्य केंद्र-बिंदु** हैं।
- "For many commonly traded species, confiscations occurred hundreds of kilometers from their native habitats, frequently in major cities like Mexico City."
"कई सामान्य रूप से व्यापार की जाने वाली प्रजातियों के मामले में, उनके प्राकृतिक आवासों से सैकड़ों किलोमीटर दूर, अक्सर मेक्सिको सिटी जैसे बड़े शहरों में, जब्तियाँ की गईं।"
- And this demand is reorganising the global **wildlife trafficking network**.
और यह मांग वैश्विक **वन्यजीव तस्करी नेटवर्क** को पुनर्गठित कर रही है।
- No less than half of Mexico's native parrot species are directly threatened by the illegal wildlife trade, the researchers said, "elevating their risk of extinction".
शोधकर्ताओं ने कहा कि मेक्सिको की मूल तोता प्रजातियों में से कम से कम आधी प्रजातियाँ अवैध वन्यजीव व्यापार से सीधे खतरे में हैं, जिससे "उनके विलुप्त होने का जोखिम बढ़ रहा है।"
- They found that poachers consistently targeted "charismatic," and high-value species, particularly macaws and Amazon parrots.
उन्होंने पाया कि शिकारी लगातार "आकर्षक" और उच्च-मूल्य वाली प्रजातियों, विशेष रूप से **मकाव** और **अमेज़न तोतों**, को निशाना बनाते थे।
- The team's methods can be adapted to map other complex illicit networks, such as the trafficking of timber, marine life or even drugs and weapons.
इस दल की विधियों को लकड़ी, समुद्री जीवों या यहाँ तक कि मादक पदार्थों और हथियारों की तस्करी जैसे अन्य जटिल अवैध नेटवर्कों का मानचित्रण करने के लिए भी अपनाया जा सकता है।
- Drug cartels in Mexico also often run illegal logging operations, sharing transport logistics and laundering illicit timber alongside narcotics, the paper said.
अध्ययन में कहा गया कि मेक्सिको में **मादक पदार्थों के कार्टेल** अक्सर अवैध कटाई के संचालन भी चलाते हैं,

जिसमें वे परिवहन संबंधी व्यवस्थाओं को साझा करते हैं और मादक पदार्थों के साथ-साथ अवैध रूप से प्राप्त लकड़ी के धन को भी वैध बनाते हैं।

- Illicit wildlife networks are converging with broader organised crime, and criminal networks that “are complex, adaptive, and largely invisible, making them notoriously difficult to map, track, and disrupt,” said the authors.
लेखकों ने कहा कि अवैध वन्यजीव नेटवर्क व्यापक **संगठित अपराध** के साथ मिल रहे हैं और ऐसे आपराधिक नेटवर्क “जटिल, अनुकूलनशील और काफी हद तक अदृश्य हैं, जिससे उनका मानचित्रण, निगरानी और विघटन अत्यंत कठिन हो जाता है।”
- And this, it added, needs a new approach “to move from enforcement-based, isolated seizures to a predictive understanding of network structure and vulnerability.”
और उन्होंने आगे कहा कि इसके लिए एक नए दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता है, “जिसके तहत **प्रवर्तन-आधारित, अलग-अलग जत्तियों** से आगे बढ़कर नेटवर्क की संरचना और उसकी कमजोरियों की पूर्वानुमानात्मक समझ विकसित की जाए।”
- The lacunae in understanding mechanisms that feed criminal networks comes in the way of law enforcement, the team added, adding that illegal wildlife trade “comprises global, multibillion-dollar criminal enterprises that threaten biodiversity and elevate the risk of zoonotic disease transfer and emergence”.
दल ने आगे कहा कि आपराधिक नेटवर्कों को पोषित करने वाली व्यवस्थाओं को समझने में मौजूद **कमियाँ** कानून प्रवर्तन के मार्ग में बाधा बनती हैं, और यह भी कहा कि अवैध वन्यजीव व्यापार “वैश्विक स्तर पर अरबों डॉलर के आपराधिक उद्यमों से मिलकर बना है, जो जैव-विविधता के लिए खतरा हैं और **ज़ूनोटिक रोगों के संचरण एवं उभरने के जोखिम** को बढ़ाते हैं।”
- As for India, primates, turtles, and lizards are the most smuggled illegal species into the country, Dr. Jose told The Hindu, primarily through land routes between India and Myanmar. भारत के संदर्भ में, डॉ. जोस ने द हिंदू को बताया कि **प्राइमेट, कछुए और छिपकलियाँ** देश में सबसे अधिक तस्करी की जाने वाली अवैध प्रजातियाँ हैं, जिनकी तस्करी मुख्य रूप से भारत और म्यांमार के बीच **स्थलीय मार्गों** से होती है।
- “The criminal network is amoebic in nature: it configures and re-configures to safeguard the business,” he said.
उन्होंने कहा, “**आपराधिक नेटवर्क** प्रकृति में अमीबा की तरह होता है: यह अपने कारोबार को सुरक्षित रखने के लिए लगातार अपना स्वरूप बदलता और पुनर्गठित करता रहता है।”

