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30\_01\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. Form authority to register live-in relations till laws are passed: HC / कानून बनने तक लिव-इन संबंधों के पंजीकरण के लिए प्राधिकरण बनाए: हाई कोर्ट
2. Deaths after the surge / भीड़ के कारण हुई मौतें
3. Broken promises in a warming world / गर्म होती दुनिया में टूटे हुए वादे
4. The Copyright Conundrum in Carnatic Music / कर्नाटिक संगीत में कॉपीराइट की पहेली
5. How can the Budget arrest growth decline? / कैसे बजट विकास में गिरावट को रोक सकता है?
6. High-level meet discusses Labour Code rules, issues of gig workers / उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में श्रम संहिता नियमों और गिग श्रमिकों के मुद्दों पर चर्चा
7. Rooftop Solar Installation Scheme Reaches 8.5% of 1-Crore House Target / रूफटॉप सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन योजना 1 करोड़ घरों के लक्ष्य का 8.5% तक पहुंची
8. CCEA approves hike in ethanol procurement price / CCEA ने इथेनॉल खरीद मूल्य में वृद्धि को मंजूरी दी

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## 9. Retinal diseases: RNA therapeutics show promise but is India ready? / रेटिनल बीमारियां: आरएनए चिकित्सा आशा जगाती हैं, लेकिन क्या भारत तैयार है?

# Form authority to register live-in relations till laws are passed: HC

GS Paper I: Society

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan High Court on Wednesday directed the State government to look into setting up an authority in each district to register live-in relationships until the government can bring “appropriate legislation” that governs such relationships.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand noted in the order that the need of the hour was to frame a law to “grant rights and impose obligations on the part of the couples in such relationships”, a law that is “competent enough to grant assistance to the children and female partners who become sufferers in such relationships”.

Justice Dhand's order came on a batch of petitions that dealt with couples in live-in relationships “facing threat and danger from their families and society for not accepting

their relationship”. Justice Dhand asked for the order to be served to the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Law and Justice, of the State government, and the Union Social Justice Secretary, seeking a compliance report by March 1.

Till such a law can be brought in, this registering authority should be able to “address and redress the grievances of such partners/couples who have entered such relationship and the children being born out therefrom”, the court said, adding that a website could be launched to redress these issues.

### Conflicting opinions

The court considered the legal question of whether couples in live-in relations where one of the partners is still married are entitled to protection of the court, noting the diversity of judicial views and referring this question to the Chief Justice, so it could be placed before a special or

larger Bench.

In the order, Justice Dhand noted that as India was “opening its doors to western ideas”, one of them was that of live-in relations. “It appears that the police agencies are overburdened with investigation and the responsibility of maintaining law and order, hence, they hardly get any time to redress the grievance of the aggrieved, but certainly this cannot be a ground for denial, on their part, to look into the matter and decide the representation of such persons by passing appropriate orders,” it said.

The court noted that there is no separate legislation that lays down “provisions” for live-in relations or which provide legality to the concept or that protect female partners and children born out of these relationships. Hence, the appropriate legislation is required to be brought in by both the Centre and the State, the court said.

## Form authority to register live-in relations till laws are passed: HC

कानून बनने तक लिव-इन संबंधों के पंजीकरण के लिए प्राधिकरण बनाए: हाई कोर्ट

On Wednesday, the Rajasthan High Court directed the State government to consider setting up an authority in each district to register live-in relationships until appropriate legislation is enacted to govern such relationships.

○ बुधवार को राजस्थान हाई कोर्ट ने राज्य सरकार को निर्देश दिया कि वह हर जिले में एक प्राधिकरण स्थापित करने पर विचार करे, जो लिव-इन संबंधों का पंजीकरण करे, जब तक कि इस संबंध में

उचित कानून नहीं बनाया जाता।

- A single-judge Bench of Justice Anoop Kumar Dhand noted that there is a need to frame a law to grant rights and impose obligations on couples in such relationships.
  - न्यायमूर्ति अनूप कुमार धंड की एकल-न्यायाधीश पीठ ने कहा कि ऐसे संबंधों में रहने वाले जोड़ों को अधिकार देने और उत्तरदायित्व लागू करने के लिए एक कानून बनाना आवश्यक है।
- The law should also be competent enough to provide assistance to children and female partners who may suffer in such relationships.



- यह कानून पर्याप्त सक्षम होना चाहिए ताकि ऐसे संबंधों में बच्चों और महिला साथियों को सहायता मिल सके जो पीड़ित होते हैं।
- **Justice Dhand's order** came while hearing a **batch of petitions** related to couples facing **threat and danger** from their families and society for not accepting their relationship.
  - न्यायमूर्ति थंड का आदेश उन याचिकाओं पर सुनवाई के दौरान आया, जहां जोड़े अपने परिवार और समाज से धमकी और खतरे का सामना कर रहे थे क्योंकि उनके रिश्ते को स्वीकार नहीं किया गया था।
- The court directed that the order be sent to the **Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Law and Justice) of the State Government**, and the **Union Social Justice Secretary**, with a **compliance report due by March 1**.
  - अदालत ने आदेश दिया कि यह निर्देश मुख्य सचिव, राज्य सरकार के प्रधान सचिव (विधि और न्याय) और केंद्रीय सामाजिक न्याय सचिव को भेजा जाए, और मार्च 1 तक अनुपालन रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की जाए।
- Until a law is passed, the **registering authority** should be able to **address and redress grievances** of such couples and children born out of such relationships.
  - जब तक कानून नहीं बनता, तब तक यह पंजीकरण प्राधिकरण ऐसे जोड़ों और उनके बच्चों की शिकायतों का निवारण करने में सक्षम होना चाहिए।
- The court suggested launching a **website** to handle such grievances.
  - अदालत ने ऐसी शिकायतों के समाधान के लिए एक वेबसाइट लॉन्च करने का सुझाव दिया।

## Conflicting opinions विरोधाभासी विचार

- The court discussed whether **couples in live-in relationships**, where **one partner is still married**, are entitled to **legal protection**.
  - अदालत ने चर्चा की कि क्या ऐसे लिव-इन जोड़े, जिनमें एक साथी पहले से विवाहित है, कानूनी संरक्षण के पात्र हैं या नहीं।
- Due to **diverse judicial opinions**, the matter was referred to the **Chief Justice**, who may place it before a **special or larger Bench**.
  - विभिन्न न्यायिक मतों के कारण, यह मामला मुख्य न्यायाधीश को भेजा गया, जो इसे विशेष या बड़ी पीठ के समक्ष रख सकते हैं।
- The court acknowledged that **India is opening its doors to Western ideas, including live-in relationships**.
  - अदालत ने माना कि भारत पश्चिमी विचारों को अपना रहा है, जिसमें लिव-इन संबंधों की अवधारणा भी शामिल है।
- **Police agencies are overburdened** with investigations and law enforcement, making it difficult to address such grievances, but this **cannot be a reason to deny justice**.



- पुलिस एजेंसियां पहले से ही जांच और कानून व्यवस्था में व्यस्त हैं, जिससे ऐसी शिकायतों को देखना कठिन हो जाता है, लेकिन यह न्याय से इनकार करने का कारण नहीं हो सकता।
- The court noted that **no separate legislation exists for live-in relationships, their legal status, or the protection of female partners and children.**
  - अदालत ने कहा कि लिव-इन संबंधों के लिए कोई अलग कानून नहीं है, न ही उनकी कानूनी स्थिति तय की गई है, और न ही महिला साथियों और बच्चों की सुरक्षा के लिए कोई प्रावधान है।
- Therefore, **both the Centre and State must introduce appropriate legislation.**
  - इसलिए, केंद्र और राज्य सरकार को उचित कानून लाना आवश्यक है।

#### GS Paper I: Disaster Management

### Deaths after the surge

The Kumbh stampede could have been avoided with better measures

The stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh – the third such incident in recent months – confirms India's dubious distinction of having the most number of deaths during religious gatherings. While the day's developments have not yielded conclusive reasons for the stampede that happened in the early hours of January 29, initial investigations suggest an uncontrolled surge of devotees at the bathing ghats. The Uttar Pradesh government had estimated that a hundred million people would have their holy dips on Mauni Amavasya, an auspicious occasion which fell on January 29. According to government estimates, more than a third of those who were expected had performed the ritual early – 36 million people by 10 a.m. – despite temporary closures of the roads leading to Prayagraj after the stampede. This measure of regulating traffic into the city could have been proactively implemented, ensuring a steady and manageable stream of devotees, as the government was well aware of a surge in numbers. The focus, unsurprisingly, is again on the lack of crowd management and the prioritisation of VIP visitors over the common man.

What has been even more alarming was the State government's delay in formally announcing the fatalities and those injured – 30 dead and over 60 injured – deviating from established protocols of transparency during disasters. It is reminiscent of the opacity of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and his government after the widespread deaths during the second COVID-19 wave in March 2021, the scale of which was evident later when horrific images of bodies floating in the Ganga emerged. This is the sixth stampede in one of the Kumbhs in the past 70 years, an event that takes place every three years at one of four holy sites for Hindus, at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. While the reasons for each stampede have been different, they still point to either a lack of fire safety, crowd mismanagement and VIPs disruptions, or creaking infrastructure. They also indicate a post-facto treatment of the cause and a disregard for holistic planning. The State government has been most innovative in managing the 45-day-long Maha Kumbh, with aerial surveillance and a tracking of mobile movements to monitor people. It is also an unprecedented achievement to even attempt to handle a population, although transitional, that is twice that of Uttar Pradesh's, between January 13 and February 26 when the Maha Kumbh ends. The Hindu had reported on the arrangements for the 65 kilometre temporary district around the Triveni Sangam, but the confluence itself is only about a kilometre in diameter, requiring constant vigil and steady crowd management.

### Deaths after the surge भीड़ के कारण हुई मौतें

The stampede at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh—the third such incident in recent months—confirms India's dubious distinction of having the **most number of deaths during religious gatherings.**

उत्तर प्रदेश के प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ के दौरान भगदड़—जो हाल के महीनों में तीसरी ऐसी घटना है—यह पुष्टि करता है कि भारत धार्मिक आयोजनों के दौरान सबसे अधिक मौतों वाला देश है।

- The incident took place in the **early hours of January 29**, and initial investigations suggest that it was caused by an **uncontrolled surge of devotees at the bathing ghats.**

यह घटना 29 जनवरी की सुबह के शुरुआती घंटों में हुई, और प्रारंभिक जांच में संकेत मिला कि यह स्नान घाटों पर श्रद्धालुओं की अनियंत्रित भीड़ के कारण हुई।

- The **Uttar Pradesh government estimated that 100 million people would participate in the holy dip on Mauni Amavasya (January 29).**

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने अनुमान लगाया था कि 100 मिलियन (10 करोड़) लोग मौनी अमावस्या (29 जनवरी) के दिन पवित्र स्नान करेंगे।

- By 10 a.m., **36 million devotees had already taken the ritual dip, despite the temporary closure of roads leading to Prayagraj after the stampede.**

सुबह 10 बजे तक, 3.6 करोड़ श्रद्धालु पहले ही स्नान कर चुके थे, भगदड़ के बाद प्रयागराज जाने वाली सड़कों को अस्थायी रूप से बंद किए जाने के बावजूद।

- **Traffic regulations could have been implemented earlier to ensure a steady and manageable stream of devotees,** as the government was aware of the potential surge.



ट्रैफिक नियंत्रण पहले से लागू किया जा सकता था ताकि श्रद्धालुओं की भीड़ को नियंत्रित और प्रबंधित किया जा सके, क्योंकि सरकार को संभावित भीड़ का अंदाजा था।

- The **focus is again on poor crowd management and the prioritization of VIP visitors over common devotees.**

फिर से ध्यान भीड़ प्रबंधन की कमी और वीआईपी आगंतुकों को आम श्रद्धालुओं से अधिक प्राथमिकता देने पर जा रहा है।

- The **State government's delay** in formally announcing the number of **fatalities (30 dead) and injured (over 60)** is concerning.

राज्य सरकार द्वारा देरी से औपचारिक रूप से मृतकों (30 की मौत) और घायलों (60 से अधिक) की संख्या घोषित करना चिंताजनक है।

- This lack of transparency reminds of **Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's government's handling of the second COVID-19 wave in March 2021**, when images of **bodies floating in the Ganga** surfaced.

यह पारदर्शिता की कमी मार्च 2021 में दूसरी COVID-19 लहर के दौरान मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ सरकार के रवैये की याद दिलाती है, जब गंगा में तैरते शवों की तस्वीरें सामने आई थीं।

- This is the **sixth stampede in Kumbh in the past 70 years**; the event occurs every **three years** at one of four Hindu holy sites: **Prayagraj, Haridwar, Nashik, and Ujjain.**

पिछले 70 वर्षों में कुंभ में यह छठी भगदड़ है; यह आयोजन हर तीन साल में एक बार चार हिंदू तीर्थस्थलों—प्रयागराज, हरिद्वार, नासिक और उज्जैन में होता है।

- **Stampedes at Kumbh are often caused by lack of fire safety, crowd mismanagement, VIP movement disruptions, and weak infrastructure.**

कुंभ में भगदड़ आमतौर पर अग्नि सुरक्षा की कमी, भीड़ प्रबंधन की विफलता, वीआईपी गतिविधियों में व्यवधान और कमजोर बुनियादी ढांचे के कारण होती है।

- **Post-facto handling of disasters instead of proactive planning** continues to be a major problem.

आपदाओं के बाद की प्रतिक्रिया को समयपूर्व योजना से अधिक प्राथमिकता दी जाती है, जो एक प्रमुख समस्या बनी हुई है।

- The **State government has used aerial surveillance and mobile tracking** to manage the **45-day-long Maha Kumbh.**

राज्य सरकार ने हवाई निगरानी और मोबाइल ट्रैकिंग का उपयोग 45-दिन के लंबे महाकुंभ को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किया है।

- Managing a temporary population **twice that of Uttar Pradesh** between **January 13 and February 26** is a significant challenge.

13 जनवरी से 26 फरवरी के बीच उत्तर प्रदेश की दोगुनी अस्थायी जनसंख्या को नियंत्रित करना एक बड़ी चुनौती है।

- Despite preparations, the **Triveni Sangam's one-kilometer-wide confluence** requires **constant monitoring and crowd control.**



तैयारियों के बावजूद, त्रिवेणी संगम का केवल एक किलोमीटर चौड़ा संगम क्षेत्र लगातार निगरानी और भीड़ नियंत्रण की आवश्यकता रखता है।

## Broken promises in a warming world

GS Paper III: Climate Change

There can be no doubt that U.S. President Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, which will legally come into effect in a year, is a major blow to global efforts to combat the threat posed by anthropogenic global warming. The U.S., the world's richest nation, owning a third of the world's wealth, and with the highest annual gross domestic product, is singularly responsible for global warming, having contributed well over a fifth of the cumulative emissions of carbon dioxide, from the pre-industrial era to date. Under the principles and terms of the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to which the U.S. is a signatory, it is also supposed to take the lead in climate action while providing the financial and technological means to developing countries to do the same.

By any reckoning, climate action by the U.S. has always fallen well short of its responsibility under the global climate regime, irrespective of the dispensation in Washington DC. Its emissions steadily rose from 1992 to 2005, while its political class consistently swung away from serious efforts, resulting in the U.S. Congress, through a bipartisan consensus, keeping the country out of the Kyoto Protocol. Since then, its emissions have declined, though at a rate that is much slower than what it owes the world. The eventual move away from legally binding commitments on developed countries, as in the Kyoto Protocol, to voluntary contributions pledged by all countries in the Paris Agreement, with the pious hope of increasing ambition as time went by, was solely to accommodate the constraints of U.S. domestic politics which would not allow ratification of any binding emissions reduction commitment. Initiated at Copenhagen in 2009 and consolidated at Paris, six years later, this move was Barack Obama's legacy.

After the Trump victory, much is being made of the Biden administration's efforts at climate action. The U.S. became the world's highest producer of crude oil under the Biden administration. The paltry target of \$300 billion annually as climate finance, from COP29 at Baku, was the outcome of the joint obduracy of the U.S. and its developed country allies. Biden's swan song, the updated nationally determined contribution submitted in December 2004, offered to reduce emissions by only 60% below 2005 levels by 2035, perpetuating the continued appropriation by the U.S. of a vastly disproportionate part of the global carbon budget. This does not represent any higher "ambition" as understood in the Paris Agreement, despite the U.S. hectoring the developing countries at the Dubai and Baku climate summits on the need for enhanced mitigation targets for all.



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Developing countries, in the face of the U.S.'s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, need a calibrated strategy that must not fall prey to the illusion that they can make up the huge gap created by America's stand

The Trump withdrawal from the Paris accord fits well within the frustrating pattern of weak commitments and weaker climate action, accompanied by aggressive intervention in multilateral platforms, under Democratic presidencies, followed by the spurning or withdrawal from even these commitments under Republican incumbents. In the event, other countries, notably the large emerging economies, are left with increasing burdens and commitments for climate mitigation. For the bulk of the developing world this has meant the withdrawal of aid and assistance, and even loans, for development and industrialisation, and enhanced energy use to meet basic human development needs. They are sought to be forced into early de-carbonisation that perpetuates global inequalities and deprivation, including rising risk of hunger and food insecurity.

### Action and reaction

The reactions to the U.S.'s withdrawal from climate diplomats, national spokespersons, and the media in general, have been a mixed bag of resignation and bravado. The Secretary of the UNFCCC, Simon Stiell, and many others have suggested that it is the U.S. that will miss out on the sterling investment opportunities for private capital that green transitions now provide. If anything, this is a mark of the enduring success of the American contribution to climate discourse - that markets are the best route to deliver climate change mitigation. By this logic, all that the rich countries' governments need to do is to provide signals to the private sector that will release the power of global capital, who will then innovate and invest to achieve the commitments to emissions reduction. The record shows however, that this logic leads to both underwhelming commitments to actions and the failure to achieve even these as promised.

The fact that over 80% of primary energy use in the U.S. and over 70% of it in the European Union still comes from fossil fuels, 33 years after the UNFCCC was signed, is testament to the failure of markets as the golden bullet to solve the climate crisis. Developed and developing countries' commitments fundamentally differ in the relatively large role that a public sector plays in the latter's economies. This provides a measure of accountability to their commitments that those of the global North lack.

Academia and civil society in the global North have also been complicit in promoting the illusion that, despite national withdrawal, action by sub-national governments, corporations and local communities could substitute. Indeed, as a University of Colorado Law School paper, published in 2024, notes, the number of states moving to anti-regulatory or "emissions inaction" policies or at best marginal policies is much

larger than those with active emissions reduction strategies. At the level of local communities, the paper notes that those with emission regulations are mere outliers with a huge majority having emissions inaction strategies. Without even the weak carrot and stick policies of an Inflation Reduction Act, action is much less likely to flow from actors traditionally unwilling to take the initiative.

The extent of this complicity of climate academia is demonstrated by the lack of any serious discussion of climate denialism in the U.S. within the context of global climate governance in the successive reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), including the first Trump activated withdrawal, which occurred during the period when the bulk of the Sixth Assessment Report was prepared.

### Advice for developing countries

Developing countries, in the face of the U.S. withdrawal, need a calibrated strategy that must not fall prey to the illusion that they can make up the huge gap created by this withdrawal. Nor should it be forgotten that the reaction of other developed countries is likely to be more of rhetoric than substance. It may be recalled that the details of the implementation of the Paris agreement were finalised during the first Trump presidency, when the U.S. and other Northern negotiators actively colluded in transferring an increasing part of the burden of climate action on to the global South. The second Trump administration too may not walk out of the negotiations and remain to insist on increased commitments by the global South or at least collude in such calls. Indeed, with outstanding irony, the executive order initiating the withdrawal still refers to the global climate leadership of the United States.

It is equally bravado to call on developing countries to respond to the U.S.'s move by abandoning multilateralism in the climate arena. Adherence to multilateralism is not genuflection to a moral principle but necessitated by the inherent and irreducibly global nature of the global warming challenge. India, as indeed the rest of the global South, must hold its course on climate action, but also prepare for the future with increased attention to urgently bridging development deficits and far greater emphasis on adaptation than seen so far.

In the ultimate analysis, global climate action that is just, equitable and effective requires political will. The future of climate action and the safety of humanity requires concerted political action by all other nations to bring the U.S. back to the path of reason and the path of meaningful international cooperation.