PCS Special:		21 September
21S9	Northeast's largest power project initiated in Assam पूर्वोत्तर की सबसे बड़ी विद्युत परियोजना असम में शुरू की गई	
21S9	Quiz	
21S9	I approach Vaishali whenever I have a doubt: Savitha Shri जब भी मुझे कोई संदेह होता है, मैं वैशाली से संपर्क करती हूँ: सविता श्री	
21S9	Vidarsa is not done yet विदर्शा का सफर अभी समाप्त नहीं हुआ है	



Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh (L) and Chief of Staff Japan Air Self-Defense Force General Takehiro Morita during Exercise Veer Guardian 26 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan. PTI/REPORT ON PAGE 4

Chief of the Air Sta Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh (L) and Chief of Staff Japan Air Self-Defense Force General Takehiro Morita during Exercise Veer Guardian 26 at Air Force Station Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

Northeast's largest power project initiated in Assam

PCS

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the Adani Group's 3,200 megawatt Ultra-Supercritical Thermal Power Plant at Chapar in Dhubri district of Assam.

"Assam is fast emerging as the region's energy hub, with several mega energy projects in the pipeline. The 3,200 MW Chapar project is a proud outcome of the confidence generated by the Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0," the Chief Minister said.

The ₹48,000-crore project, handled by Adani Power Ltd., will be the largest power plant in the northeastern region.

"This project will be one of the largest single investments ever made in Assam. Besides providing



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the launch of the thermal power plant at Chapar in Dhubri district. X/HIMANTABISWA

massive employment opportunities, the State will also benefit through increased economic activity and SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) revenues, and local industries and enterprises will have opportunities to participate in the emerging ecosystem," he said.

Several families, mostly migrant Muslims, were evicted for the project.

Jeet Adani, Adani Group

director, said the Chapar plant is part of a ₹63,000-crore power investment in Assam, with commissioning in phases from December 2030. The other projects include two pumped storage plants with a combined capacity of 2,700 MW.

"The thermal plant will provide reliable and affordable electricity to support homes, businesses, and industries," he added.

proud outcome of the confidence generated by the Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0," the Chief Minister said.

3,200 मेगावाट की चापर परियोजना **Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0** से उत्पन्न विश्वास का गौरवपूर्ण परिणाम है," मुख्यमंत्री ने कहा।

- The ₹48,000-crore project, handled by Adani Power Ltd., will be the largest power plant in the northeastern region.

अदाणी पावर लिमिटेड द्वारा संचालित ₹48,000 करोड़ की यह परियोजना **पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र का सबसे बड़ा विद्युत संयंत्र** होगी।

- "This project will be one of the largest single investments ever made in Assam. "यह परियोजना असम में अब तक किए गए **सबसे बड़े एकल निवेशों** में से एक होगी।
- Besides providing massive employment opportunities, the State will also benefit through increased economic activity and SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) revenues, and local industries and enterprises will have opportunities to participate in the emerging ecosystem," he said.

बड़े पैमाने पर **रोजगार के अवसर** उपलब्ध कराने के अलावा, राज्य को बढ़ी हुई आर्थिक गतिविधियों और

21S9. Northeast's largest power project initiated in Assam

पूर्वोत्तर की सबसे बड़ी विद्युत परियोजना

असम में शुरू की गई

- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the Adani Group's 3,200 megawatt **Ultra-Supercritical Thermal Power Plant** at Chapar in Dhubri district of Assam.

असम के मुख्यमंत्री हिमंत बिस्वा सरमा ने रविवार को असम के धुबरी जिले के चापर में अदाणी समूह के 3,200 मेगावाट के **अल्ट्रा-सुपरक्रिटिकल ताप विद्युत संयंत्र** की आधारशिला रखी।

- "Assam is fast emerging as the region's energy hub, with several mega energy projects in the pipeline.