*The views expressed are personal*



## Broken promises in a warming world

### गर्म होती दुनिया में टूटे हुए वादे

U.S. President Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement will legally come into effect in a year.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के फैसले के कारण संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को पेरिस समझौते से बाहर निकालने की प्रक्रिया एक वर्ष में कानूनी रूप से प्रभावी हो जाएगी।

- The **U.S., the world's richest nation, owning a third of the world's wealth**, is singularly responsible for **global warming**, **having contributed well over a fifth of cumulative carbon dioxide emissions** from the **pre-industrial era** to date.  
संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, जो दुनिया का सबसे अमीर देश है और वैश्विक संपत्ति का एक-तिहाई भाग रखता है, वैश्विक तापमान वृद्धि के लिए प्रमुख रूप से जिम्मेदार है, क्योंकि इसने औद्योगिक क्रांति से अब तक वैश्विक कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड उत्सर्जन का पांचवां हिस्सा से अधिक योगदान दिया है।
- Under the **UNFCCC**, the U.S. is supposed to **lead climate action** while **providing financial and technological support to developing countries**.  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र जलवायु परिवर्तन फ्रेमवर्क (UNFCCC) के तहत, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को जलवायु कार्रवाई का नेतृत्व करना था और विकासशील देशों को वित्तीय एवं तकनीकी सहायता प्रदान करनी थी।
- Despite its commitments, **U.S. emissions rose steadily from 1992 to 2005**, and its political class consistently **avoided serious efforts** to curb emissions.  
अमेरिका के उत्सर्जन 1992 से 2005 के बीच लगातार बढ़े, और अमेरिकी राजनीतिक वर्ग ने गंभीर प्रयासों से बचाव किया।
- The **U.S. Congress**, through bipartisan consensus, **kept the country out of the Kyoto Protocol**.  
अमेरिकी कांग्रेस ने द्विदलीय सहमति से देश को क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल से बाहर रखा।
- After 2005, **U.S. emissions declined but at a much slower rate than required under its global climate responsibilities**.  
2005 के बाद अमेरिका का उत्सर्जन कम हुआ, लेकिन वैश्विक जलवायु जिम्मेदारियों के अनुसार यह बहुत धीमी गति से घटा।
- The **shift from legally binding commitments in the Kyoto Protocol to voluntary contributions under the Paris Agreement** was made primarily to **accommodate U.S. domestic politics**.  
क्योटो प्रोटोकॉल की कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी प्रतिबद्धताओं से पेरिस समझौते में स्वैच्छिक योगदान की ओर बदलाव मुख्य रूप से अमेरिकी घरेलू राजनीति के अनुरूप किया गया।



- This shift was initiated at **Copenhagen in 2009** and finalized at **Paris in 2015**, forming **Barack Obama's climate legacy**.  
इस बदलाव की शुरुआत 2009 में कोपेनहेगन में हुई और 2015 में पेरिस में इसे अंतिम रूप दिया गया, जिससे यह बराक ओबामा की जलवायु विरासत बन गई।
- Despite the **Biden administration's climate efforts**, the **U.S. became the world's highest producer of crude oil**.  
बाइडेन प्रशासन के जलवायु प्रयासों के बावजूद, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा कच्चे तेल उत्पादक बन गया।
- The **climate finance target of \$300 billion annually at COP29 in Baku** was a result of **U.S. and developed nations' resistance**.  
बाक्य में COP29 शिखर सम्मेलन में वार्षिक जलवायु वित्त का लक्ष्य \$300 बिलियन था, जो संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और अन्य विकसित देशों के विरोध के कारण कम तय किया गया।
- In **December 2024**, the **updated U.S. nationally determined contribution (NDC)** pledged to reduce emissions **by only 60% below 2005 levels by 2035**.  
दिसंबर 2024 में, अमेरिका के अद्यतन राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर निर्धारित योगदान (NDC) ने 2035 तक 2005 के स्तर से केवल 60% उत्सर्जन कटौती का वादा किया।
- This **fails to represent higher ambition** as per the **Paris Agreement**, even as the **U.S. pressures developing nations** to enhance their climate mitigation targets.  
यह पेरिस समझौते के अनुसार उच्च महत्वाकांक्षा को प्रदर्शित नहीं करता, जबकि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका विकासशील देशों पर जलवायु शमन लक्ष्यों को बढ़ाने का दबाव डाल रहा है।
- **Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Agreement** aligns with the **U.S. pattern of weak commitments under Democrats**, followed by **Republican-led withdrawals**.  
ट्रंप द्वारा पेरिस समझौते से बाहर होने का निर्णय अमेरिका की कमजोर प्रतिबद्धताओं के पैटर्न के अनुरूप है, जिसे डेमोक्रेट्स के नेतृत्व में स्वीकार किया जाता है और रिपब्लिकन सरकार आने पर खारिज कर दिया जाता है।
- This results in **increased climate burden on large emerging economies**, while **most developing nations face withdrawal of aid and assistance for industrialization and energy expansion**.  
इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि उभरती अर्थव्यवस्थाओं पर जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं का बोझ बढ़ गया, जबकि अधिकांश विकासशील देशों को औद्योगीकरण और ऊर्जा विस्तार के लिए सहायता और वित्तीय समर्थन से वंचित किया गया।
- **Developing countries** are forced into **early decarbonization, worsening global inequalities, hunger, and food insecurity**.  
विकासशील देशों को प्रारंभिक डी-कार्बोनाइजेशन के लिए मजबूर किया गया, जिससे वैश्विक असमानताओं, भूख और खाद्य असुरक्षा की समस्याएं बढ़ गईं।

## Action and Reaction

### प्रतिक्रिया और प्रतिक्रिया



- The reactions to the **U.S.'s withdrawal** from climate agreements have been mixed, ranging from resignation to bravado.  
जलवायु समझौतों से अमेरिका की वापसी पर मिली-जुली प्रतिक्रियाएँ आई हैं, जिनमें निराशा से लेकर साहसिक दावे तक शामिल हैं।
- **UNFCCC Secretary Simon Stiell and others argue that the U.S. will miss out on green investment opportunities.**  
UNFCCC के सचिव साइमन स्टिएल और अन्य का तर्क है कि अमेरिका हरित निवेश के अवसरों से वंचित रह जाएगा।
- The **U.S. approach** assumes that markets alone can drive climate mitigation through private investment.  
अमेरिका का दृष्टिकोण यह मानता है कि जलवायु शमन केवल बाजारों और निजी निवेश के माध्यम से संभव है।
- **Historical data** shows that this market-driven approach leads to **weak commitments and failure to meet climate goals.**  
ऐतिहासिक डेटा से पता चलता है कि यह बाजार-आधारित दृष्टिकोण कमजोर प्रतिबद्धताओं और जलवायु लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफलता की ओर ले जाता है।
- Even after **33 years of the UNFCCC (1992-2025)**, **over 80% of the U.S. energy use and 70% of the EU's energy use still comes from fossil fuels.**  
UNFCCC के 33 वर्षों (1992-2025) के बाद भी, अमेरिका की 80% ऊर्जा और यूरोपीय संघ की 70% ऊर्जा अब भी जीवाश्म ईंधनों से आती है।
- Developing countries rely more on **public sector involvement**, which ensures **greater accountability** in climate commitments.  
विकासशील देश सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की भागीदारी पर अधिक निर्भर होते हैं, जो जलवायु प्रतिबद्धताओं में अधिक जवाबदेही सुनिश्चित करता है।
- **Academia and civil society in the Global North** have falsely promoted the idea that **sub-national efforts** can compensate for national withdrawal.  
वैश्विक उत्तर के शिक्षाविदों और नागरिक समाज ने यह भ्रम फैलाया है कि स्थानीय सरकारों और समुदायों के प्रयास राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर हुई वापसी की भरपाई कर सकते हैं।
- A **University of Colorado Law School paper (2024)** reveals that **most U.S. states** are adopting **anti-regulatory or weak emissions policies** rather than proactive climate action.  
कोलोराडो लॉ स्कूल के 2024 के शोधपत्र के अनुसार, अधिकांश अमेरिकी राज्य विनियमन-विरोधी या कमजोर उत्सर्जन नीतियाँ अपना रहे हैं।
- Local-level climate regulations in the **U.S. remain exceptions**, with a majority following **"emissions inaction" strategies.**  
अमेरिका में स्थानीय स्तर पर जलवायु नियम अपवाद बने हुए हैं, जबकि अधिकांश राज्यों की रणनीति "उत्सर्जन निष्क्रियता" की है।
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports** have largely ignored discussions on **U.S. climate denialism**, including during the **first Trump withdrawal.**



आईपीसीसी (IPCC) की रिपोर्ट्स ने अमेरिका में जलवायु अस्वीकारवाद पर चर्चा को नज़रअंदाज किया है, यहाँ तक कि पहली ट्रंप वापसी के दौरान भी।

## Advice for Developing Countries

### विकासशील देशों के लिए सलाह

- **Developing nations** must not fall for the illusion that they can **compensate for the U.S. withdrawal**.  
विकासशील देशों को इस भ्रम में नहीं पड़ना चाहिए कि वे अमेरिका की वापसी की भरपाई कर सकते हैं।
- **Other developed nations** may show rhetorical support, but their actual commitments will likely remain limited.  
अन्य विकसित देश बयानबाज़ी कर सकते हैं, लेकिन उनकी वास्तविक प्रतिबद्धताएँ सीमित ही रहेंगी।
- During **Trump's first presidency**, the **Paris Agreement's implementation** was shaped in a way that **shifted more climate burden onto the Global South**.  
ट्रंप के पहले राष्ट्रपति काल में, पेरिस समझौते को इस तरह लागू किया गया कि अधिक बोझ वैश्विक दक्षिण पर डाल दिया गया।
- A **second Trump administration** might not exit climate negotiations but will likely push for **increased commitments from developing nations**.  
दूसरे ट्रंप प्रशासन के दौरान अमेरिका जलवायु वार्ताओं से बाहर न होकर विकासशील देशों पर अधिक प्रतिबद्धताओं का दबाव डाल सकता है।
- Ironically, the **U.S. withdrawal executive order** still refers to America's "**global climate leadership**".  
विडंबना यह है कि अमेरिकी वापसी का कार्यकारी आदेश अभी भी अमेरिका को "वैश्विक जलवायु नेतृत्वकर्ता" बताता है।
- Developing nations must **not abandon multilateralism**, as **climate change is an inherently global issue**.  
विकासशील देशों को बहुपक्षीयता नहीं छोड़नी चाहिए, क्योंकि जलवायु परिवर्तन मूल रूप से एक वैश्विक समस्या है।
- **India and the Global South** must continue their climate action while prioritizing **development needs and adaptation strategies**.  
भारत और वैश्विक दक्षिण को अपनी जलवायु कार्रवाई जारी रखनी चाहिए और साथ ही विकास आवश्यकताओं और अनुकूलन रणनीतियों को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए।
- **Political will** remains the key to ensuring **just, equitable, and effective** global climate action.  
राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति ही न्यायसंगत, समतामूलक और प्रभावी वैश्विक जलवायु कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करने की कुंजी है।
- The global community must work together to **bring the U.S. back to meaningful international cooperation**.



वैश्विक समुदाय को मिलकर कार्य करना चाहिए ताकि अमेरिका को फिर से सार्थक अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग की राह पर लाया जा सके।

## The copyright conundrum in Carnatic music

GS Paper III: Copyright

**D**uring the recent *Margazhi* season or music season in Chennai, *rasikas* (connoisseurs) hopped from concert to concert. While tuning into the music, they also had to keep in mind copyright law as the *sabhas* (performance venues) forbade them from unauthorised recording. Copyright law has seldom been at the forefront of discussion in the Carnatic music sphere as there is a general belief that copyright law does not apply to it. We need to revisit this view.

In *Indian Performing Right Society Ltd. v. Eastern Indian Motion Pictures Association (1977)*, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer asked whether music meant **only the composition of a piece or extended to the soulful tune, voice, and rendering of the piece**. This remains unanswered in Parliament. Apart from being a metaphysical question, what is music is also a legal question.

### The idea of music

Copyright law across the world defines music as a melody, i.e., a composition which is reduced to print. The idea that music is only a composition stems from a western classical understanding of music. The lawmakers of the *Indian Copyright Act, 1914*, failed to understand Indian music before enacting the law. The same colonial understanding followed even in the legislation enacted in 1957. This excludes several unique factors of Indian classical music from the realm of copyright law. It is pertinent to ask: **should law follow music or should music follow the law?**

A song is born after the synchronised efforts of a composer, lyricist, singers, and other performers. The composer and the lyricist get protection over their respective creations for their lifetime and then 60 more years. When a song is recorded onto a medium, there is a separate right over the recording. Called 'mechanical right', this is granted to the one who records the song,



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Musicians should have the right to own their soulful additions to a song and also to commercially exploit their performance

for 60 years, to commercially exploit it.

Performers' right enables the singer and other musicians to forbid anyone from recording the song. Further, the law enables the performer to be eligible to claim royalty from the streaming of their performances or the sale of their music. Though this right is available to the singer and the accompanists theoretically, they do not enjoy the same in its true sense, in a concert space. It is only in prominent *sabhas* that video/audio recording of the performance is prohibited; this is not a norm everywhere. Several performances of notable singers are posted by third parties on YouTube and Spotify, which is a violation of the Copyright Act and robs the musicians of the chances to monetise their rendering. Any recording that is done without consent is a violation of the performers' right; it is even a violation if the *sabha* does this without the informed consent of the performers. The licence regime within a Carnatic concert is complex even for music that is in the copyright domain.

Since most of the songs that are performed are in the public domain, the form of music has also remained outside the realm of copyright. The works of Tyagaraja Swami, Shyama Shastri, Muddusvami Dikshitar, Purandara Dasa, and Gopala Krishna Bharathiar, for instance, are in the public domain for anyone to perform today, as they were all created even before the inception of the concept of copyright. Whether the additions and improvisations made by the musicians also become a part of the public domain along with the song and whether a musician who improvises a song has any right over such improvisations remain unanswered questions.

When any performer learns these songs from their guru, they inherit their guru's imagination packaged with the original rendition. The learner also has the scope to add their own touch to

the song. They have their own interpretation and perform the song with improvisations which may not have been a part of the original composition. They may even sing the same song in a different raga from what was originally envisioned. For instance, several songs of Gopala Krishna Bharathi are today not sung in the ragas that Bharathi had composed. Does the musical imagination to interpret the song in a different raga become "creativity" under copyright?

### Changing the law

The improvisation made by a performer on a stage could be spontaneous and it could be a response to the interest displayed by the audience. The choice of accompanying music could also result in an altogether different version of the song. In several cases, the performers themselves may not be in a position to replicate it exactly in the same way for the second time. The improvisation made by the performer is neglected and there is no scope to grant protection for it under the Copyright Act.

While the compositions of Purandara Dasa were conventionally sung in ragas associated with Carnatic music, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi took it upon himself to introduce the wide collection of Purandara Dasa's compositions to a myriad variety of Hindustani ragas. The song *Eppo Varuvaro* cannot be imagined without the soulful touch of Madurai Mani Iyer; he has inspired generations of singers to perform the song in a particular way. Does he not own his unique additions? It remains unprotected under the copyright laws.

Musicians should have the right to own their soulful additions to a song and also to commercially exploit their performance. The flow of royalty from streaming should be strengthened. Currently, music follows the law. Should the law not be changed to protect the rights of Carnatic musicians in letter and spirit?



## The Copyright Conundrum in Carnatic Music

### कर्नाटिक संगीत में कॉपीराइट की पहली

During the recent Margazhi season or music season in Chennai, rasikas (connoisseurs) hopped from concert to concert.

हाल ही में मर्गज़ी सीजन या चेन्नई के संगीत सीजन के दौरान, रसिक (संगीत प्रेमी) एक कॉन्सर्ट से दूसरे कॉन्सर्ट में जाते रहे।

- While tuning into the music, they also had to **keep in mind copyright law** as the sabhas (performance venues) forbade them from unauthorised recording.  
संगीत सुनते समय, उन्हें कॉपीराइट कानून का भी ध्यान रखना पड़ा, क्योंकि सभाओं (प्रदर्शन स्थलों) ने अनधिकृत रिकॉर्डिंग पर रोक लगाई थी।
- **Copyright law has seldom been at the forefront of discussion** in the Carnatic music sphere as there is a general belief that **copyright law does not apply to it**.  
कर्नाटिक संगीत क्षेत्र में कॉपीराइट कानून पर शायद ही कभी चर्चा होती है, क्योंकि आमतौर पर यह माना जाता है कि इस पर कॉपीराइट कानून लागू नहीं होता।
- We need to **revisit this view**.  
हमें इस दृष्टिकोण को पुनः परखने की आवश्यकता है।

### The Idea of Music

#### संगीत की अवधारणा

- In **Indian Performing Right Society Ltd. v. Eastern Indian Motion Pictures Association (1977)**, Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer asked whether music meant only the composition of a piece or extended to the soulful tune, voice, and rendering of the piece.  
इंडियन परफॉर्मिंग राइट सोसाइटी लिमिटेड बनाम ईस्टर्न इंडियन मोशन पिक्चर्स एसोसिएशन (1977) में, न्यायमूर्ति वी.आर. कृष्ण अय्यर ने पूछा कि क्या संगीत केवल कंपोज़िशन (रचना) तक सीमित है, या इसमें आत्मीय धुन, आवाज़ और प्रस्तुति भी शामिल हैं।
- This remains **unanswered in Parliament**.  
यह प्रश्न अब भी संसद में अनुत्तरित है।
- Apart from being a **metaphysical question**, **what is music** is also a **legal question**.  
यह न केवल दार्शनिक प्रश्न है, बल्कि कानूनी प्रश्न भी है।
- **Copyright law across the world** defines music as a **melody, i.e., a composition which is reduced to print**.  
दुनिया भर में कॉपीराइट कानून संगीत को संगीत रचना (मेलोडी) के रूप में परिभाषित करता है, यानी एक ऐसी रचना जिसे लिखित रूप में दर्ज किया गया हो।



- The idea that **music is only a composition** stems from a **Western classical understanding of music**.  
यह विचार कि संगीत केवल एक रचना है, पश्चिमी शास्त्रीय संगीत की समझ से उत्पन्न हुआ है।
- The lawmakers of the **Indian Copyright Act, 1914**, failed to understand Indian music before enacting the law.  
**भारतीय कॉपीराइट अधिनियम, 1914** के विधायकों ने इस कानून को लागू करने से पहले भारतीय संगीत को सही से नहीं समझा।
- The same **colonial understanding** followed even in the **legislation enacted in 1957**.  
**1957 में बनाए गए कानून में भी यही औपनिवेशिक दृष्टिकोण अपनाया गया।**
- This excludes several **unique factors of Indian classical music** from the realm of **copyright law**.  
इससे भारतीय शास्त्रीय संगीत के कई अनूठे पहलू कॉपीराइट कानून के दायरे से बाहर हो गए।
- **Should law follow music or should music follow the law?**  
क्या कानून को संगीत का अनुसरण करना चाहिए या संगीत को कानून का?

## A Song and Its Rights

### एक गीत और उसके अधिकार

- A song is born after the **synchronised efforts** of a **composer, lyricist, singers, and other performers**.  
एक गीत संगीतकार, गीतकार, गायक और अन्य कलाकारों के संयुक्त प्रयासों से जन्म लेता है।
- The **composer and the lyricist** get protection over their respective creations **for their lifetime and then 60 more years**.  
संगीतकार और गीतकार को उनके कार्यों पर जीवन भर और फिर 60 और वर्षों तक सुरक्षा मिलती है।
- When a song is **recorded onto a medium**, there is a **separate right** over the recording called '**mechanical right**', which lasts **for 60 years**.  
जब किसी गीत को रिकॉर्डिंग माध्यम में दर्ज किया जाता है, तो इस पर एक अलग अधिकार होता है, जिसे 'मैकेनिकल राइट' कहा जाता है, और यह 60 वर्षों तक मान्य रहता है।
- **Performers' right** enables the **singer and other musicians** to **forbid anyone from recording the song**.  
परफॉर्मर्स राइट गायक और अन्य संगीतकारों को बिना अनुमति किसी को भी गीत रिकॉर्ड करने से रोकने का अधिकार देता है।
- The law also enables the **performer to claim royalty** from **streaming or sales** of their music.  
कानून कलाकारों को उनकी संगीत स्ट्रीमिंग या बिक्री से रॉयल्टी प्राप्त करने का अधिकार देता है।
- However, in a **concert space**, performers **do not fully enjoy this right**.  
हालांकि, कॉन्सर्ट के माहौल में, कलाकार इस अधिकार का पूरा लाभ नहीं उठा पाते।
- Several performances of **notable singers** are posted on **YouTube and Spotify** by **third parties**, which violates the **Copyright Act**.