"कई बड़ी ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के निर्माणाधीन होने के साथ असम तेजी से क्षेत्र के **ऊर्जा केंद्र** के रूप में उभर रहा है।

- The 3,200 MW Chapar project is a

3,200 मेगावाट की चापर परियोजना **Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0** से उत्पन्न विश्वास का

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- Besides providing massive employment opportunities, the State will also benefit through increased economic activity and SGST (State Goods and Services Tax) revenues, and local industries and enterprises will have opportunities to participate in the emerging ecosystem," he said.

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SGST (राज्य वस्तु एवं सेवा कर) से होने वाले राजस्व के माध्यम से भी लाभ मिलेगा तथा स्थानीय उद्योगों और उद्यमों को उभरते हुए पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में भाग लेने के अवसर मिलेंगे," उन्होंने कहा।

- Several families, mostly migrant Muslims, were evicted for the project. इस परियोजना के लिए कई परिवारों, जिनमें अधिकांश **प्रवासी मुस्लिम** थे, को विस्थापित किया गया।
- Jeet Adani, Adani Group director, said the Chapar plant is part of a ₹63,000 crore power investment in Assam, with commissioning in phases from December 2030. अदाणी समूह के निदेशक जीत अदाणी ने कहा कि चापर संयंत्र असम में ₹63,000 करोड़ के **विद्युत निवेश** का हिस्सा है और इसका चरणबद्ध रूप से **दिसंबर 2030 से संचालन शुरू** किया जाएगा।
- The other projects include two pumped storage plants with a combined capacity of 2,700 MW. अन्य परियोजनाओं में कुल 2,700 मेगावाट क्षमता वाले दो **पंप स्टोरेज संयंत्र** शामिल हैं।
- "The thermal plant will provide reliable and affordable electricity to support homes, businesses, and industries," he added. उन्होंने आगे कहा, "यह **ताप विद्युत संयंत्र** घरों, व्यवसायों और उद्योगों को सहायता देने के लिए विश्वसनीय और किफायती बिजली उपलब्ध कराएगा।"

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. It is well known that the Asian Games debuted in New Delhi in 1951. What is the only other time India has played host to the Games? **Ans: 1982 in New Delhi**
 2. India is the fifth-most successful country at the Games. In which Games did it cross the 100-medal mark with 107? **Ans: Hangzhou 2023**
 3. The most successful Indian athlete at the Games has 11 medals. Who and in which Games did the legend win four golds? **Ans: The peerless P.T. Usha and Seoul 1986**
 4. Mohamed Anas Imran Beg, Declan Marshall Gonsalves and Quimcy Dsouza are representing India in which sport that is making its debut in 2026? **Ans: Teqball**
 5. In which sport has India been dominant? **Ans: Kabaddi**
 6. Which sport follows athletics for the most medals for India with 80 including 16 gold. **Ans: Shooting**
 7. Who is set to become the first Indian sportsperson to feature at seven Asian Games? **Ans: Joshna Chinappa (squash)**
- Visual: Name this swimmer. **Ans: Sachin Nag (100m freestyle)**
- Early Birds:** Prem Nath Tiwari | K.N. Viswanathan | Prem Raj P. | M. Suresh Kumar

21S9. Quiz

1. India as Host of the Asian Games

- India has hosted the **Asian Games twice**, with both editions being organised in **New Delhi**.
- The inaugural Asian Games were held from **4 to 11 March 1951**, with India finishing second by winning 15 gold, 16 silver and 20 bronze medals.
- India hosted the Games again from **19 November to 4 December 1982**.
- The 1982 Games featured **33 participating nations** and introduced the mascot **Appu**, an elephant.
- Infrastructure developed for this edition included the **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** and the Games Village.
- The 1982 Games also stimulated the expansion of colour television broadcasting in India.

2. India's First 100-plus Medal Performance

- India crossed the 100-medal mark for the first time at the **19th Asian Games**, organised in Hangzhou, China, from **23 September to 8 October 2023**.
- India secured a record **107 medals**, comprising **28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze medals**.
- It finished fourth in the official medal table, behind China, Japan and South Korea.
- Athletics produced the largest share of India's medals, while shooting and archery also delivered exceptional performances.
- This was a major improvement over India's previous best of **70 medals at Jakarta–Palembang 2018**.
- The result demonstrated India's growing competitiveness across multiple Olympic disciplines.