प्रसिद्ध गायकों के कई प्रदर्शन YouTube और Spotify पर तीसरे पक्षों द्वारा डाले जाते हैं, जो कॉपीराइट अधिनियम का उल्लंघन है।

## The Question of Improvisation

### रचनात्मक बदलाव का प्रश्न

- Since most of the songs performed are in the public domain, the form of music has also remained outside the realm of copyright.  
चूंकि ज्यादातर प्रदर्शित गीत सार्वजनिक डोमेन में हैं, इसलिए संगीत का स्वरूप भी कॉपीराइट के दायरे से बाहर रहा है।
- The works of Tyagaraja Swami, Shyama Shastri, Muddusvami Dikshitar, Purandara Dasa, and Gopala Krishna Bharathiar are in the public domain.  
त्यागराज स्वामी, श्यामा शास्त्री, मुथुस्वामी दीक्षितर, पुरंदर दास और गोपाल कृष्ण भरतियार के कार्य सार्वजनिक डोमेन में हैं।
- Does a musician who improvises a song have any right over such improvisations?  
क्या किसी संगीतकार द्वारा किए गए रचनात्मक बदलाव पर उनका कोई अधिकार है?
- For instance, several songs of Gopala Krishna Bharathi are today not sung in the original ragas he composed them in.  
उदाहरण के लिए, गोपाल कृष्ण भरती के कई गीत आज उनके द्वारा निर्धारित मूल रागों में नहीं गाए जाते।
- Does the musical imagination to interpret a song in a different raga become “creativity” under copyright?  
क्या किसी गीत को अलग राग में प्रस्तुत करने की संगीत कल्पना “रचनात्मकता” मानी जाएगी?

## Changing the Law

### कानून में बदलाव की आवश्यकता

- The improvisation made by a performer on stage could be spontaneous and a response to the audience.  
मंच पर कलाकार द्वारा किया गया रचनात्मक बदलाव स्वतःस्फूर्त हो सकता है और यह दर्शकों की प्रतिक्रिया पर आधारित हो सकता है।
- Musicians should have the right to own their soulful additions to a song.  
संगीतकारों को उनके गीत में किए गए आत्मीय बदलावों पर अधिकार मिलना चाहिए।
- The royalty flow from streaming should be strengthened.  
संगीत स्ट्रीमिंग से प्राप्त रॉयल्टी को मजबूत किया जाना चाहिए।
- Currently, music follows the law. Should the law not be changed to protect the rights of Carnatic musicians?  
वर्तमान में, संगीत कानून का पालन करता है। क्या कानून को कर्नाटिक संगीतकारों के अधिकारों की रक्षा के लिए नहीं बदला जाना चाहिए?



# How can the Budget arrest growth decline?

How did the period from 2004 to 2011 have a consistent high growth rate accompanied by a reduction in absolute poverty? Does the nature of fiscal expenditure also matter when it comes to private consumption? How would an increase in revenue expenditure, particularly in the social sector, help?

GS Paper III: Budget

**EXPLAINER**

Dipa Sinha  
Rohit Azad

The Indian economy is going through a rough patch as was evident from the recently released provisional estimates of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The underlying growth rate is lower than what was expected and estimated by the government earlier. What is surprising is that, as noted in the last Economic Survey, this slowdown is despite the rising capital expenditure in various budgets under this regime. To understand the current predicament of the government, it may help to take a longue duree of the Indian economy. In particular, we focus on private consumption since that is the ultimate driver of the domestic market.

We divide the post reform period into three parts – 1991-2004, 2004-2011, and 2011-2023. The period from 2004 to 2011 stands out as the one with sustained high growth rate accompanied by a reduction in absolute poverty. This period also saw some revival in state interventions in welfare through rights-based legislations as well as new national schemes.

In contrast, the most recent period starting from around 2012, but especially since 2019, has seen a slowdown in growth rates with the current concerns in the Indian economy being related to sluggish private consumption as well as private investment. This period also saw some major shocks to the economy including demonetisation, the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), and the lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chart 1 shows the rate of growth of GDP and private consumption over these three periods; and we get inverted U-shaped growth curves in both.

**What explains the high growth then and the slowdown now?**

Something unique happened during the high growth phase of 2004-2011. While income and wealth inequality were rising for over a decade, this is the only phase in the post-reform period when the share of consumption (out of the total private consumption demand) of the richest 20%, after having risen since 1990, fell significantly. This means that the consumption of the bottom 80% was rising at a faster pace than the richest 20%. But how was this possible when the growth of income was the opposite?

We believe that state policy played a key role in this unique composition of consumption demand. It is not just the amount of fiscal expenditure that matters but its nature as well. Those at the lower end of the income spectrum have a higher propensity to consume as compared to the richest. If state spending tilts in favour of the working class, the income and employment multiplier effects of such spending would be much larger.

To understand this point, let us consider a hypothetical scenario where the government has a choice of spending ₹100 on (A) capital expenditure in commissioning a large scale dam/nuclear project or (B) providing it as National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) wages or pension to the elderly. Let us, for simplicity, assume all wages are consumed and all profits saved.

Under choice A, only a part of the ₹100 is received as wages, which increases workers' consumption demand by that amount. This increase in demand, say on food and clothes, generates income for those employed in producing these

## Prosperity then, slowdown now

We divide the post reform period into three parts – 1991-2004, 2004-2011, and 2011-2023. The period from 2004 to 2011 stands out as the one with sustained high growth rate. This period also saw some revival in state interventions in welfare through rights-based legislations as well as new national schemes

Chart 1: The growth of GDP and consumption since 1991

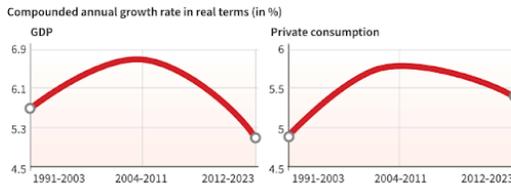


Chart 2: Social sector and development expenditures

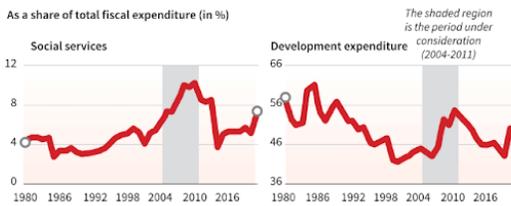


Chart 3: Growth in consumption during 2004-2011

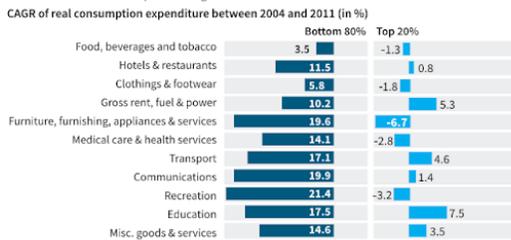
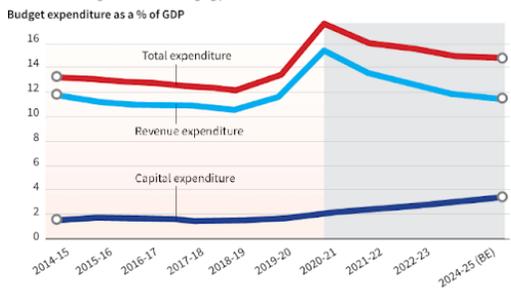


Chart 4: The NDA government's changing priorities



Source: Data from CEIC, Union Budget documents have been used to derive macroeconomic trends, and the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) for household level analysis

commodities and this process, what economists call as multiplier effect, goes on. In contrast, under choice B, the entire ₹100 is received as wages which leads to a larger base on which the income and employment multiplier works.

Additionally, in choice A, there is a likelihood of a greater leakage of demand to the rest of the world in the form of higher imports such as capital expenditure may entail. Heavy machinery required for a dam or a nuclear reactor may have to be imported whereas the import component in choice B will likely be lower. So, the domestic component of choice A's

multiplier might be even lower than what we have described above.

If the state spends as income transfers (whether in cash or kind) a certain amount per worker at the lower end of the income spectrum, this would add to the demand for mass consumption goods. A mere change in the composition of government expenditure in favour of such transfers, therefore, adds an exogenous component to demand. Moreover, the state played an additional role during this period by introducing NREGA and fixing its wages higher than the prevailing market wages. This generated additional

jobs as well as set a floor for rural wages. This rise in rural wages pushed up wages for casual unskilled workers. Investment in agriculture and in rural areas in general also increased during this period contributing to rural incomes.

Chart 2 shows a sharp rise in the share of social services expenditure as well as development expenditures out of the total expenditure of the Union government, which exactly overlaps with the boom of 2004-2011. Developmental expenditure includes expenditure on economic as well as social services and therefore also includes the spending on agriculture and rural development, whereas social sector expenditure only includes the direct social sector spending such as education, health and welfare programmes.

Not surprisingly, this change in the nature of fiscal spending had a significant impact on consumption, across different categories of commodities, for the bottom 80% of the population (see Chart 3). It is this rise in consumption of the bottom 80% (and this trend continues all the way down to the lowest income group as well) in comparison to the top 20% that explains the fall in the latter's share in total consumption.

**What has the government done so far to arrest the current slowdown?**

While the government has acknowledged the slowdown and the lack of private investment (for example, in the last Economic Survey), its response has been to focus on capital expenditure of the kind mentioned in choice A as discussed above (see Chart 4). This was done even as the share of fiscal expenditure (as a percentage of GDP) was falling. This exclusive focus on capex was done with the expectation that this would crowd-in private investment but unfortunately the corporate sector has not responded either to this or to the tax cuts from 30% to 22% in 2019.

It is not surprising why private investment has not picked up. Under conditions of slowdown or lack of demand, investment responds more to the level of activity than to cost considerations. If the existing factories are not running to capacity, why would the firms invest more even if they are flush with funds (in the form of post-tax profits) or have access to cheap credit? It won't be an exaggeration to argue, therefore, that an increase in capex, especially of a capital-using variety, is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for revival of the economy.

**What should be done instead?**

An increase in revenue expenditure, particularly in the social sector, would result in a virtuous cycle of higher income for the workers and therefore to a higher income and employment multiplier, which may kickstart private investment as well. Capital expenditure too must be focused on labour-intensive projects that have a higher multiplier. The experience of 2004-2011 is particularly telling in this regard. What is required, therefore, is a two pronged strategy – (a) fiscal expenditure as a share of GDP has to rise (b) and within that the share of revenue expenditure needs to rise. In other words, a complete reversal in the trend shown in Chart 4.

It remains to be seen on February 1 whether the priority of the government is to placate the markets by keeping such expenses low or to improve the living conditions of the working people of this country to reverse the slowdown.

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**THE GIST**

Something unique happened during the high growth phase of 2004-2011. While income and wealth inequality were rising for over a decade, this is the only phase in the post-reform period when the share of consumption of the richest 20%, fell significantly.

Those at the lower end of the income spectrum have a higher propensity to consume as compared to the richest. If state spending tilts in favour of the working class, the income and employment multiplier effects of such spending would be much larger.

An increase in revenue expenditure, particularly in the social sector, would result in a virtuous cycle of higher income for the workers and therefore to a higher income and employment multiplier.



## How can the Budget arrest growth decline? कैसे बजट विकास में गिरावट को रोक सकता है?

The Indian economy is currently facing a rough patch as indicated by the provisional estimates of its GDP.

भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था वर्तमान में कठिन स्थिति में है, जैसा कि इसके सकल घरेलू उत्पाद (GDP) के प्रारंभिक अनुमानों से संकेत मिलता है।

- The growth rate is **lower** than expected, despite the **rising capital expenditure** in various budgets.  
विकास दर अपेक्षाकृत कम है, हालांकि विभिन्न बजटों में पूंजीगत खर्च बढ़ रहा है।
- To understand the current situation, it helps to look at the Indian economy's trajectory in three periods:  
वर्तमान स्थिति को समझने के लिए, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था की तीन अवधियों में यात्रा देखना मददगार है:
  - 1991-2004,
  - 2004-2011,
  - 2011-2023.
- The period from **2004 to 2011** stands out for **sustained high growth** accompanied by a **reduction in absolute poverty**.  
2004 से 2011 की अवधि स्थिर उच्च वृद्धि के लिए प्रमुख रही, जिसके साथ सापेक्ष गरीबी में कमी भी देखी गई।
- This period saw a **revival in state interventions through rights-based legislations and new national schemes**.  
इस अवधि में राज्य हस्तक्षेप का पुनरुद्धार हुआ, जो अधिकार आधारित विधायनों और नई राष्ट्रीय योजनाओं के माध्यम से था।
- In contrast, the period **from 2012 onward** has seen **sluggish growth rates** with concerns about **sluggish private consumption and private investment**.  
इसके विपरीत, 2012 से अब तक की अवधि में धीमी वृद्धि दरें देखी गई हैं, जिसमें निजी खपत और निजी निवेश पर चिंता जताई गई है।
- Major shocks, including **demonetisation**, the introduction of **GST**, and **COVID-19 lockdowns**, affected the economy during this period.  
इस अवधि में नोटबंदी, GST की शुरुआत, और COVID-19 लॉकडाउन जैसी प्रमुख आघातों ने अर्थव्यवस्था को प्रभावित किया।
- **2004-2011** saw a unique phase where **the consumption of the bottom 80% of the population grew faster than the top 20%**, despite rising income and wealth inequality.  
2004-2011 में एक अनोखी स्थिति देखी गई, जहाँ आय और संपत्ति में असमानता बढ़ने के बावजूद, आबादी के निचले 80% का उपभोग ऊपर के 20% से तेजी से बढ़ा।



- State policies played a key role in this period, where **fiscal expenditure** was directed towards the working class, which has a **higher propensity to consume**.  
इस अवधि में राज्य नीतियों ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जहाँ राजकोषीय खर्च को कार्यशील वर्ग की ओर निर्देशित किया गया, जिनकी खपत की प्रवृत्ति उच्च है।
- If state spending favors the **working class**, the **income and employment multiplier effects** of such spending are much larger.  
यदि राज्य खर्च कार्यशील वर्ग के पक्ष में होता है, तो ऐसे खर्च के आय और रोजगार गुणक प्रभाव कहीं अधिक होते हैं।
- A hypothetical scenario: If the government spends ₹100 on either **capital expenditure** or on **wages for the working class**, the latter would generate **larger consumption demand**.  
एक काल्पनिक परिदृश्य: यदि सरकार ₹100 खर्च करती है, चाहे वह पूंजीगत खर्च हो या कार्यशील वर्ग के लिए मजदूरी, तो बाद में बड़ी खपत की मांग उत्पन्न होती है।
- Under capital expenditure, only a portion of ₹100 goes as wages, leading to a **smaller multiplier effect**.  
पूंजीगत खर्च के तहत, ₹100 का केवल एक हिस्सा मजदूरी के रूप में जाता है, जिससे छोटा गुणक प्रभाव उत्पन्न होता है।
- Under wage distribution (e.g., through **NREGA**), the entire ₹100 is consumed, leading to **larger multiplier effects**.  
वेतन वितरण के तहत (जैसे **NREGA** के माध्यम से), पूरा ₹100 खपत किया जाता है, जिससे बड़े गुणक प्रभाव उत्पन्न होते हैं।
- This demonstrates that the **nature of fiscal expenditure** plays a significant role in promoting **private consumption**.  
यह दिखाता है कि राजकोषीय खर्च की प्रकृति निजी खपत को बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है।

## Impact of Capital Expenditure and Revenue Expenditure

### राजस्व खर्च और पूंजीगत खर्च का प्रभाव

- In choice A, there is a likelihood of a greater leakage of demand to the rest of the world in the form of higher imports such as capital expenditure may entail.  
चयन A में, मांग का एक बड़ा हिस्सा दुनिया के बाकी हिस्सों में आयात के रूप में बहने की संभावना है, जैसा कि पूंजीगत व्यय से हो सकता है।
- Heavy machinery required for a dam or a nuclear reactor may have to be imported, whereas the import component in choice B will likely be lower.  
बांध या परमाणु रिएक्टर के लिए भारी मशीनरी का आयात करना पड़ सकता है, जबकि चयन B में आयात का हिस्सा संभवतः कम होगा।
- So, the domestic component of choice A's multiplier might be even lower than what we have described above.



इसलिए, चयन A के गुणक का घरेलू हिस्सा शायद उससे भी कम हो सकता है जैसा हमने ऊपर वर्णित किया है।

- If the state spends as income transfers (whether in cash or kind) a certain amount per worker at the lower end of the income spectrum, this would add to the demand for mass consumption goods.

यदि राज्य आय हस्तांतरण (चाहे नकद में हो या वस्तु रूप में) के रूप में, आय के निचले स्तर पर प्रत्येक श्रमिक को एक निश्चित राशि खर्च करता है, तो यह जन खपत वस्तुओं की मांग में इजाफा करेगा।

- A mere change in the composition of government expenditure in favour of such transfers, therefore, adds an exogenous component to demand.

इसलिए, सरकार के खर्च की संरचना में ऐसे हस्तांतरण के पक्ष में एक सामान्य बदलाव, मांग में एक बाह्य घटक जोड़ता है।

- Moreover, the state played an additional role during this period by introducing NREGA and fixing its wages higher than the prevailing market wages.

इसके अतिरिक्त, राज्य ने इस अवधि के दौरान NREGA को लागू किया और इसकी मजदूरी को मौजूदा बाजार मजदूरी से अधिक तय किया।

- This generated additional jobs as well as set a floor for rural wages.

इससे अतिरिक्त नौकरियां उत्पन्न हुईं और ग्रामीण मजदूरी के लिए एक न्यूनतम स्तर तय किया गया।

- This rise in rural wages pushed up wages for casual unskilled workers.

ग्रामीण मजदूरी में यह वृद्धि अस्थायी अकुशल श्रमिकों की मजदूरी को भी बढ़ा दिया।

- Investment in agriculture and in rural areas in general also increased during this period contributing to rural incomes.

कृषि और ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में सामान्य निवेश भी इस अवधि के दौरान बढ़ा, जिससे ग्रामीण आय में वृद्धि हुई।

- Chart 2 shows a sharp rise in the share of social services expenditure as well as development expenditures out of the total expenditure of the Union government, which exactly overlaps with the boom of 2004-2011.

चार्ट 2 में संघीय सरकार के कुल खर्च से सामाजिक सेवाओं के खर्च और विकास खर्च का हिस्सा दिखाया गया है, जो 2004-2011 के उछाल के साथ पूरी तरह से मेल खाता है।

- Developmental expenditure includes expenditure on economic as well as social services and therefore also includes the spending on agriculture and rural development, whereas social sector expenditure only includes the direct social sector spending such as education, health, and welfare programmes.

विकासात्मक खर्च में आर्थिक और सामाजिक सेवाओं पर खर्च शामिल होता है और इसलिए इसमें कृषि और ग्रामीण विकास पर खर्च भी शामिल है, जबकि सामाजिक क्षेत्र खर्च में केवल शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और कल्याण कार्यक्रमों जैसे सीधे सामाजिक क्षेत्र के खर्च शामिल होते हैं।

- Not surprisingly, this change in the nature of fiscal spending had a significant impact on consumption, across different categories of commodities, for the bottom 80% of the population.



इसमें कोई आश्चर्य नहीं है कि, सरकारी खर्च की प्रकृति में इस बदलाव का जनसंख्या के निचले 80% के लिए विभिन्न श्रेणियों के सामान की खपत पर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव पड़ा।

- It is this rise in consumption of the bottom 80% (and this trend continues all the way down to the lowest income group as well) in comparison to the top 20% that explains the fall in the latter's share in total consumption.

यह निचले 80% की खपत में वृद्धि (और यह प्रवृत्ति सबसे निचली आय वर्ग तक जारी रहती है) शीर्ष 20% की तुलना में उनके कुल खपत हिस्से में गिरावट को समझाता है।

## Government Response to Arrest the Slowdown

### मंदी को रोकने के लिए सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- While the government has acknowledged the slowdown and the lack of private investment, its response has been to focus on capital expenditure of the kind mentioned in choice A as discussed above.