3. P.T. Usha's Asian Games Record

- **P.T. Usha** is India's most successful individual athlete in Asian Games history, having won **11 medals** across four editions from 1982 to 1994.
- Her finest performance came at the **1986 Seoul Asian Games**, where she secured four gold medals and one silver.
- She won gold in the **200 metres, 400 metres, 400-metre hurdles and 4×400-metre relay**.
- Her silver medal came in the 100 metres.

- Usha had earlier won two silver medals at the **1982 New Delhi Games**.
- Popularly known as the “**Payyoli Express**,” she played a transformative role in the development of Indian women’s athletics.

4. Teqball’s Asian Games Debut

- **Mohamed Anas Imran Beg, Declan Marshall Gonsalves and Quimcy Joaquim D’Souza** represented India in netball at the **2026 Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games**.
- Teqball combines elements of football and table tennis and is played on a specially designed curved table.
- Players may use their feet, head, chest and other football-permitted body parts, but cannot use their hands or arms.
- Teqball was awarded Asian Games medals for the first time in 2026.
- D’Souza reached the women’s singles medal stage, while she and Beg also contested mixed doubles.
- India ultimately narrowly missed winning its first netball medal at these Games.

5. India’s Dominance in Kabaddi

- India has historically been the dominant country in **Asian Games kabaddi**, a sport added to the men’s programme in **1990**.
- The Indian men won seven consecutive gold medals from **1990 to 2014**.
- Iran interrupted this dominance by defeating India in the 2018 semifinal, but India regained the men’s title at **Hangzhou 2023**.
- Women’s kabaddi entered the Asian Games in **2010**.
- India’s women won gold in 2010 and 2014, silver in 2018 and reclaimed gold in 2023.
- Kabaddi’s Indian roots, extensive domestic participation and professional competition have helped India maintain considerable continental strength in the sport.

6. Shooting’s Contribution to India’s Medal Tally

- Before the **2026 Aichi–Nagoya Asian Games**, shooting had contributed **80 medals** to India’s Asian Games record: **16 gold, 30 silver and 34 bronze medals**.
- This placed shooting behind athletics among India’s most productive disciplines at the Games.
- India first won Asian Games shooting medals at the **1962 Jakarta edition**.
- At Hangzhou 2023, Indian shooters produced a record performance with **22 medals**, including seven gold.
- India began its 2026 campaign with two more shooting silvers in the women’s 10-metre air-rifle team and individual events.
- Therefore, the historical shooting tally increased beyond 80 during the ongoing 2026 Games.

7. Joshna Chinappa’s Historic Seventh Appearance

- Indian squash player **Joshna Chinappa** became the first Indian sportsperson selected to feature in **seven consecutive Asian Games** at Aichi–Nagoya 2026.
- She made her Asian Games debut at **Busan in 2002**, when she was only 15 years old.
- Her seven appearances span approximately 24 years, demonstrating remarkable fitness and longevity.
- Before the 2026 edition, Chinappa had won **five Asian Games medals**, including the women’s team gold at **Incheon 2014**.
- She also became the first Indian woman to win the Asian Individual Squash Championship in 2017.
- Her record illustrates the sustained development of women’s squash in India.

8. Visual Question: Sachin Nag

- **Sachin Nag** won the men's 100-metre freestyle gold medal at the inaugural **1951 New Delhi Asian Games**.
- His victory made him the first Indian to win an Asian Games gold medal.
- He completed the event in approximately **1 minute and 4.7 seconds**, according to the recorded result.
- Nag also formed part of India's bronze-medal-winning freestyle relay and medley relay teams at the same Games.
- He represented India in swimming at the **1948 London Olympics** and participated in water polo at the 1948 and 1952 Olympic Games.
- His 1951 triumph remains a landmark achievement in the history of Indian swimming.



I was getting a little easy on my process, so I think I will have to get back and work on it more. It's been like this post-Paris [Olympics]. I am grateful I have been getting a lot of opportunities to learn, experiment and utilise my potential

der Han Jiayu was eliminated seventh and reigning Olympic champion and World No. 1 Wang Zefei was fifth – the 27-year-old kept increasing her lead.

Once the medallists were decided, however, it looked like Elavenil abruptly took her foot off the gas. Her scores dropped from high 10s to low 10s, and it was clear the spell had broken. Her lead at the top was still good enough to make it to the last two shots but its gradual erosion also saw her the top spot and the gold slipping away.

Earlier Vidarsa, having started strongly in the qualifications, ended with two low rounds of 104.3 and 104.4, the last two series pulling her down to 12th place.

Qualifications World Record holder Wang, meanwhile, added a new Games and Asian qualifying record to her kitty with a total of 636.8.

Vidarsa is not done yet



Tasting success: Vidarsa, Sonam and Elavenil began India's medal hunt. R.V. MOORTHY

Uthra Ganesan
NAGOYA

There is a lot Keralam is known for, including sports. Shooting, though, isn't one of them.

For Vidarsa K. Vinod, however, that made little difference in her pursuit of a sport that has now made her a famous shooter in the State.

On Sunday, after finishing 12th in the individual competition of the 10m air rifle at the Asian Games and winning a team silver, Vidarsa had no regrets.

"I am satisfied. My main event is 50m 3P and I am confident of that," Vidarsa told *The Hindu* at the range.

For someone who started 10m air rifle only to im-

prove her standing posture in the 50m, her rapid growth in the discipline has been remarkable.

"I was actually not even expecting to participate in both events. My first competition (in 10m) was in 2025 where I scored my personal best. That is when I realised I can do both," said Vidarsa, who began shooting only in 2018 as an NCC cadet in college.

Swift rise

The rise through the ranks, even with little competition, was swift – first within the State and then at the National level. The Asian Games, however, was a different ball game.

"After I got to know I had a chance to be selected

for the Asian Games, I was preparing mentally and physically. It took me almost eight years to achieve this and the journey was very difficult. There was a lot of struggle, self-doubt, failures... I kept asking myself whether I was on the right path and if I was doing the right thing," she had admitted in an exclusive interaction earlier in Bhopal.

Her first outing at the Games may not have been as rewarding as she would have liked but Vidarsa is ready for the long haul.

"Coming from a village where people have limited vision and ambition, I have always wanted more. I am not ready to give up in the face of failures," she promised.

I relaxed a bit, but gave my best: Elavenil

Uthra Ganesan
NAGOYA

It was not a silver won but a gold lost for Elavenil Valarivan at the Aichi General Shooting Gallery on Sunday, the 27-year-old letting a sure title chance slip away by easing up too early in the final.

The wide smile she had after the event could not hide the 'what ifs' running through her mind.

"Somewhere I knew I was in the top three and although I was coming back to my process and techniques, I did get a bit relaxed.

"I really need to work on my [game in] finals. But I think I gave my absolute best," Elavenil said.

It was a candid admission by someone making her return to the Asian Games after an eight-year break, having missed out on the previous edition.

Sonam Maskar, who had only one bad shot of 9.9 through her entire competition and crashed out of medal contention, reacted similarly.

"I am not disappointed but I feel it could have been a better shot. I will work on it... I have to focus more on the process, work more on how to do better in finals".

21S9. Vidarsa is not done yet

विदर्शा का सफर अभी समाप्त नहीं हुआ है

- There is a lot **Keralam** is known for, including sports.
- **केरलम** अनेक चीजों के लिए जाना जाता है, जिनमें खेल भी शामिल हैं।
- **Shooting**, though, isn't one of them.
- हालाँकि, **निशानेबाजी** उनमें से एक नहीं है।
- For **Vidarsa K. Vinod**, however, that made little difference in her pursuit of a sport that has now made her a famous shooter in the State.
- लेकिन **विदर्शा के. विनोद** के लिए इसका कोई विशेष प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा और उन्होंने उस खेल में आगे बढ़ना जारी रखा, जिसने अब उन्हें राज्य की एक प्रसिद्ध निशानेबाज बना दिया है।