हालांकि सरकार ने मंदी और निजी निवेश की कमी को स्वीकार किया है, लेकिन उसकी प्रतिक्रिया ऊपर चर्चा किए गए चयन A जैसे पूंजीगत खर्च पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने की रही है।

- This was done even as the share of fiscal expenditure (as a percentage of GDP) was falling.

यह तब किया गया जब वित्तीय खर्च का हिस्सा (जीडीपी के प्रतिशत के रूप में) गिर रहा था।

- This exclusive focus on capex was done with the expectation that this would crowd-in private investment but unfortunately the corporate sector has not responded either to this or to the tax cuts from 30% to 22% in 2019.

इस विशेष ध्यान को पूंजीगत व्यय पर इस उम्मीद के साथ किया गया था कि यह निजी निवेश को आकर्षित करेगा, लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से कॉर्पोरेट क्षेत्र ने न तो इसे और न ही 2019 में 30% से 22% तक कर कटौती का जवाब दिया।

- It is not surprising why private investment has not picked up. Under conditions of slowdown or lack of demand, investment responds more to the level of activity than to cost considerations.

यह कोई आश्चर्य की बात नहीं है कि निजी निवेश नहीं बढ़ पाया। मंदी या मांग की कमी की स्थितियों में, निवेश लागत विचारों की तुलना में गतिविधि के स्तर पर अधिक प्रतिक्रिया करता है।

- If the existing factories are not running to capacity, why would the firms invest more even if they are flush with funds (in the form of post-tax profits) or have access to cheap credit?

यदि मौजूदा फैक्ट्रियाँ पूरी क्षमता से नहीं चल रही हैं, तो कंपनियाँ अधिक निवेश क्यों करेंगी, भले ही उनके पास धन (कर बाद लाभ के रूप में) हो या सस्ते ऋण की पहुंच हो?

- It won't be an exaggeration to argue, therefore, that an increase in capex, especially of a capital-using variety, is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for revival of the economy.



इसलिए, यह कहना अतिशयोक्ति नहीं होगा कि पूंजी-उपयोगी प्रकार के पूंजीगत खर्च में वृद्धि, अर्थव्यवस्था के पुनर्जीवित होने के लिए न तो आवश्यक है और न ही पर्याप्त शर्त।

## Recommended Strategy for Economic Revival

### आर्थिक पुनरुद्धार के लिए अनुशंसित रणनीति

- An increase in revenue expenditure, particularly in the social sector, would result in a **virtuous cycle of higher income for the workers** and therefore to a higher income and employment multiplier, which may kickstart private investment as well.  
राजस्व खर्च में वृद्धि, विशेष रूप से सामाजिक क्षेत्र में, श्रमिकों के लिए उच्च आय के अच्छे चक्र को जन्म देगी और इसके परिणामस्वरूप आय और रोजगार गुणक में वृद्धि होगी, जो निजी निवेश को भी शुरू कर सकता है।
- Capital expenditure too must be focused on labour-intensive projects that have a higher multiplier.  
पूंजीगत खर्च को भी श्रमिक-गहन परियोजनाओं पर केंद्रित किया जाना चाहिए, जिनका गुणक अधिक होता है।
- The experience of 2004-2011 is particularly telling in this regard.  
**2004-2011 का अनुभव इस संदर्भ में विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है।**
- What is required, therefore, is a two-pronged strategy — (a) fiscal expenditure as a share of GDP has to rise (b) and within that the share of revenue expenditure needs to rise.  
इसलिए, जो आवश्यक है वह एक दो-तरफा रणनीति है – (a) जीडीपी के प्रतिशत के रूप में वित्तीय खर्च में वृद्धि होनी चाहिए (b) और इसके भीतर, राजस्व खर्च का हिस्सा बढ़ना चाहिए।
- In other words, a complete reversal in the trend shown in Chart 4.  
दूसरे शब्दों में, चार्ट 4 में दिखाए गए रुझान में एक पूर्ण उलटफेर होना चाहिए।
- It remains to be seen on February 1 whether the priority of the government is to placate the markets by keeping such expenses low or to improve the living conditions of the working people of this country to reverse the slowdown.  
1 फरवरी को यह देखा जाना बाकी है कि सरकार की प्राथमिकता बाजारों को शांत करना है या इस देश के श्रमिकों की जीवन स्थितियों को बेहतर बनाना है ताकि मंदी को पलटा जा सके।



# High-level meet discusses Labour Code rules, issues of gig workers

**GS Paper III: Employment**

**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI

Setting the stage for the possible implementation of the four Labour Codes from April 1, a meeting of officials and Ministers of the Union and State Labour Ministries reviewed the progress in drafting of rules under the codes by the States.

The meeting noted that over 18 States and Union Territories have imple-

mented a majority of the reforms and more than 32 of them have pre-published the draft rules. The remaining have made satisfactory progress and all 36 are expected to complete pre-publication of harmonised draft rules in line with the Labour Codes by March 31.

The two-day meeting, chaired by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, discussed labour reforms and issues of gig and

platform workers. Dr. Mandaviya said a fine balance between workers' welfare and industrial growth must remain at the core of all policy decisions.

He urged all States and Union Territories to participate in knowledge sharing on reforms undertaken by them.

"There is equal focus on interventions for matching demand and supply in the labour market, promoting employment generation

and employability through National Career Service (NCS) Portal and Model Career Centres (MCC), etc.," a government release said.

The Minister also launched the State and Union Territory microsites under the e-Shram initiative and the Occupational Shortage Index (OSI).

The OSI will match labour market demand and supply, enhancing employment outcomes across the country.

## High-level meet discusses Labour Code rules, issues of gig workers

उच्च स्तरीय बैठक में श्रम संहिता नियमों और गिग श्रमिकों के मुद्दों पर चर्चा

Setting the stage for the possible implementation of the four Labour Codes from April 1, a meeting of officials and Ministers of the Union and State Labour Ministries reviewed the progress in drafting of rules under the codes by the States.

1 अप्रैल से चार श्रम संहिताओं के संभावित कार्यान्वयन की पृष्ठभूमि तैयार करते हुए, केंद्र और राज्य श्रम मंत्रालयों के अधिकारियों और मंत्रियों की बैठक में राज्यों द्वारा संहिताओं के तहत नियमों के मसौदे की प्रगति की समीक्षा की गई।

- The meeting noted that over 18 States and Union Territories have implemented a majority of the reforms, and more than 32 of them have pre-published the draft rules.

बैठक में उल्लेख किया गया कि 18 से अधिक राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों ने अधिकांश सुधार लागू कर दिए हैं, और 32 से अधिक ने मसौदा नियमों को पूर्व-प्रकाशित कर दिया है।



- The remaining have made satisfactory progress, and all **36 are expected to complete pre-publication of harmonised draft rules in line with the Labour Codes by March 31.**

शेष राज्यों ने संतोषजनक प्रगति की है, और सभी 36 राज्यों के 31 मार्च तक श्रम संहिताओं के अनुरूप सामंजस्यपूर्ण मसौदा नियमों के पूर्व-प्रकाशन को पूरा करने की उम्मीद है।

- The two-day meeting, **chaired by Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya**, discussed labour reforms and issues of gig and platform workers.  
केंद्रीय श्रम मंत्री मनसुख मांडविया की अध्यक्षता में हुई दो दिवसीय बैठक में श्रम सुधारों और गिग व प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों के मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई।
- Dr. Mandaviya emphasized that **a fine balance between workers' welfare and industrial growth must remain at the core of all policy decisions.**  
डॉ. मांडविया ने जोर देकर कहा कि श्रमिकों के कल्याण और औद्योगिक विकास के बीच संतुलन सभी नीति निर्णयों के केंद्र में होना चाहिए।
- He urged all **States and Union Territories to participate in knowledge sharing on reforms undertaken by them.**  
उन्होंने सभी राज्यों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों से अपने द्वारा किए गए सुधारों पर ज्ञान साझा करने में भाग लेने का आग्रह किया।
- "There is equal focus on interventions for **matching demand and supply in the labour market, promoting employment generation and employability through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal and Model Career Centres (MCC),**" a government release said.  
सरकारी विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, श्रम बाजार में मांग और आपूर्ति का मिलान करने, राष्ट्रीय करियर सेवा (NCS) पोर्टल और मॉडल करियर सेंटर (MCC) के माध्यम से रोजगार सृजन और रोजगार क्षमता को बढ़ावा देने पर समान ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।
- The Minister also launched the **State and Union Territory microsities under the e-Shram initiative** and the **Occupational Shortage Index (OSI).**  
मंत्री ने ई-श्रम पहल के तहत राज्य और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों के माइक्रोसाइट्स और व्यावसायिक कमी सूचकांक (OSI) का भी शुभारंभ किया।
- The **OSI will match labour market demand and supply, enhancing employment outcomes across the country.**  
OSI श्रम बाजार की मांग और आपूर्ति का मिलान करेगा, जिससे पूरे देश में रोजगार के परिणाम बेहतर होंगे।

### Labour Code Reforms in India (2019–2020)

#### भारत में श्रम संहिता सुधार (2019-2020)

- The Government of India undertook a significant labor law reform process by consolidating 29 existing labor laws into **four Labour Codes** to simplify and modernize India's labor regulations.



- भारत सरकार ने 29 मौजूदा श्रम कानूनों को चार श्रम संहिताओं में समेकित करके भारत के श्रम नियमों को सरल और आधुनिक बनाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार प्रक्रिया शुरू की।

## Four Labour Codes | चार श्रम संहिताएं

### 1. Code on Wages, 2019 (वेतन संहिता, 2019)

- **Objective:** To regulate wages and ensure uniformity in wage payments across different sectors.  
**उद्देश्य:** मजदूरी को विनियमित करना और विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में वेतन भुगतान में एकरूपता सुनिश्चित करना।
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Defines **minimum wage** at the national level.
  - Ensures **timely payment** of wages.
  - Covers all employees, whether organized or unorganized sector.
  - Removes the distinction between skilled and unskilled workers in wage determination.
  - Introduces **floor wages**, below which no state can fix its minimum wage.

### 2. Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (औद्योगिक संबंध संहिता, 2020)

- **Objective:** To balance the rights of workers and employers, making labor laws more flexible while protecting workers' interests.  
**उद्देश्य:** श्रमिकों और नियोक्ताओं के अधिकारों में संतुलन बनाना, श्रम कानूनों को अधिक लचीला बनाना और श्रमिकों के हितों की रक्षा करना।
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Defines rules for trade unions, strikes, and dispute resolution.
  - **Mandatory notice period of 14 days** for strikes in public utility services.
  - Industries with up to **300 workers** can now lay off employees without government approval (earlier limit was 100).
  - Establishes **Industrial Tribunals** for faster dispute resolution.

### 3. Social Security Code, 2020 (सामाजिक सुरक्षा संहिता, 2020)

- **Objective:** To extend social security benefits to all workers, including gig and platform workers.  
**उद्देश्य:** सभी श्रमिकों, विशेष रूप से गिग और प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों को सामाजिक सुरक्षा लाभ प्रदान करना।
- **Key Provisions:**



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- Expands **EPF (Employees' Provident Fund)**, **ESI (Employees' State Insurance)**, and **Gratuity** coverage.
- Introduces **National Social Security Board** for gig and platform workers.
- Maternity benefits and disability insurance extended to more workers.
- Employers and aggregators like Zomato, Swiggy, Ola, Uber required to contribute to a **social security fund**.

#### 4. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

(व्यावसायिक सुरक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और कार्य स्थितियाँ संहिता, 2020)

- **Objective:** To ensure safe working conditions and welfare of workers.  
उद्देश्य: श्रमिकों के लिए सुरक्षित कार्य स्थितियों और कल्याण को सुनिश्चित करना।
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Applies to all establishments with **10 or more workers**.
  - Mandates **working hours, annual leave, and health & safety measures**.
  - **Inter-state migrant workers** now have access to better social security and are entitled to travel allowances.
  - Employers must provide **free health check-ups and safety training**.

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# Rooftop solar installation scheme reaches 8.5% of 1-crore house target

**GS Paper III: Environment**  
**GS Paper II: Government Scheme**

NEW DELHI

Nearly a year after the Centre launched the ₹75,000-crore PM Surya Ghar scheme, 8.5 lakh households have installed rooftop solar connections, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said at a public event on Wednesday. First announced following the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last January, the scheme was officially launched on February 15, 2024.

The scheme, on the whole, targets one crore household installations across India. Mr. Joshi said that this target is likely to be met “within the next two or three years”.

Last month, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy remarked about the “slow pace” of



**Keeping it affordable:** The PM Surya Ghar scheme was officially launched on February 15, 2024. ISTOCKPHOTO

installations. Only five lakh installations, of a total 20 lakh applications made on the Surya Ghar portal, had been completed as of October last year, the committee noted. The Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy told the committee that there were “rain-related delays” but the Centre was on track to ensure that 12 lakh households were covered in the financial year

2024-25. With time, the pace of installations would accelerate, the official said. He explained that from 3,000 in a day, the number of daily installations had risen to 9,000.

## Subsidy given

The scheme subsidises 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2 kW capacity and 40% of additional system costs for systems between 2 kW and 3

kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3 kW capacity.

At current benchmark prices, this means a ₹30,000 subsidy for a 1-kW system, ₹60,000 for 2-kW systems, and ₹78,000 for 3-kW systems or higher.

Speaking at the India Energy Transition Conference, organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Union Minister said India is set to add 50 GW of new renewable capacity annually in the coming years. In the past 10 years, India’s installed renewable capacity has risen by 200%, from 75.52 GW in 2014 to 220 GW today. The tariff for grid-connected solar power plants has decreased by 80%, from ₹10.95 per unit in 2010-11 to just ₹2.15 per unit, making India a leader in affordable renewable energy, he added.

## Rooftop Solar Installation Scheme Reaches 8.5% of 1-Crore House Target

रूफटॉप सोलर इंस्टॉलेशन योजना 1 करोड़ घरों के लक्ष्य का 8.5% तक पहुंची

- Nearly a year after the Centre launched the ₹75,000-crore PM Surya Ghar scheme, 8.5 lakh households have installed rooftop solar connections.



केंद्र द्वारा ₹75,000 करोड़ की पीएम सूर्य घर योजना शुरू करने के लगभग एक साल बाद, 8.5 लाख घरों में रूफटॉप सोलर कनेक्शन लगाए गए हैं।

- Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy **Pralhad Joshi** shared this update at a public event.

नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी ने एक सार्वजनिक कार्यक्रम में यह जानकारी दी।

- The scheme was first announced after the **inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in **January 2024**. It was officially launched on **February 15, 2024**.

योजना की पहली घोषणा जनवरी 2024 में अयोध्या में राम मंदिर के उद्घाटन के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी द्वारा की गई थी। इसे 15 फरवरी 2024 को आधिकारिक रूप से शुरू किया गया था।

- The target is to install **one crore rooftop solar systems** across India within **the next two or three years**.

योजना का लक्ष्य अगले दो से तीन वर्षों में पूरे भारत में 1 करोड़ रूफटॉप सोलर सिस्टम स्थापित करना है।

## Concerns About Slow Installation Pace

### इंस्टॉलेशन की धीमी गति पर चिंता

- The **Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy** raised concerns about the **slow pace** of installations.

संसदीय स्थायी समिति (ऊर्जा) ने इंस्टॉलेशन की धीमी गति को लेकर चिंता जताई।

- By **October 2023**, only **5 lakh installations** were completed out of **20 lakh applications** received on the **Surya Ghar portal**.

अक्टूबर 2023 तक, सूर्य घर पोर्टल पर आई 20 लाख आवेदनों में से केवल 5 लाख इंस्टॉलेशन पूरे हुए थे।

- The **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Secretary** explained that **rain-related delays** affected progress.

नवीन और नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के सचिव ने बताया कि बारिश से संबंधित देरी के कारण प्रगति प्रभावित हुई।

- The government aims to complete **12 lakh installations in FY 2024-25** and expects the pace to accelerate.

सरकार का लक्ष्य वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में 12 लाख इंस्टॉलेशन पूरा करने का है और आने वाले समय में गति बढ़ने की संभावना है।

- The daily installation rate has increased from **3,000 per day to 9,000 per day**.

रोजाना इंस्टॉलेशन की दर 3,000 से बढ़कर 9,000 प्रति दिन हो गई है।

## Subsidy and Financial Support

### सब्सिडी और वित्तीय सहायता



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- The scheme provides a **60% subsidy** on the solar unit cost for **systems up to 2 kW capacity**.  
योजना 2 किलोवाट क्षमता तक के सिस्टम पर 60% सब्सिडी प्रदान करती है।
- For **systems between 2 kW and 3 kW**, a **40% subsidy** is provided on additional system costs.  
2 किलोवाट से 3 किलोवाट क्षमता वाले सिस्टम पर अतिरिक्त लागत पर 40% सब्सिडी दी जाती है।
- The subsidy is **capped at 3 kW capacity**.  
सब्सिडी की अधिकतम सीमा 3 किलोवाट तक तय की गई है।
- **At current benchmark prices:**
  - ₹30,000 subsidy for **1-kW system**
  - ₹60,000 subsidy for **2-kW system**
  - ₹78,000 subsidy for **3-kW system or higher**वर्तमान बेंचमार्क कीमतों के अनुसार:
  - 1 किलोवाट सिस्टम के लिए ₹30,000 सब्सिडी
  - 2 किलोवाट सिस्टम के लिए ₹60,000 सब्सिडी
  - 3 किलोवाट या अधिक के लिए ₹78,000 सब्सिडी

## India's Renewable Energy Progress

### भारत की नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा प्रगति

- Speaking at the **India Energy Transition Conference (FICCI event)**, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi stated that India will add **50 GW of new renewable capacity annually**.  
इंडिया एनर्जी ट्रांज़िशन कॉन्फ्रेंस (FICCI इवेंट) में बोलते हुए, केंद्रीय मंत्री प्रहलाद जोशी ने कहा कि भारत हर साल 50 गीगावाट नई नवीकरणीय क्षमता जोड़ेगा।
- India's **installed renewable energy capacity** has increased by **200% in the past 10 years**, from **75.52 GW in 2014 to 220 GW in 2024**.  
भारत की स्थापित नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा क्षमता पिछले 10 वर्षों में 200% बढ़ी है, 2014 में 75.52 गीगावाट से बढ़कर 2024 में 220 गीगावाट हो गई है।
- The tariff for **grid-connected solar power plants** has dropped by **80%**, from **₹10.95 per unit in 2010-11 to ₹2.15 per unit today**.  
ग्रिड-कनेक्टेड सौर ऊर्जा संयंत्रों का टैरिफ 80% गिरा है, 2010-11 में ₹10.95 प्रति यूनिट से घटकर आज ₹2.15 प्रति यूनिट रह गया है।
- This makes India a **global leader in affordable renewable energy**.  
इससे भारत सस्ते नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा में वैश्विक नेता बन गया है।

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# CCEA approves hike in ethanol procurement price

GS Paper III: Environment

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday revised the ethanol procurement price for public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) from ₹56.58 per litre to ₹57.97 per litre.

The new price is for the ongoing Ethanol Supply Year 2024-25, starting November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025, under the Centre's ethanol blended petrol programme.

Briefing reporters after the Union Cabinet meet-

**3% CHM price rise will assure sufficient ethanol availability to meet higher blending target**

ing, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that C Heavy Molasses (CHM), that have very little sugar content, will be used for ethanol production.

"The more we encourage CHM for ethanol production, it will be beneficial for both farmers and environment," he said.

"The approval will not only facilitate the continued policy in providing price stability and remunerative prices for ethanol suppliers but will also help in reducing dependency on crude oil imports, savings in foreign exchange and bring benefits to the environment," as per an official statement.

GST and transportation costs would be separately payable. "Increase in prices of CHM ethanol by 3% will assure sufficient availability of ethanol to meet the increased blending target," the statement noted.

**CCEA approves hike in ethanol procurement price**

**CCEA ने इथेनॉल खरीद मूल्य में वृद्धि को मंजूरी दी**

**The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday revised the ethanol procurement price for public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) from ₹56.58 per**

litre to ₹57.97 per litre.