- On Sunday, after finishing 12th in the individual competition of the **10m air rifle at the Asian Games** and winning a **team silver**, Vidarsa had no regrets.
- रविवार को एशियाई खेलों की 10 मीटर एयर राइफल व्यक्तिगत स्पर्धा में 12वें स्थान पर रहने और टीम स्पर्धा में रजत पदक जीतने के बाद विदर्शा को कोई पछतावा नहीं था।
- "I am satisfied.
- "मैं संतुष्ट हूँ।
- My main event is **50m 3P** and I am confident of that," Vidarsa told *The Hindu* at the range.
- मेरी मुख्य स्पर्धा **50 मीटर 3-पोजीशन** है और मुझे उसमें अपने प्रदर्शन पर विश्वास है," विदर्शा ने शूटिंग रेंज में द हिंदू को बताया।
- For someone who started the 10m **air rifle** only to improve her standing posture in the 50m, her rapid growth in the discipline has been remarkable.
- केवल 50 मीटर स्पर्धा में अपनी खड़े होकर निशाना लगाने की मुद्रा सुधारने के लिए **10 मीटर एयर राइफल** की शुरुआत करने वाली विदर्शा की इस स्पर्धा में तीव्र प्रगति उल्लेखनीय रही है।
- "I was actually not even expecting to participate in both events.
- "वास्तव में मुझे दोनों स्पर्धाओं में भाग लेने की आशा भी नहीं थी।
- My first competition (in 10m) was in **2025** where I scored my personal best.
- मेरी पहली 10 मीटर प्रतियोगिता वर्ष **2025** में हुई थी, जिसमें मैंने अपना व्यक्तिगत सर्वश्रेष्ठ स्कोर बनाया था।
- That is when I realised I can do both," said Vidarsa, who began shooting only in **2018 as an NCC cadet in college**.
- तभी मुझे यह एहसास हुआ कि मैं दोनों स्पर्धाओं में भाग ले सकती हूँ," विदर्शा ने कहा। उन्होंने **2018 में कॉलेज की एनसीसी कैडेट** के रूप में ही निशानेबाजी शुरू की थी।

Swift rise तीव्र प्रगति

- The rise through the ranks, even with little competition, was swift — first within the State and then at the National level.
- बहुत कम प्रतिस्पर्धा के बावजूद उनका विभिन्न स्तरों पर आगे बढ़ना तीव्र रहा—पहले राज्य स्तर पर और उसके बाद राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर।
- The **Asian Games**, however, was a different ball game.
- हालाँकि, **एशियाई खेलों** में प्रतिस्पर्धा का स्तर बिल्कुल अलग था।
- "After I got to know I had a chance to be selected for the Asian Games, I was preparing mentally and physically.
- "जब मुझे पता चला कि मेरे पास एशियाई खेलों के लिए चयनित होने का अवसर है, तब मैंने मानसिक और शारीरिक रूप से तैयारी शुरू कर दी।
- It took me almost **eight years** to achieve this and the journey was very difficult.
- इसे हासिल करने में मुझे लगभग **आठ वर्ष** लगे और यह यात्रा अत्यंत कठिन रही।
- There was a lot of struggle, self-doubt, failures...
- इस दौरान बहुत संघर्ष, आत्म-संदेह और असफलताएँ रहीं...
- I kept asking myself whether I was on the right path and if I was doing the right thing," she had admitted in an exclusive interaction earlier in **Bhopal**.
- मैं स्वयं से लगातार पूछती रहती थी कि क्या मैं सही मार्ग पर हूँ और क्या मैं सही कार्य कर रही हूँ," उन्होंने इससे पहले **भोपाल** में एक विशेष बातचीत के दौरान स्वीकार किया था।
- Her first outing at the Games may not have been as rewarding as she would have liked but Vidarsa is ready for the long haul.
- इन खेलों में उनका पहला प्रदर्शन संभवतः उनकी अपेक्षा के अनुरूप फलदायी नहीं रहा, लेकिन विदर्शा लंबी यात्रा के लिए तैयार हैं।

- “Coming from a village where people have limited vision and ambition, I have always wanted more.
- “मैं एक ऐसे गाँव से आती हूँ, जहाँ लोगों की सोच और महत्वाकांक्षाएँ सीमित हैं, लेकिन मैंने हमेशा अधिक हासिल करने की इच्छा रखी है।
- I am not ready to give up in the face of failures,” she promised.
- मैं असफलताओं के सामने हार मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूँ,” उन्होंने दृढ़तापूर्वक कहा।
- **Vidarsa is not done yet**
- **विदर्शा का सफर अभी समाप्त नहीं हुआ है**
- **Uthra Ganesan**
- **उथरा गणेशन**
- **NAGOYA**
- **नागोया**
- **Tasting success:** Vidarsa, Sonam and Elavenil began India's medal hunt.
- **सफलता का स्वाद:** विदर्शा, सोनम और एलावेनिल ने भारत के पदक अभियान की शुरुआत की।

R.V. MOORTHY

आर. वी. मूर्ति

- It was not a silver win but a gold loss for **Elavenil Valarivan** at the **Aichi General Shooting Gallery** on Sunday, the 27-year-old letting a sure title chance slip away by easing up too early in the final.
- रविवार को **आइची जनरल शूटिंग गैलरी** में **एलावेनिल वलारिवन** के लिए यह रजत पदक जीतने से अधिक स्वर्ण पदक गँवाने जैसा था, क्योंकि 27 वर्षीय खिलाड़ी ने फाइनल में बहुत जल्दी सहज होकर खिताब जीतने का निश्चित अवसर हाथ से जाने दिया।
- The wide smile she had after the event could not hide the ‘what ifs’ running through her mind.
- स्पर्धा के बाद उनके चेहरे पर दिखाई दे रही बड़ी मुस्कान भी उनके मन में चल रहे ‘यदि ऐसा होता तो क्या होता’ जैसे विचारों को छिपा नहीं सकी।
- “Somewhere I knew I was in the top three and although I was coming back to my process and techniques, I did get a bit relaxed.
- “मुझे कहीं न कहीं पता था कि मैं शीर्ष तीन में हूँ और यद्यपि मैं अपनी प्रक्रिया एवं तकनीकों पर वापस ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही थी, फिर भी मैं थोड़ी सहज हो गई थी।
- “I really need to work on my [game in] finals.
- “मुझे वास्तव में फाइनल में अपने खेल पर काम करने की आवश्यकता है।
- But I think I gave my absolute best,” Elavenil said.
- लेकिन मेरा मानना है कि मैंने अपना पूर्ण सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन किया,” एलावेनिल ने कहा।
- It was a candid admission by someone making her return to the **Asian Games after an eight-year break**, having missed out on the previous edition.
- यह उस खिलाड़ी की स्पष्ट स्वीकारोक्ति थी, जो पिछले संस्करण में भाग नहीं ले पाने के बाद **आठ वर्ष के अंतराल से एशियाई खेलों में वापसी** कर रही थी।
- **Sonam Maskar**, who had only one bad shot of 9.9 through her entire competition and crashed out of medal contention, reacted similarly.
- पूरी प्रतियोगिता के दौरान केवल 9.9 अंक का एक खराब शॉट लगाने के कारण पदक की दौड़ से बाहर हुई **सोनम मस्कर** ने भी इसी प्रकार प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त की।
- “I am not disappointed but I feel it could have been a better shot.
- “मैं निराश नहीं हूँ, लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि वह इससे बेहतर शॉट हो सकता था।
- I will work on it...
- मैं इस पर काम करूँगी...
- I have to focus more on the process, work more on how to do better in finals”.

- मुझे अपनी प्रक्रिया पर अधिक ध्यान देना होगा और फाइनल में बेहतर प्रदर्शन करने के लिए अधिक मेहनत करनी होगी।”

I approach Vaishali whenever I have a doubt: Savitha Shri

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

She was a wisp of a girl when she faced Magnus Carlsen in a simultaneous display ahead of the Norwegian's World championship match against Viswanathan Anand in the city back in 2013.

B. Savitha Shri has come a long way since and is currently among the top Indian women chess players. A bronze medallist at the World Rapid championship in 2022, the 19-year-old WGM is making the right moves at the ongoing Olympiad in Samarkand.

She has been the star performer, winning all four games on the fourth board before being rested for Sunday's fifth-round match against Poland.

The Chennai player, who trains under R.B. Ramesh, said the coach had been a great support and helped her make giant strides. “He (Ramesh sir)

analyses games and offers psychological support. We work a lot on the middle and end-game,” Savitha Shri had told *The Hindu*.

On his part, Ramesh said, “Over the board, she does the most practical things without much hesitation when most players would hesitate.”

The work put in with the acclaimed coach appears to be paying off at the Olympiad, and there is no one happier than her father Krishnan Baskar.

The teenager said World championship challenger R. Vaishali was like an “elder sister” and was always ready to help. “I approach Vaishali akka whenever I have any doubt. She gives me advice and I look up to her.”

Having matched wits with someone who would go on to become one of the greatest-ever, Savitha Shri is now holding her own against the game's elite as she aims for the sky.

four games on the **fourth board** before being rested for Sunday's fifth-round match against **Poland**.