कैबिनेट आर्थिक मामलों की समिति (CCEA) ने बुधवार को सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल विपणन कंपनियों (OMCs) के लिए इथेनॉल खरीद मूल्य को ₹56.58 प्रति लीटर से बढ़ाकर ₹57.97 प्रति लीटर कर दिया।

- The new price is for the ongoing Ethanol Supply Year 2024-25, starting November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2025, under the Centre's ethanol blended petrol programme. नया मूल्य मौजूदा इथेनॉल आपूर्ति वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए है, जो 1 नवंबर 2024 से 31 अक्टूबर 2025 तक लागू रहेगा, और यह केंद्र सरकार की इथेनॉल मिश्रित पेट्रोल योजना के तहत आता है।
- Briefing reporters after the Union Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said that C Heavy Molasses (CHM), which has very little sugar content, will be used for ethanol production. केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल की बैठक के बाद सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने बताया कि सी हेवी मोलासिस (CHM), जिसमें बहुत कम शुगर सामग्री होती है, का उपयोग इथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए किया जाएगा।
- "The more we encourage CHM for ethanol production, it will be beneficial for both farmers and the environment," he said. उन्होंने कहा, "इथेनॉल उत्पादन के लिए CHM को जितना अधिक बढ़ावा दिया जाएगा, यह किसानों और पर्यावरण दोनों के लिए फायदेमंद होगा।"



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- “The **approval** will not only facilitate the continued **policy** in providing **price stability** and **remunerative prices** for **ethanol suppliers** but will also help in **reducing dependency on crude oil imports, savings in foreign exchange**, and bring **benefits to the environment**,” as per an **official statement**.

आधिकारिक बयान के अनुसार, "इस मंजूरी से न केवल इथेनॉल आपूर्तिकर्ताओं को स्थिर मूल्य और लाभकारी दरें मिलेंगी, बल्कि यह कच्चे तेल के आयात पर निर्भरता कम करने, विदेशी मुद्रा की बचत करने, और पर्यावरण को लाभ पहुंचाने में भी मदद करेगी।"

- **GST and transportation costs** would be separately payable.  
GST और परिवहन लागत अलग से देय होगी।
- “**Increase in prices of CHM ethanol by 3%** will assure sufficient availability of ethanol to meet the **increased blending target**,” the statement noted.  
"CHM इथेनॉल की कीमतों में 3% की वृद्धि से इथेनॉल की पर्याप्त उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित होगी, जिससे बढ़े हुए मिश्रण लक्ष्य को पूरा किया जा सकेगा,"\*\* बयान में कहा गया।

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# Retinal diseases: RNA therapeutics show promise but is India ready?

There is currently no large cohort study in India, i.e. involving at least 500 patients, to describe the mutation spectrum of IRDs; such extensive studies are vital for researchers to identify the most common genetic defects that can subsequently be targeted using precision medicine

**Sandeep Sharma Asodu**

**V**ision is crucial to navigate the world, connect with others, and perform everyday tasks. It helps us perceive colours, shapes, and movement, which are essential to learn, work, and keep safe.

According to the World Health Organisation, more than 2.2 billion people worldwide experience some form of vision impairment. The causes range from cataracts and diabetic retinopathy to glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, and inherited retinal diseases (IRDs).

IRDs are genetic conditions that lead to progressive vision loss, often resulting in blindness. These diseases stem from mutations in more than 300 genes responsible for the function of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

While some individuals may lose their sight shortly after birth, others experience gradual deterioration over time. In many cases, early intervention could slow down or even prevent the progression of blindness.

An estimated 5.5 million people suffer from IRDs around the world, with a prevalence rate of one in 3,450. However, the situation is more critical in India. Studies have revealed significantly higher prevalence, with one in 372 individuals in rural South India, one in 930 in urban South India, and one in 750 in rural Central India affected by these conditions.

## A treatment breakthrough

In 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made a historic move by approving the first gene therapy for blindness caused by mutations in the *RPE65* gene.

This approval sparked hope for patients with other genetic causes of blindness. Currently, more than 50 clinical trials are exploring gene therapy as an option to treat various inherited eye disorders.

In India, however, awareness among clinicians about the availability and potential of *RPE65* gene therapy remains limited. While gene therapy has proven revolutionary, it is not yet a universal solution for all genetic eye diseases. This is where RNA-based therapies are poised to make a significant impact.

RNA-based precision therapeutics are emerging as a game-changer for genetic disorders, including IRDs. Unlike DNA or genome-editing therapies, RNA-based therapies offer a safer alternative as they make temporary changes that don't carry over to future generations, reducing the risk of unintended long-term effects.

Recent advancements have introduced RNA-based therapies like antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs), which have already been used successfully to treat diseases such as spinal muscular atrophy and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Medical researchers are now exploring ASO therapy for retinal conditions like Stargardt disease, Leber congenital amaurosis, and retinitis pigmentosa.

Beyond ASOs, researchers are also developing more advanced RNA-based options to address IRDs. One promising approach involves RNA-editing with ADAR enzymes, which can correct specific genetic mutations at the RNA level. This method has the potential to restore protein production in retinal cells without altering the underlying DNA, offering a new way to treat retinal degenerative



**Visual trouble:** An estimated 5.5 million people suffer from IRDs around the world, with a prevalence rate of one in 3,450. GETTY IMAGES

diseases caused by single-point mutations.

Another innovative strategy is the use of suppressor tRNAs to bypass stop-codon mutations, which can prematurely halt protein synthesis in retinal cells. By enabling the production of full-length proteins, this approach could help restore proper retinal function in IRD patients, where stop-codon mutations disrupt vital protein production.

Another potential small molecule RNA-based therapy is PTC124, also known as ataluren, which is already being used to treat patients with cystic fibrosis and Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Recently, clinical trials have begun to investigate its use in treating a rare developmental eye disease called aniridia.

Taken together, these options offer a more targeted, personalised treatment approach that could halt the progression of IRDs and improve patient outcomes with greater precision.

## India and precision therapeutics

Precision medicine is an approach that tailors treatments to an individual's genetic makeup, lifestyle, and other factors, offering a more targeted alternative to the one-size-fits-all approach of traditional options.

For rare diseases like IRDs, understanding the genetic mutations prevalent in a population is essential for researchers to develop effective RNA-based therapies. Although researchers have linked more than 300 genes to IRDs, research in India has yet to

**IRDs are genetic conditions that lead to progressive vision loss, often resulting in blindness. These diseases stem from mutations in more than 300 genes responsible for the function of the retina, the light-sensitive tissue present at the back of the eye**

fully map the genetic mutations responsible for these conditions in the local population.

In fact, there is currently no large cohort study in India (i.e. involving at least 500 patients) to describe the mutation spectrum of IRDs. Such extensive studies are vital for researchers to identify the most common genetic defects that can subsequently be targeted using precision medicine.

For example, the *ABCA4* gene is commonly mutated in IRD patients worldwide and is a popular therapeutic target. However, we lack a clear understanding of whether it is just as prevalent in Indian populations and/or whether some other mutation is expressed more often in certain ethnic groups.

India's large size and diverse population add another layer to this challenge.

Genetic mutations can vary significantly across different communities, making it difficult to identify common mutations. Accurately

mapping these mutations necessitates extensive, resource-intensive research across various subgroups.

Additionally, there are several barriers, including a lack of awareness of the genetic basis of IRDs among the people at large and healthcare providers alike, limited availability of genetic counselling services, insufficient research funding, and restricted access to diagnostic infrastructure in rural areas.

Thus, to fully unlock the potential of RNA-based therapeutics, India must prioritise genetic research with a particular emphasis on understanding the mutation profiles of people with IRDs, in collaboration with local research institutions and healthcare providers.

A notable example of such a collaboration is a June 2024 study by researchers from the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, and the L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. The teams' findings led to the development of a precision therapy for a specific form of IRD.

Expanding partnerships between global and local pharmaceutical companies, as well as research institutes, will also make these treatments more accessible to Indian patients. Raising awareness among clinicians and researchers about advances in RNA therapies will likewise be crucial to ensure they are implemented effectively. *Sandeep Sharma Asodu is a postdoctoral fellow at Hadassah Medical School, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. (sandeepsarma.asodu@mail.huji.ac.il)*



## Retinal diseases: RNA therapeutics show promise but is India ready?

रेटिनल बीमारियां: आरएनए चिकित्सा आशा जगाती हैं, लेकिन क्या भारत तैयार है?

Vision is crucial to navigate the world, connect with others, and perform everyday tasks.

- दृष्टि दुनिया में मार्गदर्शन करने, दूसरों से जुड़ने और दैनिक कार्यों को करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है।
- More than 2.2 billion people worldwide experience some form of vision impairment.
- 2.2 बिलियन से अधिक लोग दुनिया भर में किसी न किसी रूप में दृष्टिहीनता का सामना करते हैं।
- The causes range from **cataracts** and **diabetic retinopathy** to **glaucoma**, **age-related macular degeneration**, and **inherited retinal diseases (IRDs)**.
- इसके कारणों में मोतियाबिंद, मधुमेह रेटिनोपैथी, ग्लूकोमा, आयु-संबंधी मैकुलर डिजेनेरेशन, और विरासत में मिली रेटिनल बीमारियां (IRDs) शामिल हैं।
- IRDs are genetic conditions leading to progressive vision loss, often resulting in **blindness**.
- IRDs (विरासत में मिली रेटिनल बीमारियां) आनुवंशिक स्थितियां हैं, जो प्रगति करने वाली दृष्टिहीनता की ओर ले जाती हैं, जो अक्सर अंधेपन का कारण बनती हैं।
- An estimated **5.5 million** people suffer from IRDs around the world, with a prevalence rate of **one in 3,450**.
- अनुमानित **5.5 मिलियन** लोग दुनिया भर में IRDs से पीड़ित हैं, जिनकी प्रचलन दर **3,450 में से 1** है।
- The prevalence rate is significantly higher in India, with **one in 372** in rural **South India**, **one in 930** in urban **South India**, and **one in 750** in rural **Central India**.
- भारत में प्रचलन दर काफी अधिक है, जैसे कि ग्रामीण दक्षिण भारत में **372 में से 1**, शहरी दक्षिण भारत में **930 में से 1** और ग्रामीण मध्य भारत में **750 में से 1**।
- In **2017**, the **FDA** approved the first **gene therapy** for blindness caused by mutations in the **RPE65** gene.
- **2017** में, **FDA** ने **RPE65** जीन में उत्परिवर्तन के कारण अंधेपन के लिए पहली **जीन चिकित्सा** को मंजूरी दी।
- Currently, more than **50 clinical trials** are exploring gene therapy as an option for various inherited eye disorders.
- वर्तमान में, **50 से अधिक नैदानिक परीक्षण** जीन चिकित्सा को विभिन्न विरासत में मिली नेत्र विकारों के उपचार के रूप में तलाश रहे हैं।



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- Awareness among clinicians in India about the potential of **RPE65 gene therapy** remains limited.
- भारत में चिकित्सकों के बीच **RPE65 जीन चिकित्सा** की संभावनाओं के बारे में जागरूकता सीमित है।
- **RNA-based therapies** are emerging as a promising alternative for treating **inherited retinal diseases (IRDs)**.
- **RNA-आधारित चिकित्सा** विरासत में मिली रेटिनल बीमारियों (**IRDs**) के उपचार के लिए एक आशाजनक विकल्प के रूप में उभर रही हैं।
- **RNA-based therapies** offer a safer alternative as they make temporary changes without affecting future generations.
- **RNA-आधारित चिकित्सा** एक सुरक्षित विकल्प प्रदान करती है क्योंकि यह अस्थायी परिवर्तन करती है, जो भविष्य पीढ़ियों को प्रभावित नहीं करते।
- **Antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs)** have been used successfully to treat diseases such as **spinal muscular atrophy** and **Duchenne muscular dystrophy**.
- **एंटीसेंस ओलिगोन्यूक्लियोटाइड्स (ASOs)** को **स्पाइनल मस्क्युलर एट्रोफी** और **इयूशेन मस्क्युलर डिस्ट्रॉफी** जैसी बीमारियों के उपचार में सफलतापूर्वक उपयोग किया गया है।
- **ASO therapy** is now being explored for retinal conditions like **Stargardt disease**, **Leber congenital amaurosis**, and **retinitis pigmentosa**.
- **ASO चिकित्सा** अब रेटिनल स्थितियों जैसे **स्टारगार्ट रोग**, **लेबर कॉन्जेनिटल अमाॅरोसिस** और **रेटिनाइटिस पिगमेंटोसा** के लिए तलाश की जा रही है।
- **RNA-editing with ADAR enzymes** is being developed to correct genetic mutations in retinal cells at the RNA level.
- **RNA-एडिटिंग के लिए ADAR एंजाइम्स** का विकास किया जा रहा है, ताकि रेटिनल कोशिकाओं में RNA स्तर पर आनुवंशिक उत्परिवर्तन को सही किया जा सके।
- Another promising approach involves **suppressor tRNAs**, which bypass **stop-codon mutations** and help restore protein production in retinal cells.
- एक और आशाजनक दृष्टिकोण में **सुप्रेसर tRNAs** शामिल हैं, जो **स्टॉप-कोडन उत्परिवर्तन** को बायपास करते हैं और रेटिनल कोशिकाओं में प्रोटीन उत्पादन को बहाल करने में मदद करते हैं।
- **PTC124 (ataluren)** is being tested as a potential treatment for rare eye diseases like **aniridia**.
- **PTC124 (ataluren)** को दुर्लभ नेत्र रोगों जैसे कि **एनीरिडिया** के उपचार के रूप में परीक्षण किया जा रहा है।
- **RNA-based therapies** offer a more targeted and personalized treatment approach for **IRDs**.
- **RNA-आधारित चिकित्सा** **IRDs** के लिए एक अधिक लक्षित और व्यक्तिगत उपचार दृष्टिकोण प्रदान करती है।

## India and precision therapeutics

### भारत और प्रेसिशन थेराप्यूटिक्स

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- **Precision medicine** is an approach that tailors treatments to an individual's **genetic makeup, lifestyle**, and other factors, offering a more targeted alternative to the one-size-fits-all approach of traditional options.
- **प्रेसिशन मेडिसिन** एक दृष्टिकोण है जो उपचार को एक व्यक्ति के **जैविक गठन, जीवनशैली**, और अन्य कारकों के अनुसार अनुकूलित करता है, पारंपरिक विकल्पों के एक-साइज-फिट्स-ऑल दृष्टिकोण के मुकाबले अधिक लक्षित विकल्प प्रदान करता है।
- For rare diseases like **IRDs**, understanding the **genetic mutations** prevalent in a population is essential for researchers to develop effective **RNA-based therapies**.
- दुर्लभ बीमारियों जैसे **IRDs** के लिए, किसी आबादी में प्रचलित **जैविक उत्परिवर्तन** को समझना शोधकर्ताओं के लिए प्रभावी **RNA-आधारित चिकित्सा** विकसित करने के लिए आवश्यक है।
- Although researchers have linked **more than 300 genes** to **IRDs**, research in India has yet to fully map the **genetic mutations** responsible for these conditions in the local population.
- हालांकि शोधकर्ताओं ने **300 से अधिक जीनों** को **IRDs** से जोड़ा है, भारत में अभी तक स्थानीय जनसंख्या में इन बीमारियों के लिए जिम्मेदार **जैविक उत्परिवर्तन** का पूरा नक्शा तैयार नहीं किया गया है।
- In fact, there is currently no **large cohort study** in India (i.e. involving at least **500 patients**) to describe the mutation spectrum of **IRDs**.
- दरअसल, भारत में वर्तमान में **बड़ी समूह अध्ययन** (जैसे, कम से कम **500 रोगियों** को शामिल करना) नहीं है जो **IRDs** के उत्परिवर्तन स्पेक्ट्रम का वर्णन कर सके।
- Such extensive studies are vital for researchers to identify the most common **genetic defects** that can subsequently be targeted using **precision medicine**.
- ऐसे विस्तृत अध्ययन शोधकर्ताओं के लिए महत्वपूर्ण हैं ताकि वे सबसे सामान्य **जैविक दोषों** की पहचान कर सकें, जिन्हें बाद में **प्रेसिशन मेडिसिन** का उपयोग करके लक्षित किया जा सके।
- For example, the **ABCA4 gene** is commonly mutated in **IRD** patients worldwide and is a popular therapeutic target.
- उदाहरण के लिए, **ABCA4 जीन** विश्वभर में **IRD** रोगियों में सामान्य रूप से उत्परिवर्तित होता है और यह एक लोकप्रिय चिकित्सीय लक्ष्य है।
- However, we lack a clear understanding of whether it is just as prevalent in **Indian populations** and/or whether some other **mutation** is expressed more often in certain **ethnic groups**.
- हालांकि, हमें यह स्पष्ट समझ नहीं है कि यह **भारतीय जनसंख्याओं** में उतना ही प्रचलित है या नहीं और/या क्या कुछ अन्य **उत्परिवर्तन** कुछ विशिष्ट **जातीय समूहों** में अधिक बार व्यक्त होते हैं।
- India's large size and **diverse population** add another layer to this challenge.
- भारत का बड़ा आकार और **विविध जनसंख्या** इस चुनौती में एक और परत जोड़ते हैं।
- **Genetic mutations** can vary significantly across different communities, making it difficult to identify common mutations.
- **जैविक उत्परिवर्तन** विभिन्न समुदायों में महत्वपूर्ण रूप से भिन्न हो सकते हैं, जिससे सामान्य उत्परिवर्तनों की पहचान करना कठिन हो जाता है।



- Accurately mapping these mutations necessitates extensive, **resource-intensive research** across various subgroups.
  - इन उत्परिवर्तनों का सही तरीके से मानचित्रण करने के लिए विभिन्न उपसमूहों में विस्तृत, **संसाधन-गहन अनुसंधान** की आवश्यकता होती है।
  - Additionally, there are several **barriers**, including a lack of **awareness** of the genetic basis of **IRDs** among the people at large and healthcare providers alike, limited availability of **genetic counselling services**, insufficient **research funding**, and restricted access to **diagnostic infrastructure** in **rural areas**.
  - इसके अलावा, कई **अवरोध** हैं, जिनमें लोगों और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं के बीच **IRDs** के **जैविक आधार** के बारे में जागरूकता की कमी, **जैविक परामर्श सेवाओं** की सीमित उपलब्धता, अपर्याप्त **अनुसंधान फंडिंग**, और **ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों** में **नैदानिक संरचना** तक सीमित पहुंच शामिल हैं।
  - Thus, to fully unlock the potential of **RNA-based therapeutics**, India must prioritize **genetic research** with a particular emphasis on understanding the **mutation profiles** of people with **IRDs**, in collaboration with local **research institutions** and healthcare providers.
  - इसलिए, **RNA-आधारित चिकित्सा** की संभावनाओं को पूरी तरह से खोलने के लिए, भारत को **जैविक अनुसंधान** को प्राथमिकता देनी चाहिए, विशेष रूप से **IRDs** वाले लोगों के **उत्परिवर्तन प्रोफाइल** को समझने पर, स्थानीय **शोध संस्थानों** और स्वास्थ्य सेवा प्रदाताओं के साथ सहयोग में।
  - A notable example of such a collaboration is a **June 2024** study by researchers from the **CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology**, New Delhi, and the **L.V. Prasad Eye Institute**, Hyderabad.
  - ऐसे सहयोग का एक महत्वपूर्ण उदाहरण **जून 2024** में **CSIR-जीनॉमिक्स और इंटीग्रेटिव बायोलॉजी संस्थान**, नई दिल्ली, और **L.V. प्रसाद आई इंस्टीट्यूट**, हैदराबाद के शोधकर्ताओं द्वारा किया गया अध्ययन है।
  - The teams' findings led to the development of a **precision therapy** for a specific form of **IRD**.
  - टीम के निष्कर्षों ने **IRD** के एक विशिष्ट रूप के लिए **प्रेसिशन चिकित्सा** के विकास की ओर अग्रसर किया।
  - Expanding partnerships between **global** and **local pharmaceutical companies**, as well as **research institutes**, will also make these treatments more accessible to **Indian patients**.
  - वैश्विक और स्थानीय **फार्मास्यूटिकल कंपनियों** के बीच साझेदारी का विस्तार, साथ ही **शोध संस्थानों**, इन उपचारों को **भारतीय मरीजों** के लिए अधिक सुलभ बनाएगा।
  - Raising awareness among **clinicians** and **researchers** about advances in **RNA therapies** will likewise be crucial to ensure they are implemented effectively.
- चिकित्सकों और शोधकर्ताओं के बीच RNA चिकित्सा में हो रही प्रगति के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना भी यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होगा कि इन्हें प्रभावी रूप से लागू किया जाए।**



## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations)

1. Stifling Demand / मांग को दबाना
2. The Old and the New: Schemes to Look Out for on Budget Day / पुरानी और नई: बजट दिवस पर ध्यान देने योग्य योजनाएं
3. M23 expands control of Goma in east Congo as Rwanda leader seeks truce / पूर्वी कांगो में गोमा पर M23 का नियंत्रण बढ़ा, रवांडा नेता ने संघर्ष विराम की मांग की

[GS Paper II: G.S. MGNAREGA]

### Stifling demand

MGNREGS should not be let down by funding issues and wage delays

The efficacy of a welfare programme is directly proportional to the enthusiasm of the government implementing it. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will soon be completing 20 years of its implementation. The fact that it has not only survived but also thrived under two regimes across multiple terms suggests its utility and popularity among the rural poor, though, under the National Democratic Alliance, the scheme has acquired a status of being an unwanted necessity after being seen initially as someone else's baby. But as the COVID-19 pandemic showed, the MGNREGS was a necessity and vital in terms of the sustenance it provided to both rural workers and migrant labour returning to their rural homes after the lockdowns were announced. And it is fair to say that it is now seen as "unwanted", as allocations in percentage terms of consecutive Budgets have reduced substantially since the pandemic (from 3.2% in FY21 to 1.78% in FY25 (BE)). Besides, despite the fact that the scheme is demand driven, inevitably leading to the allocation of additional funds beyond the budgeted expenditure, no extra allocation for MGNREGS has been made this financial year even as wages have been delayed and, due to this, demand also suppressed artificially. Reportedly, the Rural Development Ministry was short of ₹4,315 crore for the wages and the Centre has a liability of ₹5,715 crore against its share for material component of the works to be done under the scheme.