- वह प्रतियोगिता की उत्कृष्ट प्रदर्शनकर्ता रही हैं और चौथे बोर्ड पर अपने सभी चार मुकाबले जीत चुकी हैं। इसके बाद रविवार को **पोलैंड** के विरुद्ध पाँचवें दौर के मुकाबले में उन्हें विश्राम दिया गया।
- The **Chennai player**, who trains under **R.B. Ramesh**, said the coach had been a great support and helped her make giant strides.
- **चेन्नई की इस खिलाड़ी**, जो **आर. बी. रमेश** के मार्गदर्शन में प्रशिक्षण लेती हैं, ने कहा कि उनके प्रशिक्षक ने उन्हें बहुत सहयोग दिया है और उल्लेखनीय प्रगति करने में सहायता की है।
- “He (Ramesh sir) analyses games and offers psychological support.
- “वह (रमेश सर) मुकाबलों का विश्लेषण करते हैं और मनोवैज्ञानिक सहयोग प्रदान करते हैं।
- We work a lot on the **middle and end-game**,” Savitha Shri had told *The Hindu*.
- हम **मध्य खेल और अंतिम खेल** पर बहुत अधिक काम करते हैं,” सविता श्री ने *द हिंदू* को बताया था।
- On his part, Ramesh said, “Over the board, she does the most practical things without much hesitation when most players would hesitate.”

21S9. I approach Vaishali whenever I have a doubt: Savitha Shri

जब भी मुझे कोई संदेह होता है, मैं वैशाली से संपर्क करती हूँ: सविता श्री

• She was a wisp of a girl when she faced **Magnus Carlsen** in a simultaneous display ahead of the Norwegian's **World championship match** against **Viswanathan Anand** in the city back in **2013**.

• वर्ष **2013** में इसी शहर में विश्व चैंपियनशिप मुकाबले से पहले आयोजित एक साथ कई खिलाड़ियों के विरुद्ध शतरंज प्रदर्शन में जब उन्होंने **मैग्नस कार्लसन** का सामना किया था, तब वह बहुत छोटी और दुबली-पतली बालिका थीं। उस विश्व चैंपियनशिप मुकाबले में नॉर्वे के कार्लसन का सामना **विश्वनाथन आनंद** से होना था।

• **B. Savitha Shri** has come a long way since and is currently among the **top Indian women chess players**.

• तब से **बी. सविता श्री** ने एक लंबा सफर तय किया है और वर्तमान में वह भारत की शीर्ष महिला शतरंज खिलाड़ियों में शामिल हैं।

• A bronze medallist at the **World Rapid championship in 2022**, the **19-year-old WGM** is making the right moves at the ongoing **Olympiad in Samarkand**.

• वर्ष **2022** की विश्व रैपिड चैंपियनशिप में कांस्य पदक जीतने वाली **19 वर्षीय महिला गेंडमास्टर** समरकंद में चल रहे **शतरंज ओलंपियाड** में शानदार प्रदर्शन कर रही हैं।

• She has been the star performer, winning all four games on the **fourth board** before being rested for Sunday's fifth-round match against **Poland**.



- अपनी ओर से रमेश ने कहा, “शतरंज की बिसात पर वह बिना अधिक हिचकिचाहट के सर्वाधिक व्यावहारिक कदम उठाती हैं, जबकि अधिकांश खिलाड़ी ऐसी परिस्थितियों में संकोच करते हैं।”
- The work put in with the **acclaimed coach** appears to be paying off at the Olympiad, and there is no one happier than her father **Krishnan Baskar**.
- प्रशंसित प्रशिक्षक के साथ की गई उनकी मेहनत ओलंपियाड में सफल होती दिखाई दे रही है और इससे उनके पिता **कृष्णन भास्कर** से अधिक प्रसन्न कोई नहीं है।
- The teenager said **World championship challenger R. Vaishali** was like an “elder sister” and was always ready to help.
- इस किशोरी ने कहा कि **विश्व चैंपियनशिप की चुनौतीकर्ता आर. वैशाली** उनके लिए एक “बड़ी बहन” के समान हैं और सहायता के लिए सदैव तैयार रहती हैं।
- “I approach **Vaishali akka** whenever I have any doubt.
- “जब भी मुझे कोई संदेह होता है, मैं **वैशाली अक्का** से संपर्क करती हूँ।
- She gives me advice and I look up to her.”
- वह मुझे सलाह देती हैं और मैं उन्हें अपना आदर्श मानती हूँ।”
- Having matched wits with someone who would go on to become one of the **greatest-ever**, Savitha Shri is now holding her own against the game’s elite as she **aims for the sky**.
- उस खिलाड़ी के साथ बुद्धि और कौशल की परीक्षा दे चुकीं सविता श्री, जो आगे चलकर **सर्वकालिक महानतम खिलाड़ियों** में से एक बने, अब शतरंज के शीर्ष खिलाड़ियों के विरुद्ध अपनी क्षमता सिद्ध कर रही हैं और **ऊँचाइयों को छूने का लक्ष्य** लेकर आगे बढ़ रही हैं।