There are other issues with MGNREGS implementation that require attention – the need to adjust wages to inflation, and the issues concerning the seeding of job cards with the Aadhaar-based payment system, among others. But the core of the scheme remains the adequacy of the allocations made for it by the Centre. By pruning funds, the purpose of providing demand-driven employment is under-served and it is unfair to rural workers across the country who have used the scheme to augment their incomes, especially in the agricultural off-seasons. There has been much academic study detailing the fruits of the scheme – from helping the destitute to creating village assets such as irrigation canals, rural roads, and water conservation facilities. A demand-driven exercise such as this scheme also puts disposable income in the hands of the village poor and helps the rural economy. The importance of MGNREGS in a country still facing rural poverty needs no elaboration. The Union government must change its attitude towards the MGNREGS. A substantial allocation in the Union Budget, that is true to the demand for the scheme, would be a good start.

### Stifling Demand

#### मांग को दबाना

MGNREGS should not be let down by funding issues and wage delays.

मनरेगा को वित्तीय समस्याओं और मजदूरी में देरी के कारण कमजोर नहीं होने देना चाहिए।

### Implementation and Significance of MGNREGS

#### मनरेगा का कार्यान्वयन और महत्व

• The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will soon complete 20 years of implementation. महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (मनरेगा) जल्द ही अपने 20 वर्ष पूरे करने वाली है।

• The scheme has survived and thrived under two regimes across multiple terms, highlighting its utility and popularity among the rural poor.

यह योजना दो सरकारों और कई कार्यकालों में न केवल बनी रही बल्कि विकसित भी हुई, जिससे इसकी उपयोगिता और लोकप्रियता साबित होती है।

• Under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), the scheme was initially seen as someone else's initiative but later became an "unwanted necessity" due to its importance.

राष्ट्रीय जनतांत्रिक गठबंधन (NDA) के तहत, इसे शुरुआत में किसी और की योजना माना गया, लेकिन बाद में यह एक "अनचाही अनिवार्यता" बन गई।



- The **COVID-19 pandemic** reinforced the necessity of **MGNREGS**, as it provided **sustenance** to rural workers and returning migrant laborers.  
**COVID-19 महामारी ने मनरेगा की अनिवार्यता को और मजबूत किया, क्योंकि इसने ग्रामीण श्रमिकों और प्रवासी मजदूरों को आजीविका प्रदान की।**

## Declining Budget Allocation

### बजटीय आवंटन में गिरावट

- Since the **pandemic**, the **percentage of budget allocation** for MGNREGS has **reduced significantly**, from **3.2% in FY21 to 1.78% in FY25 (BE)**.  
महामारी के बाद से, मनरेगा के लिए बजटीय आवंटन का प्रतिशत काफी घट गया है, FY21 में 3.2% से घटकर FY25 (BE) में 1.78% हो गया है।
- **Despite being demand-driven, no extra allocation has been made for MGNREGS this financial year.**  
मांग-आधारित योजना होने के बावजूद, इस वित्तीय वर्ष में मनरेगा के लिए कोई अतिरिक्त आवंटन नहीं किया गया है।
- **Wage payments have been delayed**, and due to this, **demand has been artificially suppressed.**  
मजदूरी भुगतान में देरी हुई है, जिससे मांग को कृत्रिम रूप से दबा दिया गया है।
- The **Rural Development Ministry was short of ₹4,315 crore for wages**, and the **Centre has a liability of ₹5,715 crore for material components under the scheme.**  
ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय के पास मजदूरी के लिए ₹4,315 करोड़ की कमी थी, और केंद्र सरकार पर योजना के सामग्री घटक के लिए ₹5,715 करोड़ का बकाया है।

## Other Issues in MGNREGS Implementation

### मनरेगा के कार्यान्वयन में अन्य समस्याएं

- **Wage adjustments to inflation** are necessary but not effectively implemented.  
मुद्रास्फीति के अनुसार मजदूरी समायोजन आवश्यक है, लेकिन प्रभावी रूप से लागू नहीं किया गया है।
- Issues persist regarding the **seeding of job cards with the Aadhaar-based payment system.**  
आधार-आधारित भुगतान प्रणाली के साथ जॉब कार्ड जोड़ने से संबंधित समस्याएं बनी हुई हैं।

## Importance of Adequate Funding

### पर्याप्त वित्त पोषण का महत्व

- The core of the scheme lies in the **adequacy of allocations** by the Centre.  
योजना का मुख्य आधार केंद्र सरकार द्वारा किया गया पर्याप्त आवंटन है।



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- **Reduction in funds** weakens the **demand-driven employment approach**, negatively affecting rural workers.  
फंड में कटौती से मांग-आधारित रोजगार व्यवस्था कमजोर होती है, जिससे ग्रामीण श्रमिक प्रभावित होते हैं।
- Many studies highlight that **MGNREGS helps the poor and creates valuable village assets like irrigation canals, rural roads, and water conservation facilities**.  
कई अध्ययन दर्शाते हैं कि मनरेगा गरीबों की मदद करता है और सिंचाई नहरें, ग्रामीण सड़कें और जल संरक्षण सुविधाएं जैसी महत्वपूर्ण ग्रामीण संपत्तियां विकसित करता है।
- A **demand-driven scheme** like **MGNREGS** also boosts the **rural economy** by providing **disposable income** to the village poor.  
मनरेगा जैसी मांग-आधारित योजना ग्रामीण गरीबों को उपयोग योग्य आय प्रदान कर ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को बढ़ावा देती है।

## Need for a Positive Government Approach

### सरकार के सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण की आवश्यकता

- The **importance of MGNREGS** in addressing **rural poverty** is undeniable.  
ग्रामीण गरीबी को कम करने में मनरेगा का महत्व निर्विवाद है।
- The **Union government** must **change its attitude** towards MGNREGS.  
केंद्र सरकार को मनरेगा के प्रति अपना दृष्टिकोण बदलने की जरूरत है।
- A **substantial allocation** in the **Union Budget**, aligned with the **actual demand**, would be a **good start**.  
केंद्रीय बजट में पर्याप्त आवंटन, जो यथार्थ मांग के अनुरूप हो, एक अच्छी शुरुआत होगी।

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# The old and the new: schemes to look out for on Budget day

Schemes such as Digital India, Startup India and Smart Cities Mission have recorded consistent declines in funding

## GS Paper II: Government Schemes

### DATA POINT

#### The Hindu Data Team

**W**ith Budget FY2025-26 scheduled to be presented on February 1, here is a look at some of the recently launched schemes, older schemes with significantly reduced funding, schemes under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) umbrella, and those promoting electric mobility in India.

**Table 1** shows a select list of recently launched schemes and their allocations. It includes the scheme for installing solar rooftops which was launched in 2024 and allocated ₹6,250 crore in FY25(BE). Other schemes are the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to re-imagine panchayati raj institutions, the scheme to upgrade Industrial Training Institute (ITIs) and the controversial PM Vishwakarma scheme, which aims to nurture the guru-shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills. Schemes with the goal of promoting AI in India such as the INDIA AI mission and Centres of Excellence for AI are also a part of the list.

**Table 2** shows a select list of older schemes, allocations for which have significantly reduced over the years. Major schemes include the Regional Connectivity Scheme, from unserved and underserved airports, and the Smart Cities Mission to enhance the quality of life in 100 cities. The promotion of the digital payments scheme did not get any allocation in the last Budget. Other schemes include Digital India and Startup India.

**Table 3** shows the complete list of schemes which come under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) umbrella. The largest of them is the successful electronics and IT hardware scheme, with the most recent allocation touching ₹6,200 crore. **Table 4** shows the list of schemes which promote electric mobility, with the FAME scheme being the biggest in terms of allocations.

## Budget's highs and lows

**Table 1:** Select list of recently launched schemes and allocations for the latest year in ₹ crore

Scheme	Explanation	2024-25
PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana	For installing rooftop solar panels	6,250
Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI)	To establish three centres of excellence for AI in educational institutions for research and development	255
IndiaAI Mission	To catalyse the AI innovation ecosystem	551.75
National Green Hydrogen Mission	To make India the global hub for production, usage and export of green hydrogen	600
Legal Aid Defense Counsel System (LADCS)	To provide legal aid work in criminal matters	200
PM Vishwakarma	To strengthen and nurture the guru-shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills	4,824
Rashtriya Gram Swaraj	To re-imagine panchayati raj institutions	1063.67
Global Biofuels Alliance	To expedite the global uptake of biofuels	0.01
Mission Anveshan	To fill gaps in seismic coverage and build a robust geoscientific database	332
National Quantum Mission	To create an ecosystem in quantum technology	427
Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)	To enhance the socio-economic conditions of particularly vulnerable tribal groups	240
National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)	To ensure the safety and dignity of sanitation workers and safe delivery of mechanised sanitation services	116.94
ITI Upgradation Scheme	To upgrade ITIs	1,000

**Table 2:** Shows a select list of older schemes, allocations for which have significantly reduced over the years. Figures in ₹ crore

Scheme	Explanation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Regional connectivity scheme	To enhance regional air connectivity from unserved and underserved airports	1,063.81	850	502
Smart cities mission	Aims to enhance the quality of life in 100 selected cities	8,652.92	8,000	2,400
Promotion of digital payment	To help in growth of digital transactions	1,989.62	584	-
Digital India	To transform India into a digitally empowered society	5,518.09	4,428.01	4,216.51
Startup India	Aims to support entrepreneurs and build a strong startup ecosystem	44.21	45.61	0.01
Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)	To generate self-employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector	2733.21	2,958.22	2,300
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan	To enable higher educational institutions to work with the people in rural India in identifying development challenges	11.58	5	5
Internationalisation of Higher Education	Help internationalisation of education services	144.36	100	104
Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)	Provides various measures for the overall development of the backward population of STs	137.18	-	20

The text and data for the tables were sourced from the Union Budget documents. The figures for 2024-25 are budget estimates, for 2023-24 are revised estimates and for 2022-23 are actuals



**Table 3:** The complete list of schemes which come under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) umbrella and allocations for them in ₹ crore

PLI schemes	2024-25
Large scale electronics and IT Hardware	6200
Food processing industry	1,444.02
White goods (ACs and LED lights)	298.02
Toys	0.01
Footwear and leather sector	0.01
Automobiles and auto components	3,500
National programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage	250
Specialty steel in India	245.82
Multiple PLIs	2,143
Promote telecom and networking products manufacturing in India	-
Drone and drone components	57

**Table 4:** Shows the list of schemes which promote electric mobility and allocations for them in ₹ crore

Scheme	Explanation	2024-25
FAME	To promote electric mobility in India	2,671.33
Electric mobility promotion scheme	To accelerate the adoption of electric two-wheelers	500
Scheme to promote manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India (SMEC)	To promote manufacturing of electric passenger cars in India	13
PM-eBus Sewa Scheme	To boost India's electric mobility infrastructure	1,300

## The Old and the New: Schemes to Look Out for on Budget Day



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## पुरानी और नई: बजट दिवस पर ध्यान देने योग्य योजनाएं

Schemes such as **Digital India, Startup India, and Smart Cities Mission** have recorded consistent declines in funding.

डिजिटल इंडिया, स्टार्टअप इंडिया और स्मार्ट सिटीज मिशन जैसी योजनाओं के वित्त पोषण में लगातार कमी दर्ज की गई है।

- With Budget FY2025-26 scheduled to be presented on February 1, here is a look at some of the recently launched schemes, older schemes with significantly reduced funding, schemes under the **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) umbrella**, and those promoting electric mobility in India.

वित्त वर्ष 2025-26 का बजट 1 फरवरी को प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा। यहां हाल ही में शुरू की गई योजनाओं, कम बजट प्राप्त पुरानी योजनाओं, उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजना के तहत आने वाली योजनाओं और भारत में इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी को बढ़ावा देने वाली योजनाओं पर एक नज़र डाली गई है।

### Recently Launched Schemes and Their Allocations

#### हाल ही में शुरू की गई योजनाएं और उनके आवंटन

- A scheme for installing solar rooftops was launched in 2024 and allocated ₹6,250 crore in FY25 (BE).  
2024 में सोलर रूफटॉप लगाने की योजना शुरू की गई और वित्त वर्ष 2025 (BE) में इसके लिए ₹6,250 करोड़ आवंटित किए गए।
- Other schemes include the **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to re-imagine Panchayati Raj institutions**.  
अन्य योजनाओं में पंचायती राज संस्थानों को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय ग्राम स्वराज अभियान शामिल है।
- A scheme to upgrade Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) has also been introduced.  
औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों (ITIs) को अपग्रेड करने की योजना भी शुरू की गई है।
- The **PM Vishwakarma scheme aims to nurture the guru-shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills**.  
पीएम विश्वकर्मा योजना गुरु-शिष्य परंपरा या पारंपरिक कौशल के पारिवारिक अभ्यास को संरक्षित करने का लक्ष्य रखती है।
- Schemes with the goal of promoting AI in India include the **INDIA AI mission and Centres of Excellence for AI**.  
भारत में कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता (AI) को बढ़ावा देने वाली योजनाओं में INDIA AI मिशन और AI उत्कृष्टता केंद्र (Centres of Excellence for AI) शामिल हैं।

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## Older Schemes with Reduced Funding

### कम बजट प्राप्त पुरानी योजनाएं

- Major schemes include the Regional Connectivity Scheme, which aims to provide connectivity from unserved and underserved airports.  
प्रमुख योजनाओं में क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी योजना शामिल है, जिसका उद्देश्य बिना सेवा वाले और कम सेवा प्राप्त हवाई अड्डों से कनेक्टिविटी प्रदान करना है।
- The Smart Cities Mission, aimed at enhancing the quality of life in 100 cities, has seen funding reductions.  
100 शहरों में जीवन की गुणवत्ता सुधारने के उद्देश्य वाली स्मार्ट सिटीज मिशन योजना के बजट में कटौती की गई है।
- The promotion of the digital payments scheme did not get any allocation in the last Budget.  
डिजिटल भुगतान योजना को पिछले बजट में कोई आवंटन नहीं मिला।
- Other schemes facing budget reductions include Digital India and Startup India.  
अन्य योजनाओं, जैसे डिजिटल इंडिया और स्टार्टअप इंडिया, के बजट में भी कटौती की गई है।

## Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes

### उत्पादन से जुड़ी प्रोत्साहन (PLI) योजनाएं

- The **largest scheme under the PLI umbrella is the electronics and IT hardware scheme, with the most recent allocation touching ₹6,200 crore.**  
PLI योजना के तहत सबसे बड़ी योजना इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी हार्डवेयर योजना है, जिसके लिए हाल ही में ₹6,200 करोड़ का आवंटन किया गया।

## Schemes Promoting Electric Mobility

### इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी को बढ़ावा देने वाली योजनाएं

- The **FAME scheme is the biggest in terms of allocations for promoting electric mobility.**  
इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए FAME योजना सबसे बड़े आवंटन वाली योजना है।



# M23 expands control of Goma in east Congo as Rwanda leader seeks truce

Residents say the Rwanda-backed rebels controlled most parts of the city while government exerted power in some pockets; Rwandan President Paul Kagame speaks with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio 'on the need to ensure a truce'

GS Paper II: Africa

Associated Press

GOMA

Rwanda-backed rebels captured large parts of Goma, the biggest city in eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, including its airport, the United Nations said, as Rwanda's President on Wednesday joined calls for a ceasefire in the decades-long conflict amid mounting international pressure.

Much of Goma was calm after a day during which thousands of fleeing people hunkered down by roadsides as missiles flew overhead, and injured peo-



**Keeping vigil:** Rwanda-backed M23 rebels stand guard at the Gisenyi border point in Congo on Wednesday. AP

ple streamed to overwhelmed hospitals.

While government forces still control pockets of Goma, residents said that

the M23 rebel group was in control of much of the city.

The M23 rebels, who said that they captured the city on Monday after a

weeks-long advance, are one of about 100 armed groups vying for a foothold in mineral-rich eastern Congo. The conflict escalated with the rebels' advance into Goma, which left bodies on the streets and drove hundreds of thousands of already displaced people to flee once again.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame said on X that he spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on "the need to ensure a ceasefire and address the root causes of the conflict once and for all."

His government denies supporting M23, despite

reports from UN experts who estimate there are up to 4,000 Rwandan forces in Congo. Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting Hutu rebels and former militiamen whom it blames for the 1994 genocide.

The East African Community, whose members include both Rwanda and Congo, are scheduled to discuss the conflict at a meeting on Wednesday. Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi won't be able to participate in the virtual summit. Pope Francis called for the cessation of hostilities and the protection of civilians.

## M23 expands control of Goma in east Congo as Rwanda leader seeks truce

पूर्वी कांगो में गोमा पर M23 का नियंत्रण बढ़ा, रवांडा नेता ने संघर्ष विराम की मांग की

Rwanda-backed rebels captured large parts of Goma, the biggest city in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, including its airport, as per the United Nations.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र के अनुसार, रवांडा समर्थित विद्रोहियों ने पूर्वी डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक ऑफ कांगो के सबसे बड़े शहर गोमा के बड़े हिस्से पर कब्जा कर लिया, जिसमें इसका हवाई अड्डा भी शामिल है।

- Rwandan President Paul Kagame joined international calls for a ceasefire in the decades-long conflict.



रवांडा के राष्ट्रपति पॉल कागामे ने दशकों पुराने संघर्ष में संघर्ष विराम की अंतरराष्ट्रीय मांग का समर्थन किया।

- **Much of Goma was calm** after a day of violence, but thousands of people **fled**, with **missiles flying overhead** and hospitals **overwhelmed** with injured people.

एक दिन की हिंसा के बाद गोमा के अधिकांश हिस्से शांत थे, लेकिन हजारों लोग भाग गए, जबकि मिसाइलें ऊपर से गुजर रही थीं और अस्पतालों में घायलों की भीड़ थी।

- While **government forces** still control **some pockets of Goma**, residents say the **M23 rebel group** holds **most of the city**.

सरकारी बलों का अभी भी गोमा के कुछ हिस्सों पर नियंत्रण है, लेकिन निवासियों का कहना है कि M23 विद्रोही समूह का शहर के अधिकांश हिस्सों पर कब्जा हो चुका है।

- **M23 rebels** claimed they **captured the city on Monday** after a **weeks-long advance**. **M23 विद्रोहियों** ने दावा किया कि उन्होंने सोमवार को शहर पर कब्जा कर लिया, जो कई हफ्तों की बढ़त के बाद हुआ।

- The conflict escalated as **hundreds of thousands of already displaced people** had to **flee once again**.

संघर्ष तेज हो गया क्योंकि लाखों विस्थापित लोग को फिर से भागने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा।

- **Rwandan President Paul Kagame** said on X that he spoke with **U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio** about the need for a **ceasefire** and addressing the **root causes of the conflict**.

रवांडा के राष्ट्रपति पॉल कागामे ने X पर कहा कि उन्होंने अमेरिकी विदेश मंत्री मार्को रुबियो से संघर्ष विराम और इस संघर्ष के मूल कारणों पर चर्चा की।

- Rwanda **denies supporting M23**, but **UN experts** estimate **up to 4,000 Rwandan forces** are inside Congo.

रवांडा ने M23 को समर्थन देने से इनकार किया है, लेकिन संयुक्त राष्ट्र के विशेषज्ञों का अनुमान है कि लगभग 4,000 रवांडाई सैनिक कांगो में मौजूद हैं।

- Rwanda accused Congo of **enlisting Hutu rebels and former militiamen** responsible for the **1994 genocide**.

रवांडा ने कांगो पर 1994 के नरसंहार के लिए जिम्मेदार हुतु विद्रोहियों और पूर्व मिलिशिया सदस्यों को भर्ती करने का आरोप लगाया।

- **The East African Community (EAC)**, which includes **both Rwanda and Congo**, is scheduled to discuss the conflict on **Wednesday**.

पूर्वी अफ्रीकी समुदाय (EAC), जिसमें रवांडा और कांगो दोनों शामिल हैं, बुधवार को इस संघर्ष पर चर्चा करेगा।

- **Congolese President Félix Tshisekedi** will not be able to **participate in the virtual summit**.

कांगो के राष्ट्रपति फेलिक्स त्शिसेकेदी इस वर्चुअल शिखर सम्मेलन में भाग नहीं ले पाएंगे।

- **Pope Francis** called for an **end to hostilities** and protection of **civilians**.

पोप फ्रांसिस ने संघर्ष समाप्त करने और नागरिकों की सुरक्षा की अपील की।



## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, Science & Technology, Environment, Disaster Management, Internal Security)

1. **ISRO's 100th launch lifts NavIC satellite / इसरो का 100वां प्रक्षेपण नविक उपग्रह को लेकर गया**
2. **Beloved witness: the extraordinary testimony of Manu Gandhi / प्रिय गवाह: मणु गांधी की असाधारण गवाही**
3. **Lack of a protective law exposes domestic workers to abuse, says SC / घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए कानून की कमी उन्हें शोषण के प्रति असुरक्षित बनाती है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट**

## ISRO's 100th launch lifts NavIC satellite

GS Paper III: S&T



**New horizons:** The GSLV-F15 lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Wednesday. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

**Hemanth C.S.**  
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Wednesday morning launched its historic 100th mission – GSLV-F15 lifting off with a navigation satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The launch vehicle with an indigenous cryogenic stage lifted off from the spaceport's second launch pad at 6.23 a.m. The rocket successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite in the intended orbit.

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## ISRO's 100th launch lifts NavIC satellite इसरो का 100वां प्रक्षेपण नविक उपग्रह को लेकर गया

On Wednesday morning, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its historic 100th mission — GSLV-F15 lifting off with a navigation satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

- बुधवार सुबह, भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) ने अपना ऐतिहासिक 100वां मिशन — GSLV-F15 को प्रक्षेपित किया, जिसमें नेविगेशन उपग्रह को सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र, श्रीहरिकोटा से भेजा गया।
- The launch vehicle with an indigenous cryogenic stage lifted off from the spaceport's second launch pad at 6:23 a.m.
- स्वदेशी क्रायोजेनिक चरण के साथ लॉन्च वाहन ने अंतरिक्ष केंद्र के दूसरे लॉन्च पैड से सुबह 6:23 बजे उड़ान भरी।
- The rocket successfully placed the NVS-02 satellite in the intended orbit.
- रॉकेट ने NVS-02 उपग्रह को निर्धारित कक्षा में सफलतापूर्वक स्थापित कर दिया।



## NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) – India's Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)

- **NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)** is India's independent **Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**, developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- It provides accurate **positioning and timing services** over India and a region extending about **1,500 km beyond the Indian mainland**.

### Key Features of NavIC:

- **Coverage:** India and surrounding 1,500 km region
- **Accuracy:** Better than 10 meters in standard mode and less than 5 meters in restricted service
- **Number of Satellites:** Seven operational satellites (as of 2023), with plans for expansion
- **Alternative to GPS:** Designed to reduce dependence on foreign systems like the U.S. **Global Positioning System (GPS)**
- **Dual Services:**
  - **Standard Positioning Service (SPS):** Available for civilians
  - **Restricted Service (RS):** Encrypted service for authorized users (military and strategic applications)

### Historical Background & Development:

- **2006:** Project approved by the Government of India.
- **2013-2018:** Initial satellite launches.
- **April 28, 2016:** **IRNSS-1G**, the seventh satellite, was launched, completing the initial NavIC constellation.
- **July 1, 2023:** ISRO launched **NavIC-enabled L1 signal**, improving access for mobile devices and commercial applications.

### NavIC Satellite Constellation:

The system consists of **seven active satellites**, placed in:

- **Three satellites in geostationary orbits (GEO)**
- **Four satellites in geosynchronous orbits (GSO) at an inclination of 29°**

Each satellite is equipped with **atomic clocks** and **L5 & S-band frequency transmitters** to provide accurate positioning data.

Satellite	Launch Date	Orbit Type
IRNSS-1A	1 July 2013	GSO
IRNSS-1B	4 April 2014	GSO
IRNSS-1C	16 October 2014	GEO
IRNSS-1D	28 March 2015	GSO
IRNSS-1E	20 January 2016	GSO
IRNSS-1F	10 March 2016	GSO
IRNSS-1G	28 April 2016	GEO



IRNSS-11 12 April 2018 GEO (Replaced IRNSS-1A)

**Advantages of NavIC:**

- ✓ **Independent & Indigenous:** Ensures **India's strategic autonomy** in navigation and reduces reliance on GPS.
- ✓ **Better Accuracy:** NavIC provides **higher accuracy in India** compared to GPS, particularly in urban areas and remote locations.
- ✓ **Stronger Signals:** Works efficiently in **hilly terrains, dense forests, and deep seas** where GPS may struggle.
- ✓ **Disaster Management:** Crucial for **rescue operations, early warning systems, and emergency response** during natural disasters.
- ✓ **Marine & Aviation Applications:** Helps in **fisheries tracking, maritime security, and aviation navigation.**
- ✓ **Military & Defense Uses:** Provides encrypted signals for **military operations and border security.**

**Recent Developments (2023-2024):**

- **NavIC-enabled smartphones:** The Indian government mandated NavIC support in all smartphones by **2025**. Leading companies like Apple, Samsung, and Xiaomi are incorporating NavIC receivers.
- **Expansion of Constellation:** ISRO is planning to **expand NavIC to a global navigation system**, competing with **GPS (USA), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU), and BeiDou (China).**
- **L1 Frequency Activation (July 2023):** Enhances **smartphone navigation, emergency services, and commercial applications.**
- **NavIC in Vehicles (2024):** Government made NavIC mandatory for commercial vehicles under AIS-140 guidelines.

**Comparison of NavIC with Other GNSS Systems:**

Feature	NavIC (India)	GPS (USA)	Galileo (EU)	BeiDou (China)	GLONASS (Russia)
Coverage	Regional (India + 1,500 km)	Global	Global	Global	Global
Accuracy	<5m (RS), <10m (SPS)	5-10m	<1m	2-5m	5-10m
Owned By	ISRO (India)	US Govt.	European Space Agency	China National Space Administration	Russian Space Agency
No. of Satellites	7 (planned expansion)	31	30	35	24
Availability	Open & Restricted	Open & Restricted	Open & Restricted	Open & Restricted	Open & Restricted



# Beloved witness: the extraordinary testimony of Manu Gandhi

Tridip Suhrud has translated the second volume of the diaries of Gandhi's grandniece, starting on December 19, 1946, and ending the day after the Mahatma's assassination on January 30, 1948. It is a testimony which bears witness to Gandhi's innermost struggles in the last months of his life

## GS Paper I: Mahatma Gandhi

Ananya Vajpeyi

**T**he third section of the Mundaka Upanishad is important for our republic, because the phrase "Satyameva Jayate", India's national motto, occurs in verse 6. But in Indian philosophy, especially *Vedanta*, it is the first verse of this section that is celebrated. It reads: "Two birds, companions and friends, perch on the very same tree. One of them eats the fruit, the other, not eating, looks on." (MuU 3:1:1)

The commentarial tradition from Shankara onwards explicates each word. The two birds (*dva suparna*) are respectively a consumer (*bhogi*) and a witness (*sakshi*). One is engaged in eating, the other in observing the first. These are two conjoined (*sayuja*) aspects of being that share a single tree (*samanam vriksham*), interpreted as the body. One actively partakes of the world, while the other, perched alongside, watches, friendly but not participating.

We should understand Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) and Mridula 'Manu' Gandhi (1927-1969), his grandniece, as akin to these two philosophically luminous birds (Svetasvatara Upanishad 4:6 is identical). Gandhi acts; Manu bears witness. The second volume of her diaries, starting on December 19, 1946 in Srirampur, and ending the day after Nathuram Godse assassinated the Mahatma at Birla House, New Delhi, has been superbly edited, masterfully introduced and flawlessly translated by Tridip Suhrud.

### Moral protagonist

This is the testimony of the second bird, a witness not only to the principal events of

India's history in those years, but also to Gandhi's innermost struggles with his mind and body, his politics and sexuality, his truth and nonviolence. It is an altogether singular work. In our long civilisational quest for self-knowledge, there is no moral protagonist like Gandhi, nor an intimate witness like Manu.

As creatures of fact rather than metaphor, naturally they do not inhabit a single body. But because both are equally subject to the limits of bodily existence, they must be taken as equals. They are not similar at all – one is a man, the other a woman; one is old (almost 80), the other is young (almost 20); one is world-famous, the other unknown outside her family.

And yet, like the inseparable birds of the Upanishadic verse, for the last five years of Gandhi's life from 1943 to 1948, they are joined together in a single experiential space. Manu's diaries give us access to what unfolds in this metaphorical tree where the two birds "nestle" (in Patrick Olivelle's translation), in a way that no one else, not even Gandhi himself, could represent.

On almost any given day that Manu documents, there is a striking simultaneity of the historic and the quotidian. On the one hand, an endless procession of eminences coming and going from wherever Gandhi happens to be staying, all noted with a certain familiarity that is at once startling and understandable: Jawaharlal ji, Sardar Dada, Rajendra Babu, Maulana ji, Khan Sahib, Aruna Behn, Ghanshyamdas ji, Jinnah Sahib, Rajkumari Behn, Kripalani ji, Mira Behn, Rajaji, Vijay Lakshmi Behn... besides numerous relatives and ashram associates of Gandhi (and hence of Manu too).

### Tumultuous times

Hectic discussions with political leaders, social activists, wealthy businessmen, international press and state officials cover the transfer of populations, the resettlement of refugees, the integration of princely states, widespread communal violence and all manner of other headline events in those tumultuous years of Independence and Partition. Gandhi is terribly unhappy with everything unfolding around him.

Yet true to his character, through all of the tumult engulfing India, he continues to be almost absurdly meticulous about spinning cotton, writing articles for *Harijan*, fasting in protest, adjudicating the minutest of quarrels between members of his inner circle, reading and praying, carrying on a voluminous correspondence, monitoring the food intake of his entourage, and obsessing about his digestion and bowel movements.

### Punishing schedule

But in Babu's close proximity, Manu has her immediate preoccupations, which revolve around his diet and sleep, his health and sickness, washing and darning his clothes, preparing his meals, massaging his head and feet, giving him sponge baths and mud packs, all the while trying to maintain a diary as regularly as possible. She herself is frequently besieged by nosebleeds and fevers, abdominal pains and headaches, and bouts of vomiting and dysentery.

A punishing schedule of relentless travel, gruelling stress, extreme heat and cold, combined with Gandhi's exacting demands that are as much spiritual as physical, clearly take a toll on the young woman. Yet she never expresses concern

for herself – her focus is always and only Gandhi.

Gandhi introduces Manu to many sceptical guests as his "nurse". But then he explains, for example to Lady Mountbatten, visiting him at Bhangi Niwas on July 5, 1947: "I am not only a grandfather to her but also her mother. I wish to cultivate the ideal that even a man can become a mother."

It's difficult to say what caused greater discomfort even to the most loyal Gandhians, and continues to provoke contemporary readers: That he appointed Manu as his chosen witness, or that he appointed himself her mother? To tease out the psychological ramifications of these utterly disjunct relationships, and make sense of his insistence on both roles simultaneously, requires a profound hermeneutics of testimony and of care, outside the scope of this brief review.

On June 21, 1947, Gandhi was on his way back from Haridwar where he and Nehru met hundreds of distressed Partition refugees. Manu records: "We left for Delhi at 5:30. ... Bapuji, Panditji, and I were in the rear seat... He lay down in the car around 6:15. His feet were in Panditji's lap and head in mine. What a wonderful sight! ... This holy picture produced such joy within me!"

On January 31, 1948, in her last entry, she writes: "We reached the cremation ground at 5:00 pm. There was such a multitude of people that even standing near the pyre was difficult. ... I wanted to stay till the pyre burnt. But Sardar brought me home. How would I enter the room bereft of Babu's presence?"

With the protagonist gone, his beloved witness too, vanishes from view.

Ananya Vajpeyi is a Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

**Beloved witness: the extraordinary testimony of Manu Gandhi**

**प्रिय गवाह: मणु गांधी की असाधारण गवाही**



Tridip Suhrud has translated the second volume of the diaries of Gandhi's grandniece, starting on December 19, 1946, and ending the day after the Mahatma's assassination on January 30, 1948.

त्रिदीप सुह्रुद ने गांधी की भतीजी मणु गांधी के डायरी के दूसरे खंड का अनुवाद किया है, जो 19 दिसंबर 1946 से शुरू होकर 30 जनवरी 1948 को महात्मा की हत्या के अगले दिन समाप्त होता है।

- It is a testimony which bears witness to Gandhi's innermost struggles in the last months of his life.  
यह एक गवाही है जो महात्मा गांधी के जीवन के अंतिम महीनों में उनके भीतरी संघर्षों का गवाह है।
- The third section of the **Mundaka Upanishad** is important for our republic, because the phrase "**Satyameva Jayate**", India's national motto, occurs in verse 6.  
मुण्डक उपनिषद का तीसरा भाग हमारे गणराज्य के लिए महत्वपूर्ण है, क्योंकि इस भाग में "सत्यमेव जयते" वाक्य, जो भारत का राष्ट्रीय आदर्श वाक्य है, श्लोक 6 में आता है।
- The first verse of this section is celebrated in Indian philosophy, especially Vedanta.  
इस खंड का पहला श्लोक भारतीय दर्शन, विशेष रूप से वेदांत में प्रसिद्ध है।
- The verse reads: "Two birds, companions and friends, perch on the very same tree. One of them eats the fruit, the other, not eating, looks on." (MuU 3:1:1)  
श्लोक इस प्रकार है: "दो पक्षी, साथी और मित्र, एक ही वृक्ष पर बैठे हैं। उनमें से एक फल खाता है, जबकि दूसरा, बिना खाए, देखता है।" (MuU 3:1:1)
- The two birds (dva suparna) are respectively a consumer (bhogi) and a witness (sakshi).  
दो पक्षी (दवा सुपर्ण) क्रमशः एक उपभोक्ता (भोगी) और एक गवाह (साक्षी) हैं।
- One is engaged in eating, the other in observing the first.  
एक पक्षी खाने में व्यस्त है, जबकि दूसरा पहले पक्षी को देखता है।
- These are two conjoined (sayuja) aspects of being that share a single tree (samanam vriksham), interpreted as the body.  
ये अस्तित्व के दो जुड़े हुए (सयुज) पहलू हैं, जो एक ही वृक्ष (समान वृक्ष) पर स्थित हैं, जिसे शरीर के रूप में व्याख्यायित किया गया है।
- Gandhi acts; Manu bears witness.  
गांधी कर्म करते हैं; मणु गवाही देती हैं।
- The second volume of her diaries, starting on **December 19, 1946** in Srirampur, and ending the day after **Nathuram Godse assassinated the Mahatma at Birla House, New Delhi**.  
उनके डायरी के दूसरे खंड में **19 दिसंबर 1946** को श्रीरामपुर में शुरू होकर, **नथूराम गोडसे द्वारा महात्मा की हत्या के बाद बिरला हाउस, नई दिल्ली** में समाप्त होता है।
- Gandhi acts, and Manu bears witness.  
गांधी कर्म करते हैं, और मणु गवाही देती हैं।



Website: [patrioticias.in](http://patrioticias.in)

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- On almost any given day, Manu's diaries document a striking simultaneity of the historic and the quotidian.

लगभग किसी भी दिन, मणु की डायरी में ऐतिहासिक और दैनिक घटनाओं का एक अद्वितीय समकालिकता दर्ज होती है।

- On **July 5, 1947**, Gandhi explains to Lady Mountbatten: "I am not only a grandfather to her but also her mother. I wish to cultivate the ideal that even a man can become a mother."

**5 जुलाई 1947** को गांधी लेडी माउंटबेटन से कहते हैं: "मैं केवल उसका दादा नहीं हूँ, बल्कि उसकी माँ भी हूँ। मैं यह आदर्श विकसित करना चाहता हूँ कि एक पुरुष भी माँ बन सकता है।"

- On **June 21, 1947**, Gandhi was on his way back from **Haridwar** where he and **Nehru** met hundreds of distressed **Partition refugees**.

**21 जून 1947** को गांधी हरिद्वार से लौट रहे थे, जहाँ उन्होंने और नेहरू ने सैकड़ों पीड़ित विभाजन शरणार्थियों से मुलाकात की।

- On **January 31, 1948**, in her last entry, Manu writes: "We reached the cremation ground at **5:00 pm**."

**31 जनवरी 1948** को, अपनी आखिरी प्रविष्टि में मणु लिखती हैं: "हम **5:00 बजे शाम** शमशान घाट पहुंचे।"

- Sardar brought Manu home, and she writes: "How would I enter the room bereft of Bapu's presence?"

सरदार ने मणु को घर पहुँचाया, और वह लिखती हैं: "मैं बिना बापू की उपस्थिति के कमरे में कैसे प्रवेश करूंगी?"

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- With the protagonist gone, his beloved witness too, vanishes from view.  
 नायक के चले जाने के साथ, उसकी प्रिय गवाह भी दृश्य से गायब हो जाती है।

## Lack of a protective law exposes domestic workers to abuse, says SC

GS Paper I: Society

GS Paper II: Vulnerable Section of Society

Krishna Das Rajagopal

NEW DELHI

Anguished by the years of abuse an impoverished tribal woman from Chhattisgarh suffered as a domestic worker in the national capital and neighbouring cities, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to work on bringing a law to protect this burgeoning but unorganised workforce from exploitation.

“The simple reason for this harassment and rampant abuse, which seems to be prevalent throughout the country, is the legal vacuum which exists vis-à-vis the rights and protection of domestic workers... As a result, they frequently endure low wages, unsafe environments, and extended hours without effective recourse,” the court observed in a judgment.

A Bench of Justices Su-



A legal framework can help to uphold the rights of domestic workers, says court.

rya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan ordered the Centre to form an inter-ministerial committee to “consider the desirability of recommending a legal framework for the benefit, protection and regulation of the rights of domestic workers”.

The committee must comprise experts from the Ministries of Labour, Women and Child Develop-

ment, Law and Justice and Social Justice and Empowerment. The report of the committee must be placed before the Union government in six months, after which the Centre would decide on the necessity of a law for domestic workers, who were mainly women.

Justice Kant, who wrote the judgment, said the lack of a Central law was indeed a vacuum.

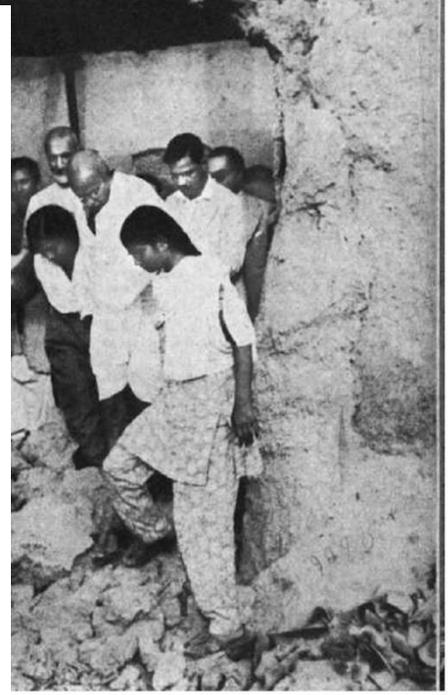
### State laws

The court drew attention to States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Kerala which had not waited for a Central law but took the initiative to enact their laws to safeguard domestic workers. These three States had constituted specialised bodies under their respective laws to administer various social security benefits, maternity and childcare, education assis-

tance, and medical expense reimbursement, etc.

The court noted that multiple attempts were made in the past to bring a Central law to protect domestic workers, from the Domestic Workers (Conditions of Employment) Bill of 1959 to the Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill of 2017. None of these proposed laws were enacted.

Justice Kant said the demand for domestic workers was mounting in India in consonance with rapid urbanisation. However, this indispensable workforce remained the most vulnerable to abuse. Noting that, “Domestic workers often belong to marginalised communities, such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and Economically Weaker Sections.”



1 Mahatma Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Mridula Sarabhai and

**Lack of a protective law exposes domestic**

**workers to abuse, says SC**

**घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए कानून की कमी उन्हें शोषण के प्रति असुरक्षित बनाती है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट**

Anguished by the years of abuse an impoverished tribal woman from Chhattisgarh suffered as a domestic worker in the national capital and neighbouring cities, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Union government to work on bringing a law to protect this burgeoning but unorganised workforce from exploitation.

छत्तीसगढ़ की एक गरीब आदिवासी महिला द्वारा राष्ट्रीय राजधानी और आसपास के शहरों में घरेलू कामगार के रूप में सालों तक हुए शोषण से व्यथित होकर,



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को केंद्र सरकार को इस तेजी से बढ़ते लेकिन असंगठित कार्यबल को शोषण से बचाने के लिए कानून लाने पर काम करने का निर्देश दिया।

- The simple reason for this harassment and rampant abuse, which seems to be prevalent throughout the country, is the **legal vacuum regarding the rights and protection of domestic workers**. As a result, they frequently endure **low wages, unsafe environments, and extended hours without effective recourse**, the court observed in a judgment.

इस उत्पीड़न और व्यापक शोषण का मुख्य कारण पूरे देश में घरेलू कामगारों के अधिकारों और सुरक्षा को लेकर कानूनी शून्यता है। परिणामस्वरूप, वे अक्सर कम वेतन, असुरक्षित वातावरण और लंबे कार्य घंटे झेलते हैं, जिनका कोई प्रभावी समाधान नहीं होता, अदालत ने अपने फैसले में यह टिप्पणी की।

- A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan ordered the Centre to form an inter-ministerial committee to consider the desirability of recommending a **legal framework** for the **benefit, protection, and regulation of the rights of domestic workers**.

न्यायमूर्ति सूर्य कांत और उज्जल भुइयां की पीठ ने केंद्र सरकार को अंतर-मंत्रालयी समिति गठित करने का आदेश दिया, जो घरेलू कामगारों के लाभ, सुरक्षा और उनके अधिकारों के विनियमन के लिए कानूनी ढांचे की सिफारिश करने की आवश्यकता पर विचार करेगी।

- The committee must comprise experts from the **Ministries of Labour, Women and Child Development, Law and Justice, and Social Justice and Empowerment**. The report of the committee must be placed before the **Union government in six months**, after which the Centre would decide on the necessity of **a law for domestic workers, who are mainly women**.

इस समिति में श्रम मंत्रालय, महिला एवं बाल विकास मंत्रालय, विधि एवं न्याय मंत्रालय और सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मंत्रालय के विशेषज्ञ शामिल होंगे। समिति की रिपोर्ट छह महीने के भीतर केंद्र सरकार के समक्ष प्रस्तुत की जाएगी, जिसके बाद केंद्र घरेलू कामगारों, जो कि मुख्य रूप से महिलाएँ हैं, के लिए कानून की आवश्यकता पर निर्णय लेगा।

- Justice Kant, who wrote the judgment, said the **lack of a Central law was indeed a vacuum**.

न्यायमूर्ति कांत, जिन्होंने यह फैसला लिखा, ने कहा कि केंद्रीय कानून की अनुपस्थिति वास्तव में एक शून्यता है।

## State laws

### राज्य कानून

- The court drew attention to **States such as Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala**, which had not waited for a **Central law** but took the **initiative to enact their own laws to safeguard domestic workers**.

अदालत ने तमिलनाडु, महाराष्ट्र और केरल जैसे राज्यों की ओर ध्यान आकर्षित किया, जिन्होंने



केंद्रीय कानून की प्रतीक्षा किए बिना घरेलू कामगारों की सुरक्षा के लिए अपने स्वयं के कानून लागू किए।

- These **three States** had constituted **specialised bodies under their respective laws to administer various social security benefits, maternity and childcare, education assistance, and medical expense reimbursement, etc.**

इन तीन राज्यों ने अपने-अपने कानूनों के तहत विशेष संस्थाएँ गठित की हैं, जो विभिन्न सामाजिक सुरक्षा लाभ, मातृत्व और बाल देखभाल, शिक्षा सहायता, और चिकित्सा व्यय प्रतिपूर्ति आदि का प्रबंधन करती हैं।

- The court noted that multiple attempts were made in the past to bring a **Central law** to protect domestic workers, from the **Domestic Workers (Conditions of Employment) Bill of 1959** to the **Domestic Workers (Regulation of Work and Social Security) Bill of 2017**. None of these proposed laws were enacted.

अदालत ने उल्लेख किया कि 1959 के घरेलू कामगार (रोजगार की शर्तें) विधेयक से लेकर 2017 के घरेलू कामगार (कार्य विनियमन और सामाजिक सुरक्षा) विधेयक तक, अतीत में कई प्रयास किए गए थे, लेकिन इनमें से कोई भी प्रस्तावित कानून पारित नहीं हुआ।

- **Justice Kant** said the **demand for domestic workers** was mounting in India in consonance with **rapid urbanisation**. However, this **indispensable workforce** remained the **most vulnerable to abuse**.

न्यायमूर्ति कांत ने कहा कि तेजी से बढ़ते शहरीकरण के साथ भारत में घरेलू कामगारों की मांग बढ़ रही है। हालांकि, यह अपरिहार्य कार्यबल शोषण के प्रति सबसे अधिक संवेदनशील बना हुआ है।

- **Domestic workers** often belong to **marginalised communities**, such as **Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, and Economically Weaker Sections**.

घरेलू कामगार अक्सर हाशिए पर मौजूद समुदायों से आते हैं, जैसे कि अनुसूचित जाति, अनुसूचित जनजाति, अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग और आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर वर्ग।

## TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

### 1. J&K Rifles, Delhi Police Best Marching Contingents / J&K

राइफलों, दिल्ली पुलिस सर्वश्रेष्ठ मार्चिंग कंडीजन्ट

### 2. Maharashtra reports two Guillain-Barrédeaths, 16 fresh cases /

महाराष्ट्र में गिलियन-बैरे से दो मौतें, 16 नए मामले सामने आए

### 3. 87 families shifted from Rajouri village, no new case reported /

राजौरी गांव से 87 परिवारों को स्थानांतरित किया गया, कोई नया मामला

सामने नहीं आया



## J&K Rifles, Delhi Police best marching contingents

PCS  
The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

The marching contingent from the Army's J&K Rifles regiment was adjudged the best among the three Services while Delhi Police was adjudged the best marching contingent from among the Central Armed Police Forces and other auxiliary forces at the Republic Day parade.

Among the tableaux, Uttar Pradesh, which showcased the Maha Kumbh, with the theme

"Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas", bagged the first spot.

Tripura's tableau, themed "Eternal Reverence: the Worship of 14 Deities in Tripura - Kharchi Puja", came second, while Andhra Pradesh's "Etikoppaka Bommalu - Eco-friendly Wooden Toys" stood third. The tableau from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh", was declared the best among Central Ministries and departments.

सहायक बलों में गणतंत्र दिवस परेड में सर्वश्रेष्ठ घोषित किया गया।

### Among the Tableaux

#### टेबलॉक्स में

- Uttar Pradesh with the theme "Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas" bagged the first spot for showcasing the Maha Kumbh.

उत्तर प्रदेश ने "स्वर्णिम भारत: विरासत और विकास" विषय के साथ महाकुंभ को प्रदर्शित करके पहला स्थान प्राप्त किया।

- Tripura's tableau, themed "Eternal Reverence: Worship of 14 Deities - Kharchi Puja," came second.

त्रिपुरा के टेबलॉक्स, "शाश्वत श्रद्धा: 14 देवताओं की पूजा - खार्ची पूजा" विषय के साथ दूसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।

- Andhra Pradesh's tableau on "Etikoppaka Bommalu - Eco-friendly Wooden Toys" stood third.

आंध्र प्रदेश के टेबलॉक्स "एतिकोपाका बाम्मालू - पर्यावरणीय रूप से सुरक्षित लकड़ी के खिलौने" ने तीसरा स्थान प्राप्त किया।

## J&K Rifles, Delhi Police Best Marching Contingents

### J&K राइफलों, दिल्ली पुलिस सर्वश्रेष्ठ

### मार्चिंग कंडीजन्ट

### J&K Rifles was adjudged the best among the three Services.

### J&K राइफलों को तीन सेवाओं में सर्वश्रेष्ठ

### घोषित किया गया।

- Delhi Police was adjudged the best marching contingent from among the Central Armed Police Forces and other auxiliary forces at the Republic Day parade.

दिल्ली पुलिस को केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों और अन्य



- Ministry of Tribal Affairs' tableau, "Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh," was declared the best among Central Ministries and departments.

जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय का टेबलॉक्स, "जनजातीय गौरव वर्ष" को केंद्रीय मंत्रालयों और विभागों में सर्वश्रेष्ठ घोषित किया गया।

## Maharashtra reports two Guillain-Barré deaths, 16 fresh cases

The total number of cases mounts to 127, with 20 on ventilator; Health Department of the Sangli Municipal Corporation put on a high alert

PCS  
Snehal Mutha

MUMBAI

Two deaths from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and 16 fresh suspected cases were reported in Pune and other districts, the Public Health Department said on Wednesday.

The total number of cases mounted to 127 from the 111 till January 28.

A total of 23 patients are from the Pune Municipal Corporation area, 73 from newly integrated villages within its limits, 13 from the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation limits, nine from Pune's rural areas and nine from other districts in Maharashtra.

Nearly 20 patients are on ventilator, show data of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme by the Public Health Department

At least six suspected cases came to light in Sangli district on Wednesday and they have been admitted to various private hospitals in Sangli.



**Emergency preparedness:** Beds kept ready to accommodate GBS patients at Kamla Nehru Hospital in Pune. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Six patients have suspected GBS, but nothing to worry about as all these patients are from different areas. If all the cases are from one place, then only we can say it is an outbreak. However, we are checking the background and whether they travelled," District Civil Surgeon, Sangli, Vikramsinh Kadam told *The Hindu*.

The six patients were hospitalised in the last six days, the doctor said.

Three patients have been found in the Chintamani Nagar, Mardawadi, and Gudmudshingi areas of Sangli, two are from rural Sangli, and one is from

the Kolhapur border area.

The Sangli Municipal Corporation's Health Department has been put on high alert.

The Health Department has sent 121 stool samples to the National Institute of Virology Pune, all tested for enteric virus panel. Twenty-one samples are positive for Norovirus, and are positive for Campylobacter.

Among 25 cerebrospinal fluid samples, one tested positive for Epstein-Barr virus.

All 200 blood samples have tested negative for Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya.

## Maharashtra reports two Guillain-Barré deaths, 16 fresh cases

महाराष्ट्र में गिलियन-बैरे से दो मौतें, 16 नए मामले सामने आए

The total number of cases mounts to 127, with 20 on ventilator; Health Department of the Sangli Municipal Corporation put on a high alert

कुल मामलों की संख्या 127 हो गई है, जिनमें से 20 वेंटिलेटर पर हैं; सांगली नगर निगम के स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने हाई अलर्ट जारी किया

## Two Deaths from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and 16 Fresh Suspected Cases in Pune

गुइलेन-बैरे सिंड्रोम (GBS) से दो मौतें और पुणे में 16 नए संदिग्ध मामले

- The Public Health Department reported on Wednesday that two deaths occurred due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) and 16 fresh suspected cases were found in Pune and other districts.

सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने बुधवार को



बताया कि गुइलेन-बैरे सिंड्रोम (GBS) से दो मौतें हुईं और 16 नए संदिग्ध मामले पुणे और अन्य जिलों में पाए गए।

- The total number of cases has increased to 127 from 111 as recorded till January 28. कुल मामलों की संख्या जनवरी 28 तक 111 से बढ़कर 127 हो गई है।

- Area-wise case distribution:

क्षेत्रवार मामलों का वितरण:

- Pune Municipal Corporation: 23 cases  
पुणे नगर निगम: 23 मामले
  - Newly integrated villages within Pune limits: 73 cases  
पुणे सीमा के नए एकीकृत गांव: 73 मामले
  - Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation limits: 13 cases  
पिंपरी-चिंचवड नगर निगम क्षेत्र: 13 मामले
  - Pune's rural areas: 9 cases  
पुणे ग्रामीण क्षेत्र: 9 मामले
  - Other districts in Maharashtra: 9 cases  
महाराष्ट्र के अन्य जिले: 9 मामले
- Nearly 20 patients are on ventilator, as per the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme data.

लगभग 20 मरीज वेंटिलेटर पर हैं, एकीकृत रोग निगरानी कार्यक्रम के आंकड़ों के अनुसार।

- Sangli District: Six suspected cases were found on Wednesday, and all were admitted to private hospitals in Sangli.

सांगली जिला: बुधवार को छह संदिग्ध मामले पाए गए, और सभी को निजी अस्पतालों में भर्ती कराया गया।

- Dr. Vikramsinh Kadam, District Civil Surgeon, Sangli, stated that there is no need to worry as these patients are from different areas. The background and travel history of patients are being checked.

डॉ. विक्रमसिंह कदम, जिला सिविल सर्जन, सांगली ने कहा कि चिंता की कोई जरूरत नहीं है

क्योंकि ये मरीज अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों से हैं। मरीजों की पृष्ठभूमि और यात्रा इतिहास की जांच की जा रही है।

- Sangli Case Distribution:

सांगली मामलों का वितरण:

- Three patients from Chintamani Nagar, Mardawadi, and Gudmudshingi areas.  
तीन मरीज चिंतामणि नगर, मरडावाडी और गुडमुडशिंगी क्षेत्रों से हैं।
- Two patients from rural Sangli.  
दो मरीज ग्रामीण सांगली से हैं।
- One patient from the Kolhapur border area.  
एक मरीज कोल्हापुर सीमा क्षेत्र से है।



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- The **Sangli Municipal Corporation's Health Department** is on **high alert**.  
सांगली नगर निगम का स्वास्थ्य विभाग हाई अलर्ट पर है।
- The **Health Department** has sent **121 stool samples** to the **National Institute of Virology (NIV) Pune**.  
स्वास्थ्य विभाग ने 121 मल के नमूने नेशनल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ वायरोलॉजी (NIV) पुणे को भेजे हैं।
- **Findings from Samples:**  
नमूनों से प्राप्त निष्कर्ष:
  - **21 samples** tested **positive for Norovirus**.  
21 नमूने नोरोवायरस के लिए सकारात्मक पाए गए।
  - Some samples tested **positive for Campylobacter**.  
कुछ नमूने कैम्पिलोबैक्टर के लिए सकारात्मक पाए गए।
  - Among **25 cerebrospinal fluid samples**, **one tested positive for Epstein-Barr virus**.  
25 सेरेब्रोस्पाइनल फ्लूइड नमूनों में से एक एपस्टीन-बार वायरस के लिए सकारात्मक पाया गया।
  - **All 200 blood samples** tested **negative for Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya**.  
सभी 200 रक्त नमूने ज़िका, डेंगू और चिकनगुनिया के लिए नकारात्मक पाए गए।

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## 87 families shifted from Rajouri village, no new case reported

PCS

The Hindu Bureau  
SRINAGAR

Eighty-seven families of Rajouri's Badhal village, where 17 people had died of mysterious illness in the past two months, were shifted to makeshift facilities at the district headquarters, officials said on Wednesday.

"To mitigate the situation and prevent further casualties, 87 families comprising 364 individuals were shifted from Badhal village to Rajouri. These families are currently housed at the Government Nursing College, the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, and the Government Medical College, Rajouri, and are under observation," a government spokesman said.

The official said "comprehensive arrangements" were put in place to ensure the comfort and safety of the affected families.

According to the authorities, the affected village was showing encouraging mitigation signs. "No new case of illness has been reported among the residents of Badhal village since January 24," the official said.

Seventeen locals have died and 31 have fallen ill in the village since December



J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah during a visit to Badhal in Rajouri district. PTI

7, 2024.

The families were being provided with food, water, baby food, sanitary items, medicines, clothing and other daily necessities and were under close monitoring of the doctors and district administration, the official said.

An on-site medical team, comprising three doctors and six paramedics, was on duty round the clock. Critical care ambulances were stationed at the venues, he added.

"Meals are prepared in kitchens under CCTV surveillance, with food samples sent for testing at NFL Ghaziabad and Patoli Food Testing Lab, Jammu," the official said.

## 87 families shifted from Rajouri village, no new case reported

### राजौरी गांव से 87 परिवारों को स्थानांतरित किया गया, कोई नया मामला सामने नहीं आया

#### Families Shifted from Badhal Village in Rajouri राजौरी के बडहाल गांव से परिवारों को स्थानांतरित किया गया

- Eighty-seven families of Badhal village, Rajouri were shifted to makeshift facilities after 17 people died due to a mysterious illness in the past two months.

राजौरी के बडहाल गांव की 87 परिवारों को अस्थायी सुविधा केंद्रों में स्थानांतरित किया गया, क्योंकि पिछले दो महीनों में 17 लोगों की रहस्यमयी बीमारी से मृत्यु हो गई थी।

- To prevent further casualties, 364 individuals were moved to Rajouri and housed at the Government Nursing College, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, and Government Medical College, Rajouri.

अधिक मौतों को रोकने के लिए 364 व्यक्तियों को राजौरी में

स्थानांतरित किया गया और उन्हें गवर्नमेंट नर्सिंग कॉलेज, गवर्नमेंट बॉयज हायर सेकेंडरी स्कूल, और गवर्नमेंट मेडिकल कॉलेज, राजौरी में ठहराया गया।

- The affected families are under observation with comprehensive arrangements for their comfort and safety. प्रभावित परिवारों को सुरक्षा और सुविधा के लिए व्यापक व्यवस्था के तहत रखा गया है।

- The authorities reported that no new illness cases have been recorded in Badhal village since January 24.

प्रशासन ने बताया कि 24 जनवरी के बाद बडहाल गांव में कोई नया मामला दर्ज नहीं किया गया।

- Since December 7, 2024, 17 people have died and 31 have fallen ill in the village.

7 दिसंबर 2024 से गांव में 17 लोगों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है और 31 लोग बीमार हुए हैं।

- The families are being provided with food, water, baby food, sanitary items, medicines, clothing, and other daily necessities.

परिवारों को खाद्य सामग्री, पानी, बेबी फूड, सैनिटरी सामान, दवाइयाँ, कपड़े और अन्य दैनिक आवश्यकताएँ उपलब्ध कराई जा रही हैं।

- The situation is under close monitoring by doctors and the district administration.

स्थिति को डॉक्टरों और जिला प्रशासन द्वारा कड़ी निगरानी में रखा गया है।

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- An on-site medical team of **three doctors** and **six paramedics** is working round the clock.

*तीन डॉक्टरों और छह पैरामेडिक्स की एक ऑन-साइट मेडिकल टीम चौबीसों घंटे कार्यरत है।*

- **Critical care ambulances** have been stationed at the locations.

*गंभीर देखभाल एंबुलेंस स्थानों पर तैनात की गई हैं।*

- **Meals** are being prepared under **CCTV surveillance**, and **food samples** are sent for testing at **NFL Ghaziabad** and **Patoli Food Testing Lab, Jammu**.

*भोजन CCTV निगरानी में तैयार किया जा रहा है, और खाद्य नमूने परीक्षण के लिए NFL गाज़ियाबाद और पटोली फूड टेस्टिंग लैब, जम्मू भेजे जा रहे हैं।*

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